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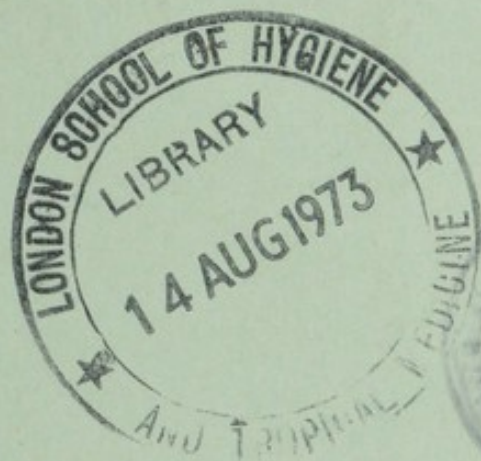
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COUNTY BOROUGH
OF WEST BROMWICH



III



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

1970



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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 1970

(as at 31st December)

HEALTH AND HYGIENE COMMITTEE

Chairman :	Councillor E. Clarke
Deputy Chairman :	Councillor F. Westwood
Alderman Mrs. M. M. Owen	Councillor G. H. Collett
Councillor R. J. Ashby	Councillor F. Westwood
Councillor F. H. Bird	Councillor J. A. Dicken
Councillor S. Bridgewood	Councillor Mrs. B. U. Jones
Councillor B. S. Burton	

Co-opted Members

Dr. D. Saklatvala
Dr. W. J. Walkden
Mr. J. O. Robins

WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman :	Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover, J.P.
Deputy Chairman :	Councillor E. Clarke
Alderman Mrs. M. M. Owen	Councillor L. A. Gibson
Councillor B. S. Burton	Councillor B. U. Jones
Councillor J. Churchman, J.P.	Councillor W. H. Pester
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Farmer	Councillor Mrs. M. Smith
Councillor R. J. Ashby	Councillor J. I. Steventon

Co-opted Members

Mrs. Q. A. Hawkins
Mr. J. W. Hubbard
Mrs. M. Evitts
Mrs. J. Saklatvala
Mr. J. Evans
Dr. J. F. Milligan

PRINCIPAL STAFF

(as at 31st December, 1970)

HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Director of Welfare Services	H. O. M. Bryant, O.B.E. 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.
Senior Medical Officers of Health	Esther T. Riley, M.B., Ch.B. J.C. Vaccaro, M.B., B.S., 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., Q.N., 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	Constance M. Edge, M.C.H.S., S.R.C.H.
Home Help Organiser	Mrs. J. Mary Day, M.I.H.H.O.
Ambulance Superintendent	L. Jasper

OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS

(as at 31st December, 1970)

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.
Manager : Mr. W.B. Reynolds

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 Elderly

“Beech Holme”
53, Beeches Road,
West Bromwich.

Superintendent & Matron
Mr. & Mrs. A.K. Watson

“The Hawthorns”
Green Lane,
Great Barr,
Birmingham, 22a.

Matron :
Mrs. L. Jenkins

“Lyndon House”
Scott Street,
West Bromwich.

Superintendent & Matron :
Mr. & Mrs. E. Smith

“Greenside House”
Greenside Way,
Yew Tree Estate,
Walsall.

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

66, Clarkes Lane,
West Bromwich

Matron :
Mrs. E. Pawlett.

“The Willows”
34, Bridge Street,
West Bromwich.

Matron :
Mrs. D. Mason.

“Bromford House”
Moor Street,
West Bromwich.

Superintendent & Matron :
Mr. & Mrs. J.J. McHattie

“Kelvedon”
Wood Green Road,
Wednesbury.

Matron :
Miss. M. Owen.

“Silver Trees”
Birch Street,
Tipton.

Matron :
Miss. M. Watson.

“Glebefields House”
Strathmore Road,
Tipton.

Superintendent & Matron :
Mr. & Mrs. J. Thrall

“John Dando House”
Hamstead Road,
Great Barr
Birmingham, 22a.

