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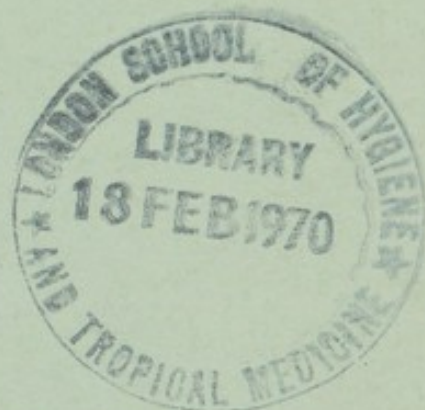
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1968

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

Medical Officer of Health,
Director of Welfare Services.



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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES, 1968
(as at 31st. December)

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN :	Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover, J.P.
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :	Councillor E. Clarke
Alderman C.O. Ellis	Councillor J.E. Downes
Alderman J. Evans	Councillor Mrs. B.U. Jones
Alderman Mrs. M.M. Owen	Councillor Dr. J.F. Milligan
Councillor Mrs. L. Brettell	Councillor J.H. O'Neil
Councillor J. Churchman, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. E.R. Swithenbank

Co-opted Members

Mrs. M. Smith
Mrs. B.M. Johnson
D. Saklatvala, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Mrs. M. Evi tts
Mr. R.J. Ashby, F.S.M.C.
Mr. J.O. Robins, F.H.A., F.I.A.C., M.R.S.H.,
W.J. Walkden, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.(London)

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN :	Councillor E. Clarke
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :	Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover, J.P.
Alderman A.E. Diggett	Councillor J.A. Dicken
Councillor J.C.R. Ashby	Councillor J.E. Downes
Councillor F.H. Bird	Councillor Mrs. B.U. Jones
Councillor J.W. Butler	Councillor G. Williams

PRINCIPAL STAFF
(as at 31st December, 1968)

HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Director of Welfare Services	H.O.M. Bryant, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Director of Welfare Services	Margaret A. Shields, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers of Health	Esther T. Riley, M.B., Ch.B. Lila M. Roots, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chest Physician (part-time)	C.W.D. Cole, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Principal Assistant (Social Work)	Katherine M. Callaway, A.A.P.S.W.
Principal Welfare Officer	A. Shaw
Senior Administrative Assistant	B.J. Fentiman, Cert. S.I.B.
Principal Nursing Officer	Eleanor A. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate
Supervisor of Health Visitors and District Nurses/ Deputy Nursing Officer	Mrs. M.W. Woolley, S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V. Certificate
Supervisor of Midwives	Mrs. L. Jacques, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
Principal Dental Officer	J.B.C. Cuzner, L.D.S. (who is the Principal) School Dental Officer
Chief Chiropodist	Miss. C.M. Edge, M.C.H.S., S.R.C.H.
Home Help Organiser	J. Mary Day, M.I.H.H.O.

The Ambulance Officer is the General Manager of the Corporation Transport Department, Mr. S. Jobling, M. Inst. T.

OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS
(as at 31st. December 1968)

Health

Infant Welfare Centres : Boulton Road
Friar Park Road
Whitehall Road
Tanhouse Avenue
Bratt Street
Hill Top
Hill Lane
Jervoise Lane
Redwood Road
St. Mary's Hall, Charlemont Farm
Birch Street, Tipton
Central, Tipton
Ocker Hill
St. Michaels Hall, Burnt Tree
Mesty Croft, Wednesbury
Albert Street, Wednesbury
Chapel Lane, Great Barr

Mental Health

Training Centres : Senior – 'The Crest'
Churchfields
West Bromwich
Supervisor : Mr. C. Murray
Junior – 'Glenvale'
Jervoise Street,
West Bromwich
Supervisor : Miss. D. Blake

Home for Elderly Senile Persons 'Warstone House'
Salters Lane
West Bromwich
Chief Male Nurse :
Mr. L.M. Lopes, S.R.M.N.

Welfare

Homes for the Elderly :
'Beech Holme' Superintendent and Matron :
53, Beeches Road, Mr. & Mrs. A.K. Watson
West Bromwich.

The Hawthorns'
Green Lane,
Great Barr,
Birmingham, 22a.

Matron :
Mrs. L. Jenkins

'Lyndon House'
Scott Street,
West Bromwich

Superintendent and Matron :
Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Wheatcroft

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

Superintendent and Matron :
Mr. and Mrs. E. Tunstall

66, Clarkes Lane
West Bromwich.

Matron :
Mrs. E. Pawlett

'The Willows'
34, Bridge Street,
West Bromwich.

Matron :
Mrs. M.B. Cooper

'Bromford House'
Moor Street,
West Bromwich.

Matron and Superintendent
Mr. and Mrs. J.J. McHattie

'Kelvedon'
Wood Green Road,
Wednesbury.

Matron :
Miss. M. Owen

'Silver Trees'
Birch Street,
Tipton.

Matron :
Miss. M. Watson.

Social Centres

Walsall Street,
West Bromwich.

Senior Craft Instructor :
Mrs. D.J. Nuttall

Town Hall,
Wednesbury.

Mrs.. H.M. Howl

Hateley Heath,
Wiltshire Way

Caretaker :
Mrs. B. Wood,
17, Kesteven Road, West Bromwich
Wood Street, Tipton
20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury
20, Heath Lane, West Bromwich

Field Centres

FOREWORD

At the time of writing this report (which covers the calendar year 1968), there is considerable talk of major changes in local government, in the social services and in the health services arising from the report of the Royal Commission on Local Government, statements that announcements can be expected shortly on the future organisation of the social services and the possibility of a new 'Green Paper' on the future organisation of the National Health Service.

Such an atmosphere of change and re-organisation makes an Annual Report which necessarily covers a number of activities of the local health, hygiene and welfare services one that is likely to lack excitement. After all the concepts of change have been discussed and the decisions made on the future form of administration however, it will be the steady work of individual officers (which is the subject of this report), that determines the extent to which the objectives are achieved.

One of the difficulties in health and social services is to measure results, and techniques are only just being developed for this to be done. This report attempts, within the limits of the ascertained facts, to indicate the volume of various activities and the nature of them, but has difficulty in making an evaluation except subjectively.

The year has continued to show that the two major problems are those of the recruitment of good staff and the determination of priorities.

Statistics

These reveal little change from last year. The death rate in West Bromwich, after correction to allow for differences of age and sex structure of the population, remains high in comparison with the rest of England and Wales. There has been a slight rise in the number of cases of cancer of the womb in women, emphasising the importance of screening tests for cancer of the cervix as a preventive measure. The death rate for cancer of the stomach continues somewhat greater than the average for England and Wales in particular there is a prevalence of pulmonary disease (of the chronic bronchitis' type) which plays a most important part

in the higher death rate. The number of deaths in middle-aged men (45 - 65) is still nearly twice that for women of the same age group and this factor, of course, will have its effect on the provision of social services for the elderly, in so far as this will continue to be an age group with a preponderance of women.

It is interesting to note that published investigation of geographical areas with a high mortality in middle age shows a correlation with several other phenomena, viz., socio-economic areas (a class structure by occupation showing a bias towards the skilled and unskilled employees, a high density of housing and a low ratio of car ownership to population), high levels of air pollution and climate with a high humidity. This does not mean that these are the major factors in determining the risk to individuals, for clearly lung cancer (with a correlation with a high consumption of cigarettes), is the major risk but it does suggest that the explanation of differences in mortality in middle age between areas may be related to these environmental factors. Incidentally there is evidence suggesting that a higher mortality from cardiovascular disease occurs in middle age with 'soft water'. West Bromwich is substantially a hard water area. At this time it is difficult to define (except in very general terms) reasons for the increased mortality. Moreover it is of course affected by factors operating in the past.

Local Health Services

Clinics are well patronised. Difficulty still exists in providing clinic services at Ocker Hill and Princes End. The maternity service is adequately staffed and functioning well in close co-operation with the hospital. To some extent there has been a great improvement in the staffing of the health visiting service due to the qualification of five students but the total number still remains below the establishment. Immunisation figures are lower than the national average.

The home help service is a small one in relation to that provided in many areas and as the number of elderly persons in the population is still rising, this means greater demands on the service and less is available therefore for individuals receiving help.

The Junior Training Centre at Glenvale is now extended and is housed in modern buildings. This has resulted in an efficient and good centre which incidentally is likely to be transferred to the Education Service under the present national plans.

The Senior Training Centre at The Crest is inadequate in size and inconvenient in lay out. A new building is still needed.

One of the problems is to know the extent to which the local health services are failing to meet the needs of the population and this is not an easy matter to assess. Certainly it would seem that there is generally a greater need for home helps, chiropody, senior training centre places and the mental health service.

Infectious Diseases

Changes have been made nationally in the list of infectious diseases which are notifiable under legislation. This list now bears a somewhat greater relationship to scientific knowledge than formerly. Curiously, as infectious diseases cause fewer deaths, they appear to cause more public alarm and this no doubt is a tribute to the efficiency of the media of mass communication. Also although deaths may be fewer, with modern scientific knowledge the investigation is more time consuming and complex.

Dr. C.W.D. Cole, has, as usual, contributed a section on tuberculosis. This bears out the view that there is a continuing problem of tuberculosis among persons of Asian stock. The resources however to deal with this problem appear to be reasonably adequate and effective.

Welfare Services

The provision of modern, purpose-built old people's homes has proceeded. A new home in Tipton (Glebefields) has now been opened and there is an additional old people's home under construction at Hamstead.

Apart, therefore, from the replacement of outworn units and some further provision, a time can be foreseen when the emphasis on the care of the aged will shift from the question of providing accommodation for the really needy to the alleviation of problems affecting those who can be managed at home.

The Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 contains powers for the provision of a general welfare service for elderly persons but these powers have not yet been introduced nationally. This would involve an increase of visiting services and an increase of certain domiciliary services, such as home help, meals on wheels and luncheon clubs.

As yet there is no clear definition of the best division of resources between accommodation for the elderly, the preventive domiciliary services (such as home help) and the provision of sheltered housing insofar as the part each can best play in dealing with the social problems of elderly persons.

As yet, however, it is unlikely that sufficient places exist in homes for the elderly to meet the need, particularly as hospitals increasingly tend to admit for treatment patients with acute episodes of illness rather than those with chronic conditions requiring care only, so using their particular resources more selectively.

The meals on wheels service has expanded and there is now a service which is more even over the Borough as a whole.

Services for the handicapped have improved particularly with the provision of adequate accommodation in Tipton in the former Civil Defence Head quarters. There has, therefore been a levelling of the provision available in different parts of the Borough for handicapped persons.

In the field of the handicapped however, there is a necessity for appraisal so that the resources available may be concentrated on those activities which have the best results in terms of making persons able to cope and live in the community. It may be that some stricter national definition of the term 'handicapped' will be necessary in time for at present this is a loose definition, particularly in relation to those handicaps which develop as part of the process of ageing.

The place of voluntary effort in the provision of services for the old and the relation to statutory help is another field in which definition is required. National restrictions on finance have precluded the construction of social centres for the elderly that could be used by voluntary clubs who meet considerable difficulty in finding suitable premises.

At Lloyd Street, West Bromwich, a centre has been constructed but this is linked with the necessity to replace the Dartmouth Park Sons of Rest which is being demolished as part of a road scheme.

The problem of homeless families is by no means solved and at intervals throughout the year there have been crises.

The Environment

I am grateful to the public health inspectorate and to their chief, Mr. S. Cayton, for help and assistance throughout the year and also for that part of the report which comprises the Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The report is a considerable and interesting one and mention can only be made therefore in my foreword of a few points. The meat inspection and food hygiene activities are of increasing importance as more and more food is fully prepared for consumption before it is retailed for sale. It is therefore disturbing to read a report which states that there are 'many instances of.... disregard for the requirements of food hygiene' and further that 'a complete lack of knowledge of hygienic principles and practices is still evident, not only amongst employees but amongst proprietors also'.

Meat inspection takes up necessarily a very considerable amount of the time of the inspectorate on food hygiene, for West Bromwich is a major slaughtering centre.

The Borough generally is subject to depositions of rubbish on any available vacant plot or even by the side of the road. Apart from the deleterious effect on civic amenities this encourages rodents and insects. This is a basic matter of environmental hygiene. As such depositions are removed, others take their place and this illustrates the fundamental lack of appreciation of hygiene that generally exists.

Other Health Services

Although there are three parts of the health service, one administered by the hospital, one by the Executive Council and one by the Local Health Authority, in practice deficiency in the area of responsibility of one of these authorities has an effect elsewhere and it is proper in an Annual Report to comment on such points. These services are also linked to the local welfare services notably in respect of services for the elderly.

The extreme and long continued shortage of an adequate number of hospital beds for elderly sick persons profoundly effects the work of welfare officers, the staff of homes for the elderly, home helps and district nurses. The local authority has continually been constructing new residential accommodation for the elderly over the past few years whereas the extent of increase of hospital provision has been minimal. This has added greatly to the difficulties of the local authority staff and the local doctors in the area and above all has been to the detriment of the elderly patients concerned, whose numbers annually rise. A balanced and correct provision of hospital beds, places in homes for the elderly and domiciliary services is essential and this shortage of hospital accommodation, which has been a matter of concern for over ten years now, is a major difficulty locally.

The other problem locally has been the shortage of doctors which has affected all parts of the health service in West Bromwich. The provision of health centres giving adequate and proper places for general medical practice for those doctors who wish to use them can be of assistance in recruitment and, of course, a new hospital can assist recruitment of hospital staff. In personal services such as medicine and social work however, provision of an adequate number of pairs of hands is not the whole answer to the problem and there needs to be an adequate share of the best available talent. Good facilities are likely to attract good staff. The fact that the services have functioned over the last ten years does not indicate that the shortage has not existed nor that matters are satisfactory.

The hospital service itself is also short of nursing staff.

It is in my opinion right that these matters should be in my

Annual Report because they have an effect on the total functioning of the health services in West Bromwich. The services referred to in detail in this report are merely one portion of the whole picture.

Conclusion

The immediate future will probably see changes which inevitably will be disturbing to existing staff. It is therefore to be hoped that changes in organisation will occur quickly with little opportunity for the staff to pass through a difficult and dispiriting period. It is also to be hoped that changes in organisation will not be thought of as an end in themselves but merely the creation of opportunities to use resources better and hence to get more increased efficiency from the same expenditure of men, money and materials. The method of organisation is less important than the results.

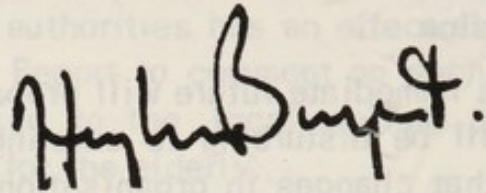
Throughout all the services which are the subject of this report it is clear that there is likely to be a discrepancy between resources both in monetary and manpower terms and the type of services which the government (in the form of legislation) or the public (in the form of published opinions) expresses a desire to have.

This is a fundamental problem in health and welfare. Most extensions of service are desirable, and rarely is it possible to withdraw an existing facility. Legislation and exhortation from the central government departments for more adequate or extended provision are constantly occurring. Nevertheless resources of money and manpower are scarce. It is therefore of considerable importance to measure the results of activities and to assess priorities. Unfortunately techniques that can be legitimately applied to the problem of services with no clearly measurable output are expensive to apply and in many cases still being developed.

In concluding my report I would like to express my thanks to the Health and Welfare Committee, the staff of the Health and Welfare Department and in particular to the senior officers of that Department for their help and assistance throughout the year.

My thanks are also due to the chief officials and heads of

departments of the Corporation and my colleagues in the other branches of the Health Services for their unfailing courtesy and willingness to help.



Medical Officer of Health

August, 1969.

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PART VI

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PART 1
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
Vital Statistics



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1968 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. The town is situated in the Midlands conurbation and has a number of residents who originally came from Asian and West Indian Countries.

Elevation above sea level	347 to 569 feet
Geological formation:	Consisting chiefly of shales, red sandstones and magnesium limestone. Coal seams are prevalent in certain areas.
Rainfall (inches) :	31.30
Area in acres (land and inland water)	11,704
Population per acre :	14.7

New houses constructed, including flats, 1968:—

Local Authority	839
Private Enterprise	412
	1251
	1251

Estimated number of houses in the Borough as at 1st April, 1968.	53,573
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Rateable Value at the 1st April 1968	£7,998,442
--------------------------------------	------------

Rate at 1d in the £ estimated to produce at 1st April 1968	£32,400
--	---------

Vital Statistics

Population (estimated civilian population mid 1968)	172,350
(Census 1961)	96,041
(Sample Census 1966)	170,370

Live Births :	3075
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population)	17.8
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population) corrected	16.7

Comparability Factor (Births)	0.94
Ratio of Local Adjusted Birth Rate & National Rate :	0.99
Illegitimate Live Births :	206
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births :	6.6
Stillbirths :	50
Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 live and stillbirths) :	16.0
Total Live and Stillbirths :	3,125
Infant deaths :	55
Infant mortality rate (Per 1,000 Live Births) :	18.0
Legitimate infant mortality rate (per 1,000 legitimate births):	15.7
Illegitimate infant mortality rate (per 1,000 illegitimate births):	4.8
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 Live Births) :	11.0
Early neonatal rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 Live babies) :	10.4
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births) :	26.2
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	1
Maternal mortality rate (including abortion per 1,000 live and still births) :	0.32
Deaths	1816
Death Rate (Per 1,000 population) :	10.4
Death Rate (corrected 1.42) :-	14.76
Ratio of Local Adjusted Death Rate to National Rate :	1.25
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 population):	0.04
Cancer death rate (per 1,000 population) :	2.2

England and Wales

Birth Rate :	16.9
Death Rate :	11.9
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 total births) :	14.0
Infant Mortality Rate :	18.0

Name and Address of Medical Officer of Health :

H.O.M. Bryant, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Health Department,
West Bromwich.

Telephone Number : 021-569 2550 (Home : 021-357 5805)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The following figures show the estimated mid-year population in the Borough for each year since the census in 1951.

1951	87,981 (Census)	1960	93,780
1952	87,640	1961	96,041 (Census)
1953	87,960	1962	97,050
1954	88,650	1963	97,710
1955	89,640	1964	97,600
1956	90,720	1965	98,040
1957	93,380	1966	171,760
1958	93,380	1966	(Sample Census 170,370)
1959	93,590	1967	172,650
		1968	172,350

Coloured Population

It is difficult to give figures of the number of coloured persons now resident in West Bromwich, as vital statistics are not compiled giving separate information based on the pigmentation of the skin, but the 1966 sample census report showed that out of the 170,370 persons enumerated in West Bromwich, 6,120 were born outside the British Isles, and the majority of these came from the West Indies and Asia.

Births

There were 3075 live births during the year to residents of West Bromwich giving a birth rate of 17.8 per 1,000 population and the number of births and the birth rate for the last 10 years is shown in the following table. Of the total of 346 births (included in the above) to coloured persons, 330 occurred in hospital and 16 at home.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population
1958	1,662	17.8
1959	1,689	17.9
1960	1,692	18.0
1961	1,817	18.9
1962	1,854	19.1
1963	1,891	19.4
1964	1,855	19.0
1965	1,782	18.1
1966	3,133	18.2
1967	3,105	18.0
1968	3,075	17.8

The Birth Rate in 1968 showed a slight fall from 1967.

There were 1574 boys and 1501 girls born in 1968 and of these 206 were illegitimate births, giving an illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births of 68 compared with 65 in 1967.

Stillbirths

The total number of stillbirths to West Bromwich residents was 50 giving a stillbirth rate of 16.0 per 1,000 live and still-births, which is the same rate as for 1967. The rate for England and Wales is 14.0.

Deaths

There were 1816 deaths of West Bromwich residents (982 males and 834 females) during the year, 1133 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 Register General to take account of the age structure of the population in relation to that nationally, the figure is 14.76 compared with 14.2 for 1967.

The death rate (after correction to allow for differences between the age and sex structure of the population compared with the country as a whole at 14.7) compares very unfavourably with England and Wales at 11.9.

The difference is largely deaths in men associated with bronchitis.

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

Summary of the Principal causes of death for the Years 1958-1968

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Cancer	151	173	174	209	154	194	190	169	306	347	393
Heart Diseases	246	247	258	222	282	231	259	298	574	568	527
Pneumonia	41	48	44	56	73	74	98	77	125	104	117
Bronchitis & Other respiratory diseases	97	110	93	116	82	105	88	81	197	170	158
Vascular lesions	111	137	156	119	108	130	138	111	244	224	235
Tuberculosis :-											
Pulmonary	19	15	16	11	11	7	7	6	21	20	8
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	3

A particular feature of death rates both locally and nationally is the substantially large number of men in the 45/65 age group compared with women in the same age range, two men die for every death of a woman in this age group. The predominant causes of death in the men are cancer of the lung and bronchus, coronary thrombosis and bronchitis.

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.

	Number of Deaths During		Rate per cent of total cancer deaths	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Stomach	45	55	13.0	14.0
Lungs & Bronchus	102	103	29.4	26.2
Breast	45	35	13.0	8.9
Uterus	4	16	1.1	4.1
Others	151	184	43.5	46.8
	347	393	100.0	100.0

Deaths from cancer of the lung still cause concern. Cancer of the breast in women shows a decrease, but cancer of the uterus shows a considerable increase.

The following table shows the death rate per 1,000 population from this disease for the last five years.

Cancer of the Lung and bronchus

Year Death rate per 1,000 Population

1962	0.49
1963	0.48
1964	0.57
1965	0.43
1966	0.50
1967	0.59
1968	0.59

The substantial increase on 1965 & 1966 remains.

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 8 giving a pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.04 per 1,000 population which compares with 0.11 for 1967.

AGE GROUP	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Influenza		Pneumonia		Bronchitis		Other Diseases Respiratory System		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	7	6	—	—	1	—	8	6
1-4 years	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
5-14 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	2
25-34 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35-44 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	2
45-54 years	—	—	—	—	6	1	6	1	2	—	14	2
55-64 years	3	1	4	—	6	—	30	6	5	2	48	9
65-74 years	2	1	—	2	11	10	32	9	6	1	51	23
75 years & over	1	—	1	3	24	38	27	17	3	4	56	62
TOTALS	6	2	6	5	58	58	97	34	18	9	185	108

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 latest provisional figures for England and Wales and for West Bromwich, given as rates per thousand population, are as follows:—

Types of Disease	England and Wales	West Bromwich
Cancer of the Lung	0.59	0.59
Cancer of the breast	0.21	0.203
Cancer of the stomach	0.26	0.31
Coronary disease	2.84	2.18
Bronchitis	0.63	0.76

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.

Infant Mortality

A total of 55 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 17.8. The equivalent rate for England and Wales is 18.0. One illegitimate baby died. Of the total of 55 deaths 10 occurred in coloured babies, a percentage of 18.1.

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 per 1,000 live births
1957	27	3	5	3	3	41	24
1958	18	3	2	—	—	23	14
1959	25	3	2	—	2	32	19
1960	20	6	6	3	1	36	21
1961	38	5	4	1	1	49	27
1962	27	9	8	2	1	47	25
1963	29	6	5	2	3	45	24
1964	22	5	6	2	1	36	19
1965	20	6	5	3	—	34	19
1966	35	7	8	5	2	57	18.1
1967	45	6	7	3	2	63	20.0
1968	34	7	8	4	2	55	17.8

The following table shows the infant deaths from certain causes during the year:—

Cause of Death	Under 1 month	1 – 3 months	3 – 6 months	6 – 9 months	9 – 12 months	Total Under 1-Year
Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	3	3	1	13
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Anomalies	8	3	3	—	—	14
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury & other cases	21	—	—	—	—	21
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases	—	—	2	1	—	3
Gastro - enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	34	7	8	4	2	55

Deaths Under Four Weeks of Age

There were 34 deaths of infants under 4 weeks, giving a neonatal mortality rate of 10.4 per 1,000 live births compared with 11.9 in 1967. 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 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Deaths under 1 mon.
18	4	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	—	34

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 26.1 compared with 28.0 in 1967. 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 figure for England and Wales is 25.0.

To provide a comparison of the various rates involved in the consideration of perinatal mortality the following table gives information for each of the last five years.

Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1968	17.8	11.0	16.0	26.2
1967	20.0	11.9	16.0	28.0
1966	18.1	11.1	19.9	27.2
1965	19.0	11.2	21.4	32.3
1964	19.4	11.9	19.6	30.1
1963	23.8	15.3	19.2	31.6
1962	25.4	14.6	15.9	28.1

Maternal Mortality

One death in pregnancy occurred in 1968.

Suicide

Ten deaths were due to suicide which compares with 14 in 1967. The age groups and sex of the persons concerned, together with the methods employed are shown in the following table:—

	AGE GROUP					
	15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Barbiturate Poisoning	—	—	—	2	—	1
Hanging	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coal Gas Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—	—
Overdose of drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aspirin Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning	—	—	—	1	2	—
Gunshot Wounds	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ligature Around Neck	—	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS	1	—	1	4	3	1

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Thirty-three deaths were due to road accidents compared with 25 in 1967. The following table shows the age groups, sex, and types of accident:—

TYPES OF ACCIDENT	AGE GROUPS							
	0 – 14 years		15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 Years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Fell From Lorry	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Motor-Cycle/Car	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Car/Lorry	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Car/Van	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Motor Cycle	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pillion Passenger	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pedestrian struck by Vehicle	—	4	1	—	6	1	7	4
Knocked down by mo-ped	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cycle/Car	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	4	5	1	7	1	10	4

A further 25 deaths have been classified by the Registrar General as due to accident, 6 of which are known to have occurred in the home. Brief details are given in the following table:—

	AGE GROUPS							
	0 – 14 years		15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 Years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
HOME								
Electrocution in Bath	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Fall from bedroom window	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fall downstairs	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Overlain in bed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inhalation of gas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fall at home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4

PART II

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Midwifery

Health Visiting

Home Nursing

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance

Care and After Care

Chiropody

Home Help

Cervical Cytology

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:—

West Bromwich	—	Boulton Road Friar Park Greets Green Hamstead Highfields Hill Top Stone Cross
Walsall	—	Yew Tree
Tipton	—	Birch Street Central, Horseley Road
Wednesbury	—	Mesty Croft Albert Street

The clinics were staffed by nurses from the local authority and medical officers from the hospital service. There was an average of 52 sessions per month held during the year with an average attendance of 10 patients per session.

Attendances

	1966			1967	1968
	Jan to March	April to Dec.	Totals		
New Bookings	199	814	1,013	1,248	1,248
Return Visits	965	3,290	4,255	5,454	5,253
Post - Natal	3	10	13	87	—

The following table shows the number of mothers attending and attendances made for Mothercraft teaching and relaxation exercises during 1968.

Attendances for Mothercraft and Relaxation Exercises.

Centre.	Institutional Booked	Domiciliary Booked	Persons Attending	Attendances
Hill Top & Highfields	34	40	74	297
Greets Green	—	—	—	—
Boulton Road	6	15	21	147
Friar Park	—	—	—	—
Hamstead	22	10	32	130
Hill Lane	16	16	32	144
Yew Tree & Stone Cross	20	24	44	191
Hallam Hospital *	52	—	52	184
Birch Street *	20	10	30	156
Central, Tipton	12	15	27	153
Mesty Croft	30	6	36	337
Albert Street	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	212	136	348	1739

* Mothercraft Only

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The following table gives details of the place, day, total sessions and attendance at the centre :—

Place	Day	Total Sessions during the year	Total Attendances during the year
Boulton Road	Tuesday	48	4,159
	Thursday	51	
Friar Park	Wednesday	51	2,336
Hamstead	Friday	50	3,822
	Wednesday	51	
Greets Green	Wednesday	51	1,478
Highfields	Monday	49	4,426
	Thursday	51	
Hill Top	Monday	49	2,868
	Thursday	51	
Hill Lane	Monday	49	3,675
	Tuesday	48	
*Stone Cross	Tuesday	48	2,566
St. Mary's Hall	Friday	50	804
Yew Tree	Wednesday	51	3,378
	Friday	50	
Birch Street	Monday	49	6,989
	Tuesday	48	
	Thursday	51	
Central, Tipton	Monday	49	4,406
	Thursday	51	
Burnt Tree	Wednesdays (alternate)	26	1,079
Ocker Hill	Tuesday	48	5,743
	Wednesdays (alternate)	25	
Mesty Croft	Monday	49	7,322
	Wednesdays	51	
	Friday	50	
Albert Street	Tuesday	48	4,049
	Thursday	51	
Chapel Lane	Thursday	51	1,608
TOTALS		1,445	60,708

Each centre was staffed by health visitors and nurses and a medical officer employed by the authority, and valuable assistance was given at some clinics by voluntary workers.

Vaccinations against smallpox and poliomyelitis, together with triple immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus were carried out at the centres.

Further details of the numbers of children attending the centres are given below:—

	First Attendances			Subsequent Attendances		
	1966	1967	1968	1966	1967	1968
Children between 0-1 year	2,705	3,100	3,115	32,097	40,041	35,314
Children between 1-2 years	92	114	88	8,574	10,421	10,778
Children between 2-5 years	110	164	154	6,858	9,829	11,259

Baby Foods

There was a central distribution centre open during office hours each day for the distribution of baby food, orange juice and cod liver oil, and supplies were also available at all infant centres in the borough.