Superintendent & Matron :
Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Ward

Social Centres

Walsall Street,
West Bromwich.

*Warden — Mr. F. Heath,
Senior Craft Instructor :
Mrs. D.J. Nuttall

Town Hall,
Wednesbury.

Hateley Heath
Wiltshire Way,
West Bromwich.

Dartmouth Park
Lloyd Street,
West Bromwich.

Brook Street,
Tipton.

Field Centres

Craft Instructor :
Mrs. H. M. Howl

Caretaker :
Mrs. B. Wood
17, Kesteven Road,
West Bromwich.

*Mr. F. Heath

Occupational Therapist :
Mrs. J. Holmes

Wood Street, Tipton.
20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.
20, Heath Lane, West Bromwich.

FOREWORD

This report covers the work of the Health and Welfare Services during 1969, gives information on the vital statistics for that year and includes also a section on environmental health prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector (which is published by him also as his annual report.

The year has been one of "change in the offing". The Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970 became law and therefore the Welfare Services together with the mental health service, the home help service, matters connected with the minding of children and with day nurseries and the unmarried mother were due to be transferred to the new Social Services Department in 1971.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The preliminary results of the 1971 census appeared in the Press as this report was in the process of printing. These give a preliminary population figure of 166,626 compared with the mid-year estimate for 1970 of 173,010.

Although this is a preliminary figure it suggests a fall in population may be occurring.

Births

Both the national and the local birth-rate have fallen from the rates that were published in 1959. The local birth-rate is the lowest for 10 years. The percentage of illegitimate births at 7.6% of the total births shows a rise over the 1969 figures in conformity with the current national trend.

Deaths

The perinatal mortality (which takes into account both still births and deaths of infants during the first month after birth) is substantially the same as the figure for 1969 and is well above the national average. This loss of infant life is a matter for concern. In 1970 illegitimate babies had a higher death rate in West Bromwich in the first month than did legitimate ones and the difference in rates in 1970 was greater than that pertaining in 1969. A difference also occurs between the rates of

death in the first year of life among infants of persons of coloured immigrant stock and those of indigenous stock. The root causes of these phenomena are as much social as medical but serve to illustrate that there continues to be a need for services designed to assist mothers in pregnancy, preparation for child birth and in the care of infants. It is clear that these services should be particularly directed towards those groups where there appears to be a higher mortality. The predominant causes of death are given as premature birth and congenital abnormalities, but bronchitis and pneumonia accounted for 11 out of the 61 babies who died in the first year of life.

The death rate for the whole population fell in 1970 in comparison with 1969 but after correction to allow for the difference in age and sex of the local population from that pertaining as the national average the death rate in 1970 still remains substantially in excess of the national average (14.4 in West Bromwich and 11.7 nationally). Although there has been some improvement in the figures of deaths from chronic bronchitis this is the one cause which seems to be considerably more common locally than nationally. Improvement is not likely to be immediate as any improvement in the environment will not be likely to have a marked effect on the death rate for many years. Apart from these differences West Bromwich appears to follow the national trend with lung cancer now accounting for just under one third of all deaths from cancer.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Child Health Clinics remain popular with no marked changes in the number of attendances although the birth rate had fallen. Family planning was available at clinics (through the agency of the Family Planning Association) and there was a rise in the number of new patients (from 824 in 1969 to 903 in 1970). No domiciliary service was available in 1970.