The following quantities were issued to beneficiaries:—

	1966	1967	1968
National Dried Milk	504 tins free	509	669
	6,513 tins at 2/4d	5,527	3,960
	5,103 tins at 4/-	5,570	5,910
TOTAL	12,120	11,606	10,539
Orange Juice	28,846 bottles at 1/6d	33,397	31,429
	2,974 bottles free	3,737	2,470
TOTAL	31,820	37,134	33,899
Cod Liver Oil	1,801 bottles at 1/-	2,001	1,877
	1,034 bottles free	1,163	879
TOTAL	2,835	3,164	2,756

	1966	1967	1968
Vitamin Tablets	1,371 packets at 6d. 91 packets free	1,410 65	1,207 59
TOTAL	1,462	1,475	1,266

Free issues are made on production of vouchers obtained through the Ministry of Social Security.

Issues of National Dried Milk at 2s. 4d. are made on the production of welfare foods vouchers obtained from the Ministry of Social Security.

A total of 115,918 items of various proprietary foods was sold giving an income of £14,911. The price in each case was the cost to the Corporation plus 10%, and usually was less than the normal retail price, and 311 cartons were issued free of charge.

DENTAL SERVICES FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS ANNUAL REPORT

The Principal School Dental Officer, Mr. Cuzner, Reports :—

“Difficulties were again caused during 1968 by the increasing shortage of Dental Officers. This does not seem likely to improve during the present financial stringencies. The figures on the whole show a distinct improvement from 1967, a year which was badly interrupted by the removal of our headquarters from Hill Top to the present site at Highfields.

There is unfortunately a fairly large increase in the number of emergency cases for children. This figure has increased for the last three years and is a direct result of staff shortage. Working with a small staff of dentists does mean that the service is liable to degenerate into one dealing mainly with emergency cases and not with routine treatment, this I am afraid is the reverse of what we should be doing. To enable Local Authority Dental Services to function properly they must have a permanent and stable staffing situation so that the public may rely on the service.

The inspection of three year old children with their mothers present had proved very popular and undoubtedly does a great deal of good. If, however, the present shortage of staff continues, then the future of this scheme may well be in jeopardy.”

The following table shows forms of treatment given and the number of mothers and young children provided with dental care during 1968 :—

504 time free	676	883
6,513 time at 2/4d	5,527	3,880
5,108 time at 4/-	5,670	5,910
12,120	11,805	10,539
2,448 time at 1/10d	2,337	3,479
2,274 time free	2,727	2,470
14,820	11,128	23,500
		1,877
		873
		2,750

	CHILDREN 0 - 4 (incl.)		EXPECTANT & NURSING MOTHERS	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Attendances & Treatment				
First Visits	265	306	64	72
Subsequent Visits	107	160	148	141
Total Visits	372	466	212	213
No. of additional courses of treatment other than the first course commenced during year	6	6	3	—
Treatments provided during the year:—				
No. of fillings	162	244	52	51
Teeth filled	161	223	51	47
Teeth extracted	582	561	270	253
General Anaesthetics given	225	211	49	35
Emergency visits by patients	154	188	30	26
Patients X-rayed	—	8	—	2
Patients treated by scaling and/or removal of stains	5	3	11	5
Teeth otherwise conserved	10	5	—	—
Teeth Root filled	—	—	—	—
Inlays	—	—	1	1
Crowns	—	—	2	5
Number of Courses of Treatment completed during the year	181	119	44	35
Inspections — No. of patients given first inspections during year	490	659	34	52
No. of patients who required treatment	262	358	31	49
No. of patients who were offered treatment	249	355	31	49
Prosthetics — Patients supplied with F.U. or F.L. (1st time)	4	10	—	—
Patients supplied with other dentures	12	17	—	—
Number of dentures supplied	26	21	—	—
Anaesthetics — General Anaesthetics administered by Dental Officers	1	3	—	—
Sessions — No. of Dental Officer Sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients:				
For treatment		78.0	90.5	
For Health Education		0.6	3.9	

Babies born with Congenital Defects

Cases of congenital malformations noted at birth have continued to be reported by midwives on birth notification cards which have been suitably printed to accommodate the additional information. The appropriate returns have been made to the Registrar General.

During the year 83 babies were notified and all the returns were scrutinised by a medical officer of the department. If necessary the babies were visited. After the doctors' investigations, 1 baby was not considered to be malformed, leaving a total in the year of 82, thirteen of which were stillborn.

The babies mentioned in the previous paragraph who were born with congenital abnormalities were all entered on the "At Risk Register", which also contains the names of all babies who on account of family history, illness of the mother during pregnancy, or difficult birth, are considered to be in danger of developing handicapping conditions.

These children are followed-up at regular intervals so that any abnormality of development can be investigated at the earliest opportunity, and arrangements made for the appropriate treatment to be obtained or for special schooling or training to be given.

Care of Unmarried Mothers

A total of 210 illegitimate births (206 Live & 4 Still) during 1968 representing 6.7% of the total births was recorded in respect of women normally resident in the Borough.

Of these, 84 cases were dealt with by the Moral Welfare Worker of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, and the Case Worker of the Association reports on the work for the year as follows:—

"Eighty-four cases in which illegitimate births occurred in 1968 have been dealt with by Mrs. Hall and these are reported on below. In addition 47 cases in which births occurred prior to 1968 were helped to make plans for the babies. 24 expectant mothers whose babies were due to be born in 1969 have had the necessary arrangements made for their confinements. This makes a total of 155 cases under care during 1968.

Thirty-five mothers were accommodated in Diocesan Homes,

48 had hospital confinements and one mother had her baby at home.

Fourteen of the cases concerned married women, 9 of whom were living apart from their husbands and 5 were reconciled to their husbands.

In the majority of cases the putative fathers have been interviewed with the result that 8 Affiliation Orders have been made and 23 voluntary payments have been made towards the costs of the mothers and babies.

The ages of the mothers ranged between 13 and 36 and are listed as follows:—

Aged 13- 1 Aged 14- 2 Aged 15- 6 Aged 16- 5 Aged 17- 12
Aged 18-13 Aged 19- 9 Aged 20- 8 Aged 21-10 Aged 22/27-12
Aged 28/34 - 5 Aged 35/40 - 1

Two girls married, both of them to the putative fathers.

The ages of the putative fathers ranged between 15 and 45, 16 were married, 62 single, 5 separated from their wives, 2 divorced and the marital status of 3 was not known.

The babies were placed as follows:—

- 47 with mothers at home
- 1 with parents married
- 1 with mother in lodgings
- 8 with foster parents
- 2 in Voluntary Children's Homes
- 20 adopted through the Association
- 4 adopted privately
- 1 was stillborn

Approximately 810 visits have been paid in connection with the 155 cases under care. In addition the homes of 28 prospective adopters have been visited and reported on, 28 babies visited after they have been placed for adoption, 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 gratitude for the help and advice given by the Medical Officer of Health and his staff".

The number of cases helped increased to 84 from 75 in 1967.

Family Planning

The Secretary of the West Bromwich Branch of the Family Planning Association reports as follows on the work for 1968:-

"We have now had one full year in our new premises, Control House, Shaftesbury Street and during that time have extended our services considerably.

We now hold weekly clinics on Monday mornings and evenings, Tuesday mornings (Younger Centre), Wednesday mornings and afternoons and Thursday mornings.

During 1968 we held 210 clinic sessions (301 doctor sessions) and of the 714 new patients registered nearly half came through personal recommendation and more than one fifth from the family doctor. The largest age group was between 20 – 24 years, the smallest number coming from the over 34 years group; 214 patients had no children, 261 had one or two children and 163 had three or more children.

Of 320 cytological smears taken, none was positive. This service is available to all local authority patients without charge and to non F.P.A. patients of all ages for a charge of £1.

We are happy to be acting as agents in implementing the New Family Planning Act for the Local Authority in this area.

We who work in family planning realise what a step forward this is."

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

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

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

	Number of Children Attending	Number of attendances during the year
Pre school children	3	33
School children	16	272
TOTAL	19	305

Day Nurseries and Child Minders

The Council have no day nursery operating in the Borough and at the end of the year there were two registered child minders

Visits of inspection were carried out monthly.

This does not appear to represent the total amount of minding of children for reward that occurs in the Borough, but actual proof of other cases is lacking.

Play Groups

There were five play groups at the end of the year, having 107 places, and there were 181 children on the registers. Visits of inspection were carried out during the year.

Post-Natal Care

Some clinics have had midwives only, especially in the past, where this was the practice before local government reorganisation. A single system throughout the Borough has now been introduced. All patients are seen at prescribed intervals by a hospital doctor at specially accessible clinics, unless the general practitioner objects. The midwife takes a patient to the doctor at the appropriate times and at any other times when she considers it desirable. At all other visits of the patient the clinic the midwife is responsible for the ante-natal care of the patient. The medical staff of these clinics is provided by arrangement with the Haslem Hospital obstetric department. The midwife also gives ante-natal care in the home if the patient is booked for home delivery and does not attend the ante-natal clinic. Six thousand and seventy three Ante-natal visits were done in 1968.

MIDWIFERY

Staff

A Principal Nursing Officer is employed. The staff concerned solely with midwifery was as follows:—

Non-medical Supervisor of Midwives

20 - Full-time Midwives

2 Three quarter-time Midwives

4 Half-time Midwives

Unfortunately due to long-term sickness in 2 midwives and 3-month maternity leave in the case of 2 more, the remaining staff carried a somewhat heavier load than usual. However, by the end of the year the position improved.

Working Arrangements

A new rota was introduced in order to comply with the requirement that midwives should work a 42 hour working week with 2 consecutive days off per week. Night duty occurs normally every fourth week. This provides standard working hours and although the new rota means more concentrated work on duty this is offset by the advantage of more off-duty. Sickness and maternity leave of staff made it difficult however to avoid changing of hours at relatively short notice.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Some clinics have had midwives only, especially in Tipton, where this was the practice before local government reorganisation. A single system throughout the borough has now been introduced. All patients are seen at prescribed intervals by a hospital doctor at six easily accessible clinics, unless the general practitioner objects. The midwife refers a patient to the doctor at the appropriate times and at any other times when she considers it desirable. At all other visits of the patient to the clinic the midwife is responsible for the ante-natal care of the patient.

The medical staff of these clinics is provided by arrangement with the Hallam Hospital obstetric department. The midwife also gives ante-natal care in the home if the patient is booked for home delivery and does not attend the ante-natal clinic.

Six Thousand and Seventy Three Ante-natal visits were done in 1968.

Confinements

The following table shows distribution of births between home and hospital over the past 10 years :—

	Hospital	Home	% at home
1959	903	795	46.0%
1960	1,019	783	43.4%
1961	1,081	786	42.0%
1962	1,127	807	41.7%
1963	1,206	766	38.3%
1964	1,170	700	37.4%
1965	1,184	605	33.8%
1966	2,257	929	29.1%
1967	2,227	935	29.5%
1968	2,248	877	28.0%

This follows the national pattern of a decrease in home deliveries, but an increase in early discharge from hospital. Following the decline in work, a midwife who left towards the end of the year has not been replaced.

During the year Local Authority midwives attended 884 confinements. A doctor was booked for 826 confinements. A doctor was called in by the midwife in 23 cases. The 'flying squad' was called to an emergency 14 times during the year. The total births occurring in West Bromwich during 1968 was 3612 but those which occurred to permanent residents of the borough amounted to 3125.

Post-Natal Care

Midwives were responsible for visiting the mother at home until the 10th day after confinement. Each mother was visited twice daily for the first 4 days after delivery, then daily to the 10th day.

Total Visits

	1966	1967	1968
Ante-Natal Visits	7,338	5,573	6,073
Nursing Visits during puerperium & post-natal period (including early discharges from Hospitals)	18,284	22,936	22,284
Total	25,622	28,509	28,357

Early Discharges from Hospital

Year	Total Deliveries in West Bromwich	Discharges of Mothers to West Bromwich Homes			
		Up to 2nd day	Up to 5th day	Up to 7th day	Up to 10th day
1966	3,569	250	412	1387(82%)	1,685
1967	3,503	270	253	1324(60%)	2,231
1968	3,612	340	292	1624(75.2%)	2,158

The practice of early discharges from hospital means considerable visiting work for domiciliary midwives.

Statutory Notifications of Intention to Practice

A total of 71 Midwives notified their intention of practice within the County Borough during 1968. Of these 34 were proposing to engage in domiciliary practice and 37 in hospital.

There were no midwives in private practice.

Analgesia

All domiciliary midwives are equipped with "Entonox" analgesic equipment.

Gas & Oxygen "Entonox" was administered to 91 patients

Pethilorfan or Pethidine was administered to 462 patients

Teaching Midwives

Hallam Hospital was this year approved as a training centre for the second part of the Central Midwives Board exam. The Part 1 course is already given there. This means it is possible to have more pupil midwives who during their course come to the Local Authority to do practical training locally on the district. There are 3 teaching midwives with the Local Authority and a fourth midwife has applied to the Central Midwives Board for teaching status, so that there is adequate staff for training the additional numbers.

Courses

Eight Domiciliary midwives attended post-graduate courses in 1968 in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Central Midwives Board.

2 midwives attended a residential parenthood teaching course enabling them to teach expectant mothers.

Maternal Mortality

There was 1 death of a West Bromwich residents attributable to pregnancy during 1968.

Cases of Potential Difficulty

Certain categories of expectant mothers were advised to have their babies in hospital as national statistics show greater incidence of complications in child birth than the national average and the figures for hospital confinements of these special categories were as follows :—

	Home	Hospital
1. Primipara over 30 years of age	9	74
2. Multipara over 40 years of age	6	78
3. Women in their 4th or subsequent pregnancy	156	476

In these cases domestic problems were the main cause militating against delivery in hospital.

HEALTH VISITORS

Staff

A Principal Nursing Officer is employed. The staff solely concerned with Health Visiting and School visiting was as follows:-

Deputy Principal Nursing Officer

18 Health Visitors (including 5 group advisors)

11 Full-time Nurses without H.V. certificates

2 Part-time Nurses without H.V. Certificates

2 Hygiene Assistants

During the year the shortage of Health Visitors was relieved by the return of 5 students who all gained their Health Visitors Certificates. Two more nurses (one formerly a midwife and 1 school nurse) are at present seconded to take their Health Visitors' course and will return in 1969. No Health Visitors left in 1968.

As the number of qualified health visitors is below the full establishment of 29, state registered nurses without the H.V. certificate still continue to assist Health Visitors.

Working Arrangements

The Health Visitors continue to work from 3 Field Centres in the town. The Principal Nursing Officer and her Deputy are overall supervisors and there is at least one Group Adviser at each Centre. Each Health Visitor covers her own district, visiting children between 10 days and 5 years within her area and advising on family problems where needed. She also refers patients with problems to other agencies where-ever necessary. One of the main advantages of the Field Centre is that it makes easy communication possible between staff, as in each area District Nurses, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Welfare Officers, Child Care Officers, are based in the same building (except one area where space precludes this), therefore personal contact is easy. The Health Visitors also attend Co-ordinating meetings of officers which are held at regular intervals. Problems of families within the area are discussed with Children's Officer, Social Workers, representatives of the Ministry of Social Security, the N.S.P.C.C., and any other agencies who may be involved, under the Chairmanship of the Principal Assistant (Social Work), who is a well qualified Social Worker.

Home Visits

Health Visitors work in clinics and visit the homes, and School nurses work in schools and clinics:—

Analysis of Home Visits	1964	1965	1966			1967	1968
			1st Qr.	2-4Qrs	Total		
First visit to births	1,670	1,540	455	2,512	2,967	3,067	2,959
Re-visits to children under 12 months	3,828	3,634	540	4,536	5,076	7,050	6,851
Re-visits to children 1—5 years	7,070	6,557	1,324	11,433	12,757	16,126	15,247
Visits to cases of infectious diseases	73	15	8	7	15	110	127
Visits to expectant mothers	251	117	23	333	356	482	400
Other Visits (including Tuberculosis)	1,183	769	201	1,450	1,651	4,404	3,665
B.C.G. Vaccinations	1	7	—	3	3	67	21
TOTALS	14,079	12,639	2,551	20,274	22,825	31,306	29,270

During 1968, a total of 4,881 visits that were made were fruitless because there was nobody at home. It is difficult to reduce this number. Visits by appointment are difficult to arrange because of the fluctuating calls for the Health Visitors.

At the end of December the Health Visitors' case load of children under the age of five years was 14,208.

The average case load per Health Visitor of children under five was 789 and 25,057 home visits were made by the Health Visitors. At the end of the year 2 tuberculosis visitors were appointed (S.R.N. 's who had experience of tuberculosis nursing) to deal with the visiting to tuberculosis patients for care and after-care and tracing contacts, which was previously done by individual Health Visitors.

Clinics

Health Visitors attend Infant Welfare Clinics, Ante-natal clinics, cervical cytology clinics, relaxation and parenthood classes. The latter are conducted mainly in Local Authority clinics but one is held in hospital.

There have been 70,469 attendances at the clinics during the year.

There are 3 Infant Welfare Clinics in the town which are well attended by the immigrant population (mainly Indians and Pakistanis). The Health Visitors involved worked hard to overcome language problems, to learn something of their customs and to teach English customs. Credit is due to the Health Visitors who first drew attention to the use of a black eye cosmetic, "SURMA", as the substance was found to contain lead, but investigations of a series of children using this material have not produced any evidence of lead poisoning.

We are fortunate in having 2 members of the staff who speak Indian languages, namely Urdu and Hindustani.

School nurses attend Infant Welfare Clinics and cervical cytology clinics in addition to performing their school work assisting with routine medical inspections and making regular visits to their schools.

Liaison with other Agencies

In addition to co-ordinating Committee meetings the following Liaisons were maintained with other agencies:—

General Practice

One Group Adviser was attached to a general practice. This worked very satisfactorily.

Elderly

The Principal Nursing Officer worked with the Consultant Physician assessing the elderly on domiciliary visits, deciding on hospital admissions and or care at home.

Paediatrics

A Group Adviser worked with the Consultant Paediatricians attending clinic sessions regularly each week and maintaining a valuable contact with the hospital and Local Authority services.

Tuberculosis

Three Group Advisers (one from each Field Centre) worked with the Consultant Chest Physicians maintaining contacts between Health Visitors and Chest Clinics.

Diabetics

A Senior Health Visitor attended the Diabetic Clinic regularly and maintained contact with diabetics, helping with problems, e.g., diet, and keeping other Health Visitors in touch with diabetics in their areas and with recent advances.

Screening

Phenylketonuria tests were done at 2–6 weeks, (some at home and some at clinics). The method used in 1968 was the 'Phenistix' test.

Tests for deafness were done as soon after 6 months of age as possible. All babies and toddlers thought by the Health Visitor to be "at risk" of handicaps were entered on the "at risks" register and followed up at regular intervals.

Health Education

Talks given over the year included such topics as Prevention of Accidents of the Elderly, Cervical Cytology, First Aid.

The Principal Nursing Officer lectured to and examined members of the Red Cross.

Film strips were also shown.

Dental education for mothers of pre-school children was introduced into the Infant Welfare Clinics.

A great deal of informal teaching has been done in the Infant Welfare Clinics to visiting student nurses (S.R.N.) pupil nurses (S.E.N.) social work students, nursery nurses, Child Care officers in training, pupil midwives and Senior schoolgirls.

Lectures

The Regional Hospital Board (Midlands Post Registration Nurse Training Plan) arranged lectures for all nursing staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham: Hallam Hospital: and the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

A diabetic course held in Birmingham was attended by a Senior Health Visitor.

HOME NURSING

Staff

Principal Nursing Officer

Supervisor of District Nurses (also Deputy Principal Nursing Officer).

24 State Registered Nurses (4 men and 20 women)

The establishment of District Nurses is complete, and has been throughout the year. One male nurse retired during the year (and unfortunately died shortly afterwards) and three other district nurses left. Four new staff were recruited.

Of the 24 nurses employed – 17 are State Registered Nurses with District Nurse training.

6 are State Registered Nurses

1 is a State Enrolled Nurse

Working Arrangements

The District Nurses work under the supervision of the Principal Nursing Officer and the Supervisor of Health Visitors and District Nurses (who is also Deputy Principal Nursing Officer). Most of their work comes through requests from general practitioners and some hospitals, following discharge of a patient. Emergency Night work is covered by a Rota of District Nurses.

Cases Nursed

Year	Average number of Nurses employed	Number of new cases	Total number of visits
1961	11½	822	30,359
1962	12	772	30,169
1963	13	782	30,957
1964	13	708	31,890
1965	13	726	36,155
1966	23	1,213	60,392
1967	24	1,227	65,742
1968	24	1,327	63,971

One Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty-seven cases were re-ferred for home care during 1968:—

981 by General Practitioners
342 by hospitals
4 by the Chest Clinic

Six cases were transferred from Other areas during the year.

Monthly Work-Table

	Number of Patients being nursed at the beginning of month	New Cases	Number of patients being nursed at the end of month	Nursing Visits
January	464	160	509	5737
February	509	115	508	5224
March	508	126	575	5651
April	515	116	512	5531
May	512	92	504	5592
June	504	81	462	4754
July	462	125	489	5305
August	489	88	507	5110
September	507	94	499	4973
October	499	116	487	5345
November	487	105	482	5389
December	482	109	508	5360

Training of District Nurses

Training of district nurses was recommenced, having lapsed due to pressure of work following boundary changes in 1966. The County Boroughs of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Warley, Walsall and West Bromwich, run this four month part-time course comprising of lectures and practical sessions. It is very much welcomed by the nursing staff themselves. Four staff attended this year, taking the practical and oral examinations at the end of the course. All were successful.

The two remaining Home Nurses who are not yet district trained will be taking the course next year.

Use of auxiliary staff

Little use has been made of auxiliary staff (i.e. without nursing qualifications) as the recruitment of trained nurses for this service has not proved difficult during the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The recommended timetable for immunisation and vaccination of infants was as follows for the major portion of the year:—

6 months of age	—	Triple antigen and one dose of oral Polio vaccine.
8 months of age	—	-ditto-
13 months of age	—	Measles Vaccination
14 months of age	—	Triple Antigen and one dose of Oral Polio vaccine.
12 months to 2 yrs of age	—	Diphtheria and Tetanus combined antigen and one dose of oral Polio Vaccine.

Re-vaccination against Smallpox two weeks later if requested.

13 years of age — B.C.G. vaccination.

15 years or on leaving school — one dose Tetanus antigen and one dose of oral Polio Vaccine.

Smallpox re-vaccination if requested.

Only disposable syringes are used in the Local Authority Services.

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:—

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	Total
Number vaccinated (primary)	40	966	475	64	1545
Number re-vaccinated	—	15	8	4	27

A total of 373 persons over 15 years of age was vaccinated or re-vaccinated. The following table shows the acceptance for children under the age of five years compared with the estimated population in that age group:—

Year	Number Vaccinated	Estimated Population
1968	1481	14,080
1967	1305	14,080
1966	1393	14,080
1965	678	8,000
1964	677	8,000
1963	330	8,000
1962	1968	8,000
1961	450	7,849 (Census)

The greatly increased figure for 1962 was due to the occurrence of a case of smallpox in the town and a number of cases elsewhere in the country, and the increase in 1966 was due to the need of evidence of recent vaccination for intending travellers abroad. This need arose because of a few mild cases of smallpox in England.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is freely available to all children at the local authority clinics and from family doctors.

A total of 1,471 infants was given protection against diphtheria during the year and a total of 1,796 reinforcement injections was given to school children. The corresponding figures for 1966 were 2,354 and 2,143 respectively.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

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

Born	No. of persons who have received third dose of oral vaccine
1968	45
1967	1235
1966	130
1965	57
1961/64	458
Others under age 16	46
Totals	1971

The number of persons given a reinforcing dose of oral vaccine after primary immunisations with salk or oral vaccine was 3411.

The foregoing immunisation figures show an unsatisfactory state of affairs with room for improvement. With a staff of health visitors well below establishment improvement will be difficult to achieve. The usual methods of publicity have been used, but individual visits are necessary to persuade some parents.

Vaccination Against Measles

One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Two children were vaccinated against Measles, as follows :—

Born	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961/4	Others	Under 16
	7	164	129	109	1068		5

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN

The following table shows the percentages for West Bromwich together with the equivalent national figures :—

	Children born in 1967			Smallpox (Children under 2) (4)
	Whooping Cough (1)	Diphtheria (2)	Poliomyelitis (3)	
England & Wales	76	78	74	38
West Bromwich	56	61	61	33

The figures in columns (1) - (3) are calculated to show the percentage of children born in 1967 who have been vaccinated at any time.

Column 4 includes only children who were vaccinated during 1968 and were under 2 years old at the time and is calculated as a percentage of children born during 1967. This is considered to give a reasonable estimate of the proportion of young children being vaccinated against smallpox.

B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination continued to be offered to children attaining the age of thirteen years and vaccination was offered again to children aged fifteen years who had not received it previously.

Vaccination was, therefore, offered to a total of 3,004 children, and of these 2,188 accepted (72.8%). Vaccination was found unnecessary in the case of 123 of these because records showed that they had been vaccinated for various reasons, or records of previous skin tests indicated that they were tuberculin positive and not in need of B.C.G. vaccination.

Of the remainder a total of 1,945 were given a skin test (Tine Test) to determine whether or not they required vaccination against tuberculosis and 1,767 were given B.C.G. vaccination. The percentage of those to whom it was offered, actually given B.C.G. vaccination was 67.9%.

Children who had strongly positive skin tests were given appointments for an x-ray of the chest and as a result one boy aged thirteen was admitted to hospital for treatment for a period of three months.

In previous years a table showing the percentage of children found to have a positive skin test at the age of 13 has been published. This however is not now possible as a number of children in Tipton and Wednesbury had been given B.C.G. vaccination at an earlier age when under Staffordshire County Council, and since B.C.G. vaccination results in a positive skin test, as does infection with tuberculosis occurring naturally, percentages of those positive at the age of 13 can no longer act as an indication of the degree of casual infection with tuberculosis.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

General Arrangements

This service is administered by the Corporation's Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee.

Control is established at the West Bromwich Ambulance Service Station on a 24-hour basis and the Tipton Station operates on a 16-hour cover.

Mileage and patients statistics are for the second full year following the re-organisation of the Borough boundaries.

The establishment of the service provides for the following staff:-

Superintendent	1
Shift Leaders	8
Deputy Shift Leaders	5
Drivers/attendants	34
Clerk/Telephonists	2
	<hr/>
	50
	<hr/>

Ambulances

Three dual purpose ambulances fitted with Automatic Roll-in Trolley Stretchers and one Sitting Case Vehicle were placed in service, all being normal replacements.

Vehicles in Service

	Make	Placed in Service	Miles
13	Morris	8.7.58	9,411
20	*Bedford	21.6.61	14,556
21	*Bedford	26.6.61	11,988
23	*Bedford	20.3.62	15,522
24	*Bedford	5.4.62	15,565
25	*Bedford	5.4.62	18,584
26	*Bedford	19.4.62	15,766
14	Morris	18.7.62	15,710
15	Morris	10.9.62	14,106

	Make	Placed in Service	Miles
16	Morris	23.4.63	7,855
17	Austin	16.11.64	15,078
18	Austin	22.2.65	14,853
19	Morris	6.10.65	14,993
27	Morris	17.2.67	19,096
28	Austin	15.6.67	19,982
29	Morris	21.2.68	14,501
30	Morris	18.4.68	14,393
31	Morris	11.10.68	2,092
32	Austin	16.8.68	4,746
Total			258,797
Sitting Case Car			21,810
GRAND TOTAL			280,607

* Transferred from Staffordshire County Council

Work Done

The figures below show the use of the service over the last 10 years :-

Year	No. of Patients	Mileage
1959	23,712	88,580
1960	23,896	85,733
1961	27,283	96,518
1962	29,165	96,601
1963	31,464	108,834
1964	35,320	117,389
1965	31,852	114,222
1966	51,652	206,906
1967	67,045	276,761
1968	69,549	280,607

The following table shows the number of outpatients carried to hospital for treatment. It will be seen that the greater proportion of patients carried are those for routine treatment or examination and much of ambulance work is purely transport of passengers.

Year	No. of Out-Patients
1959	17,598
1960	17,339
1961	20,615
1962	22,605
1963	23,746
1964	28,398
1965	25,243
1966	40,604
1967	53,305
1968	55,005

Major Accidents

A Scheme provides for immediate nursing and medical help and equipment from hospital within a few minutes and in conjunction with the police, fire and hospital authorities for control of the accident, ambulance directions and use of hospital beds.

Emergency Catastrophe Procedure covering the area by the West Midlands (Special Review) Order 1965 is established.

This area represents the conurbation of the County Boroughs of Dudley, Walsall, Warley, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton and the plan is designed to achieve unified action on a unified basis by authorities and the West Midlands Constabulary.

The figures below show the use of the service over the last 10 years -

Year	No. of Patients	Mileage
1958	23,712	88,580
1959	23,898	85,133
1960	27,283	96,518
1961	28,168	96,601
1962	31,484	108,831
1963	36,340	117,389
1964	41,683	147,222
1965	41,982	150,908
1966	44,888	180,602
1967	47,305	181,305
1968	48,602	181,305

CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Convalescence

No provision was made in estimates for convalescent Home Care after the 31st March 1968, but 2 cases were sent to Weston-Super-Mare prior to the 31st March, 1 male (76) and 1 female (63), both of whom had been recommended by their General Practitioner.

PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT

Loan Equipment

Stocks of nursing equipment for use in patients homes are held at the nurses' centres. These articles are lent on the recommendation of a general practitioner, midwife or district nurse.

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

Air rings	Bed wedges
Back rests	Feeding cups
Bed cradles	Head poles and chains
Bed pans	Housechairs
Bedstead (special)	Mattresses and covers
Commode chairs	Nocturnal Enuresis alarms
Crutches	Ripple bed
Urinals	Spinal carriage
Waterproof sheets	Spinal supports
Walking sticks	Sputum cups (disposable)
Walking aids	Wheelchairs
Air Beds	Fracture boards

No charge is made for the use of the equipment, but each borrower is required to sign an agreement to return the items loaned within three months and in good condition. The loan period can be extended by signing a further agreement. There was a period in which the demand for wheel chairs exceeded the supply. Further chairs have since been obtained, but supplies remain inadequate.

INCONTINENCE PAD SERVICE

The Council authorises the free issue of incontinence pads as part of their arrangements for the care of patients in their own homes. Pads are freely available and are issued upon the advice of a doctor or nurse.

These pads have been a normal item of equipment used by the Home Nurses for some years and it has been found that the greater majority of patients in need of the pads are in fact attended by the Home Nursing Service and, therefore, received them in this way. Consequently there has only been a small demand for pads provided separately than through the Nursing Services. Disposal of pads has not presented a special problem. The variety used are composed entirely of paper (some patterns have a waterproof outer covering) and burn in domestic fires of various kinds. In some cases outside incineration is resorted to, and in the modern block of flats provided by the Council electric incinerators are installed.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

This service is directly provided by the Council and is restricted to certain categories which are shown below with the charges made for treatment.

	Clinic Treatment	Home Treatment
Aged, Handicapped, Blind Persons	2/6d	4/-
Expectant Mothers	5/-	7/6d

An appointment system is operated, two full-time chiropodists work 20 sessions per week and they are assisted by eight part-time chiropodists who provide 26 sessions per week.

The demand for Chiroprpody treatment was as great as anticipated, especially in the Tipton area, and this put a greater burden on the staff which was available. However, since the employment of a full-time Chiropodist the situation has eased a little, but the service is inadequate to meet the known need. Apart from this, there are many old people who need chiropody but do not apply for it.

The following table shows the number of treatments given:—

Clinic		Domiciliary		Residential Accommodation	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1054	4433	533	2766	173	518

This grand total of 9,477 treatments is 1,673 more than in 1967, but does not represent the full need. It seems probable

that a considerable number of elderly persons have defects of the feet requiring chiropody, but are not aware of the facilities and the value of treatment.

The present service, however, is as much as the staff can provide.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Staff

The Home Help Service at the end of the year employed 140 part-time staff, making an equivalent of approximately 92 in terms of full-time staff.

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 applicant and the hours of service given.

The number of patients helped over the previous ten years is shown in the following table :—

Year	Maternity	Aged & Chronic Sick
1957	54	293
1958	40	323
1959	45	365
1960	72	382
1961	58	420
1962	53	422
1963	30	426
1964	34	468
1965	42	520
1966	21 (2)	895 (379)
1967	26	1081
1968	26	1178

Figures in brackets relate to 1st quarter and are included in the total.

During the year a total of 349 new patients was given help for the first time and of these 287 were chronic sick, 26 maternity and 3 cases of tuberculosis.

The position over the last ten years is shown in the following table:—

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Confinements at home	44	69	46	49	27	30	35	21	26	24
Other maternity cases	1	3	12	4	3	4	7	2	3	2
Aged & Chronic sick	365	380	420	422	426	468	520	895	1081	1178
Tuberculosis	7	7	8	6	9	10	8	7	10	3
Problem Families	8	9	8	10	8	3	—	1	1	1
Mental Health	—	—	—	—	6	7	8	3	9	6
Other-including acute illness	47	56	57	49	60	55	53	133	43	26
TOTALS	472	524	551	540	539	577	631	1062	1173	1240

Of 1240 cases attended during the year, 98 paid full cost and 63 part cost. The service is stretched with demand increasing.

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, but 6 cases were attended during the year.

During the year 1 person was available and dealt with six cases for the following reasons:—

Chronic Sick :	Terminal illness	4
Senescence :		2
Long illness :		—

Cervical Cytology

Sessions for women requesting "smear tests" are held at 2 clinics, and commenced at Birch Street, Tipton on the 16th February and at Stone Cross on 6th April, 1967. The laboratory tests were carried out at Dudley Guest, Hallam and St. Margaret's Hospitals. At the latter end of the year sessions were arranged at industrial premises.

	Business Premises	Birch Street	Stone Cross	Totals
Sessions Held :	9	25	90	124
Attendances (by appointment)	86	252	1277	1615
Number showing abnormal cells suggesting a pre-cancerous condition	—	1	1	2
Cases referred to General Practitioners :	21	36	256	313
Average attendance per session :	9.5	10.0	14.1	13.0
Percentage of cases attending referred to General Practitioners:	24.4	14.2	20.0	19.3

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Local Authorities have responsibilities in providing the services of Mental Welfare Officers and social, recreational and residential services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

The provisions available in West Bromwich to patients in the community and not in hospital, include those of Training Centres for mentally subnormal children and adults, residential accommodation for the elderly mentally disordered, and general social help from Mental Welfare Officers. These services are closely associated with All Saints Hospital, Birmingham, which is the main mental hospital serving the area.

The Health and Welfare Committee is the responsible Committee of the Council and the duties are undertaken by the staff of the Health Department under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health. At the end of the year the staff was as follows :-

- 1 Senior Mental Welfare Officer
- 4 Mental Welfare Officers
- 1 Mental Welfare Officer engaged specifically on work with subnormal children.
- 1 Mental Welfare Officer seconded for a training course for the National Certificate in Social Work

Of these staff, none was a trained Social Worker

Mental Illness

The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board has revised the arrangements for admission of patients to hospital so that the whole of the area is primarily served by All Saints Hospital, Birmingham. Patients with mental disorders can be admitted to hospital without formality, and it was in fact only necessary to use the powers for compulsory detention in 21 cases during the year. These powers can, of course, only be exercised on medical recommendations for specified periods of time. Provision exists for patients so detained to appeal to the Mental Health Review Tribunal, in accordance with the law.

During the year a total of 310 patients living in the Borough were known to have been admitted informally, and in 21 cases

powers of detention were used. The Department is not, of course, aware of all the informal admissions that take place, but in many cases informal admission is arranged through the agency of the Mental Welfare Officer, and in this case the Department is aware of the admission and the circumstances. A total of 3 persons who lived outside the Borough were admitted from places in the Borough and therefore the total number of cases admitted and known to the Department were 334 during the year.

In the case of patients detained under compulsory powers, the hospital decides in the light of the patient's condition whether to discharge, continue to care for the patient on an informal basis, or extend the period of compulsory detention. Of the residents in West Bromwich admitted compulsorily, 7 were kept in hospital for a period under 72 hours, and 13 were kept for a period up to 28 days. In 1968, none of these admissions came as a result of an Order from the Courts. A total of 4 of the patients admitted for periods up to 72 hours remained voluntarily for treatment at the end of their period of compulsory detention.

The All Saints Hospital, Birmingham, has a most successful "Day" hospital, and patients who cannot travel by public transport are taken there daily by the ambulance service.

Old Age and Mental Illness

Of the total number of patients known to be admitted to hospital for mental disorder, 42 were over the age of 65 at the time of admission. In 7 of these cases compulsory powers were used.

Residential Accommodation for the Elderly Mentally Disordered

Warstone House, with 27 beds, was opened in 1963 to cater for this type of patient. During the year it had beds available for 27 elderly persons with mental disorder, most of whom were also physically disordered. These patients do not require care in a hospital for mental disorder, but are beyond management at home or in accommodation provided for old people. The Home was full throughout the year and an extension is currently under construction.

The following table shows the admissions and transfers:—

	Ad- missions	Transfers	Re- Admission	Dis- charges	Deaths
From/To All Saints	2	—	—	2	2
From/To General Hospital	—	—	3	3	7
From/To Part III	4	1	—	—	—
Of Temporary Nature	4	—	—	4	—
At Warstone House	—	—	—	—	1
From/To Own Home	3	—	—	—	—

The majority of residents stay in Warstone House until their death, but there are a few from time to time who have to be re-admitted to a mental hospital. This only occurs when they can no longer be satisfactorily managed in Warstone House itself. During the year the British Red Cross Society arranged regular visiting and provided an outing for these residents. In addition to those taken on a permanent basis, 4 patients were admitted for temporary periods to provide relief to their families.

Work in the Community

At the end of 1968, a total of 2,324 mentally ill persons were known to the staff and receiving some form of visit or help. With the staff of the size indicated, this was of a minimal nature in most cases, and a great deal of visiting has to be undertaken to provide the vital social background of the patient for the benefit of the Hospital Consultants undertaking treatment.

A Club for the mentally ill, with a membership of about 70 and a weekly attendance of approximately 42, meets once a week in the Social Centre, Walsall Street, West Bromwich, and transport is provided to assist those who could otherwise not attend.

Relations with Hospitals

Tribute must be paid to the staff of All Saints Hospital, Birmingham. Regular meetings are held with the consultant medical staff and the Mental Welfare officers of the various Authorities involved, and the Medical Director and his staff advise on the

admission of patients to Warstone House, and other matters generally relating to the Mental Health Service in West Bromwich.

The Birmingham Industrial Therapy Association, with the assistance of the Council in the form of premises, was at the end of the year forming a new Industrial Therapy Association to provide work for patients suffering from mental disorder in the West Bromwich area. This is a major development of importance and it is particularly pleasing that the actual siting of the factory for this purpose is in the West Bromwich Borough.

Mental Subnormality

The following table shows the new cases added on to the register of known subnormal persons during 1968 :—

	SEVERELY SUB-NORMAL				SUBNORMAL			
	Under 16		Over 16		Under 16		Over 16	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Notified by West Bromwich Education Authority, section 57(3) of the Education Act.	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers from other Local Authorities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
General Practitioners	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Welfare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Medical Staff	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Others	5	2	2	1	1	—	1	1

During the year 9 cases (6 boys and 3 girls) were notified by the local Education Authority as unsuitable for education at school. These attend the Junior Training Centre at Glenvale. A total of 1 boy and 3 girls were admitted to the Special Care Unit attached to the Glenvale Junior Training Centre, which provides care for those who are grossly physically handicapped in addition to their mental subnormality. A waiting list exists, which at the end of the year

consisted of 1 boy and 2 girls.

A total of 2 men and 2 women were admitted to the Senior Training Centre at the Crest and 3 are on the waiting list for admission at the end of the year.

Care in Hospital

During 1968, eight patients suffering from mental subnormality were admitted to hospital informally, 10 under Section 26 of the Mental Health Act 1959, 6 under Section 60 of that Act and 3 under Section 65 of that Act. Section 60 and Section 65 of the Mental Health Act 1959 referred to admission at the direction of Courts. In addition 21 persons suffering from mental subnormality were admitted for periods of short term care.

At the end of the year there were known to be 236 persons originally from the West Bromwich area who were receiving care and training in various hospitals for mental subnormality. The following table gives the details.

	Males	Females	Totals
Sub-normal	21	22	43
Severely Sub-Normal	86	107	193
TOTALS	107	129	236

Of this total, 218 are under no compulsion to remain in hospital and the remaining 18 are subject to various forms of compulsory detention under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1959.

Care in the Community

A total of 659 persons suffering from mental subnormality are continuing to receive friendly visits from the Mental Welfare Officer. One Mental Welfare Officer is primarily concerned in dealing with young children, but all the Mental Welfare Officers take a proportion of adult subnormal persons on their visiting list. The extent of this visiting is comparatively small, bearing in mind the size of the staff.

Of this total of 659, there were 104 boys and 84 girls under the age of 16, categorized as subnormal and 7 boys categorized as severely subnormal. In the group over the age of 16, there were 112 men and 107 women in the subnormal category, and 117 men and 128 women in the severely subnormal category.

Clinic for the Mentally Subnormal

Arrangements were continued throughout the year for a Consultant Psychiatrist from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, to attend at one of the Local Authority clinics to provide advice and help on subnormal persons sent to him through the Department by appointment. A total of 51 persons attended 11 such sessions held during the year, and it is notable that only 1 failed to keep the appointment. This local service of a Consultant Psychiatrist in mental subnormality is a most valuable help.

TRAINING CENTRES

“The Crest”

“The Crest” provides facilities for 50 mentally handicapped adults to receive training and occupation suitable to their needs.

The following table shows the trend of attendances during the year:-

	Jan to March	April to June	July to Sept.	Oct to Dec.	Totals
Number of days open	63	52	44	56	215
Attendances	2512	2158	1692	2358	8720
Average daily attendances	39.8	41.5	38.4	42.1	40.5
Number on Register at 31st December, 1968.	Males			30	
	Females			28	

The composition of the staff at the 31st December was:-

- 1 Supervisor (Male)
- 3 Assistant Supervisors (Female)
- 1 General Assistant (Female)
- 2 Domestic (Female)

The Supervisor commented :-

“There are four classes with an instructor for each class, of which three are mixed and one all male.

Outwork is undertaken as well as training in general social matters, domestic work, etc.

Forty-three trainees, accompanied by 5 Staff and one Welfare Officer, had an enjoyable day at Weston-super-Mare in June, which included a visit to Cheddar Gorge. Refreshments and hot meals were provided from the “Outwork Fund”, and those who did not attend received a present of equivalent value.

A Holiday at Morecambe Bay was enjoyed by 23 adults, accompanied by four staff and two helpers.

The trainees are taken walks around the parks, and visit Art Galleries and other show-places. They are also taken on shopping expeditions, using their own money to make purchases and pay fares, etc.

An "Open Day" was held during Mental Health Week, together with a Sports Day, but it was poorly supported.

Parent/Staff meetings are held fairly regularly and are rather interesting.

A Concert and bring-and-buy stall held in aid of the Swimming Pool Fund of the West Bromwich Association for Mental Health realised £36.

A Cheque for £105 from "The Crown Tote Committee", and one for £25 from the Senior Girls (who organised a stand to raise funds), were handed over to Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover and Mr. Shaw, and a complete cine outfit was purchased.

A good time was had on Bonfire night with plenty of fireworks. Hot Dogs and drinking chocolate was provided by parents, and the event was well supported.

Fire-drill is held at monthly intervals, weather permitting.

During the Christmas period some trainees were taken to Birmingham to see Father Christmas, and to buy presents for parents, using their own money. They also enjoyed purchasing their own refreshments at a self service cafeteria.

A Christmas Party was enjoyed by all. Entertainment provided by "Peter and His Puppets" proved to be very interesting".

"Glenvale" Training Centre"

The "Glenvale" Centre was built to provide facilities for 60 juniors, plus 10 in nursery class and places for up to 10 seriously handicapped (physically as well as mentally).

The following table shows the trend of attendances during the year:—

	Jan to March	April to June	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Totals
Number of Days open	58	44	34	54	190
Attendances	3677	3111	2216	3701	12705
Average Daily Attendance	63.3	70.7	65.1	68.5	66.8
Number on register at December, 1968	Juniors and Nursery Class		Males		52
			Females		37
	Special Care		Males		6
			Females		4

The composition of the staff at 31st December, 1968 was :-

- 1 Supervisor
- 4 Assistant Supervisors
- 1 Nurse S.E.N.
- 1 Nursery Nurse
- 2 General Assistants
- 1 Caretaker
- 1 Dinner Assistant

Miss Blake, the Supervisor, comments :-

"A Carol Service was held on the 19th December, and was well attended by parents, friends and officials. The children sang four new carols which they had learnt from the schools programme on Television "Making Music."

We held our third bonfire in November, which was well attended, and the profits went towards the Swimming Pool Fund of the West Bromwich Association for Mental Health.

Swimming is still popular, with the very young ones beginning to get interested. We can take just two of the nursery group each week, as there are still full numbers from the junior group. Two of our swimmers can now swim the length, and we hope that these will take their Junior Swimming Badge in the coming year.

We have concentrated this year on shopping, taking one or two at a time to the local shops, hoping that in time they will be able to do errands for their parents. On one or two occasions the groups were taken behind the scenes at a local supermarket.

A Christmas Party was held on the 18th December, and again local school children helped, and four boys gave a Puppet Show. A good time was enjoyed by all.

In November, Mr. Stokes, from the Education Music Department, arranged and conducted a short concert at "Glenvale", the first time they had ventured into a Training Centre, although they give concerts to the local schools – the children were delighted with the music, and were quite knowledgeable about the instruments, again thanks to School Programmes on television and the staff following up and continuing the lessons".

In November, Mr. Stokes, from the Education Music Department, visited and conducted a short concert at "Stevonia", the first time they had ventured into a Training Centre, although they give contents to the local schools - the children were delighted with their visit and returned knowledge about the instruments, again thanks to School Programmes on television and the staff followed up and continuing the lessons."

Total	Males	52
	Females	30
Total	Males	6
	Females	4

At a meeting of the Board on 31st December, 1968 was :-

- 1. Chairman
- 2. Vice-Chairman
- 3. Secretary
- 4. Treasurer
- 5. Members

The following were present :-

At the meeting on 10th December, 1968, and was well attended by parents, friends and officials. The children sang and danced which they had learnt from the schools programme on television "Singing Stars".

In 1968 the fund-raising in November, which was well attended and the profits went towards the Swimming Pool Fund of the West Lothian Association for Mental Health.

Activities in 1968 popular, with the very young ones beginning to get involved. The nursery group each week, as well as all children with the parent group. Two young children with their parents and we hope that these will continue to be a good addition to the nursery group.

At the meeting on 10th December, 1968, and again the children sang and danced which they had learnt from the schools programme on television "Singing Stars".

At a meeting of the Board on 31st December, 1968 was :-

PART III
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence and Mortality
Tuberculosis
Venereal Disease



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence

There were 440 cases of notifiable disease (other than tuberculosis) notified or otherwise ascertained during the year.

The following table shows the number of notifications received during each of the last ten years :—

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	Jan-Mar.	Apr-Dec.	1967	1968
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	26	3	3	7	1	25	22	4	9	31
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas	2	—	—	3	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Measles	923	223	1160	188	807	330	541	45	391	1088	283
Meningococcal Infection	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	2	3	—	4
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	2	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	1
Pneumonia	29	17	18	3	5	—	3	2	1	2	1
Poliomyelitis:-											
Paralytic	3	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	3	4	2	—	1	1	1	2	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	70	64	27	17	14	7	43	10	54	67	37
Smallpox	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	27	167	15	5	147	15	55	12	77	68	19
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	23	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	17
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44

Notifications

On the 1st October, 1968, there were certain changes in the notification of infectious disease introduced by legislation.

This added tetanus, leptospirosis and yellow fever to the list. Infective Jaundice had only recently (15th June, 1968) become a notifiable disease.

Notifiable pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia and erysipelas were deleted. The current list is therefore :

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Amoebic dysentery	Relapsing fever
Anthrax	Scarlet fever
Bacillary dysentery	Smallpox
Cholera	Tetanus
Diphtheria	Tuberculosis
Infective Jaundice	Typhoid Fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping Cough
Malaria	Yellow fever
Measles	

and this does not include the requirements for notification of certain industrial diseases to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases

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

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis Enteritis & Diarrhoea	5	7	4	4	7	2	1	1	8	2
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	6	8	8	4	9	4	1	4	9	4

Dysentery

Thirty-one cases of dysentery were notified during the year. The illness was mild in character and there was no general spread of infection. During the year a number of specimens were taken from persons with symptoms but negative results were obtained.

Gastro Enteritis

Two deaths occurred, one aged under 1 and one aged 1-2 years.

Measles

A total of 283 cases of measles was notified compared with 1088 in the previous year and 436 cases in 1966. There were no deaths in 1968.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Only one case was notified. The disease was mild and recovery uneventful and complete.

Pneumonia

One case of pneumonia was notified but obviously this 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

No cases were notified during 1968 and this is the seventh year in succession free from this infection.

Scarlet Fever

Thirty-seven cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. Scarlet fever still continues to be a mild disease and notification is likely to be incomplete. It is one manifestation of a common infection that also causes tonsillitis.

Whooping Cough

A total of 19 cases of whooping cough was notified.

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

Smallpox

No cases occurred during 1968.

Infective Jaundice

Forty-four cases were notified after this became notifiable on the 15th June, 1968. This is a virus infection common in children and there is no doubt that outbreaks in schools are reasonably common.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dr. C.W.D. Cole, Consultant Physician, by arrangement with Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, acts as adviser in respect of Tuberculosis, and I am indebted to him for the following report.

"During 1968 the anti-tuberculous services in the County Borough of West Bromwich continued to operate in the manner as described in my report of 1967.

New Notifications :

During the year there were 78 new cases of tuberculosis placed on the register. This is a fall of four from the previous year. The new cases were 34 men, 12 women and 8 children suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 14 men, 5 women and 5 children with non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis. Of the total of 78 cases, one was transferred from East Birmingham, one was found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis whilst an in-patient at a Mental Hospital and two elderly men were only diagnosed posthumously.

During 1968 there was only one case of miliary tuberculosis and this was in a patient with an acute breakdown of what must have been long-standing disease. This was the patient who was in the Mental Hospital. It is interesting to see the relatively large number (24) of cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis which constituted one-third of the notifications. This is rather an unusual picture and I will comment upon it at a later stage of this Report.

The pattern of notifications was very similar to last year in that almost all the notifications came from Heath Lane, Hallam and the District Hospitals, West Bromwich and only two from other hospitals.

Tuberculosis in Immigrants

As I have commented in previous reports, the high incidence of tuberculosis in immigrants continued to give cause for anxiety. During 1968 we again had more than our fair share of the disease occurring in this category of patient. Of the total notifications numbering 78, not less than 39 occurred in immigrants. These were made up as follows:—

- 2 Irishmen had respiratory tuberculosis
- 1 Spanish woman and 1 Spanish child had non-respiratory tuberculosis
- 1 Jamaican man had respiratory tuberculosis

and from the sub-continent of India:—

There were 10 men and 2 women and 4 children with respiratory disease and 11 men, 4 women and 3 children with non-respiratory disease. Of the Indian men, 3 were picked up at London Airport on arrival into this Country and all three of them were found to have active disease with a positive sputum.

A comparatively new and disturbing facet of the problem of treating tuberculosis in the immigrant population has been the number of patients with an organism which is resistant to the three first-line drugs commonly used for tuberculosis. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that three-quarters of these cases with resistant organisms had non-pulmonary forms of the disease. Many of them had been in contact with patients who had been treated for tuberculosis in the sub-continent of India either recently or in the past two or three years. Any patient in fact with a resistant organism of this type has a diminished chance of ultimate complete cure; his stay in hospital tends to be longer and, of course, he has to be treated with the more modern, and therefore the more expensive, drugs. It is, therefore, doubly important that these patients are admitted to hospital, not only to protect themselves, but to protect their contacts and indeed the citizens of West Bromwich, and this makes considerable demands upon hospital beds in this Borough.

Again, as I remarked in last year's Report, it is virtually impossible to arrive at an accurate figure of the number of immigrants residing in the Borough. It must be obvious, however, that these immigrants from the sub-continent of India are a highly susceptible group who both import their own tuberculosis, and additionally also become infected here. Some calculations that we have made at the Clinic, based on very rough and ready figures, suggest that the incidence rate in immigrants from the sub-continent of India is at least 40 times that of our indigenous population.

The ascertainment of cases of tuberculosis in these groups is difficult, and often a very time consuming affair. We experience very considerable difficulties in knowing how many contacts there are of a case, and indeed how many people are actually residing in the house where the case is living.

Acceptances of examination as contacts by Asiatic immigrants are low and are tending to fall even lower, in spite of the fact that the County Borough now employs two tuberculosis health visitors full-time. Once again it must be put on record that there is a tendency for immigrants to congregate in certain areas of the town and to live in over-crowded and often sub-standard accommodation. The patients themselves, once in hospital, are very good and they accept their treatment stoically and with gratitude; and on the whole are exemplary in continuing with their treatment as Out-Patients after discharge from Hospital. This does not alter the fact, however, that as a group they make a very high call upon hospital beds since it is manifestly unsafe to attempt to treat them as domiciliary patients.

It should be noted that in 1968 there were 8 children among the notified cases, and this must give cause for further anxiety. I am sure, however, that the present set-up is adequate to contain and control this disease, even among a high incidence group such as the immigrants.

We can look forward to increasing ease of case finding as and when more children gain an adequate command of the English language, and thus enable us greater access to what is virtually a closed community.

Deaths:

There were two deaths where the diagnosis was made after death and a total of 16 other deaths during the year for which tuberculosis was wholly or mainly responsible. I am happy to report that no children died during the year.

Attendances at the West Bromwich Chest Clinic:

A total of 10,650 attendances at the Chest Clinic were made during 1968, the figure being very similar to that attained during the past three years.

Skin Testing :

Skin testing for reaction to old tuberculin is carried out on all contacts of notified cases of tuberculosis attending the West Bromwich Chest Clinic, and the figures for the past eight years are appended below:—

1961	33%	+ ve	1965	40%	+ ve
1962	30%	+ ve	1966	35%	+ ve
1963	50%	+ ve	1967	60%	+ ve
1964	34%	+ ve	1968	52%	+ ve

Other Chest Diseases :

On the whole 1968 was a year when there was a high incidence of pneumonia and the weather did not help those patients suffering from chronic bronchitis. Hospital admissions at Heath Lane Hospital during the year remained at a very high level and chronic bronchitis proved a very fatal disease. 41 men were admitted with 7 deaths, and many of these men were admitted on more than one occasion during the year. Cancer of the lung continues to be the chief cause of death in hospital admissions at Heath Lane. There were 33 admissions in men and 3 in women; 22 males and 2 females died of the disease as in-patients.

Never a week goes by at the Chest Clinic but that one or two new cases attend. It is tragic that a disease such as this, some of the causes of which are known and are preventable, should continue to take such a dire toll of our West Bromwich men. I would make a plea to all parents actively to discourage their children from smoking at all. Where a man does smoke he should, if possible, avoid cigarettes and smoke either a pipe or cigars. If he does smoke more than about 10 cigarettes a day, he is asking for trouble and in West Bromwich, at least, it appears that he will certainly get it.

We seem to hear rather less of atmospheric pollution these days and 1968 at any rate did not provide us with any smog. It may well be that the measures taken by the Local Authorities are beginning to exert an effect in this direction. As far as I could see there were very few deaths and not many hospital admissions, as a direct result of spells of bad weather during the year.

The After-Care Committee continues to provide summer holidays in caravans at Highley for some patients of the Chest Clinic, and also to help with bedding and clothing where necessary. The Caravan service is very greatly appreciated, and is undoubtedly one of the best things that this Committee has ever done. The Officers of the Department of Social Security in 1968 continued to exercise their authority and to give assistance to patients in West Bromwich in a very humane manner. It is the very humanity of the Officers concerned that makes the statutory benefits acceptable to many of the aged and this aspect of their work cannot be too strongly stressed.

Lastly, I would thank my colleagues in hospital and in general practice for the ready help they have given me and this Department. In particular I would like to thank my colleague Dr. Margaret Sheldon for her help during the year and all the members of the staff of the Chest Clinic and of the Health Department of the County Borough of West Bromwich."

I am grateful to Dr. Cole and Dr. Sheldon for their interest and co-operation in matters concerned with tuberculosis and chest diseases, thus enabling the Local Authority services and those provided by the Regional Hospital Board to work well and effectively in regard to tuberculosis.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Details of the newcases of venereal disease in West Bromwich residents treated during 1966 at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below together with figures for 5 previous years :—

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Syphilis	8	7	6	7	—	4
Gonorrhoea	45	49	37	67	58	60
Conditions other than Venereal	98	63	75	145	107	118
	<u>151</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>219</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>182</u>

This does not necessarily represent the full extent of venereal disease as patients treated elsewhere than at hospital clinics (e.g. by their own doctors) are not known to this department.

The figures available show however a rise.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The After-Care Committee to provide holiday
in camps at Highgate for some of the Chest Clinic
The Office of the Registrar of Veneral Disease in West London
and the Chest Hospital, Highgate, are given below together with
Officers of the Department of Social Hygiene to be contacted
in cases of consultation with the Veneral Disease Officer
of the Chest Clinic. It is the very humanity
of the Veneral Disease Officer that makes the Veneral Disease
Officer's work so important and the Veneral Disease Officer
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PART 1V

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health Education

Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Medical Examinations

Nursing Homes

Home Safety

Co-ordination of Services dealing
with Child Neglect

Cost of the Services



HEALTH EDUCATION

Leaflets, posters and pamphlets are available in the Health Department and in Clinics. Education of the individual takes place at Infant Welfare Centres by the Nursing Staff working there. No specific staff are employed for the purposes of Health Education or its organisation.