Midwifery

Although there was a fall in the birth-rate and the total number of home confinements fell, the percentage of women delivered at home rose from 24% to 28%. In brief therefore the domiciliary sector was taking a higher proportion of a lower number of births. All patients who desire hospital admission are not yet able to be admitted to hospital and the number of early discharges from hospital is maintained

at a high level, with discharge on the fifth or sixth day common. The most disturbing factor in regard to midwifery services is the number of women who have their baby at home and are in groups that are recognised to present more frequent difficulty in confinement than the average. These are women having their first baby when over 30 years of age, having a baby when aged over 40, and having their fourth or subsequent baby. A total of 93 of this group were confined at home. It is in fact the women having their fourth or subsequent babies who account for most of this total (89). This is no doubt related to the family problems of care of the remainder of the children which prevent many of these women from going into hospital. Nevertheless among this group of women there is a higher chance of complications occurring during confinement and ideally these should be confined in hospital.

Health Visiting

The outstanding problem in the Health Visiting service is the shortage of staff. At the end of the year there were 18 health visitors out of an establishment of 29. This does not however represent the sole extent of the shortage for the establishment itself is below a figure which would now be recommended as a norm and the service is probably operating nearer one third than one half of the desirable strength. It is the health visitor who is responsible for advice on the management of young families and visiting at home and it is of concern therefore that an area which has a high perinatal mortality rate and a substantial number of immigrants should be understaffed and having difficulty in recruiting those nurses who have a particular responsibility to provide advice in the home on the care of the child and the care of the mother during pregnancy.

Health Visitors are now attached to general practitioners but there are very few and only one student was recruited in 1970. I am sure that this shortage has a part to play in causing West Bromwich to compare unfavourably with the national average in regard to the deaths of infants and the immunisation rates. Health visitors of course receive a nationally negotiated salary scale that is identical whether or not the area in which they practice is well staffed or attractive to recruit staff. It is I fear the familiar story that when there is a national shortage in any group of professional officers there is an acute shortage in the industrial areas where they are most needed.

Home Nursing

A full establishment of home nurses was maintained but there is a need for additional ancillary help in the home nursing service. At the end of the year plans were complete for the attachment of home nurses to general practitioners. All but two of the 24 nurses in post had received training in district work. With the increase in the number of elderly, the increasing tendency of hospitals to discharge patients early after treatment and attachment to general practitioners an increase in the home nursing service is likely to occur and this needs to be largely in state enrolled nurses and auxiliaries.

Vaccination and Immunisation

The figures are disappointing. It is notable that procedures offered to school children (e.g. B.C.G., and Rubella vaccination) show high acceptance rates. Those given at doctors surgeries or at clinics show low rates and are below national averages. This may also be a reflection of the shortage of health visitors and the fact that they are not so frequently in contact with parents in their own homes and so able to advise constantly on the necessity for immunising procedures. It does not appear to be a refusal of immunisation so much as a chronic failure to come for it. The introduction of computerised records, which might provide a more efficient reminder system, is planned for 1972.

Ambulance Service

There was a slight rise in 1970 in the number of patients carried but this was not reflected in an increase of mileage. A revised programme of replacement of the fleet was introduced which resulted in two new vehicles in 1970 and three more due in 1971. This process combined with the provision of equipment to a new standard as recommended by a national committee should bring the service to a particularly high standard of vehicles and equipment. A Management Service investigation was in progress during the latter part of the year on the question of restructuring of the service and the introduction of an efficiency bonus. This had not however completed its investigation at the end of the year.

Care and After-Care

The Chiropody service achieved a modest increase in the number of treatments given. The main problem is that there was during 1970, and still continues, an insufficient number of chiropodists to treat the cases coming forward. The cases coming forward do not, of course,

reflect the total need for chiropody and I am sure that there is an undiscovered need for chiropody amongst the elderly. Even if this was found, currently it would be not possible to treat these patients.

The cervical cytology service is small and the number of women coming forward for these tests has fallen off considerably compared with the number in 1969. The age group from 35 years upwards is the group of greatest incidence of cervical cancer and also the age group in which the presence of abnormal cells found on a cervical smear is most likely to be a precursor of later cancer. Like so many diseases there is a socio-economic gradient in regard to cancer of the cervix, the disease being commonest in the socio-economic groups IV and V. It is usually these groups of women who are less likely to come for tests.