Posters showing details for treatment of venereal disease were exhibited in public lavatories. No specific Health Education on the subjects of Smoking and Lung Cancer was carried out apart from posters and advice to individuals by members of the staff in the course of their normal duties.

In general, therefore, apart from personal advice very little Health Education has been carried out.

RE-HOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

Applications for first tenancies

The allocation of medical points to those applicants for Corporation tenancies who submitted medical evidence of illness in their immediate family was continued throughout the year. In 1968 a total of 165 applications was received. One case received the maximum award of 25 points, two cases received 20 points, seven cases received 15 points, twenty-six cases received 10 points and 114 received between 2 and 10 points. In fifteen cases no points were awarded.

The award of points is on the medical evidence submitted, usually in the form of a certificate from the general practitioner.

During the year the Housing Committee offered accommodation also to nine families on the special recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health. In each case there was very serious illness combined with particularly difficult housing circumstances.

Transfers on Medical Grounds

Requests for transfer of tenancy on medical grounds have been increased during the last five years and during 1968 these reached such proportions as to cause serious concern to the Housing and Health Departments. Discussions took place with

the Housing Manager who stated that the number of medical recommendations being made was now greater than the number of properties available, and, therefore, many could not be implemented. It became clear that the work involved in documenting and dealing with these applications was throwing a heavy burden on the senior medical and housing staff and yet only producing a growing list of tenants, many of whom could never be given the transfer they desired within the foreseeable future, due to the lack of appropriate accommodation.

The situation was reported to the Housing Committee with a result that in future the Medical Officer of Health was authorised to recommend transfers only for cases of very serious illness or handicap. It was regretted but accepted that this would mean that many elderly tenants who wished for smaller accommodation to be near relatives and others who would benefit from a transfer but but for whom, although it was medically recommended, it was not medically essential, could not receive priority but must try to obtain their own mutual exchanges or wait till a greater variety of properties became available and transfers could be offered as part of the ordinary course of housing management.

While these discussions were taking place, only very urgent cases were dealt with and at the end of the year there was, therefore, a backlog of outstanding applications being worked through. It is to be hoped that the stated criteria for medical recommendations will eventually lead to fewer applications being made and as a result those tenants who urgently need transfer on account of serious illness will be dealt with more expeditiously. During the year 605 applications were received for transfer on medical grounds and decisions were made by the end of the year in 383 cases. A total of 232 of these were recommended for a transfer on medical grounds.

The work of dealing with these requests is very considerable.

HOME SAFETY

Very little education was carried out on Home Safety as a formal activity. Health Visitors (well below strength) constantly drew attention to the risks in relation to inadequate fireguards or heating apparatus, particularly in houses in multiple occupation.

There are no staff specifically employed to undertake duties in connection with the education of the public in matters of Home Safety, but the Accident Prevention Officer does give assistance from time to time.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Children's Department

The Medical Staff of the Health Department are responsible for the routine examination of children in care, but during the year arrangements were made for those "boarded out" with families to be examined by their own doctor, as they are responsible for the treatment of these children during sickness. This change occurred during the year and the figures therefore show examinations of this type by General Practitioners and Local Authority Doctors.

Local Authority doctors made 279 examinations of children in connection with the Children's Department. 431 examinations were made in 1967.

Altogether 337 medical examinations were carried out and these can be classified as follows:—

Medical Examinations of Children in Care, 1967

Reception Home

1. Number of children examined on admission	55
2. Number of children examined for boarding out	2
3. Number of children examined on discharge	13
4. Number of routine examinations (all over 5 years)	24

Charlemont Close Nursery (Closed August 1968)

Children's Homes

1. Number examined on admission	51
2. Number examined for boarding out	14
3. Number examined on discharge	31
4. Number of routine examinations under 5 years	Nil
over 5 years	Nil
Examinations for direct boarding out children	29
Examinations for discharge from direct boarding out	25

Annual examination of boarded out children by West Bromwich Local Authority Doctors	35
Annual examination of boarded out children by general practitioners	58
Other children in Care :-	
Annual examination by West Bromwich Local Authority doctors	—

In addition 19 medical examinations were carried out by other Local Authorities.

Corporation Staff

The medical staff advise on the medical fitness of staff before appointment and for the purpose of the sickness and accident scheme.

Newly appointed staff are not subject to a medical examination if they complete satisfactorily a declaration form relating to their past illness. Those involved in occupations dealing with young children, food, medical, nursing and dental services are subject to a satisfactory x-ray before appointment.

The work done during 1968 was as follows :—

Examination before appointment

A total of 425 officers completed satisfactory declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination, which compares with 355 in 1967.

Medical examinations	35
Accepted	33
Deferred for re-examination	2

Examination for Sickness & Accident Scheme

A total of 629 servants completed satisfactorily declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination — this compares with 5 04 in 1967.

Medical examinations	151
Accepted	129
Deferred for re-examination	5
Failed	22

Examination of applicants for admission to training college or for employment as teachers

Medical examinations 178

Accepted 178

The value of much of this work is in my view doubtful, for most of those employed do not need a high standard of fitness to undertake their work.

The need for medical enquiries is unfortunate for officers with extensive Local Government Service coming from other authorities who possess defects which may lead to breakdown in future years, but do not at the time interfere with their employment. Such officers have difficulty in being accepted because of the individual arrangements of each Authority.

Financial Year	Cost	Director of Education	Director of Health
1950/51	116.18	207	11
1951/52	125.48	223	78
1952/53	175.58	777	454
1953/54	452.18	223	200
1954/55	500.00	223	200
1955/56	500.00	223	200
1956/57	500.00	223	200
1957/58	500.00	223	200
1958/59	500.00	223	200
1959/60	500.00	223	200
1960/61	500.00	223	200
1961/62	500.00	223	200
1962/63	500.00	223	200
1963/64	500.00	223	200
1964/65	500.00	223	200
1965/66	500.00	223	200
1966/67	500.00	223	200
1967/68	500.00	223	200
1968/69	500.00	223	200
1969/70	500.00	223	200
1970/71	500.00	223	200

CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES DEALING WITH THE PREVENTION OF CHILD NEGLECT

Regular meetings of officers are held to co-ordinate services dealing with this problem, and the Borough is, for this purpose, divided into three areas, based on the "Field Centres" which house the nursing and social work staff of the Health, Welfare, Childrens' and Education Services.

A monthly meeting in each centre is now established with the local officers of the central government agencies and voluntary associations concerned. These are under the leadership of the Principal Assistant (Social Work).

Quarterly meetings of the heads of departments concerned, under the Chairmanship of the Medical Officer of Health, deal with general arrangements for co-ordination between departments.

At these meetings the following were represented :—

Principal Nursing Officer

The Children's Officer

Director of Education

The Family Case Worker

Housing Manager

Inspector of the National Society for the
prevention of Cruelty to Children

The Probation Officer

Town Clerk's Department

Mental Health Officers

Superintendent of the West Bromwich Division of
the Constabulary

The Ministry of Social Security

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies to the Borough are provided by two water undertakings. The City of Birmingham provide water supplies to part of the Great Barr and Hamstead areas and this supply contains added fluorides. Supplies to the remainder of the Borough are provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company which serves an extensive area of the south part of the West Midlands. These supplies are not fluoridated.

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 :—

Financial Year	Local Health Services		Welfare Service		Other Health Services (Refuse Collection Prevention of Disease etc.)	
	National Health Services Act 1946		National Assistance Act, 1948			
	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop
1953/54	61,911	703	24,479	278	71,418	811
1954/55	64,525	724	28,781	323	70,082	787
1955/56	69,931	777	32,298	359	84,079	934
1956/57	81,294	893	36,823	404	91,861	1,009
1957/58	86,862	931	46,559	500	98,772	1,062
1958/59	97,514	1,037	52,212	555	100,880	1,073
1959/60	112,088	1,192	60,692	645	111,371	1,184
1960/61	119,374	1,256	67,040	705	112,426	1,184
1961/62	133,722	1,376	81,383	839	131,033	1,350
1962/63	149,218	1,522	94,345	962	132,552	1,352
1963/64	173,791	1,779	105,325	1,078	147,664	1,511
1964/65	200,327	2,052	112,657	1,154	183,206	1,877
1965/66	220,383	2,248	140,042	1,428	216,202	2,205
1966/67	410,560	2,390	240,800	1,402	370,510	2,157
1967/68	453,894	2,629	268,467	1,555	389,581	2,256

THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES ACT 1952

Water supplies in the London area are provided by two water undertakings. The City of Birmingham provides water supplies to part of the West Midlands and the Birmingham Waterworks Company provides supplies to the remainder of the West Midlands. These supplies are not included in the "national assistance services" which are an extension of the national assistance services in the Midlands. These supplies are not included in the "national assistance services" which are an extension of the national assistance services in the Midlands.

The following table shows the cost of the services provided under the National Assistance Services Act 1952 during the year 1952-53 compared with the corresponding years in the following table :-

Financial Year	1952-53		1951-52		1950-51		1949-50		1948-49		1947-48		1946-47		1945-46	
	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop
1952-53	422,884	2.028	380,881	1.858	370,810	1.802	358,202	1.738	347,804	1.684	337,371	1.634	326,880	1.584	316,418	1.534
1951-52	320,382	1.548	298,802	1.458	287,810	1.402	276,810	1.348	265,810	1.298	254,810	1.248	243,810	1.198	232,810	1.148
1950-51	220,382	1.068	208,802	1.018	197,810	0.962	186,810	0.908	175,810	0.858	164,810	0.808	153,810	0.758	142,810	0.708
1949-50	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1948-49	200,227	0.952	189,202	0.902	178,210	0.852	167,210	0.802	156,210	0.752	145,210	0.702	134,210	0.652	123,210	0.602
1947-48	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1946-47	200,227	0.952	189,202	0.902	178,210	0.852	167,210	0.802	156,210	0.752	145,210	0.702	134,210	0.652	123,210	0.602
1945-46	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1944-45	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1943-44	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1942-43	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1941-42	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1940-41	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1939-40	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1938-39	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1937-38	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1936-37	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1935-36	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1934-35	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1933-34	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1932-33	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1931-32	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1930-31	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1929-30	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1928-29	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1927-28	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1926-27	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1925-26	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478
1924-25	148,218	0.702	137,202	0.652	126,210	0.602	115,210	0.552	104,210	0.502	93,210	0.452	82,210	0.402	71,210	0.352
1923-24	173,781	0.828	162,802	0.778	151,810	0.728	140,810	0.678	129,810	0.628	118,810	0.578	107,810	0.528	96,810	0.478

The Ministry of Social Security

PART V

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Aged

Care of the Handicapped

Other Welfare Services



WELFARE SERVICES

General Arrangements

The Authority's functions in this field under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are discharged through the Health and Welfare Committee. The administration is under the Director of Welfare Services who is also the Medical Officer of Health. He is assisted by a Principal Welfare Officer responsible for the day to day administration of the service.

The staff, excluding those at residential establishments, and cleaning staff at the Social Centre, at 31st December, consisted of :—

- 1 Principal Welfare Officer
- 1 Deputy Principal Welfare Officer
- 3 Senior Social Welfare Officers
- 5 Social Welfare Officers
- 8 Welfare Assistants
- 1 Social Welfare Officer — Graduate Supernumerary
- 2 Home Teachers for the Blind
- 1 Senior Craft Instructor
- 7 Craft Instructors (6 full-time : 2 part-time)
- 1 Warden — Social Centre

In addition, one Home Teacher for the Blind, one Social Welfare Officer and two Trainee Welfare Officers were seconded for training on the two-year course for Social Work Training.

The duties related to the deaf were carried out by the agency of the Church Mission to the Deaf, Walsall, acting on behalf of the Corporation.

The services for the blind were continued on an agency basis in Wednesbury and the old West Bromwich area by the Walsall, West Bromwich and Aldridge-Brownhills Society for the Blind, and for the Tipton area by the Wolverhampton, Dudley and Districts Institute for the Blind.

Care of the Aged

The sample census for 1966 gave a figure of 15,760 persons over the age of 65 years.

On 31st December, 1968, the Department had a record of some 1,533 persons who, for some reason, had come to notice. Not all persons over 65 have need of special services and the difficulty is, finding those who do.

Welfare Services

In general, a Local Authority has powers to provide only a few services for the elderly. There is a duty to provide accommodation for those in special need and arrangements for meals and recreation are permissive. For both of these services charges are made, and in respect of accommodation national regulations exist with regard to minimum charges.

Local Authorities may assist voluntary bodies providing meals and recreational facilities for the elderly by grants of money, equipment, or use of premises and vehicles (including drivers and caretakers). During the year a number of grants were made and Social Centres belonging to the Department were made available to old people's clubs.

The powers to provide a general welfare service for the elderly are not yet operative.

Residential Accommodation

Accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, is provided directly by the Corporation Act :—

"The Hawthorns", Green Lane, Great Barr	for 21 elderly ladies
"Beech Holme", Beeches Road, West Bromwich	for 20 elderly men
"Lyndon House", Scott Street	for 31 elderly persons (either sex)
"Greenside House" Greenside Way, Yew Tree Estate, Walsall.	for 42 elderly persons (either sex)
"The Willows", 34 Bridge Street, West Bromwich	for 10 elderly men
66, Clarkes Lane, West Bromwich.	for 10 elderly ladies
"Bromford House", Moor Street, West Bromwich	for 52 elderly persons (either sex)
"Kelvedon", 7, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.	for 48 elderly persons (either sex)
"Silver Trees", Birch Street, Tipton.	for 48 elderly persons (either sex)

There are three blocks of elderly persons flats provided by the Housing Committee, each accommodating 22 persons and

a resident warden provided by the Health and Welfare Committee
They are :—

“Newport House”, Monmouth Drive, West Bromwich.

“Sandfield House”, Walsall Road, West Bromwich.

“Bramley House”, Redwood Road, Yew Tree Estate, Walsall.

Further accommodation of this type is also provided at Kings Court (30 units) and Russell House (80 units) at Wednesbury.

There is also accommodation at “Queslade” situated at Great Barr, available for approximately 38 persons. This is a development comprising of 12 x 1-bedroom flats for 2 people, 8 bed-sitting units in a converted house and 6 small bungalows for single persons.

During the year a further block of flatlets was opened at Swancroft House, Strathmore Road, Tipton, providing accommodation for 31 elderly persons.

At the end of 1968 the number of residents in Part III Accommodation was as follows :—

	In Hospital			
	Men	Women	Men	Women
“The Hawthorns”	—	21	—	4
“Beech Holme”	19	—	4	—
“Lyndon House”	6	24	2	—
“Greenside House”	16	26	3	1
“The Willows”	10	—	1	—
66, Clarkes Lane,	—	10	—	1
“Bromford House”	18	36	1	2
“Kelvedon”	3	14	1	—
“Silver Trees”	19	28	—	1

The general position at the end of the year was that 255 beds were provided for old persons (this is the extent of the provision made by the Welfare Services and excludes the provision made by the Health Services for the mentally disordered). The waiting list on 31st December, 1968, consisted of 37 males and 88 females.

The Homes are intended to be run with regard to the individual resident. Visiting is not restricted and free choice of doctors by the residents is permitted. Hairdressing and chiropody are provided. Birthday cards, Christmas cards, and presents etc., are sent to each resident. Throughout the year a number of outings and film shows are made available for those who wish to participate. Extra comforts (sweets, tobacco and beer) are issued. Holidays for residents of the Homes are arranged directly by the Health and Welfare Committee and in June, 49 people went to guest houses in Morecambe.

In addition to the persons in the Council's own Homes, others are maintained in local authority or voluntary Homes elsewhere usually because they establish ties with other areas or the Homes provide special facilities. At 31st December, 1968, these were as follows.

	Men	Women
"Hampton Grange", Hereford	1	—
"Chalfont Colony", Buckinghamshire	—	1
"Priceholme", Scarborough	—	2
"David Lewis Colony"	1	—
"Botton Hall", Danby	1	—
"Cheshire Foundation Home", Wolverhampton	2	—
"Stoke Park Colony"	1	—
"Maghull Home for Epileptics"	1	—
"Ivy House", Cannock	5	—
"Dibdale", Sedgley	—	4
"Warstones House", Wolverhampton	—	1
"Fernleigh", Stafford	—	2
"Homer House", Wolverhampton	—	1
"New Bradley Hall", Kingswinford	1	2
"Lightwoods", Cheadle, Stafford	—	1
"West Hope", Stafford	—	1
"Barton Land Home for the Blind "	1	1
"Nearfield House", Lichfield	—	1
"Engleberg", Wolverhampton	1	—
"St. Edithas" Tamworth	—	1
"The Limes", Aldridge	1	—
"The Viewlands", Wolverhampton	2	—
"Christadelphian Home", Birmingham	—	1
"Training College", Oswestry	1	—
"Langho Colony", Liverpool	—	1

The number of admissions and discharges from 1st January, 1968, to 31st December, 1968, was as follows :—

	Bromford	Greenside	Lyndon	Hawthorns	Beech Holme	Clarks Lane	Willows	Kelvedon	Silver Trees
No. of beds	52	42	31	21	20	10	10	21	48
No. of Admissions	20	17	6	5	8	3	6	8	12
No. of Re-admissions from hospitals	6	6	—	4	1	4	1	2	2
No. of discharges *	7	3	2	3	—	2	2	1	2
No. of deaths	14	13	7	2	7	1	4	8	10
% of Beds occupied	102/99%	92.21%	98.33%	97.16%	98.17%	97.31%	98.08%	95.15%	97.84%

* Discharges include admission to hospitals for long term care.

The occupancy rate at Bromford House is accounted for by the fact that it has been necessary in cases of emergency to accommodate residents in vacant staff quarters.

Finance

The full cost to the Corporation per resident in directly maintained homes was estimated at £11/5/10d per week at the 31st December, 1968 and 195 residents without private means were paying the minimum charge of £3/12/0d. per week. 9 were paying a proportion of the charge whilst 46 were paying the full cost. Each resident received a minimum of 18/0d. per week pocket money.

A total of 61.79% of all admissions was to ground floor beds. The sex distribution of residents at 31st December, 1968 was 36% male and 64% female. The average age was 78 and the average length of stay was 34 months, excluding temporary admissions.

Staffing

Changes of Senior staff occurred at Lyndon House and Beech Holme during the year.

Voluntary Organisations

The West Bromwich Old Peoples Welfare Committee is active with 10 "Over 60" Clubs in the Borough. The women's Royal Voluntary Service now have 4 Old Peoples Clubs. There are 7 "Over 60" Clubs in Wednesbury and 6 in Tipton.

Meals on Wheels

The women's Royal Voluntary Service supported, from 14th October, 1968, by a team consisting of a driver and attendant supplied by the Health and Welfare Department continued this service and at the end of the year were delivering approximately 517 meals per week.

For the financial year ended 31st March, 1968, the Corporation allowed for a grant of £1,489 to the service. The meals were purchased from the Civic Restaurant at 2/11d each and the cost to the recipient was 1s. The meals for the Tipton area were purchased from 3 works canteens at a cost of 2/6d. and 2/9d each. The number of meals supplied during the year rose to 20,646 an increase of 5,404 over the previous year's figures.

Sons of Rest

There were 13 homes in the Borough at 31st December, 1968, and men over the age of 65 not in full employment may apply for membership. Each home organises its own affairs.

All homes were again active during the year and competed for trophies in dominoes, snooker and crib leagues. The usual outings, annual dinners, birthday parties and carol services were again very much enjoyed and appreciated.

Sons of Rest	No. on Register	Days Open Each Week	Average Weekly Attendance
Dartmouth Park	67	5	230
Friar Park	37	5	125
Hamstead	33	4	85
Eli Fletcher	55	5	160
Oakwood Park	46	5	125
Eliza Corbett	47	5	84
Kenrick Park	34	5	100
Farley Park	49	5	100
Hateley Heath	20	3	30
Homestead	60	5	100
Home Lea	75	5	100
Wednesbury	88	5	200
Princes End	26	4	64
Total	637	—	1503

Care of the Blind

The number of registered blind persons in the Borough in age groups is as follows :

	3	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-70	70-79	80-84	85-89	90 +	T
Male	1	1	—	2	5	5	15	25	13	12	18	10	8	5	120
Female	—	1	1	1	4	5	3	11	7	15	41	33	21	12	155
Total	1	2	1	3	9	10	18	36	20	27	59	43	29	17	275

This gives a total of 275 registered blind persons.

Ten men and 16 women died during the year and 12 men and 26 women were certified blind. The following table shows the age and sex distribution of those newly certified :—

	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-69	70-79	80-84	85-89	90 +	T
Male	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	3	2	12
Female	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	9	2	5	3	26
Total	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	5	3	10	2	8	5	38

The service relating to the extended area was continued on an agency basis. Tipton cases were dealt with by Wolverhampton, Dudley and District Institute for the Blind and the remainder of the Borough by the Walsall, West Bromwich and Aldridge/Brownhills Society for the Blind.

Residential Care

At the end of the year there were 10 blind persons in homes for the elderly and 3 in homes run by other agencies.

Employment

At the 31st December, 1968 the following were employed in special workshops :-

- 3 Basket Makers
- 2 Miscellaneous Workers
- 7 Brushmakers
- 1 Boot and Shoe Repairer
- 1 Piano Tuner
- 1 Knitter
- 1 Salesman

There were 3 people in the homeworkers scheme :-

- 1 Basket Maker
- 1 Salesman
- 1 Carpenter

22 people were known to be employed in open industry

- 1 Proprietor (Haulage)
- 3 Gardeners
- 2 Storekeepers
- 3 Typists
- 5 Machine Tool Operators
- 5 Labourers
- 2 Craft Instructors
- 1 Shop Assistant

Blind persons with additional handicaps

	Mentally ill	Mentally Sub-Normal	Physically defective	Deaf without speech	Deaf with speech	Hard of Hearing	Mentally ill & physically defective	Physically defective & hard of hearing	TOTAL
Male	1	4	11	1	2	7	-	-	26
Female	2	10	15	-	4	8	2	2	43
Total	3	14	26	1	6	15	2	2	69

Visiting

A total of 2,398 visits was made to blind and partially sighted persons in their own homes during the year.

Teaching in the Home

During the year 2 people were taught Braille & Moon in the home and are now proficient in reading and writing.

Only a few handicraft lessons were given in stool seating, knitting, canework and typewriting in the home as most of the people interested were able to attend the Social Centres.

Training and Employment

No one attended a course for training during the year. There were no new cases of employment.

Holidays

A total of 94 blind persons and their guides from West Bromwich spent a week at Weymouth in September, 51 blind persons and their guides from the Tipton area went to Paignton for a week; and 11 people from Wednesbury received holiday grants.

Guide Dogs

No one went for training or received a guide dog during the year.

Talking Books

One Hundred and Twenty Four People were using talking books during the year and 12 have had their names put on the waiting list.

Wireless

The arrangements for the welfare services continued to work very satisfactorily and all applications for radios were issued through the Wireless for the Blind Fund during the year.

Social Activities

Handicraft classes for the blind were held each Monday at

Wednesbury, on Thursday at West Bromwich and on Friday at Tipton. In addition a social gathering is held on Tuesday at West Bromwich and on the third Wednesday in each month a concert was held at the Walsall Institute and a beetle drive on the last Thursday in the month. A social was held on the second Tuesday in the month at Tipton. Transport is provided.

Summer Trips

A varied programme was again drawn up and during the year outings were arranged to Tewkesbury and Worcester, the Cotswolds, Weston Super Mare and Morecambe, and half day trips to Stourport, Peak District, Blurton, Trentham Gardens, Weston Hall, Moseley Old Hall and an evening trip to Kings Bromley.

Christmas Parties etc.

Christmas dinners were held at the Wolverhampton Institute and the Walsall Institute and a New Year's party was also held at the Walsall Institute. The Handicraft classes held Christmas parties. A visit to the pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton was arranged for the Tipton blind children followed by a party. A Christmas party for Wednesbury blind children was held at the Walsall Institute.

Large Print Books

The Public Library have available for loan, a number of books with specially large print suitable for partially sighted or elderly persons.

Partially Sighted Register

The total number of partially sighted persons registered in West Bromwich at 31st December, 1968 was 59.

The following table shows age and sex distribution :

	0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-49	50-64	65+	Total
Male	—	—	4	4	4	5	7	24
Female	—	—	5	3	2	5	20	35
Total	—	—	9	7	6	10	27	59

Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb

The welfare of the deaf and dumb has been provided as in previous years by the Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb at Walsall under the Missioner. The number of deaf registered at the 31st December, 1968 was as follows :—

Classification	Male	Female	Total
Deaf without speech	41	42	83
Deaf with speech	19	10	29
Hard of Hearing	7	10	17
Total	67	62	129

The weekly social club is held at the West Bromwich Social Centre, and in addition the Mission for the Deaf, Walsall is utilised by the West Bromwich deaf for religious services and some social activities.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

At the 31st December, 1968, the number of physically handicapped in West Bromwich was 928.

Physically handicapped are grouped into a total of five groups these are defined as follows :—

Group 'A'

Physically handicapped persons (other than children) who possibly need training for some occupations and are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.

Group 'B'

Physically 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'

Physically handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary conditions and who are insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops, but who are capable of work at home.

Group 'D'

Physically handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work or not available for work.

Group 'E'

Physically handicapped persons who are school children under the age of 16 years, and whose needs are likely to be met under the enactments, but for whom the Local Authority has general responsibilities under Section 29 of the Act. The numbers in each Group at the end of 1968 were as follows :—

Group	Total at 31.12.67	Additions 1968	Total	Deaths	Moved out of Area	Other Re-movals	Part 111	Total	Total 1968
A	130	6	136	1	1	2	1	5	131
B	29	1	30	2	—	—	—	2	28
C	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	15
D	673	137	810	84	6	—	5	95	715
E	48	1	49	—	1	9	—	10	39
Total	895	145	1040	87	8	11	6	112	928

The analysis of the age groups is as follows :—

	Children	15 — 29	30 — 49	50 — 64	65 +	Total
Males	15	63	74	144	135	431
Females	17	56	50	134	240	497
Total	32	119	124	278	375	928

The 928 cases known to the Department can be classified as suffering from disability as shown in the following table :—

	Cod- ing	A	B	C	D	E	Total
Amputations	A/E	13	2	2	57	—	74
Arthritis & Rheumatism	F	5	4	3	178	—	190
Congenital Malformations & Deformities	G	22	4	1	27	12	66
Disease of the Digestive & Genito-Urinary Systems, of Heart or Circulatory System, of the Respiratory System (other than Tuberculosis.)	H/ L	26	2	3	265	9	305
Injuries of Head, Face, Neck, Thorax, Abdomen, Pelvis or Trunk Injuries or Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs & spine.	Q / T	23	4	2	71	—	100
Organic Nervous, Epilepsy, Poliomyelitis Hemiplegia, etc.	V	36	11	3	98	6	154
Mental Disorders	V/W	1	—	1	6	—	8
Tuberculosis :— Respiratory	X	2	—	—	3	—	5
Tuberculosis :- Non Respiratory	Y	2	—	—	9	4	15
Diseases & Injuries not specified above	Z	1	2	—	7	1	11
TOTALS		131	29	15	721	32	928

The number of known cases of epilepsy in the Borough was 76, consisting of 19 men, 21 women, 19 boys and 17 girls. There were also 86 known cases of cerebral palsy, 64 adults (36 males 28 females) and 22 children (15 boys 7 girls).

Car Badges for the Disabled

A total of 49 car badges were issued by the Corporation to severely handicapped persons to identify their vehicles when parked.

Holidays 1968

The Welfare Committee arranged a week's holiday for the

physically handicapped which took place in September at a holiday camp at Prestatyn. A total of 208 adults and 12 children, together with 12 staff attended. The numbers were made up as follows :-

153 Physically handicapped
55 Escorts
12 Staff
12 Children

The net cost after allowing for contributions from the participants was £1,645.13s.5d.

Social Activities

There is an active association - The West Bromwich Voluntary Association for the Handicapped, and three Clubs for Physically Handicapped persons. The Fellowship of the New Horizons which meets in the West Bromwich Social Centre each Friday evening, the Tipton Physically Handicapped Club which meets in Tipton every Wednesday evening and the Wednesbury Fellowship for the Disabled which meets in Wednesbury Town Hall every month.

These clubs are assisted by the Corporation with transport and the use of premises for club activities.

The West Bromwich Voluntary Association for the Handicapped made a grant of £152.10.0d. to enable 35 physically handicapped and their escorts to take part in the holiday to Prestatyn. A similar amount was made available to 35 handicapped persons and their escorts who went on holiday to Sand Bay, arranged by the South Staffordshire Handicapped Association.

Each week from the beginning of May to the end of September families were sent to their own Holiday Chalet at Clarach Bay. The Association's ambulance was used on many occasions to take handicapped persons for outings, visits to relatives etc. and was loaned to other voluntary bodies (i.e. Spastics Society) for special events.

It also provided monetary grants for special needs of handicapped persons, distributed Christmas parcels and organised an Easter Party which was assisted by Corporation transport.

The Tipton Physically Handicapped Club arranged outings and other events during the year and also organised a Christmas party.

The Wednesbury Fellowship for the Disabled arranged coach outings during the year and a holiday at Sand Bay was also arranged.