Home Help Service

The home help service is due to be transferred to the new department of Social Services in 1971.

It is a small but efficient service and apart from the fact of the small size in relation to the demand it has presented no great problems during the year.

Care of the Mentally Handicapped

The Senior Training Centre is inadequate and a start on a new Centre is due in 1971. This is an essential precursor to the development of residential accommodation for the mentally handicapped.

It is clear that there will be a considerable need for such residential accommodation but until a Centre at which they can be employed and trained can be provided there would be obvious difficulties in providing accommodation.

This service is due to be transferred to the new Department of Social Services.

The Junior Training Centre — an effective and new unit — is due for transfer to the Education Service on the 1st April, 1971, thus at last ending the peculiar anomaly that existed in that that the most severely mentally handicapped children were legally excluded from the education system. This move permits greater flexibility in matching educational establishments to the need of the individually handicapped child.

Infectious Diseases

It is regrettable to note that 947 cases of measles occurred in 1970. An effective vaccine exists (although during parts of 1970 national supplies were short) and this disease, provided parents will have their children immunised, should diminish in both numbers of cases and severity.

Dr. Cole the Consultant Physician at Heath Lane Hospital has again contributed a valuable report on tuberculosis and I would like to thank him for his unfailing help and advice during the year.

A section on venereal disease is included but this does not necessarily represent the total incidence of these complaints. Venereal diseases are not notifiable diseases and the figures given refer to cases attending clinics who the clinics think come from the addresses given live within West Bromwich.

The rise in gonorrhoea in young women is the outstanding phenomenon in this field and would appear to be an inevitable concomitant of changing social customs. A scheme was on foot to introduce a system of contact tracers in 1971. This scheme took some time to organise as in a conurbation there is naturally considerable movement of patients and it was essential to have clinic based contact tracers which in turn evolved a partnership arrangement between the hospitals and the various local authorities.

Health Education

There is no health education section in the Health Department. Obviously health visitors in the course of their work (and indeed other departmental staff) undertake a certain amount of "face to face" health education but apart from this little is done.

WELFARE SERVICES

The information on these services is provided by the Department of Social Services since they were transferred to that Department on the

1st January, 1971 complete with the staff and records. This major change meant that 1970 and particularly during the later months were times for the preparation for the change rather than of expansion. It is pleasant to recall that not only was the change relatively smooth in West Bromwich but harmonious relationships seem generally to have been established at all levels with the new department and I would like to wish the Director of Social Services and his staff well in the future.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. S. Cayton, the Chief Public Health Inspector, has produced an annual report and this is reproduced as the section of my report on environmental health.

This discusses at length the various problems in this sector of public health activity and the services provided to meet them.

I think comment of mine is superfluous but would like to thank Mr. Cayton and his staff for their help and assistance during the year.

THE FUTURE

The services described experienced local government reorganisation in 1966, the creation of the Social Services Department in 1970 and now face local government reorganisation in 1974 and reorganisation of the National Health Service which is currently timed for the same date. It is to be hoped that the National Health Service will be revised at the same time as local government. The prospect of the revision of local government involving completely new boundaries and the combination of existing boroughs to be followed at a date shortly after by a revision of the National Health Service involving the transfer of certain health services from local government to new health authorities is too complex to contemplate with anything but apprehension and therefore it is to be hoped that the reorganisation will take place on the same date.

These changes unsettle staff even those who obviously are likely to be least affected and they cast doubts on the future of individuals and absorb energy that might well be devoted to services.

Therefore a period of unsettlement seems to be inevitable until at least 1974.