Day Centres

These were held for elderly persons, homebound by physical infirmity and were held at Tipton on Mondays, West Bromwich on Wednesdays and Wednesbury on Fridays, and were organised by Welfare Staff. In addition a Day Centre, organised and staffed by voluntary helpers of the Great Barr Elderly Persons Welfare Association, was held on Thursday of each week at Queslade, Great Barr.

At the 31st December, 1968 there were 130 persons on the registers and the average attendance was 100 per week. Persons attending the Day Centres were collected from their homes at 10.0. a.m. and returned to their homes at 4.30. p.m. in the Corporation's tail-lift buses. A mid-day meal was provided towards which they paid 1/5d. per meal. The programme covered a varied field, e.g. knitting, bingo, whist, beetle drives, film shows, talks etc.. Outings were arranged during the year and also a Christmas party. The expenses of the outings were met by the people attending from funds raised by themselves.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Classes

During the year classes were held at the West Bromwich Social Centre. There were 11,884 attendances and the register stood at an average of 86 during the year.

There were 3,697 attendances at the Wednesbury Town Hall and the average number on the register was 25.

On the 2nd January, 1968 a new centre was opened in Tipton, and classes were held in the Catholic Church Hall. There was an average of 24 names on the register and there were 2,722 attendances.

Domiciliary Work

Owing to a shortage of staff less domiciliary work was accomplished. There were 574 visits made during the year and a further 8 visits were made to the old people's homes.

Social Activities

During the year a number of outings were arranged and these included :—

West Bromwich Social Centre

Three outings to the Tullip Festival at Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. Annual outing to London Airport.

Wednesbury, Town Hall

Outings to Barr Beacon, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, Kinver Stratford on Avon and Enville.

Annual outing arranged by the Wednesbury Fellowship of the Disabled.

Tipton Centre

Outings to Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, Stratford on Avon and Barr Beacon.

There was a combined Christmas Party at the West Bromwich Social Centre on the 19th December, 1969.

TRANSPORT

During 1968, 3 tail-lift 'buses were in service and the number of passengers transported was as follows :—

8,160	Occupational therapy
1,524	Clubs for the Blind
3,856	Day Centres
2,659	New Horizons Club for the Physically Handicapped
2,227	Tipton Physically Handicapped Club

In addition a number of patients were transported by ordinary 'buses.

Health Service activities

The Circle of Friendship which is a club for the mentally ill, continued to have the use of a tail-lift 'bus on Monday evenings in each week.

Transport

The approximate mileage for the year, travelled by the tail-lift 'buses was 33,796.

Events arranged by the Welfare Department accounted for :	29,793
New Horizons Club :	3,921
Use by the Health Services :	82

PART VI

General Hygiene

Housing

Air and Factory Hygiene

Food Hygiene and Control

Public Cleansing and Salvage



S. CAYTON, ESQ., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.INST.P.C., M.INST.F.
 Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.



HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT
 Establishment as at 31st December, 1938
 Stanley Cayton, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., M.Inst.F.,
 Chief Public Health Inspector and
 Cleansing Superintendent
 Michael Jacob, M.A., H.F.
 Deputy Cleansing Superintendent
 District Inspector in Charge
 Senior P.V.C. & Sanitary Engineer
 (Public Health) & Sanitary Engineer
 2 Public Health Inspectors
 1 Technical Assistant
 3 Peep Counters
 Public Cleansing
 1 Assistant Cleansing
 - M.J. M.
 1 Senior Inspector
 2 Cleansing Inspectors
 53 Clerks (Shropswold Lane Depot)
 2 Chargehands
 776 Workmen
 Assistant Officers, Sweep, Food & Drugg
 1 Trial Assistant (Air Pollution)
 1 Trial Assistant (Collection)

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT, 1968.

Hygiene and Cleansing Committee as at 31st December, 1968

- Chairman – Councillor E. Clarke
Deputy Chairman – Her Worship the Mayor, Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover,
Alderman A.E. Diggett
Councillor J.C.R. Ashby
Councillor F.H. Bird
Councillor J.W. Butler
Councillor J.A. Dicken
Councillor J.E. Downes
Councillor Mrs. B.U. Jones
Councillor G. Williams

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

Establishment as at 31st December, 1968

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent

Stanley Cayton, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., M.Inst.F.,

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector
and Deputy Cleansing Superintendent

Michael Jacob, M.A.P.H.I.

<u>Housing Section</u>	<u>District Inspection Section</u>	<u>Meat Inspection Section</u>	<u>Air Pollution Section</u>
Senior P.H.I. — S.W. Hogg 3 Public Health Inspectors 2 Technical Assistants	Senior P.H.I. — Wm. Cunningham (Associate Chief P.H.I.) 2 Public Health Inspectors 1 Technical Assistant 1 Technical Assistant (Pests Officer) 3 Pest Control Manual Staff	Senior P.H.I. — N.H. Owen 2 Public Health Inspectors 6 Authorised Meat Inspectors	Senior P.H.I. — C.R. Cresswell 3 Public Health Inspectors 3 Technical Assistants
<u>Offices, Shops, Food and Drugs Section</u>	<u>Public Cleansing Section</u>	<u>Pupil Public Health Inspectors</u>	<u>Clerks</u>
4 Public Health Inspectors 4 Technical Assistants	Assistant Cleansing Supt. — M.J. Mason 1 Senior Inspector 2 Cleansing Inspectors 3 Clerks (Sheepwash Lane Depot) 3 Chargehands 176 Workmen	5 Pupils B.Sc. Degree Course, Aston University	Senior Clerk — Miss. G.M. Lemar 4 Clerks (full-time)
<u>Vacancies</u>	<u>Typing</u>		
1 Technical Assistant (Offices, Shops, Food & Drugs) 1 Technical Assistant (Air Pollution) 1 Technical Assistant (District)	Typing services are supplied by the Central Typing Pool operated on behalf of all departments by the Town Clerk.		

To: The Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In former years attention has been strongly focused on the need to replace worn-out properties falling substantially below not only current legal standards but also the general accepted standards of reasonable living accommodation. The number of properties recommended for clearance has fallen so dramatically as compared with previous years that some explanation is necessary.

In the main, this is due to a very proper desire on the part of the Council to clean up and complete the clearance of areas in confirmed purchase or clearance orders for until this is done, far from improving the general environment by slum clearance, half-finished clearance orders only add to the general dereliction which disfigures so much of the Midlands conurbation. To further this policy it should be understood and accepted that land within any confirmed order must be literally cleared of buildings regardless of whether or not redevelopment is imminent.

There is also a striking need to improve those houses which still have a reasonable number of years of useful life. Much effort has been put into this policy and although the number of improvement grants has been doubled over the last two years the total number of grants made is small compared with the number of properties which warrant action. Wider powers and added financial inducement are included in legislation foreshadowed in the White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" and it is to be hoped that there will be no delay in its passage to the statute book.

For the first time for many years the Registrar General's estimate of the population of West Bromwich shows a reduction. This may be a technical adjustment arising from boundary changes in 1966 but it may also indicate that the population of the town has stopped growing, despite full employment and an unsatisfied demand for labour. One is tempted to ask the question are we doing enough to minimise or remove the drabness arising from industrial emissions of grit and dust and domestic smoke? Should we not accord very high priority to any project which will contribute to the creation of a brighter and cleaner town in which to live rather

than to be left behind every evening when work is done.

To this end the Civic Amenities Act 1967 is particularly welcome and the department is now well equipped to collect abandoned vehicles and deal with unauthorised rubbish dumping but, stronger support from the Magistrates is needed when offenders are brought before them. Though we have been provided with good equipment to move tipped rubbish which disfigures undeveloped land it costs much money and effort which would be better used elsewhere. Ample facilities are available for collection or delivery of waste to any one of three tipping sites or the large containers located widely over the town labelled "Place your Refuse in here". The word which is often ignored is the small one, "IN".

All local government departments at the end of the year were awaiting the report of the Royal Commission to try and ascertain in what way their future and their prospects will be affected. Reports during the year on the findings of the Seebom Committee and the Green Paper on the Health Services imply further considerable upheavals perhaps even to the extent of ending the public health inspector's role in the community in its present form.

It would seem premature to be thinking of further considerable changes in the structure of local government in the West Midlands so soon after the reorganisation of 1966, but there is no doubt that we will have to be disposed towards further amalgamations and rationalisation of resources and effort if the general evidence presented to the Royal Commission is accepted. It may be that our recent experience of major changes will be a valuable background from which to advance successfully.

We can only hope that new proposals will not impede the progress being made towards full integration of authorities and that confidence in local government generally will not be destroyed by prolonged uncertainty about its future.

The national economic situation retarded some of the progress hoped for during the year but in spite of this, the year was a busy

one in all respects and work output in some sections was increased. Special difficulty was experienced in the Cleansing Section due to a malicious fire at the Black Lake salvage depot on April 6th which was caused by vandals and the loss of two clerks at the Sheepwash Lane Depot, due to prolonged illness and change of appointment at a crucial period of heavy work following the introduction of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. The Black Lake Fire has reduced the trading figures for salvage in comparison with previous years, but it is hoped that new proposals for the Black Lake site generally will mean a substantial improvement in equipment and facilities in the near future and a corresponding improvement in trading figures.

Delay in the implementation of proposals to introduce refuse collection in paper sacks has also occurred due to our inability to convince the workmen of the reasonableness of the scheme from their point of view though it has the full support of the trade union organisers. The economic situation and the possibility of cheaper types of sack holders have necessitated further investigation into the subject and it is hoped to introduce a pilot scheme using paper sacks as linings in plastic bins, modified for the purpose.

Sweetsoil

Early in 1968 the Lawden Manufacturing Co., (Birmingham) Ltd., published details of their Sweetsoil plant which incorporates pulverisation and digestion of refuse in a patented process which reduces bulk refuse into a friable and earthy material capable of being used as a soil improver or, after the addition of chemicals a fertiliser of guaranteed composition.

The Natural Research Development Corporation indicated that they would support financially the first plant constructed in this country. As the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee were at this time examining proposals for pulverisation, a detailed examination of the Sweetsoil project was undertaken and the Council approved the project in principle. Negotiations with the company and consultations with the N.R.D.S. and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have proceeded throughout the year. No contract had

been signed by the 31st December, 1968, but it is probable that the matter will be finally resolved early in 1969.

Examination Successes and Appointments

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the following on their success during the year :—

Mr. G.W. Aston —	Appointed Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Walton and Weybridge Urban District Council.
Mr. M. Jacob —	Awarded the Association of Public Health Inspectors Travelling Scholarship for 1968.
Mr. A.W. Reeves —	Obtained Diploma of Municipal Administration.
Mr. S.W. Hogg —	Diploma of Municipal Administration, Final Part 1.
Mr. D. Parish —	Diploma of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspectors
Mr. A.N. Adams —	Diploma of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspectors
Mr. R. Cartwright,— B.Sc	(Environmental Hygiene) (Second Class Honours) Aston University.
Mr. D. Ayres —	Diploma of Public Health Inspectors Education Board.
Mr. G.L. Adams —	Diploma of Public Health Inspectors Education Board.
Mr. C.R. Cresswell —	Advanced Fuel Technology Liquid and Gaseous Fuels Institute of Fuel
Mr. S. Hunter —	Elected Full member of the Industrial Transport Association.
Mr. I. Ross,— B.Sc	(Environmental Hygiene) Pupils in 4 year sandwich Second Year course for Public Health
Mr. E. Bignell,— B.Sc	Environmental Hygiene) Inspectors at University Third Year of Aston in Birmingham.
Mr. T. Galloway,— B.Sc	(Environmental Hygiene) Third Year
Miss. E.M. Taylor —	Local Government Clerical Examination.

Mr. Cartwright, Mr. G.L. Adams and Mr. Ayres were appointed as Public Health Inspectors in the Department on qualification and obviated the necessity for recruitment from elsewhere.

Our best wishes go also to Mr. H. Holden who announced his retirement from the post of Public Health Inspector at the end of the year.

Press Publicity

The Public Health Inspector probably has more contact with all sections of the general public than any other professional officer. The duties carried out are wide ranging and diverse and much of his work directly concerns the public interest.

Because of this it is not unusual that a considerable amount of publicity is given to his work both nationally and locally and where, as in West Bromwich, public cleansing duties are also

carried out within the department all functions are under continuous scrutiny by the press.

In recent years there has seemed to be a tendency for members of the general public to make complaints direct to the press rather than to the department. There are occasions when such complaints are the result of apparent inactivity on a particular subject and the complainant takes the matter to a local newspaper out of frustration and with the idea that maximum publicity for the complaint will bring results. This cannot always be the case, however, as in many instances delays are caused not by a lack of enthusiasm on the part of any officer but by the due process of law or the absence of necessary finance to enable a speedy remedy to be carried out.

Complaints published in the press are always treated seriously, however, and in many cases the attention drawn to a subject by a local newspaper can be valuable both from the complainants and the public health inspectors point of view. In general, the coverage and comment given to the work carried out by the department in press reports is accurate and fair and we welcome the assistance given in bringing public complaints to our attention. In this context our thanks are also due to Mr. Whitehouse, the Civic Affairs Officer, for his help and co-operation during the year in liaison with the press on matters concerning the department.

During 1968 there was an average of two occasions each week when either a report or some comment was made in the press locally on the work of the Hygiene and Cleansing Department varying from such matters as expenditure on heavy plant to improvement of dwellings and such unusual subjects as eradication of snakes and foxes!

New Legislation

The Caravan Sites Act 1968 gives the Minister power to impose a statutory obligation on local authorities to set up sites for gypsies and other itinerant caravan dwellers and consideration of the requirements of the Act was being given at the year end in the way of examination of prospective or likely sites. A

proposal for a short-stay site for 15 caravans that had been made at the end of 1967 met with considerable opposition when it was raised in public during the following year and there is no doubt that any future suggestions and proposals in this context will have to overcome further considerable public resistance before any site in the Borough is set up and operated. Nevertheless, an alternative to a fruitless and negative policy of "move on" must be found.

The new Clean Air Act, 1968, which will not come into operation until early 1969, is welcomed for the proposals which will make the Clean Air Act, 1956, much more effective in respect of smoke control areas. The proposals on grit and dust emissions from industrial processes will mean more work but in an industrial area such as West Bromwich any means at our disposal to further reduce air pollution must be utilised.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the Transport Manager and his staff for their efforts to maintain maximum availability of vehicles collecting refuse and often working in dirty conditions.

To all chief officers and heads of other departments sincere appreciation of assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my thanks to yourself and your Committee for your confidence and willing assistance in so many ways which have reduced formal procedures to the minimum and expedited our work considerably.

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

The total acreage of the Borough is now 11,704 and the population 172,350.

A penny rate produces £32,400 and the rateable value of the Borough is £7,998,442.

Meteorology – Weather station – Wigmore

Total Rainfall – 1968	31.30"
– 1967	30.47"
– 1966	33.84"

Monthly Rainfall 1968

January	2.63
February	1.45
March	1.20
April	2.19
May	3.83
June	3.96
July	3.46
August	1.74
September	3.93
October	2.56
November	2.02
December	2.33

31.30 inches

Inspection and enforcement duties

A total of 54,596 inspections were made during the year by Public Health Inspectors, Technical Assistants and Authorised Meat Inspectors. Although work output cannot always be satisfactorily measured by the number of visits made to premises, this figure does give an indication of the effort being made in the environmental health field and the number of inspections for 1968 shows an increase of 34% on the figure for 1967.

The following table summarises the work which falls within the province of the public health inspector and carried out by the department in 1968.

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

	INSPECTIONS AND VISITS	NOTICES SERVED		PROSECUTIONS	WORK IN DEFAULT	PROPERTIES AND PREMISES REPAIRED OR IMPROVED
		FORMAL	INFORMAL			
(a) HOUSING (Slum clearance repairs, Improvement grants, multi-occupation & surveys)	15,357	638	477	4	1	135
(b) FOOD AND DRUGS						
Food Premises	4,593	—	291	4	—	302
Markets, stalls and delivery vehicles	1,455	—	86	—	—	98
Sampling	536	—	—	—	—	—
Meat & poultry	8,126	—	—	—	—	—
(c) OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963	2,733	—	477	—	—	488
(d) AIR POLLUTION AND FACTORIES (smoke observations, surveys complaints, volumetric measurement)	8,935	16	68	1	—	—
Factories Act 1963	381	—	59	—	—	—
Industrial Noise	499	9	30	1	—	—
(e) GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Nuisances, refuse collection and disposal, Civic amenities Act 1967, rodent control, pests and infectious diseases, domestic noise & drainage.)	11,981	317	479	4	559	650
TOTALS	54,596	980	1,967	14	560	1,673

(a) HOUSING

Old Houses into New Homes

A Government White Paper with this title was published on the 23rd April, 1968. It reviews the progress made since the War in the clearance of worn out property and sets out the results of a sample survey of housing in England and Wales which was carried out early in 1967. It also explains government proposals for new legislation to deal with the problems which were shown to exist.

The Government has accepted that more needs to be done to improve and repair houses which are worthy of it had hopes that the proposed legislation will be effective in securing this objective.



HOUSING IMPROVEMENT

Houses worth keeping from becoming unfit by way of improvement and repair.

It was calculated that at the end of 1968 approximately 3,800 or slightly less than 7½% of the total housing stock of the Borough

were unfit, compared with a national average of 12%. About 2,000 of these properties had already been dealt with either in clearance areas or as individual unfit properties, leaving a balance of approximately 1,800 or about 3½% of the housing stock to be cleared before 1975.

It is estimated that there are 4,000 privately owned properties which are not unfit but need to be improved. This figure includes about 2% of the privately owned fit houses in the town. West Bromwich, therefore, because of past activity in dealing with worn out properties, is now in a position to place greater emphasis on improvement of property either in areas or individually.

Surveys were carried out in 1968 and were continuing at the year end, to enable a list of improvable houses to be compiled which will fulfil a similar function in relation to improvement as that of the provisional list of unfit houses which has operated for many years as a guide to slum clearance. Completion of this survey will enable plans to be formulated in preparation for the new powers which we hope will be available for the declaration of general improvement areas when the proposals in the White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" become law.

The Government proposals that power to require repairs to houses not unfit and that certain repairs and replacements shall be eligible for improvement grant, are very welcome, as houses which require repair in addition to the provision of amenities, are the ones which need this special attention if they are to be saved from further deterioration. By this process we hope to arrest decay and prevent properties falling into the category of unfitness and therefore requiring clearance.

Other proposals in the White Paper that government financial assistance will be given for the acquisition and improvement of houses by local authorities will mean that schemes can be prepared in respect of "twilight areas", not only for improving internal amenities in properties but for raising the general amenities and character of particular districts. It is considered that such proposals can be related to improvements in houses in multiple occup-

ation and that such a scheme if properly carried out could be made economically viable. This possibility was being investigated by the department at the end of the year, for it is painful obvious that multi-occupation accelerates the normal depreciation of a house and leads to a decline in the environmental standards of the neighbourhood.

The proposal that the level of compensation to owner/occupiers of condemned houses should be increased, is welcomed particularly from the viewpoint of a person who has maintained a property in good repair, having regard to the circumstances. However, a much higher cost factor in the process of slum clearance will have to be borne in mind. Overall the improved financial assistance makes the alternatives of repair and improvements by or with assistance from the Corporation a more attractive proposition.

New Housing Accommodation

The number of houses and flats built by the local authority in 1968 was	839
The number of houses and flats erected by private enterprise in 1968 was	412

Slum Clearance

Eight clearance areas containing a total of 55 houses were declared during the year. The Council resolved to make clearance or compulsory purchase orders in respect of 17 of these houses, 64 houses in clearance areas declared in 1967 and 11 houses in clearance areas declared by the former Wednesbury Borough Council.

The report for 1967 mentioned that the Housing Committee had accepted in principal the integration of slum clearance and improvements. The main emphasis in the future was to be on improvement, the slum clearance procedure being used for the removal of unfit and unimprovable houses from areas which would subsequently be dealt with under the improvement area provisions of the Housing Act 1964. This policy is, in its general effect, in line with the revised procedure for general improvement areas outlined in the White Paper previously referred to. However, in view of the Minister's promise that the White Paper proposals

would be the subject of legislation at an early date it was felt that it would be preferable to await such legislation rather than to proceed with an improvement programme under existing powers. During the year the Housing Committee re-appraised its programmes of clearance and house building in the light of probable future developments and accepted a revised slum clearance programme pitched at the level of 400/450 houses per year to operate in conjunction with an expanding programme of improvement.

The Burnt Tree area of Tipton which is the last large area of unfit housing remaining in the County Borough was inspected. Two hundred and ninety-nine houses out of a total of 457 were found to be unfit and after receiving a report the Housing Committee decided to initiate discussions on the possibility of acquisition of the sites by the Lands Commission. The declaration of clearance areas was therefore temporarily deferred.

The nett effect was a large reduction in the number of unfit houses represented during the year but work on the slum clearance programme as a whole is very little behind schedule and the leeway will have been made up by the end of April, 1969.

The early part of the year was memorable for the number of orders dealt with at public local inquiries and the staff of the housing section was very fully occupied in the preparation of schedules of principal grounds and the other ancillary work associated with such events. Between 20th February and 23rd April, 21 orders were dealt with.

Taking the year as a whole inquiries were held in respect of 29 orders containing a total of 1059 houses alleged to be unfit. Objections to the "unfit" classification were made in 330 cases. One of the orders containing 105 houses alleged to be unfit and in respect of which objections relating to 29 houses had been made was awaiting confirmation at the end of the year. In confirming the remaining orders the Minister upheld 55 objections to unfitness. Two orders containing a total of 135 houses which had been the subject of inquiries in 1967 were also confirmed.

Four of the 40 objections to unfitness were upheld. Four unopposed orders relating to 33 houses were confirmed without modification.

Closing or demolition orders were made in connection with 29 houses.

Progress of Rehousing and Demolition of Unfit Houses

A total of 649 families comprising 1930 persons were rehoused during the year from houses the subject of closing or demolition orders or included in confirmed clearance and compulsory purchase orders. A record number of 1127 houses were demolished.

TABLE 1

Areas Represented

CLEARANCE AREA	DATE REPRESENTED	ORDER	NO. OF HOUSES	NO. OF PERSONS TO BE DISPLACED	NO. OF FAMILIES
Allcock Street No. 234	2.5.68	Allcock Street C.P.O. 1968	8	29	7
Allcock Street No. 235	2.5.68	" "	9	26	8 + 1 H.M.O.
Tipton Green No. 246	2.5.68	No order yet made	3	4	1
Tipton Green No. 247	2.5.68	" " "	8	8	4
Tipton Green No. 248	2.5.68	" " "	6	15	6
Tipton Green No. 249	2.5.68	" " "	13	35	12
Tipton Green No. 250	2.5.68	" " "	6	19	6
Tipton Green No. 251	2.5.68	" " "	2	4	2

TABLE 11
Individual Unfit Houses

HOUSES DEMOLISHED	DEMOLITION ORDERS MADE	CLOSING ORDERS MADE
193	22	7

TABLE 111
Total Demolitions

Houses in clearance Orders	934
Houses the subject of demolition orders	193
	<hr/>
	1127
	<hr/>

TABLE IV
Total Houses Dealt With In Last Five Years

YEAR	HOUSES REPRESENTED AS UNFIT	HOUSES BUILT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY	FAMILIES REHOUSED	PERSONS REHOUSED	HOUSES DEMOLISHED
1964	984	844	777	2646	612
1965	945	1385	964	2917	667
1966	670	1060	577	1792	784
1967	931	1288	779	2163	641
1968	84	839	640	1930	1127

TABLE V

A Comparison of Representation with Demolition

YEAR	HOUSES REPRESENTED AS UNFIT	HOUSES DEMOLISHED
1956	333	120
1957	309	135
1958	539	350
1959	837	355
1960	877	410
1961	783	602
1962	580	666
1963	707	568
1964	638	533
1965	284	549
1966	670	784
1967	931	641
1968	84	1127
TOTAL	7572	6840

The slum clearance process is not complete until every building in a confirmed order is demolished and the site cleared. This table is included to indicate the extent to which this principle is being observed.

Demolitions since 1966 include properties dealt with by the authorities responsible for areas transferred by the Midlands Review Order, 1965.

Improvement Areas – Housing Act, 1964

Work on the Wood Green No. 1 Improvement Area commenced during the year. Letters were sent to owner occupiers and to landlords or their agents in all cases where the houses had been

found on inspection to lack any of the standard amenities explaining the implications of the improvement area procedure and the Council's aims and objects.

As a result of this informal approach 7 owner occupiers and the owners of 17 tenanted houses made applications for standard grants.

Preliminary notices were served in respect of 37 tenanted houses and produced 3 further applications for standard grants. Several owners or their representatives appeared before the Housing Committee and following discussion of the Council's improvement proposals undertakings to improve were accepted in respect of 10 houses and applications for standard grants in all these cases were subsequently approved. In three cases repair notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 had to be served. Two of the houses had been made fit by the end of the year and were then subjected to the improvement procedure.

The majority of the tenants gave their consent to the improvement upon receipt of their copies of the preliminary notices.

Seven immediate and seven suspended improvement notices were served.

Three of the owners who appeared before the Committee in respect of seven houses intimated their inability to undertake the work because of financial difficulties. The Housing Committee wished to have a full picture of the financial implications for the Council of the service of immediate improvement notices and deferred decisions in these cases until they had information on all cases where the service of purchase notices might arise. The Committee should be in this position early in 1969 and it is hoped that it will be possible to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement which will permit the improvement of all such houses in the area.

Following publication of the White Paper (Old Houses into New Homes) no further improvement areas were declared. It was

felt that the proposals for general improvement areas would give more scope for development of the Council's improvement policy and activity in this field was therefore confined to the survey of older houses to enable an improvement programme based on the White Paper proposals to be prepared.

Applications by Tenants under Section 19, Housing Act, 1964

As a direct result of the publicity arising out of the survey of the older houses in the town 14 applications were received from tenants for the exercise of the Council's powers of compulsory improvement.

Eight of the houses were found to be unfit and repair notices under Section 9 of the Act of 1957 were served. In the remaining cases preliminary improvement notices were served and the owners will have an opportunity to discuss the improvement proposals with the Housing Committee in the early part of 1969.

Standard and Discretionary Improvement Grants

One hundred and thirty-two applications for standard grants were received compared with 83 in 1967. Grants were refused in six cases; one because the work had been carried out before the application was made, three because the houses were unfit and two because the houses already had all the standard amenities.

The total amount of grant authorised was £16,827.

There were four applications for discretionary grants, one for improvement and three for conversion all of which were approved. This compared with none in the previous year. The total amount of grant authorised was £2760 and the number of dwellings resulting from the conversions will be six.

The number of applications represents an increase of over 60% on the previous year's figures. Applications from the improvement area accounted for only slightly more than half of this increase and it is hoped that the balance represents an awakening of interest in the improvement of older houses which will be continued in the future. Owner occupiers continue to predominate

but the number of applications in respect of tenanted houses outside the improvement area increased from 11 in 1967 to 16 in 1968.

Rent Act 1957

Six applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year. In three cases the owners gave undertakings to carry out the necessary work and in three cases certificates were issued. One certificate was cancelled upon completion of repairs.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

1. Immigration

Much has been said and written in the past year on this subject both nationally and locally. So far as this department is concerned two main problems are paramount. The first is the need for better housing conditions and the second is the improvement of the immediate environment of the house.

Immigrants, 80% of whom are coloured, gravitate on arrival in the U.K. to the areas where there is work which they can do. Such surplus housing accommodation as is available for them generally is in large houses which are now too expensive to be occupied by one family so they are divided into rooms and let with the minimum of essential facilities. It is this sharing of toilet, cooking and washing facilities which causes us concern as well as the crowding of living space, and fire risks. Along with this over-population goes severe wear and tear of the internal fabric of the building as well as deterioration of those parts of the house which are used in common, including the garden area. No attempt is made to cultivate the considerable area of land which goes with these houses or to maintain a neat and cleanly appearance possibly because no one person is responsible, but more probably for lack of training in elementary hygiene. We have had little success in our efforts to inculcate understanding of our system of refuse storage at multi-occupied houses and the language barrier is sometimes difficult to overcome especially if there is no willingness to understand!

Now that many second generation immigrants are ready to commence their professional careers it may be pertinent to suggest

that consideration should be given to the recruitment of pupil public health inspectors from amongst these young people particularly to assist with this work which is likely to be a permanent part of our responsibilities.

Consideration is also being given to a plan to prescribe a permitted number of occupiers for any vacant house offered for sale and which is of a type likely to be occupied by more than one family. If this is successful it should go some way towards restricting the number of occupiers to accord with the space and facilities in a house for their proper accommodation.

An obligation to register a multi-occupied house is something we hope to obtain from impending legislation.

Taken together these proposals should result in better control of living conditions for every one who may, for any reason, be obliged to live in one or more rooms forming part of a once spacious and gracious house which can still provide comfortable living space and meet a real need.

2. A Random Sample

A random sample of 21 houses for which complete figures of occupancy were available was examined in detail in relation to the standards of overcrowding. And provision of amenities which had been applied by notices under the appropriate sections of the Housing Acts.

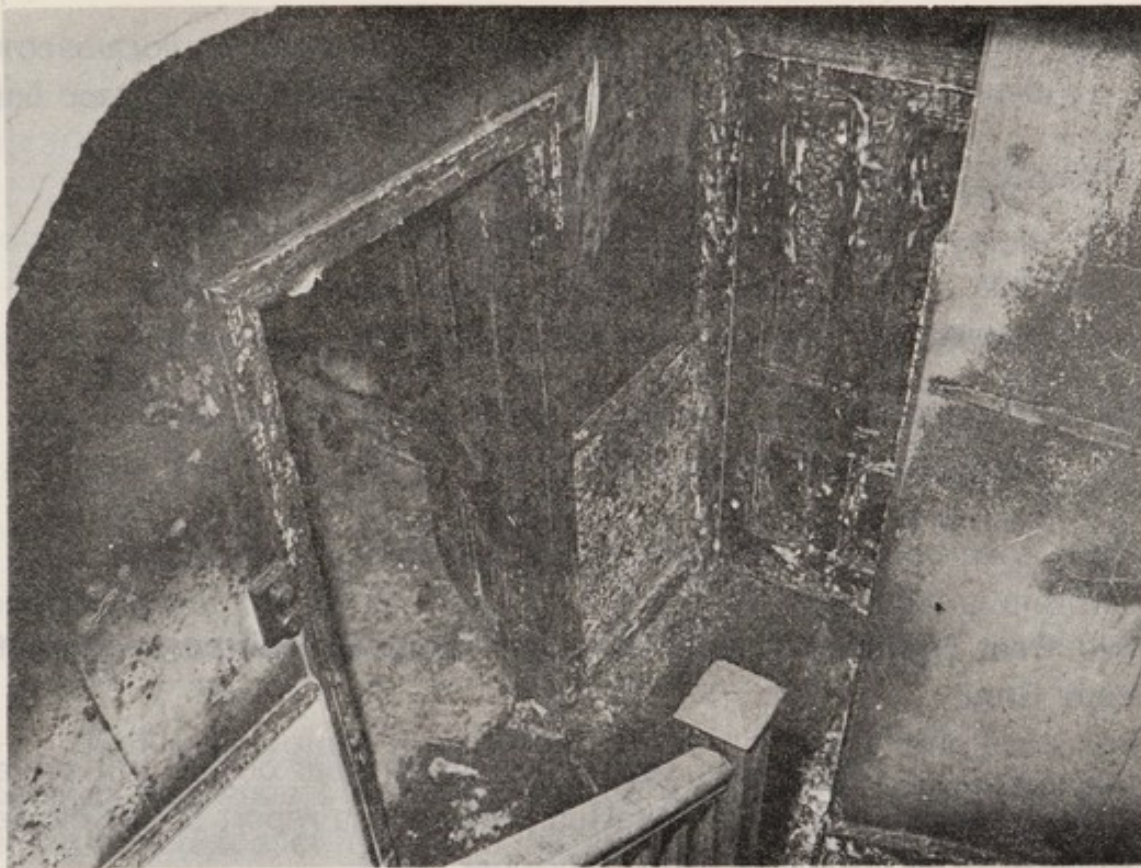
The population of the houses was 283 comprising immigrants to the extent of 81% and made up of 112 single persons and 52 families. The families comprised 17 married couples without children, 14 with 1 child, 8 with 2 children, 5 with 3 children, 3 with 4 children, 1 with 6 children, 3 women with 1 child and 1 woman with 5 children. The average density of occupation for single persons was 1.73 per room and for families 2.44 per room, an overall density of 2.09.

It was found that full compliance with the Council's requirements would produce a net deficiency in accommodation for 35 single persons and 92 in family units including the majority of the families with children. Accommodation would be available for 99 out of a total family population of 171 and 57 single persons out of a total of 112.

It must be emphasised that these requirements retained the character of the premises as houses in multiple occupation, they were related only to the reduction of overcrowding in individual rooms, the cessation of use of unsuitable rooms and the provision of additional food preparation and cooking facilities etc. This cannot be regarded as providing satisfactory housing and is merely a "stop gap" operation. If the houses which are suitable were converted to self contained flats, which appears to be the logical long term solution to under occupation, the number of units of accommodation would be 19 two room flats, 22 three room flats, and 4 four room flats, which under the best possible circumstances of sex distribution of children would accommodate only 150 of the total population of 283 and provide no accommodation specifically for single persons. This points to a need for alternative housing accommodation for families with children and for additional accommodation for single persons.

The surplus population has no alternative but to move to other houses in multiple occupation or to set up new ones with the probability that as the Council's standards are applied to more and more houses, they will be forced to repeat the process ad infinitum. This state of affairs does not provide a happy prospect, is not calculated to produce good relations and, as far as the immigrant population is concerned is hardly likely to assist integration.

The prospects of ameliorating the situation are being explored. A housing association has been encouraged to consider the possibility of acquiring suitable houses for conversion to flats with the aid of the appropriate grants and was preparing a scheme for one such house at the end of the year.



A scene which illustrates all too grimly the necessity for a means of escape in case of fire and an alternative to the staircase when this type of emergency occurs.

Taken in a Beeches Road house during 1968.

Work in connection with houses in multiple occupation in the Borough was increased in 1968 over the previous years and the following is a summary of action taken :-

Notices served

Section 90, Housing Act, 1957 (Notice to abate overcrowding)	12
Section 19, Housing Act, 1961 (Direction to prevent or reduce overcrowding)	29
Section 15, Housing Act, 1961 (Notice requiring additional facilities)	35
Section 16, Housing Act, 1961 (Notice requiring satisfactory means of escape from fire.)	44
Section 12, Housing Act, 1961 (Management Orders)	8

prosecutions were taken. These resulted in the following fines and costs being imposed:—

Transport Cafe', Birmingham Road, West Bromwich.
Fined £110 on 15 contraventions.

Cafe', Vicarage Road, West Bromwich.
Fines £65 and £3.3.0d. costs on 12 contraventions.

Cafe', High Street, West Bromwich.
Fined £125 and £5 costs on 12 contraventions.

In addition one butcher's shop was the subject of a prosecution under the Regulations in respect of eight contraventions. Fines of £80 were imposed.

The Food Hygiene Regulations in their present form have now been in existence since 1960 and no food trader can reasonably plead ignorance of the law. It is disconcerting that after this period of time many instances of either disregard for the requirements of food hygiene or complete lack of knowledge of hygienic principles and practices are still evident, not only amongst employees, but amongst proprietors also.

This situation would seem to be inevitable whilst conditions prevail which allow any person whether or not he has had any previous knowledge of catering or food hygiene to commence a cafe', restaurant or any form of food business providing he can find the premises and raise the necessary capital. The cafe' trade particularly, like no other, seems to be one where businesses can still be commenced by persons having no basic knowledge of the subject, apart from perhaps the ability to make tea and fry chipped potatoes.

Clement Freud in his advice to people wishing to commence a catering business has stated that one fundamental fact to be remembered is that good food has nothing to do with good hygiene. This is probably true, but it is not to say that good food and good hygiene should not be found in the same premises.

Where premises are continually found to be sub-standard the

law makes provision for punitive action based on the number of individual offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations and the ability in bad cases to ban any particular caterer from trading. Some form of registration system for catering establishments, would be welcome which would go some way to prevent any sub-standard premises opening in the first place, and also impose a sanction on the bad proprietor by the withdrawal of registration and with it the ability to operate.

Summary of Food Premises

The number of food premises operating in the Borough at the end of the year were as follows :—

Premises	Number
Grocers	301
Green-grocers	88
Grocers/Green-grocers	66
Multiple stores	14
Confectioners (Sugar)	112
Confectioners (Flour)	36
Fish-mongers	12
Fish-fryers	68
Butchers	124
Public houses	300
Off-licences	54
Licensed clubs	93
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	125
School kitchens	57
Bake-houses	11
Ice-cream manufacturers	4
Mineral water manufacturers	2
Sugar Confectionary manufacturers	2
Pickle manufacturers	1
Brewers and bottlers	2
Slaughter houses	6
Poultry dressing factory	1
	<u>1,479</u>

A total of 6,584 visits were made to these premises.

Food Hawkers

Hawkers registered under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949 totalled 70 at the end of the year.

Registration powers are still confined to those hawkers operating within the boundaries of the former County Borough of West Bromwich. An extension of registration for traders in all parts of the present County Borough will be made on the introduction of the new West Bromwich Corporation Act.

School Canteens

Special attention was paid to school canteens during the year. Within the Borough there are now 57 school canteens supplying some 17,500 meals for school children and staff daily. Problems are encountered where the school premises are old and the number of meals requiring to be provided have outgrown the size of the kitchens where they have to be prepared.



High standard of cleanliness in one of the Borough's School canteens.

Tribute must be paid to the canteen staffs who in every case where an inspection was made maintained optimum standards of cleanliness and hygiene, sometimes under difficult working conditions. Following discussions with the school meals organising staff priority lists of work required were drawn up so that urgent items could be dealt with in school canteens as soon as possible within the finance available in the current year and subsequent years.

Public Houses

The introduction of the breathalyser by the Road Safety Act, 1967 caused an increase of general food sales in most public houses. The public house as a food premise had, prior to this event been the subject of increasing use as a place where people obtained meals or snacks and in an area like West Bromwich particularly where there is a small number of cafe's and restaurants in the commercial centres the "Pub" has in the past few years been used more and more for lunch time food consumption as well as liquid refreshment.

This extension of traditional use has meant that in many premises the present facilities are inadequate for the new type of trading, and additional requirements had to be made of the brewers to come up to modern standards.

Of the 300 licensed houses in the Borough 154 are situated in West Bromwich, 96 in Tipton and 50 in Wednesbury. 202 of the Houses are managed and 98 are run by tenants operating more independently from the brewers than managed houses.

At the end of the year 153 notices under the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 were outstanding in respect of public houses in the Borough. Practically all the "pubs" are owned by one or other of three major brewery companies in the area. Consultations were carried out with representatives of these breweries on requirements for new and existing premises and prior to the end of the year, following a meeting of Chief Public Health Inspectors of the five West Mid-



Dampness a mould growth on cellar walls. A defect hard to remedy in older public houses.

lands County Boroughs a common standard of requirements from the five authorities was being prepared for presentation to the brewery companies.

Food Control

A cross section of all types of food sold in the Borough was sampled during the year for chemical contents. These samples give an indication of the substances of which the foods are comprised and also whether labelling of containers is correct. It is anticipated that the Trades Description Act, 1968, will go some-way to tighten up any practices of false advertisement in respect of food stuffs, and will replace Merchandise Marks Act requirements for the advertisement of foods displayed.

In recent years this has proved less of a problem although in butchers' shops particularly, where meat is cut into small joints,

care has had to be taken to ensure that imported meat and offal is properly distinguished from home-killed meat.

The following tables show foods sampled for chemical analysis during the year.

1968	SAMPLES ANALYSED	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
1st Quarter	64	61	3
2nd Quarter	81	81	—
3rd Quarter	84	81	3
4th Quarter	86	86	—
TOTAL	315	309	6

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 1.9% compared with 6.3% in 1967.

Break-down of foods analysed

FOOD	NO. OF SAMPLES	UNSATISFACTORY	
		ANALYSIS	LABELLING
Milk	25	—	—
Cream	6	—	—
Soft Drinks	27	2	1
Ice-Cream	5	—	—
Sausages	2	—	1
Meat Products	55	1	—
Tinned Meat	3	—	—
Spirits	4	—	—
Other Foods	164	—	1
Drugs	24	—	—
TOTAL	315	3	3

The following table summarises the adulterated or unsatisfactory samples of food.

SAMPLE NO.	FOOD.	CONTRAVENTION	REMARKS
614	Pork Sausages	Contained 415 parts per million Sulphur Dioxide	
615	Jaffa Orange Drink	Contained an excess Sulphur Dioxide	Manufacturers stated that excess of sulphur dioxide was in liquid sugar used. Steps taken to see that all products comply
616	Jaffa Lemon Drink	-ditto-	-ditto-
767	Jelly	Fruit illustrated on packet but no fruit present	Manufacturers agreed to alter label.
802	Shandy	Only 1/2% proof spirit	Manufacturers agreed to increase alcohol content
805	Steak & Kidney Pies	Deficiency of 16.6% minimum amount of meat	Letter to Manufacturer

Bacteriological Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year, in connection with routine checks on food purity and also where cases of food borne infections warranted laboratory investigation.

Samples

- 3 Surface Swabs
- 2 Sausages
- 1 Meat Pie
- 2 Sliced meats
- 2 Tinned crab
- 36 Milk
- 11 Ice-cream
- 37 Swabs from Pig's Guts at a Slaughterhouse
- 94 TOTAL

The swabs from the pig's guts were taken at the request of the Public Health Laboratory, Colindale for special investigation of food poisoning organisms. This investigation proved abortive.

Ice-cream

A total of 43 new applications for registration were received for the sale of ice-cream during the year. At present there are 4 manufacturers and 215 other premises registered for ice-cream sales within the Borough.

Milk

The number of dealers licenced under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963/65, within the Borough is 249. Thirty-six samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 23 samples for chemical analysis.

There were no unsatisfactory samples. No samples of milk were submitted in connection with *Brucellus Abortus*.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in respect of liquid egg in the Borough and no samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Food Complaints

The number of complaints received by the department in 1968 were as follows :—

a) Food unfit for human consumption in contravention of Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, = 9.

b) Food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded in contravention of Section 2 of the Act = 45.

Giving a total of 54

This compares with 67 complaints received in 1967 and is very few when measured against the enormous quantity of factory

prepared foods being consumed annually.

No proceedings were instituted during the year and in every case where a complaint was taken up with the manufacturers or wholesalers of the commodity, complete co-operation was forthcoming in attempts to trace the source of the incidents. In some instances this included correspondence from Malaya, South Africa and Australia as well as European Countries where foods were manufactured or processed.

The housewife is becoming increasingly aware that any complaint in regard to food is subject to a complete investigation by the local authority and the food firms concerned. Irrespective of how automated and highly organised any particular food industry may be, it would seem impossible to completely eradicate the odd incidents where contamination of food arises either in the form of deterioration in quality or the accidental addition of some foreign body. In recent years an increasing number of safe guarding measures have been taken in factories in an attempt to obviate such occurrences but where the human element is concerned and with the quantities of food being dealt with, it is likely that food complaints will be with us for the foreseeable future. It would seem that the person making complaints concerning foods that they have purchased in most cases do not wish for prosecutions to be taken against the offenders if they can be found, but are satisfied if they can be shown that a thorough and adequate investigation is made. In all cases this is done and the company normally makes recompense.

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Cattle including cows	.12	.02	—	.005	.005	.075	.01	—
Cows	—	.16	.13	—	—	—	—	.15
Calves	—	—	—	—	.030	—	—	—
Pigs	1.75	1.35	.88	.84	1.55	1.72	2.03	1.88

Analysis of Foods Examined in Premises other than Slaughterhouses and found to be unfit for Human Consumption.

	Tons	Cwts
Meat at Wholesale premises		16
Meat at Retail Shops		17
Cooked Meats and Meat Products		2
Canned Meats	1	13
Other Canned Food	9	4
Fruit and Vegetables (fresh)	—	—
Fish (fresh)	—	—
Other foods	6	14
TOTAL :	19	6
Total weight surrendered in 1967	14tons	7cwt

Meat and Poultry Inspections

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1968 was 402,032 representing an increase of 5½% over the previous year. The severe outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease which commenced in the second half of 1967 and continued on until March, 1968, affected the total number of animals slaughtered which would have been higher but for the disruption that was caused by the disease in the farming and meat industries.

A 100% inspection service of all animals slaughtered is maintained as one of the departments main priorities, the meat inspection section being assisted by other public health inspectors of the department on a rota basis throughout the year.

a) Food unfit for human consumption in contravention of Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. — 9

b) Food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded in contravention of Section 2 of the Act. — 45.

Giving a total of 54

This compares with 87 complaints received in 1967 and is very low when measured against the enormous quantity of factory

Carcases Inspected and Surrendered

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	22,662	1,692	2,078	106,979	268,621
Number inspected	22,662	1,692	2,078	106,979	268,621
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses surrendered	14	25	40	171	621
Carcases or which some part or organ was surrendered	4,959	229	17	19,894	75,540
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21.09	15.01	2.74	18.75	28.42
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses surrendered	—	1	—	—	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was surrendered	—	—	—	—	5,084
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	.05	—	—	1.89

Percentage of Food Animals with Tuberculosis

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Cattle excluding cows	.12	.02	—	.009	.005	.076	.01	—
Cows	—	.16	.13	—	—	—	—	.05
Calves	—	—	—	—	.030	—	—	—
Pigs	1.66	1.35	.69	.84	1.55	1.72	2.03	1.89

Summary of Carcasses Inspected

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Cattle (excluding cows)	7,857	13,018	18,326	21,120	19,215	23,757	26,554	22,662
Cows	363	619	770	668	165	476	223	1,692
Calves	1,819	2,946	2,580	2,966	3,273	3,461	4,451	2,078
Sheep	56,037	65,572	83,443	93,155	87,882	110,546	126,105	106,979
Pigs	76,446	96,365	102,803	119,698	149,638	246,209	223,733	268,621
TOTALS	142,522	178,520	207,922	237,607	260,173	384,449	381,066	402,032

Total weight of Meat and Offal Surrendered as unfit for human consumption

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Tons	29	58	78	87	125	195	293	270

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

On the 31st December 1968, there were 57 slaughtermen licenced by the Council under the provisions of the above Act. All of these men are actively engaged in slaughterhouses which are registered in the Borough.

Poultry Inspection

Inspections in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 22/61 were carried out and the total through-put of poultry which included hens, capons, broilers, ducks and turkeys exceeded 357,970.

As a result of inspection carried out 2,568 poultry were rejected as being unfit for human consumption, comprising 3 Tons 1 cwt 3 qtrs. 10lbs.

It is possible that a Slaughter of Poultry Act will come into force within the near future and eight premises will then probably require to be registered with the Corporation.

At present, only one establishment is subject to routine daily visits by Public Health Inspectors but all premises are visited regularly. Any premises where any degree of plucking and dressing is carried out are subject to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and all premises where live poultry are kept and killed for sale are also subject to the cleanliness and disinfection provisions of various Diseases of Animals Regulations.

Diseases of Animals Act and Orders

Foot and Mouth Disease

The work involved with Foot and Mouth disease in West Bromwich commencing from the 26th October, 1967, when the area became controlled, continued until the 2nd May, 1968, in Staffordshire. Restrictions in the Country as a whole were not lifted until the 25th June of that year. The burden placed on the meat inspection section of the department during the emergency was considerable as a total of 8,816 licences were issued during the period for movement of animals in and out of West Bromwich whilst the slaughter of live stock was maintained at 95% of the corresponding period for 1966/67.

I must record my thanks to the Senior Meat Inspectors involved, Mr. N.H. Owen and Mr. G.A. Lavender, who together worked many hours of overtime during the period, mainly at weekends, from an emergency office which was operated from one of the slaughter houses in the Borough.

(c) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

1. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered During 1968	Total Number of Registered Premises at the end of 1968	Total Number of Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection During 1968
Offices	43	317	144
Retail Shops	65	941	614
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	12	53	32
Catering Establishments open to the public	9	236	195
Fuel storage Depots	—	4	—
TOTAL	129	1551	985

2. Total number of visits of all kinds including general inspections to premises registered under the Act : 2733

3. Analysis of Contraventions

Section	No. of Contraventions found
4 — Cleanliness	142
5 — Overcrowding	7
6 — Temperature	116
7 — Ventilation	35
8 — Lighting	47
9 — Sanitary conveniences	144
10 — Washing facilities	91
11 — Drinking Water	21
12 — Clothing accommodation	37
13 — Sitting facilities	11
15 — Eating facilities	3
16 — Floors, passages and stairs	145
17 — Fencing of machinery	36
19 — Training of persons at dangerous machines	4
24 — First-aid	99
49 — Registration of premises	14
50 — Information to employees	156
TOTAL	1108

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises at the end of 1968.

Class of Premises	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	3742
Retail Shops	4035
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	582
Catering Establishments	1441
Fuel Storage Depots	43
Total	9843
	Males = 4016 Females = 5827

Since the introduction of the Act, a considerable amount of work has been carried out in the premises affected and work is still progressing at a steady rate both on the structure of buildings and internally in the way of provision of facilities, improvement in decoration and the safeguarding of machinery and equipment.

During 1968, 985 general inspections were made to premises compared with 587 in 1967. By the end of the year, approximately 97% of the total number of premises to which the Act applies had received a general inspection. The remaining 3% have not been registered with the department but it is intended early in 1969 to identify these premises and to carry out general inspections, thereby leaving temporarily uninspected only those premises which from time to time change hands or which are occupied for the first time.

Although there is still no evidence of any great enthusiasm for the Act either amongst employers or employees, working conditions in general have improved over what they were some five years ago. Two complaints were received during the year from employees concerning conditions in which they had to work.

There are still substantial improvements which could be made and one of the aspects where there is very little power for action at present is the field of noise. Regulations on this subject are still being awaited from the Minister, but in the meantime recommendations are made concerning carpeting of rooms or the installation of acoustic panels where noise output in offices particularly, is excessive. For those office workers who have to work in very noisy conditions, there is no doubt that they suffer loss of efficiency and perhaps eventual deterioration in their health.

Notification of Accidents

An employer is required to notify the local authority of an accident on registered premises which involves the death of a person or disability which prevents normal work for three days or more.

Reported Accidents

Work Place	Number Reported		Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non-Fatal		Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Warning	No Action
Offices	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
Retail Shops	—	11	4	—	—	3	1
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	—	3	2	—	—	2	—
Catering Establishments Open to the Public	—	6	6	—	—	3	3
Fuel Storage Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	Nil	22	13	Nil	Nil	8	5

Accident investigation is normally carried out if it appears from the nature of the report that there may have been a breach of the Act or if the injuries sustained are very serious or fatal. The majority of the accidents notified were trivial in nature and happily no fatalities were reported.

Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Premises	Catering Estab.	Fuel Stores
Machinery	—	—	—	—	—
Transport	—	—	1	—	—
Fall of Persons	1	5	—	4	—
Stepping on or striking against object or person	—	2	—	—	—
Handling Goods	—	2	2	1	—
Struck by falling objects	—	—	—	—	—
Fire & Explosions	—	—	—	—	—
Electricity	—	—	—	—	—
Use of hand tools	—	1	—	—	—
Not otherwise specified	1	1	—	1	—

(d) AIR POLLUTION AND FACTORIES

Due to three pupil public health inspectors qualifying during the year this section of the department was able to be enlarged to tackle the problems particularly rising in the field of industrial air pollution and noise.

In combating industrial problems a specialised knowledge of the subject is necessary and inevitable for the Inspectors involved. Although our powers under the Clean Air Act 1956, which will be extended by the Clean Air Act 1968, are fairly extensive this is a subject where persuasion rather than coercion, knowledge and advice rather than punitive action is the means by which we obtain the best results. This view is also held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Alkali Inspectorate in dealing with their problems in premises which are registered under the Alkali Works Act. In many instances, it is not possible to be dogmatic or by any means certain of remedies which can be effected for particular circumstances which may be causing nuisance. Alternatives have to be carefully considered in view of what is practicable concerning the structure of the building, the nature of the equipment concerned and reasonable costs. One feels that this is work for an expert in the technology of the subject as distinct from an Inspector who merely knows the law applicable.

Industrial Air Pollution

As in the domestic market, solid fuel seems to be losing ground inexorably to oil, gas and electricity. Oil has been looked upon with some suspicion by public health inspectors as although it is much easier to eliminate smoke when burning oil than when burning bituminous coal; in the past, it has usually meant higher emissions of SO₂ to the atmosphere. However, there is now an unmistakable trend towards the use of gas oil with a sulphur content below 1% rather than residual fuel oil with much higher sulphur contents. The main reasons for this are that pre-heating of gas oil before atomization is not required and maintenance costs on burners and ancillary equipment are considerably reduced.

Up to 1963 a number of industrial premises in Tipton and Wednesbury used Mond producer gas, but during that year the mains serving these premises were converted to towns gas. July 1968 saw a further change with the introduction of natural gas to this system. Not many companies are involved at present but firms sited within half a mile of the old Mond system have been offered natural gas at reduced prices providing they will pay for new spur mains. It is too early yet to forecast what response this offer will bring and no doubt cost will be decisive in most cases, the more widespread use of natural gas is welcome as it presents no air pollution problems.

A constructive and universally applicable way to reduce air pollution is to reduce the amount of fuel being burned, in other words it should be burned as efficiently as possible. This means that although smoking chimneys and complaints receive the necessary attention, a lot of our routine work as in previous years has continued in the form of surveys of various industries with advice and investigations to this end. Detailed surveys have been completed and reports submitted to the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee on scrap metal recovery and tube manufacture and these two particular subjects are referred to in detail later. Surveys of non-ferrous foundries, wood burning installations and barrel cleansing are at present being carried out.

In addition to the Fyrite CO₂ indicator and flue gas thermometer previously acquired, in 1968 we purchased a Dreager gas detecting kit and a Bacharach Smoke tester to assist in overcoming various pollution problems.

A West Bromwich Clean Air Handbook which was published in the middle of the year was very well received locally and the 3,000 copies available have now all been distributed.

Grit and Dust

The Clean Air (Measurement of Grit and Dust) Regulations 1968 became operative on 1st May and the Clean Air Act 1968 received Royal Assent but the first sections will not become

operative until 1st April, 1969. This new legislation will strengthen the powers of the Corporation considerably in dealing with grit and dust emissions from combustion processes. Although there is no call on local authority officers to carry out actual measurements under the Regulations, this will no doubt be the case under the Act eventually, unless an authority are of course prepared to pay consultants to act on their behalf. In the meantime under the Regulations where the corporation require a firm to carry out measurement of grit and dust emissions, an officer of the authority has the right to be present whilst the actual measurements are being carried out, so that some knowledge of the techniques involved is essential.

The measurements of stack solids is something which the public health Inspector has not in the past been trained to do. In 1968 our Senior Inspector responsible for air pollution was one of eight officers who attended a comprehensive course of training in this work, organised by N.I.F.E.S. As a result of this and of the work done, we now feel competent to administer the legislation on grit and dust emission and look forward to the day when the money can be spared to purchase the necessary equipment that will enable us to carry out measurements on our own behalf.

In only one case so far has action been considered under the Clean Air (Grit and Dust) Regulations and this was in respect of a billet heating furnace using pulverised fuel. The management were however co-operative and appreciated the necessity to considerably reduce the emission of stack solids. Plans and specifications were given prior approval to replace the existing equipment with a new oil-fired furnace which was in the process of being installed at the end of the year.

There are many sources of grit and dust emission from industrial processes where combustion is not involved. The largest source of trouble in this field is iron oxide which is produced in considerable quantities wherever fettling, grinding or shot blasting of iron and steel are carried out. Iron oxide fall-out gives rise to numerous complaints and its production is not limited to iron

foundries as many other firms have similar processes. The factory Inspector usually requires an exhaust system to be fitted over the dust producing process and the dust laden gases are discharged to atmosphere, in most cases after passing through bag filters or cyclone collectors. Where there are no means of filtration or collection it is obviously easy to pin point the source of the trouble, but as most firms have a considerable number of iron oxide producing processes and many similar firms occupy adjoining premises it is often impossible to uncover the culprit. Factory Regulations require only periodic tests to ensure that adequate quantities of air are being exhausted from over the machine and the engineers doing this work are not equipped to measure dust burdens or collection efficiencies. We are hoping that once we have our own sampling equipment, to make use of it in this field as well as in the measurement of stack solids.

Iron Foundries

This year saw a reduction in the number of iron foundries from 45 to 42 and in the number of cold blast cupolas from 104 to 101. There seems little doubt that 1969 will see further reductions in both the number of iron foundries and cupolas, as closures or amalgamations of other firms are already planned. 20 of the existing cupolas are not in regular use or are on sites awaiting redevelopment.

The report of the Working Party set up by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1964 to study emissions from iron foundries was still to be published at the end of the year. In the meantime measurements of grit and dust emissions from various cupolas have been undertaken on behalf of the Minister and we hope that more detailed information is being gained so that realistic recommendations can be made in the future.

In view of the uncertain economic future of many iron foundries, together with the high cost of wet arresters and our opinion that they are far from providing a satisfactory answer, pressure has not been put on local foundries to convert from dry to wet arresters during the year. In two foundries four existing cupolas

with wet arresters were replaced, and new wet arresters had to be accepted. Attempts were made in both cases to persuade the managements to think in terms of bag filtration or wet scrubbers but the tonnages being melted were not very high and there was an understandable reluctance for expensive experimentation.

One iron foundry has installed an oil-fired melting furnace capable of melting approximately one ton/hour of iron. This has proved a highly successful alternative to the cupola in all respects except refractory life, which has caused considerable trouble. This is disappointing as this type of furnace would well eventually provide the answer to grit and dust problems associated with small cupolas.

In spite of the highly successful tests carried out with oil-fired after-burners at two West Bromwich foundries I regret to report that none of these burners are actually installed and working on any cupola within the Borough. This is disappointing as the operation of this type of equipment eliminates all visible smoke and fume and reduces particulate emissions considerably, whilst the cost of the gas oil can be covered by improved coke ratios. However cupolas at two firms are to be equipped with after-burners in the near future and we trust that the results obtained will inspire others to follow suit.

Complaints were received about spent sand and other fine foundry waste blowing from the rear of lorries as they travel across the town to disposal points. All iron foundries were circularised and asked to ensure that either the container system of collection and removal be adopted or the rear of lorries covered with tarpaulins etc. The response to this circular has been good.

Finally it is interesting to note that the Province of Ontario in Canada is currently drafting Regulations for controlling emissions from ferrous foundries. An exchange of information with the Air Pollution Control Department there being made during the year. Their approach is divided into two parts, the general concept

for small foundries is to catch the larger particles and disperse the remaining smaller particles, whilst for large cupolas (above 10 tons/hour capacity) a fully engineered high efficiency system is being required. The reason for the break at 10 tons/hour melting capacity is that the particulate size distribution from smaller cupolas tends towards the larger particle sizes and hence it is possible to use a simple high efficiency mechanical collector coupled with a high stack to effect control. Whereas with larger cupolas which may have a particulate size distribution in the order of 55% below 5 microns, simple mechanical collection is not adequate. The draft Regulations require the small cupolas to have a melting device designed and operated so as to have :—

- (a) a minimum particulate collection efficiency of 90% on the plus 25 microns fraction with a maximum emission of 75/lb/hour of inert particulates.
- (b) after-burners working at all times during cupolas operation, and ;
- (c) no water fall-out off the property.

For large cupolas proposed control is similar except that the maximum emission of 75/lb/hour inert particulate is reduced to 25/lb/hour. Strict control is also envisaged on other foundry operations likely to pollute the atmosphere. For example, potential odourless emissions must be controlled so that they will cause no nuisance off the property and a minimum collection of 97% of any plus 25 microns of particles arising from the sand handling knock out, fettling etc.

Scrap Metal Recovery

Our survey disclosed 24 scrap metal merchants in the Borough but there may well be numerous small yards at the rear of houses of which we know nothing. These would not generally give rise to air pollution problems, however undesirable they may be for other reasons.

Three of the merchants are registered under the Alkali Works Regulation Act 1906 for at least part of their work of metal recovery which is being carried on. There are of course numerous other firms in the area also engaged in metal recovery in one form or

another as part of a larger interest and registered by the Alkali Inspector but not included in the 24 mentioned above.

The recovery of metal from scrap, waste, swarf, etc., by heat gives rise to a great many air pollution problems. One of the difficulties is that different types of scrap or waste metal require varying treatment, although the basis is usually a furnace with main oven where metal melting is carried out, followed by a second chamber where the smoke and some fume is burned off.

One problem which has given us trouble during 1968 is the big aluminium junction boxes disposed of by the Midland Electricity Board and which end up at large and small scrapyards. These boxes are packed with bitumen and a number of merchants have been trying to burn them out in the open air, producing vast quantities of black smoke in the process. A furnace has been designed to deal with this particular type of problem but it is expensive and only a merchant who could virtually corner the market in this type of metal recovery could afford the cost of purchasing and installing such equipment. In the meantime all local scrap merchants have been warned and any one discovered burning out bitumen from these containers and producing smoke will be liable to prosecution.

All but the smallest merchants do some oxy-propane cutting of larger pieces of metal in open yards. This produces a little local fume but can in addition give rise to periodical trouble as axle boxes and similar equipment which is, or has been, extensively lubricated with oil, catches fire and produces quantities of smoke. Again, the answer is expensive and only open to the large merchant; it is to make use of large and powerful mechanical cutting shears.

From the study made it is realised that apart from the simple collection of the material, scrap metal recovery is a job for the large firm with extensive premises and the necessary financial resources to buy proper equipment enabling them to operate without giving offence. The problems are numerous and although not insurmountable will take time to overcome.

Tube Manufacture

Although the making of metal tubes did not begin in Wednesbury it was here that a method of producing tubes more cheaply in greater lengths was invented. At the beginning of the 19th century there was a great demand for tubes following the introduction of gas lighting and it was this demand that led to the invention of the quicker method of producing tubes. Tube making, the gas industry, and this area are still closely linked as pipe and fittings are being manufactured for the new high pressure gas mains which will carry natural gas across the country.

Of the 11 tube manufacturers within the Borough of West Bromwich, two produce plastic pipes for which there is another increasing demand because of its reduced cost, the longer lengths in which it can be laid and its resistance to corrosion. One manufacturer is registered under the Alkali etc., Works Regulation Act 1906 for the purpose of copper recovery by heat treatment.

A variety of fuels are used in the manufacture of tubes and pipes including coke, oil, towns gas and electricity. In the main, tube manufacture at present presents no specially difficult air pollution problems and it is mainly a matter of ensuring that furnaces and combustion equipment are properly used and maintained.

Alkali Controlled Premises

There are 25 premises under the control of the Alkali Inspectorate and as may be expected from the types of processes involved, they do give rise to a considerable number of complaints. Quite naturally, the Alkali Inspectorate and firms tend to deal directly with one another, while we receive many of the complaints from the public. This is not altogether a satisfactory state of affairs and it is a drain on the time of Inspectors, who often have to spend considerable hours investigating and explaining matters over which the corporation has no direct responsibility or control.

The corporation are mindful of the work done by the Alkali Inspectors within the Borough in enforcing the provisions of the

Clean Air Act 1956 relating to smoke, grit and dust, and appreciate that the Inspectorate is constituted of highly qualified and experienced men well trained to deal with chemical processes capable of producing noxious fumes or gases. However early in October an application was made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government requesting that the control of 9 firms at present under the Alkali Inspector be transferred to the corporation. The 9 firms involved carry on processes which produce smoke, grit and dust, largely from operations involving the combustion of fuel or the application of heat, without complicated chemical engineering problems. The premises are mostly small or contain numerous other furnaces which are already under the control of the corporation.

The application was still under consideration by the Minister at the end of the year.

Other Pollution Complaints

Complaints of all kinds of pollution have been investigated and in some cases after much work positive identification of the causes of the trouble have been difficult, whilst in others answers are not easily available. However progress is being made continuously and each year shows some improvement in the general air pollution picture.

One series of complaints and investigations which did cause concern related to Corporation schools. An urgent complaint was received one Friday from a headmistress that a class of junior girls were ill with symptoms similar to what one would expect from carbon monoxide poisoning. Gas detecting equipment failed to indicate the presence of carbon monoxide in any of the classrooms and the children quickly recovered. However the building was an old one, heated with a coke fired boiler and tests for the presence of carbon monoxide the following Monday morning before the children entered school disclosed a concentration of 10 p.p.m. of carbon monoxide in one classroom and 5 p.p.m. in a second. Tests carried out on the flue gases from the boiler showed 18% CO₂ which was proof that there was inadequate combustion air, and incomplete combustion was probable. At the same time tests on the school hall, which is an independent single storey building,

heated by four coke fired stoves, indicated the presence of 10 p.p.m. carbon monoxide. Defects were apparent in the internal flue pipes of two of these stoves and renewal of the defective lengths was put in hand quickly.

Complaints were also received from the headmaster and headmistress of the junior boys and infants schools which adjoin the girls school. They noted a strong smell of coke fumes in some classrooms. At approximately 9.30 a.m. in spite of the windows being open since before 9 a.m., it was still possible to detect 100 p.p.m. of carbon monoxide in two classrooms. The boiler had been banked over night and fumes had percolated from the boiler house into the classroom along the pipe ducts. Even after all the windows had been opened, half an hour elapsed before the classrooms were clear of carbon monoxide. The boiler flue gases contained 16% carbon dioxide on this occasion.

Smoke tests carried out on the boiler flues in the school holidays disclosed numerous defects in the flues of the first school but only defects in the chimneys in the second case. In view of these circumstances checks were made on boiler plant at some other schools and in one coke fired boiler house 800 p.p.m. of CO was discovered. It is interesting to note that the present maximum tentative concentration of carbon monoxide for an 8 hour period in a factory is 50 p.p.m. and that 1000 p.p.m. is considered lethal.

The problem was passed to the Borough Engineer who is responsible for all school boilers and heating. Due to a reduction in the supplies of gas coke, steps were already being taken to replace coke-fired boilers with alternative means of firing. In addition advice on boiler house practice was given to caretakers at the schools concerned, particularly the dangers arising from production of CO.

Complaint Notices and Court Proceedings

It is difficult to categorise the various complaints received during the year as often the original complaint received turned out to be different on investigation. However, during the year

The following complaints were received and investigated:—

Smoke	78
Grit and dust	43
Fumes	61

Again so much of our work consists of persuading firms to carry out works that the number of informal notices is almost impossible to assess. Most of the improvements gained are carried out after much discussion and often letter writing, and rarely does the word "notice" arise. Most industrial firms want to be good neighbours and are prepared to go to trouble and expense to minimise or eliminate the causes of pollution. However, as in all fields, there are a few people who require a push occasionally and it was necessary to serve 12 notices under Section 30 Clean Air Act, 1956 and 4 abatement notices under Section 16 Clean Air Act, 1956 and Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936.

In one case after the service of an abatement notice it was necessary to institute proceedings when the magistrates made a nuisance order. The firm involved operates a scrap yard and had been warned on numerous occasions about indiscriminate burning in the open causing a nuisance to people living in the vicinity.

Domestic Smoke Control

The first stage of the programme to bring the whole Borough under smoke control within 20 years commenced on 1st October, 1968, through the West Bromwich Smoke Control Order No. 17. The area included 7 industrial premises, 63 commercial premises, 1801 privately owned dwellings, 190 Corporation dwellings and 21 other premises within 356 acres at Great Barr. The total estimated cost was £53,657 but with only a few claims outstanding at the end of the year, the actual approximate total cost turned out to be £30,000. It is perhaps worth repeating here that the Corporation are only responsible for 3/10th's of this, 4/10th's being paid by the Government and the remainder being paid by the occupier or owner of the dwelling concerned. The Corporation are limited to paying grants for work that is reasonably necessary

to adapt or replace coal burning and smoke producing appliances. Many owner/occupiers availed themselves of the opportunity to install either complete or partial central heating, in which case their share of the total cost they incurred is of course much more than 3/10th's of the total.

Large discrepancy between the estimated and actual costs invariably occurs however detailed the original survey. A number of people change their appliances without waiting for the Order to be made and for some reason best known to themselves others, eligible for grant, never apply for it in spite of having received prior approval for adaptations and being notified of the actual grant payable. In Area 17 work was required at 890 of the 1801 privately owned dwellings, estimates were submitted and approved in 757 cases and grant paid to date in 579 instances.

The situation concerning Corporation houses is slightly different as unless a tenant elects to do the work and claim the grant, then the Housing Department automatically carry out whatever conversions are necessary.

In area 17, in houses where fireplaces were eligible for complete conversion 54½% of the householders chose gas, 42½% solid fuel and 3% electricity. These figures compared with 54.4% gas, 42.9% solid fuel and 2.7% electricity in Area 16.

The lifting of the embargo on payment of grants for the purchase and installation of direct acting electric space heaters during the year will give the public one more type of appliance to choose from and should not add to Corporation costs.

It is not easy to say exactly how many dwellings are now smoke controlled as most of our smoke control areas include sections where there has been considerable new development. It is estimated however that 12,760 dwellings are now smoke controlled, which is approximately 24% of the total number in the Borough. The area covered is 2349 acres which is approximately 20% of the total.

In September, details of the proposed Smoke Control Area 18 were submitted to the Committee as follows :-

1) Total number of industrial premises	2
2) Total number of commercial premises	48
3) Total number of privately owned dwellings	1,738
4) Total number of Local Authority dwellings	849
5) Total number of other premises	12
6) Total acreage	633

Total estimated cost £31,625

Proposed operative date :- 1st October, 1969

This area will cover the remainder of Great Barr and would make one continuous area stretching over 2,452 acres. It would also link up with smoke control work being done in the immediately adjoining areas by Birmingham and Walsall Corporations and enable us to keep up-to-date with the target to make the whole of West Bromwich smoke controlled by 1988.

The Hygiene and Cleansing Committee accepted this as the second stage of the 20 year programme, but final consideration was delayed due to the national economic situation at the end of the year.

Contraventions of Section 11, Clean Air Act, 1956

It was necessary during the year to write to 43 occupiers of houses in smoke controlled areas reminding them that it is an offence to emit smoke from their chimneys unless they were burning one of the authorised fuels at the time.

West Bromwich Clean Air Council

The Clean Air Council was formed in 1957 with the intention of bringing together people who have a common interest in clean air. Over the years support has come from various public bodies, industry and the general public, but it is increasingly difficult to find topics and speakers who are of interest to people with such diverse backgrounds.

The Midlands Electricity Board have kindly made their High Street Showrooms available for meetings for the past 2 years and, therefore, to give the Board and their staff a rest, a move was made to the Social Centre in Walsall Street where three meetings were held in 1968.

On 5th March, 1968, 41 members appreciated a number of films on "Natural Gas" after which Mr. Redall of the West Midlands Gas Board answered a very large number of questions.

The Annual General Meeting, attended by 38 members, was held on 17th September, with the election of the following Officers:-

Councillor E. Clarke (Chairman, Hygiene & Cleansing Committee)	Chairman
Mr. S. Miller (C.W. Miller & Co.Ltd.,)	Vice Chairman
Mr. S. Cayton (Chief Public Health Inspector)	Press Secretary
Mr. C.R. Cresswell (Senior Public Health Inspector—Air Pollution)	Hon. Secretary

Mr. Cayton presented his Annual Report on "Progress in Smoke Control in West Bromwich". This was followed by a talk by Mr. E.A. Siggers, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, Lecturer in Public Health, University of Aston in Birmingham on the Clean Air Bill and the Clean Air (Measurement of Grit and Dust) Regulations, 1968. The discussion was opened by Mr. E.J. Ostle, Engineer, N.I.F.E.S., and proved to be lively and vigorous.

Finally on 3rd December, a panel consisting of representatives from the National Coal Board, Coal Utilisation Council, West Midlands Gas Board, Midlands Electricity Board and Shell-Mex B.P. Ltd., answered questions on "Smoke Control Areas". The questions were numerous and the Chairman eventually closed the meeting well after our usual finishing time. The attendance at this meeting was 42.

Our thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee for the privilege of using their social centre for these meetings.

The number of notifications received during the year of intention to install new furnaces were 40 and 41 applications for prior approval were received. This is a very slight reduction on 1967.

Notifications and applications were in respect of the following plants :—

Metal Melting furnaces	4
Cold Blast Cupolas	4
Annealing Ovens	5
Heat Treatment Furnaces	2
Boilers and Heating Furnaces	57

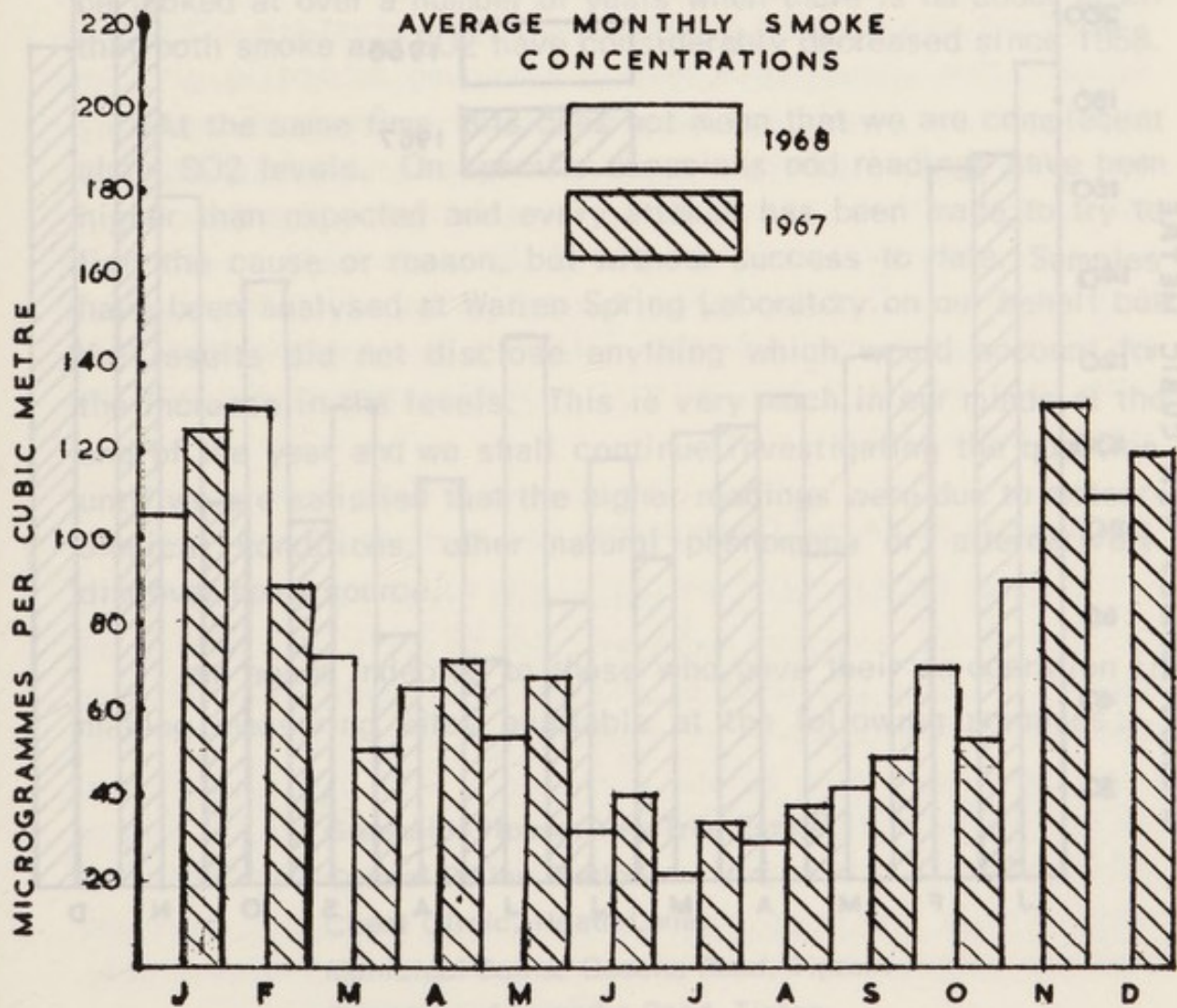
The four cupolas were of course heated with metallurgical coke, of the remaining 68 furnaces, 58 were oil-fired and 10 gas-fired.

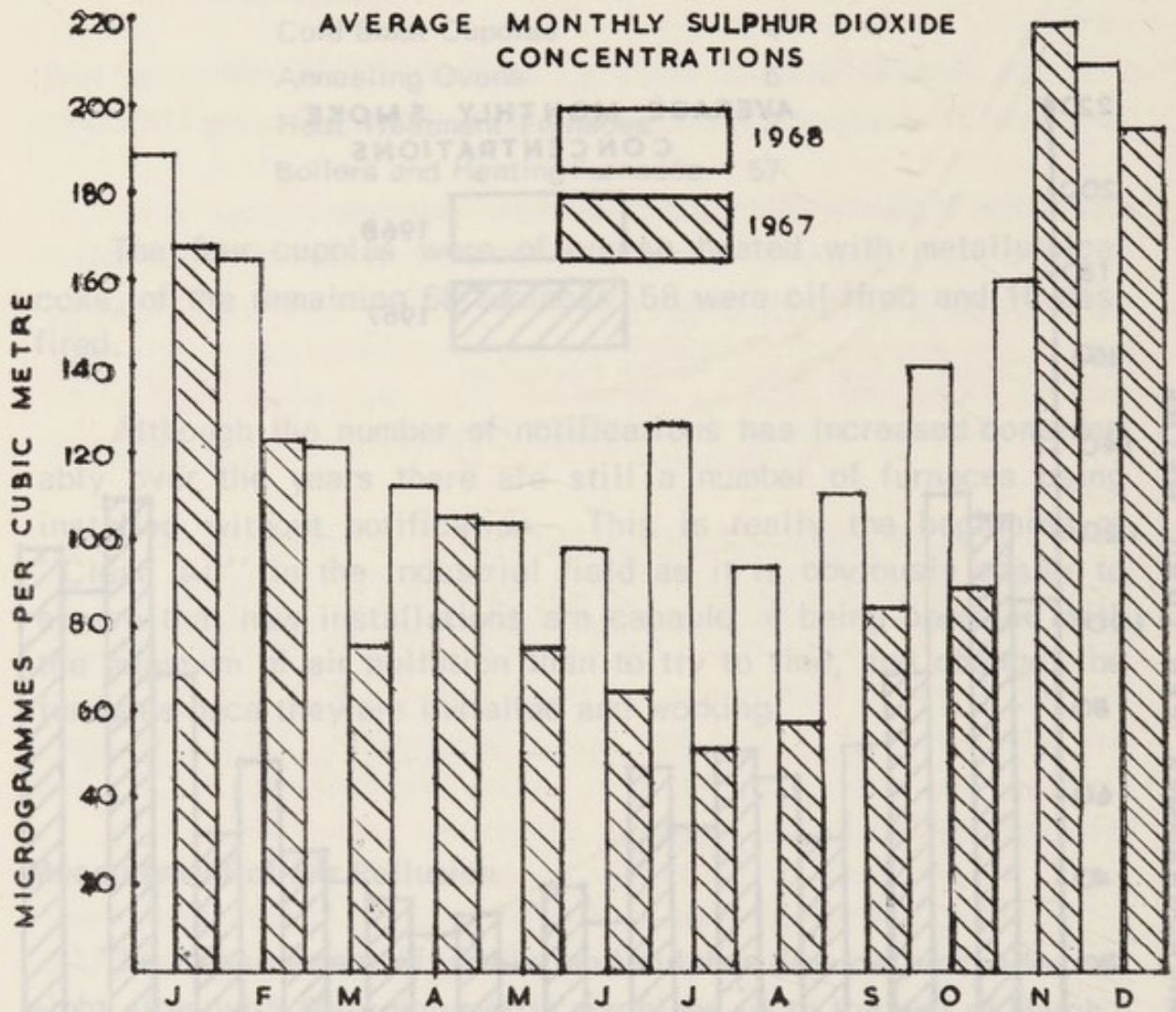
Although the number of notifications has increased considerably over the years there are still a number of furnaces being installed without notification. This is really the beginning of "Clean Air" in the industrial field as it is obviously easier to ensure that new installations are capable of being operated with the minimum of air pollution than to try to find, and change, the furnaces once they are installed and working.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide proceeded at eight sites with daily volumetric machines up to the end of March. From April, 1st., measurement continued on five sites only, one of which was new, Grove Vale Junior School, Great Barr. Measurement was discontinued at four of the old sites. At the same time opportunity was taken to change the machines at three sites from daily volumetric types of eight port instruments, thus reducing considerably the amount of time spent on visiting and recording measurements.

The average monthly pollution figures for the whole Borough are shown in the form of two block graphs, smoke concentrations and concentrations of sulphur dioxide, comparisons being made with the figures for 1967





Because of the reduction in the number of sites, and in one case the introduction of a new machine, the block graphs comparing the smoke and sulphur dioxide measured, with figures for 1967, are not a true comparison. It would be wrong, therefore, to take the apparent increase in sulphur dioxide as real on these readings alone. In any industrial area SO₂ tends to be high because of the higher combustion temperatures attained in furnaces and the large share of the industrial fuel market held by the high sulphur fuels. Again, the weather, wind and atmospheric conditions generally, all play their part, and our measurement in 1968 must therefore be looked at over a number of years when there is no doubt at all that both smoke and SO₂ have considerably decreased since 1958.

At the same time, this does not mean that we are complacent about SO₂ levels. On specific occasions odd readings have been higher than expected and every attempt has been made to try to find the cause or reason, but without success to date. Samples have been analysed at Warren Spring Laboratory on our behalf but the results did not disclose anything which would account for the increase in the levels. This is very much in our minds at the end of the year and we shall continue investigating the question until we are satisfied that the higher readings were due to meteorological conditions, other natural phenomena or, alternatively discover some source.

I am again indebted to those who gave their co-operation in making measuring sites available at the following premises:—

Greenside House, Yew Tree Estate.

Central Police Station.

Chest Clinic, Heath Lane.

Municipal Baths, Queens Road, Tipton.

Cemetery, Alexandra Road, Tipton.

Highfield Road School, Tipton.

Grove Vale Infant School, Great Barr.

Also to Messrs. Delta Die Castings Limited who make daily readings at their Greets Green Works on our behalf.

Noise

A total number of 62 complaints concerning noise were received and investigated during the year. This part of the Public Health Inspector's work is still increasing and in an age where machinery is continually becoming more powerful as well as becoming smaller in size the problems of industrial noise become more intense.

Every attempt is made to pick up any development on plans deposited with the Borough Engineer which may eventually lead to complaints regarding noise. The firms concerned are consulted to find out exactly what processes will be carried out. If it still appears that undue noise may be produced advice is given on resiting of machinery and the variations in methods of construction. The firms are left in no doubt that we are merely advising them but that if at a later date noise complaints arise they cannot say they were not warned. Nearly all firms are quite co-operative and we usually find that noise is a subject to which they had not previously given much thought. This work is time consuming with little to show for it and yet it is probably amongst the most important in this field.

Air Powered Tools and Compressors

Prior to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Order, Circular 69/68, an effort had been made to get a reduction in the amount of noise produced by the use of air powered tools and portable air compressors on construction and demolition sites. Little was being done by the contractors, with the exception of our own Public Works Department, to reduce noise from this source although means are readily available. It would appear from the comparatively few complaints received that the public have become accustomed to this noise and accept it as unavoidable.

The Borough Engineer agreed to insert a clause in the working conditions for corporation contracts making it an offence for any person to use, cause or permit to be used any pneumatic tool or portable compressor which is not equipped with effective means for reducing the noise emitted. At the same time the Institution of

Civil Engineers and the Royal Institute of British Architects were approached with a view to a relevant clause being introduced into their standard forms of contract when next they were reviewed. The results of these approaches were encouraging although in one case it was felt that some reference in the prepared bill of quantities or specifications sent out for tender purposes would be more appropriate.

In the meantime considerable difficulty was being experienced in making any progress with private contractors. The statutory undertakers were all circularised and one could regularly see evidence that their workmen were endeavouring to reduce noise by regular use of muffles, careful siting of compressors, closing of compressor sides, etc. Control over contractors can only be exercised through the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 and the Public Health Act, 1936; and towards this end 9 informal notices and 7 abatement notices, were served but with little apparent effect. Although 24 hours was specified on the abatement notices, invariably work had commenced on another site and a new abatement notice would be necessary to compel a firm to take action.

The present legal procedure for dealing with this type of noise nuisance is undoubtedly time wasting and ineffective and therefore the Corporation included the following clause in the West Bromwich Corporation Bill :—

1. No person shall use, cause or permit to be used any air powered tool or mobile air compressor unless it is equipped with effective means for reducing the noise emitted.

Provided that in any proceedings brought by virtue of this Section it shall be a defence to prove that the best practicable means had been employed to reduce the noise emitted.

2. Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £20 and a daily fine not exceeding £2.
3. In determining in any case whether the best practicable means have been employed, regard shall be had, amongst other things, to cost and local conditions and circumstances and to the current state of technical knowledge.
4. In this Section "best practicable means" includes the provision and maintenance of plant and the proper use thereof."

It is hoped that this clause will be accepted when the Bill is submitted to Parliament in 1969, as we shall then have at long last some real power to deal with one type of noise nuisance that is far too prevalent.

Refrigerators

A number of complaints have arisen from persons living in flats over shops in which are installed refrigerators. Once background noise has fallen in the evening the noise of the refrigerator unit does, particularly in buildings of modern construction, appear to be loud enough to effect many people. When it comes to measuring the noise at night we often find that the levels measured are border line when assessed in accordance with BS. 4142.

We have been in correspondence with the Institute of Refrigeration and the large manufacturers of refrigerators but little research has been done and one must rely on resilient mountings, flexible couplings and if needed sound insulation housing.

Blasting

In September complaints were received of noise and vibration from blasting operations on the adjacent motorway workings. On investigation it became apparent that the major worry of the complainants was the possible effect of the vibrations on the structure of their houses. They also feared injury to life and limb and to a lesser extent the nuisance caused. It was said that children hearing the blast cried and ran into their houses although no evidence of this was seen at the time an inspector was present.

Legally the Corporation would appear to be concerned with the existence of a statutory nuisance under the terms of the Noise Abatement Act, damage to property or personal injury sustained by reason of the blasting being civil law matters. On the other hand the Factories Act does give protection to workers engaged in the operation and protection to passers-by.

It is a defence under the Noise Abatement Act for a person engaged in a trade or business to establish that the best practicable means for the preventing, and/or counteracting the effect of the noise or vibration have been adopted.

It was learned that blasting was necessary to remove rock in a trench some 1200 feet long and 12 feet deep. At the time the complaints were received blasting had been carried out three or four times a day for about 5 days and was subsequently to continue for another nine days. It was carried out in the late mornings and early afternoons. The Factory Inspectorate were asked to ensure that the operations were being carried out in accordance with regulations available and in so doing to establish whether or not the best practical means for preventing nuisance were being adopted. Although the enquiries set out to establish whether or not the nuisance existed for which the best practicable means of defence would be available, the information gained enabled reassurance to be given on all the aspects raised by the complainants.

A firm of specialist explosive contractors had been employed and they had carried out vibrogram readings in order to establish the amount of ground movement resulting from the blast. In houses near to the site these readings had been well within the maximum agreed levels in this, and most foreign countries, to avoid the risk of damage to property. The air blast from the explosion was not apparent near to the houses and in the absence of evidence of flying debris the possibility of injury to persons had to be discounted.

Finally it was decided that the effect of the vibrations in terms of a nuisance were much reduced in view of their limited number and that in view of the manner in which the work was carried out, the best practicable means of defence would successfully have been used if a nuisance order had been sought.

The residents affected by this work acknowledged the use for the need of explosives but certain assurances were sought as previously outlined. Happily it was possible to give these and part of the work which necessitated the use of explosives on economic grounds has now been completed.

Court Proceedings

Proceedings were taken under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 in respect of the noise from metal cutting shears operated in conjunction with a rolling mill of longstanding in West Bromwich. A nuisance order was applied for because of the alleged nuisance being caused to local residents from the operation of the shears, but after hearing detailed evidence the Magistrates decided not to make a nuisance order in this case. The factor which primarily influenced this decision was the evidence given of BS.4142, the British Standard which sets criteria of accepted noise levels in various types of areas. The figures quoted in the standard are arguable depending on the interpretation of the type of area in which the machinery causing the noise is situated.

It is probable that interpretations on this standard are going to cause much difficulty in the future in any proceedings under the Noise Abatement Act as it would appear that now not only has nuisance to be proved but a particular area where nuisance may be expected has to be proved also.

Factories Act 1961

Factories, Factories (no mechanical power) and workrooms.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices	No. of Prosecutions
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L/A	31	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by L/A	854	301	60	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L/A (excluding out-workers premises)	15	2	—	—
TOTALS :	900	303	60	—

Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Referred by H.M.I.
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
San. Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	59	43	—	6
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	60	44	—	7

Inspections of factories to which Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1961 applies have been carried out as a routine function.

In general the sanitary accommodation provided for work people was reasonably good. The commonest fault was lack of cleanliness but in some factories where the work involved is itself of a dirty nature it is difficult to ensure that toilets are always shining and bright.

In one case only was it necessary because of lack of cleanliness and general defects, to threaten prosecution. This particular firm however made the effort and put the accommodation in order once they realised that we had every intention of enforcing the provisions of the Act and Regulations.

Outworkers

A total of 203 outworkers are employed within the Borough on carding of buttons etc.

Visits are made from time to time and generally conditions are satisfactory.

(e) GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Nuisances

Despite the extensive slum clearance work carried out in West Bromwich in recent years, there is still remaining a considerable number of properties that were constructed either at or before the turn of the present century, and although we are now thinking more in terms of preserving these properties where they are substantially constructed and can provide adequate and satisfactory housing if improvements are carried out, there is still the general problem of repair and maintenance needing constant attention.

Tenanted properties involve the District Inspection Section of the department with much work relating to nuisance defects such as leaking roofs, missing lengths of eaves guttering and downspouts, and odd areas of rising dampness, and a considerable proportion of the 3782 inspections made on complaints under the Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961, were in this respect.

Defective drainage and blockages also involve much time in investigation and repair work, but the employment of the Council's emergency service and the use of a private contractor for carrying out work in default and by agreement saves time and enables necessary repairs and emergencies to be dealt with quickly.

As a result of investigations and complaints, 215 houses had repair works carried out during the year and 435 premises had repairs to drainage.

Caravans

Caravan sites operating in the Borough are as follows :—

Private Sites	2
Number of Caravans	9
Council Sites	1
Number of Caravans	12

With the extensive amount of civil engineering work being carried out at the present time on the new motorway projects within

the Borough, the number of caravans used by building workers has increased, and at the end of the year there were some 36 caravans on sites adjoining building and civil engineering operations, but generally speaking these are well equipped, provided with all essential services and cause no concern.

Gypsies

In connection with the new requirements for the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, it was estimated that there are some 25 gypsies, tinkers and associated travellers caravans which come into the Borough from time to time throughout the year. The maximum number of caravans which is likely to be present at any one time is 15, although on occasions as many as 22 have been counted on one unauthorised site. It is likely that the total number of occupants from the 15 vans is in the region of 90, which poses problems when considering the question of sanitary accommodation if permanent sites are to be set up. Other difficulties which have to be faced on any permanent site include the number of animals which are kept by the travellers; these may be as many as 3 or 4 dogs per caravan in some instances and the trading habits of the caravan occupiers in the form of scrap metal dealing and tarmacadam work with the likelihood that scrap material will be brought on any site for burning off waste, unless the site is strictly controlled.

Authorities in the south of England who have had experience of setting up permanent sites for gypsy caravans have found that the best results are obtained when the sites are made as permanent as possible; including such facilities as hardstandings, sanitary accommodation, water supplies and electricity points for each van so that television sets can be used by the occupants. The latter would seem to be a very important factor and the one most influential in making younger travellers in particular settle down in one area.

The practice that was pursued during the year of moving on caravan dwellers where they had stopped on unauthorised sites and the number of visits involving the department-374 shows the amount of work involved in this perpetual exercise.

Places of Public Entertainment

There are within the Borough the following:—

- a) West Bromwich Albion Football Ground
- b) 13 Public Parks and Open Spaces
- c) Public Baths as follows:—
 - Gala Baths, West Bromwich (2 pools in the summer 1 in winter)
 - Wednesbury Baths, Walsall Street, Wednesbury (2 pools all year)
 - Tipton Baths, Queens Road, Tipton (1 pool all year)
- d) 4 Cinemas (2 in West Bromwich, 1 at Great Barr, 1 at Wednesbury).
- e) 1 Ballroom specifically used as such plus other public halls used regularly for dancing.
- f) 4 Bingo Halls (2 at West Bromwich, 1 at Stone Cross, 1 at Wednesbury).
- g) 5 Clubs (4 licensed) open for music dancing gaming etc., to members. (4 in West Bromwich, 1 at Wednesbury). (these do not include recreation clubs of various organisations in the Borough).
- h) 1 Club (exclusively for gaming in West Bromwich).

All the above was subject to inspection under the Food Hygiene Regulations and where applicable the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Summary of destruction of rats and mice 1968

	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties other than sewers		
1. No. of properties in district	64,470	15
2. (a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	2,141	Nil
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	1,878	—
(ii) Mice	263	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for Rats and/or Mice for reasons other than notification	113	Nil
(b) Number infested		
(i) Rats	104	—
(ii) Mice	9	—

Other Pests

A total of 452 treatments were carried out against various types of insects. A new insecticide 'Blattenex 20' was used and found to be extremely effective against crawling pests. This insecticide is miscible in water and thereby eliminates the fire risk associated with paraffin based insecticides. Whilst there has been a decline in the number of treatments made against bed bugs, there has been a considerable increase in the number of ant infestations. One severe infestation of bed bugs was experienced however during the year in a multi-storey block of flats on the Charlemont Farm Estate. Treatment involved insecticide being used in numerous flats on three floors and complaints were not finally resolved until the woodwork had been stripped from the walls in one particular flat and the source of the infestation removed.

Sewers

Some 1,700 covers have been lifted and treatment made, the whole of the Great Barr area has now been completed.

Contracts

There were some 150 firms under contract at the end of the year producing an estimated income of some £1,800 per annum. A considerable amount of work in this respect is done for other departments of the Corporation.

Whilst the usual poisons have been used to combat the rat, mainly Warfarin, Arsenious Oxide and Zinc Phosphide use has also been made of a new anti-coagulant named 'Drat'. This poison contains Chlorophacinone which has a greater stability than Warfarin and to date has produced some very good results.

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

The Poisons Rules, 1968, and the Poisons List Order, 1968, came into operation on the 8th February, making amendments and variations in Part 1 of the Poisons List and various amendments on the sale of various poisons and medicines.

The number of shopkeepers registered with the Council for the sale of items under Part 2 of the Poisons List numbered 67 at the end of the year.

Hairdressers and Barbers

The total number of premises within the Borough is 138. 93 of these premises are registered under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949, being within the boundaries of the old County Borough of West Bromwich prior to amalgamation.

Inspections were carried out during the year under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, and attention was also given to the hygienic operation and maintenance of equipment.

Pet Animals Act, 1951, The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, The Riding Establishments Act, 1964.

All premises licenced under the above legislation are inspected prior to the renewal of licences to ensure that there is adequate accommodation for the animals, satisfactory feeding arrangements, proper fire precautions and minimum risk of infections. The number of licences issued are as follows:—

Pet Animals	14
Boarding Establishments	2
Riding Establishments	1

Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act.

A total of 12 samples of filling material were taken from the one manufacturer of bedding in the district during the year and submitted for analysis. One sample of cotton felt was unsatisfactory and was followed up by representation to the manufacturer. A satisfactory explanation was received and subsequent samples were up to standard.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

22 samples were taken under the Act and submitted for analysis, comprising 11 samples of fertilisers and 11 samples of feeding stuffs.

Five unsatisfactory samples were reported; all of these were samples of feeding stuffs obtained from a local corn mill. They contained an excess of oil or protein. Whilst this is a technical offence under the Act, the purchaser was in fact receiving a better product than that declared by the analysis and the statement of analysis required by law which must accompany every sale was accordingly altered.

Water Supplies

Two farms within the Borough are still supplied with water other than from the mains and were subject to regular checks for purity during the year. Main supplies for the Borough are provided by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, and the City of Birmingham Water Department.

During the year, 12 chemical samples and 26 bacteriological samples were taken.

Typical Chemical Analyses

	South Staffordshire Waterworks supply	Birmingham Water Department supply
Appearance	Bright, few small particles.	Bright, few small particles.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.21	0
Chlorine in Chlorides	29.5	10.8
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.1	4.1
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	1.0	0.8
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	250	40
Nitrite Nitrogen	0	0
pH	7.95	6.6
Free Chlorine	0	0
Radioactivity:	—	—
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C.	391 micromhos/cm ³	58 micromhos/cm ³
Lead, Pb	0	0.05
Copper, Cu	0.1	0
Zinc, Zn	0	0.03
Iron, Fe	0.2	0.15

Houses Without Indoor Supplies

The total number of houses estimated to have no indoor water supply was 450 at 31st December, 1968. An outdoor water supply is an anachronism in modern day life and in conjunction with our programme of slum clearance and house improvement the replacement of outdoor supplies by proper supplies discharging over suitable sinks indoors is an urgent priority.

Swimming Pools

Besides the public baths, which are controlled by the Baths and Estates Committee, there are now 11 swimming pools situated at the following schools within the Borough:—

Millfields
Gorse Farm Junior
Shenstone Lodge
Harvilles Hawthorn
Joseph Edward Cox
Grove Vale Junior
Yew Tree Junior
Tipton Grammar
Churchfields
Fir Tree
Dartmouth

A total of 79 samples were taken from swimming pools for bacteriological analysis during the year, one being judged unsatisfactory. This was an improvement on the previous year when 58 samples were taken and 4 were found unsatisfactory and reflects the benefit of instruction given by the public health inspector carrying out sampling duties to caretakers and other school staff on the proper methods of chlorination and cleaning of school swimming pools. 12 samples were also taken from paddling pools in the parks of which 4 were unsatisfactory, this also being an improvement on the previous year due to improved chlorination measures being carried out by the Parks Department.

Sewage Disposal

All sewage disposal works in the Borough are the responsibility of the Upper Tame Drainage Authority. The works serving

the Borough are situated at Ray Hall, West Bromwich, Toll End, Tipton and Bescot, Walsall.

In addition, the Highways Department deals with 37 domestic cesspools, 14 industrial sludge pits and 5 abattoir settlement tanks on our behalf. A total of 28 highway surface water soakaway pits are also maintained.

Health Education

The major project in this field during the year was the publication of the Clean Air Handbook. Lectures and talks were also given on aspects of the department's work to schools and various bodies and voluntary organisations.

This part of the department's work is a considerable aid to public relations, generally making the public more aware of the work which the department does and what we can do on their behalf.

Water Courses

The Borough is traversed in every direction with various types of water courses either natural or man-made. There is a highly complex network of canals controlled by the British Waterways Board which eventually have outlet to the River Severn and are now relics of a past industrial age when they were in constant use for transference of materials from the many factories in the area. The main natural water course in the area is the River Tame which wanders from west to east, entering the Borough at Tipton and leaving at Hamstead on its course to the River Trent.

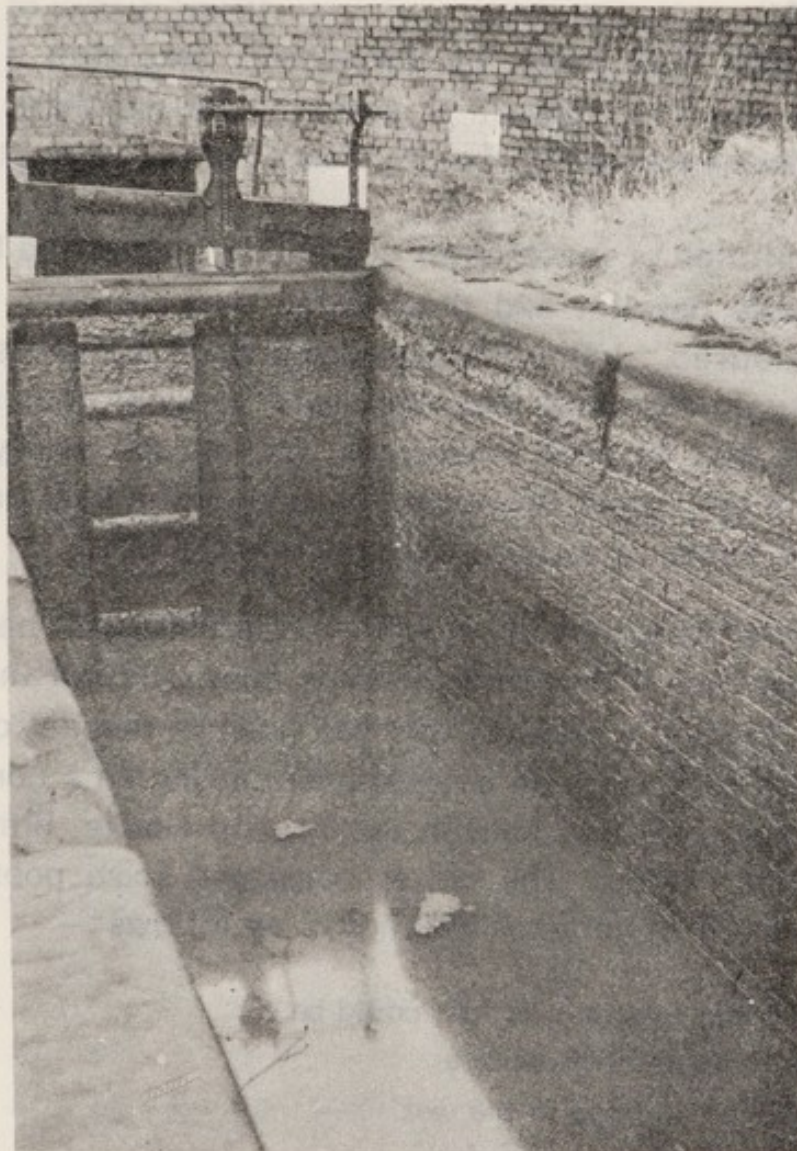
Due to the amount of industrial pollution over the centuries since the Industrial Revolution there is hardly any water course within the Borough which can be said to contain clean water. Pollution from sulphides causes the most severe nuisance due to the obnoxious odours which are given off, and 1968 was a year in which many substantial complaints were made because of such pollution.



A stagnant and long disused length of canal awaiting re-development in West Bromwich.

Due to roadwork construction in the Oldbury area, which disturbed a long standing chemical tip, the River Tame was polluted with sulphides to a high degree, throughout the winter of 1967 – 1968, and residents of the Denbigh Estate in Tipton particularly, suffered considerable nuisance being in close proximity to the Tame where it passes through Tipton. Considerable pressure was exerted by the Trent River Authority on the Ministry of Transport and the contractor operating on the link road site before the nuisance was finally resolved later in the year, and now that culverting measures have been completed in the Oldbury area, no further nuisance should be caused in this respect.

The Haines and Ridgeacre branch canals at Great Bridge and Black Lake also gave rise to nuisance, due to pollution from oil and sulphides. The Haines branch canal was the more serious as it passes through the middle of the commercial centre of Great Bridge and also runs close to residential properties.



Pollution of a canal at Tipton showing oil residue left in locks.

Pollution of this canal was caused by the discharge of cooling water by one chemical company into the canal system after it had been taken from an underground source where it had been polluted previously by effluent discharge from another company in the same area. This problem still existed at the end of the year but it is hoped that it will be resolved early in 1969 by discharging all effluents into disused mine shafts with the consent of the National Coal Board.

The Hobb Nail Brook in Wednesbury was also a source of complaints as it is subject to pollution by sulphides from time to time somewhere along its length, from a factory in West Bromwich.

The pollution of these water courses is intensified by the fact that the more derelict and discoloured they become, the further they are misused. Indiscriminate dumping of materials along the banks and into the water becomes more frequent causing ponding and silting up. In such conditions, rodents are easily attracted and many of the rodent treatments carried out by pest control staff were on the banks of water courses within the area.

The basic cause of the trouble is the industrial nature of the area through which the water courses pass, and an indication of how long-standing a problem this has been in respect of the River Tame can be obtained from a newspaper cutting on a conference on river pollution that was held in the Council House, Birmingham on October 28th, 1891. The writer composed some poetry for the occasion, the first verse of which was as follows:—

“The Tame was foul as foul could be
With sewage black as dye;
It ran with garbage in the wet
And stank when it was dry.
No fishes lay beneath its bank,
There were no fish to lie”.

It is highly unlikely even after 78 years and following many Acts on the prevention of river pollution, there are any fish today in the River Tame where it passes through the Borough of West Bromwich.

One feels that as far as the canals are concerned, where they are no longer used for any form of navigation, the only possible satisfactory solution is to close them and fill them in. Many of the lengths of canal pass through areas where the land would have commercial or industrial value, and therefore this is a pressing need for consideration in the future from the economic aspect, and more important to eliminate the present considerable nuisance and prejudice to public health.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

Wastepaper

The recovery of waste paper and cardboard containers received a severe set back from the fire in the baling depot at Black Lake. Damage to the building and plant was substantial but it proved possible to re-start the plant with a lesser volume than is normally processed. A decision to restore full operation was delayed by the consideration of other proposals for major changes in refuse disposal.

This misfortune can be measured by the decline of 1135 tons collected compared with 1967 when the total was 3168 tons.

Equally serious is the interruption in collection routines which will require a major effort to restore to former levels, though a better rate of recovery is required to offset rising costs in collection, transport, sorting and baling. Although there is a great deal of packaging and wrapping paper in circulation as well as daily newspapers the cost of collection and transport has risen very steeply since 1965, particularly in respect of road fund licences up 60.0% , petrol 30% and wages 20% whilst the price of waste paper has scarcely risen at all. To add to the difficulty there is marked reluctance on the part of many shop, store and warehouse managers to regard paper as anything other than rubbish and make little effort to contain it in sacks, boxes or otherwise. Collectors are frequently faced with heaps of sweepings and loose paper which are very uneconomical to deal with and compel the conclusion that this must be treated as trade refuse and a charge made for collection. This will not be welcomed by traders, large or small, but unless some positive assistance is given to accelerate and facilitate collection a free service cannot be justified.

At the same time the need for a better pay load in collecting vehicles is apparent and serious consideration of compression vehicles for paper collection is as logical as their use for the collection of mixed refuse. It is the growing proportion of paper in refuse which is depressing the overall density so when paper is

the sole content of a load density is further reduced and pay loads become very small. The only obstacle is the high cost of special vehicles.

Refuse Containers

There is a widespread appreciation that refuse containers should match the volume of refuse to be removed from any premises and a multiplicity of bins of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet capacity is uneconomic if their combined capacity approaches that of a cubic yard container. The gap between $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet domestic bin sizes in general use and $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yards in a bulk container is very wide. This is especially apparent in shopping centres where access for vehicles to lift bulk containers is insufficient. In some developments of older design it is necessary to bring refuse through shops. In such cases a larger bin, say about 4 cubic feet or 100 litres would meet a need and if moulded in plastic would still be no more than about 14lbs. of dead weight. Plastic containers also have a prime advantage in that they cannot be used as improvised incinerators for nothing so shortens the "life" of galvanised containers as this kind of misuse.

Refuse Disposal

The ultimate disposal of a growing weight and volume of refuse arising from domestic, commercial and industrial premises is a world-wide problem, it deeply concerns big cities and conurbations because of the sheer weight, volume and the heterogeneous nature of the mass. It concerns many undeveloped countries because decomposed refuse can be a valuable source of humus for soil improvement and land reclamation which many of them need to combat soil erosion, or improve fertility.

Although West Bromwich is by no stretch of imagination, a rural area, there is land which needs to be reclaimed or landscaped to remove or obliterate the scars left by mineral workings and industrial dereliction. There are also several miles of canals which are little better than stagnant pools and the land which they occupy could be put to better use and made less objectionable if they were drained and filled. For these and other reasons a decision regarding the pulverisation of refuse has been delayed in order to assess the merits of a new plant of advanced design to

pulverise and digest refuse. This would enable a refined product to be produced into which chemical fertilisers can be blended for sale to farmers, market gardeners and others. One positive result of this investigation is that outline planning permission for a pulverising plant of some kind to be erected on a site in the Council's ownership was obtained on 7th October, 1968.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

The following equipment has been provided to deal with the problems arising from our new responsibility under this legislation.

Wheeled earthmoving shovel Caterpillar 944. H.P. 100

Land Rover ex C.D. equipment with towing attachment.

Trailer with loading gear for abandoned cars and shells of cars.

10 Bulk refuse containers with low-loading access points,

8 cu. yds. each on various sites marked "put your refuse in here"

It is hoped that the containers will be used whenever householders have bulky items to discard, garden refuse or accumulation arising from delays with normal collections. There is a tendency however to dump refuse alongside the container and defeat the whole object of the exercise.

Abandoned cars collected (August to December 31st)	50
Unwanted cars delivered for disposal	3
Scrap metal value recovered from merchants	£123
Cars collected and undisposed of	4

Refuse Collection

The year opened with a number of worthwhile projects on hand, including the use of paper sacks instead of bins. There is extreme reluctance on the part of refuse collectors to accept the scheme though it has been recommended by the organisers of both unions involved. Agreement has, however, been reached for a "test piece" of about 750 premises using paper sacks as liners in plastic bins modified for the purpose. The equipment for this is available and will be put into use as soon as weather and other circumstances allow

Disposal Sites

A 50 acres site centrally situated is nearing completion so



An illustration of why the Civic Amenities Act 1967 is needed. An undeveloped corner of a housing estate in West Bromwich.

far as tipping is concerned. It already accommodates two schools and further educational use is planned for the near future. This site has accommodated an immense quantity of refuse of all kinds and its completion for schools and playing fields will add a valuable amenity in the midst of a large area of residential development.

A replacement site, unfortunately much less centrally situated, is being made available to the westward. This has high capacity but also contains water of unknown depth and is surrounded by residential development. Nevertheless, it needs to be reclaimed and landscaped. The availability of pulverised refuse would of course make this operation much easier in so far as problems from wind blown dust and paper are concerned, to say nothing of easier compaction and control of the site in general. It is possible that pulverised refuse will be available before the site is completely reclaimed.

Tipping at the Sheepwash Lane site has been restricted to industrial and certain commercial waste on account of flooding. A scheme for pumping to the foul sewer was approved early in the year, this again has not come to fruition for lack of essential equipment. Despite the severity of the handicap tipping has continued without undue complaint but a generous word of appreciation is due to the plant operator and workmen on the site for their achievements during a difficult year. We look forward to being able to restore proper control as soon as the excess water is removed though to some degree flooding is inseparable from tipping in a clay quarry.

Vehicles & Equipment

In addition to the plant referred to which has been acquired for the purpose of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the following are in regular use within the Cleansing Section.

Mobile Plant

- 1 – 977K Caterpillar
- 1 – 955H Caterpillar
- 1 – Wheatherill 12H Loading Shovel

Static Plant

- 1 – Caravan /Mess Hut
- 1 – Brick Crusher
- 1 – Lister Tug
- 1 – Shirtliff Paper Press
- 1 – Morimil Helmond Heavy Duty metal press

Other Vehicles of the Cleansing Section

- 8 – 50 cu. yd. Pakamatics
- 4 – 35 cu. yd. Pakamatics
- 11 – 18/20 Fore and Aft Tippers
- 1 – 7 cu. yd. Side Loader
- 4 – 18/20 Fore and Aft Tippers with bulk loading attachment
- 1 – 3 ton. open truck
- 1 – 7 ton open truck
- 3 – Dempster Dumpsters on Bedford chassis
- 1 – Dempster Dumpster on B.M.C. chassis
- 7 – 20/40 cwt. Salvage Vans

Vehicles of the Cleansing Section—Continued

- 3 — 5 cwt. Vans — for Cleansing Inspectors
- 1 — Ford Transit Van - for Public Conveniences
- 19 — Salvage Trailers

Public Conveniences

	Accommodation Provided	
	Male	Female
Library, High Street, West Bromwich	3 w. cs.	— w.cs.
Dartmouth Square	3	5
All Saints	3	4
Hill Top	3	4
Stone Cross	3	4
Carters Green	4	6
Birmingham Road	4	6
Gregory Street	2	4
Lower High Street, Wednesbury.	4	4
Shambles, Wednesbury.	3	3
Great Bridge, Tipton	3	2
Victoria Park	3	3
Coronation Gardens	2	3
Cemetery	2	3
Doughty Arms	1	—
Princes End	—	1

Recruitment of Labour

Labour turnover out of 177 men employed on 1st January 1968, 167 were still employed on 31st December, 1968.

Nine men were taken on and left during the year.

AGE GROUPS	
18—21	5
22—30	38
31—40	34
41—50	44
51—60	38
61—65	11
66 +	3
	<hr/>
	173
	<hr/> <hr/>

MONTHLY STATISTICS OF TIME LOST DUE TO SICKNESS, ACCIDENTS, CASUAL ABSENCE - 1968

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
(a) Sick/Accident	325	402	324	265	248	143	215	261	299	347	352	244
(b) Casual Absence	56	78	48	63	30	50	85	45	51	47	65	47
Average Strength	177	174	174	175	174	174	174	173	172	173	174	173
No. of working days in month	24	21	21	22	23	19	23	22	20	23	21	18
Possible No. of man days	4248	3654	3654	3850	4002	3306	3979	3784	3460	4002	3654	3114
% loss sick	13.54	19.14	15.42	12.04	10.78	7.52	9.34	11.86	14.95	15.08	16.76	13.55
% loss casual	2.33	3.71	2.28	2.86	1.30	2.63	3.69	2.04	2.55	2.04	3.09	2.61
% Total loss	15.87	22.85	17.71	14.90	12.08	10.15	13.04	13.90	17.50	17.12	19.85	16.16

Average monthly loss %	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Sick	7.26	8.96	9.81	5.44	7.65
Casual	3.39	3.54	4.46	1.93	1.47

House Refuse Collection and Disposal – Operational Statistics

Area	11,704 acres
Population	172,350
Total No. of premises from which refuse was collected	52,700
Weight per 100 population per day	16 cwts app. (est.)
Total tonnage collected	46,000
Premises from which collections were made at least once per week	100%
Average haul single journey to final disposal point	2.5 miles
Total refuse disposed of (Est.)	145,000 tons
Method of disposal - controlled tipping	

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	£	s	d
Waste paper (various grades)	2033	6	1	18007	5	8
Baled Ferrous Scrap	259	3	3	1337	18	2
Steel Scrap		6	2	26	0	0
Cardboard Boxes				19	16	8
Rags		4	0	2	8	0
TOTALS :	2293	0	2	19393	8	6

The total salvage collected and income received from 1958 to 1968 was as under:—

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs	£	s	d
1958	1224	5	3	22	10455	19	10
1959	1423	15	2	2	11638	14	5
1960	1621	18	1	8	13680	0	10
1961	1501	12	3	3	12958	13	8
1962	1414	11	2	5	11538	11	8
1963	1171	2	3	—	9581	16	10
1964	1616	8	3	19	13480	12	10
1965	2092	8	—	3	19178	5	4
1966	3012	17	2	—	27722	7	4
1967	3168	3	—	—	27459	18	6
1968	2293	—	2	—	19393	8	6
	20540	4	3	6	177088	9	9

Public Cleansing Costings

The national figures for cleansing costs published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1968 reveal the following information.

	1958/ 59	1959/ 60	1960/ 61	1961/ 62	1962/ 63	1963/ 64	1964/ 65	1965/ 66
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Average cost per 1000 premises in County Boroughs for refuse collection and disposal	2,193	2,209	2,352	2,569	2,740	2,871	2,960	3,289
Average cost per 1000 premises in County Boroughs with population 50-100,000 for refuse collection and disposal	2,140	2,174	2,281	2,485	2,660	2,806	2,908	2,968
Average cost per 1000 premises for West Bromwich for refuse collection and disposal	2,138	2,176	2,166	2,456	2,435	2,616	2,619	2,648