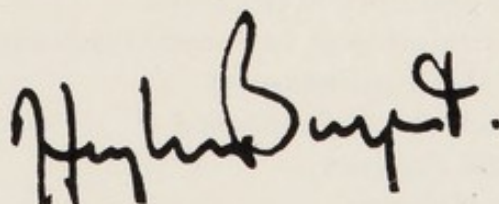
No matter what the reorganisation the basic needs will not change quickly. The future administrative pattern will face a town with a high loss of infant life, a higher death rate from bronchitis, a greater pollution of the atmosphere, a lower proportion of immunised children, a larger problem of meat inspection and a substantial number of persons from overseas than many other towns in the country. It will do so inevitably with a chronic difficulty in recruitment of certain professional staff who are nationally few in number compared with the demand for their services.

Therefore between 1971 and 1974 it is necessary to maintain and improve the services that are most vital and not to wait and indeed expect miracles to occur following changes in the higher organisation of the service.

It is to be hoped that there will be truth in the adage "Nothing succeeds like a successor".

Conclusion

I must thank the many people who have assisted me during the year and with this report, and especially the staff of the Health Department, Chief Officers (and their staff) of the other Corporation Departments, my colleagues in the other branches of the Health Service in the town and in the Hospital service and the Health and Hygiene Committee.



HUGH BRYANT,

August, 1971.

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I

Statistical Information	17-27
Summary of Statistics	17-18
Vital Statistics	19-27
Population	19
Births	19
Stillbirths	20
Deaths	20-27
Deaths from Cancer	21
Deaths from Disease of Respiratory System	22
Infant Mortality	21-25
Deaths under Four Weeks of Age	25
Perinatal Mortality	25
Maternal Mortality	26
Morbidity	25
Suicide	26
Road Accidents	26
Home Accidents	27

PART II

Local Health Services	29-36
Care of Mothers and Young Children	29-33
Ante-Natal Clinics	29-30
Infant Welfare Centres	31-32
Food and Medicaments	32-33
Dental Services	34-35
Babies Born with Congenital Defects	36
Care of Unmarried Mothers	36-37
Family Planning	38-39
Ultra Violet Light Clinic	39
Day Nurseries, Child Minders and Playgrounds	36
Midwifery	40-44
General Arrangements	40
Distribution of Confinements	42
Midwives Statutory Notifications	40
Midwives Attachment to General Practitioners	41
Work of Municipal Midwives	42
Early Discharges from Hospital	44
Ante-Natal Facilities	41
Teaching Midwives	42
Maternal Mortality	18-26
Analgesia	42
Post-Graduate Courses	43
Cases of Potential Difficulty	43
Health Visiting	45-48
General Arrangements	45

Home Visits	48
Diabetic Clinic	46
Liaison with other Agencies	45-46
Attachment to General Practitioners	45
Home Nursing	49-50
General Arrangements	49
Cases Nursed	50
Training of District Nurses	49
Vaccination and Immunisation	51-54
Vaccination against Smallpox	51
Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus	52
Vaccination against Poliomyelitis & Measles	52
B.C.G. Vaccination	54
Ambulance Service	55-57
General Arrangements	55
Ambulances	56
Work Done	56
Major Accidents	57
Care and After Care	58-59
Convalescence	58
Loan Equipment	58-59
Incontinence Pad Service	59
Chiropody Service	60-61
Home Help Service	60
General Arrangements	60
Persons Helped	60
Night Attendance Service	61
Cervical Cytology	62
Mental Health Training Centres	63-67

PART III

Infectious Diseases	69-77
Incidence	69
Deaths from Infectious Diseases	70
Dysentery and Gastroenteritis	70
Measles	71
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	71
Pneumonia	71
Poliomyelitis	71
Scarlet Fever	71
Whooping Cough	71
Smallpox	71
Infective Jaundice	71
Tuberculosis	72-76
Venereal Disease	77

PART IV

Additional Information	79-84
Health Education	79
Rehousing on Medical Grounds	79-80
Medical Examinations	81-82
Childrens Department	81
Corporation Staff	82
Home Safety	80
Co-ordination of Services Dealing with child Neglect	83
Cost of Services	84
Fluoridation of Water Supplies	84

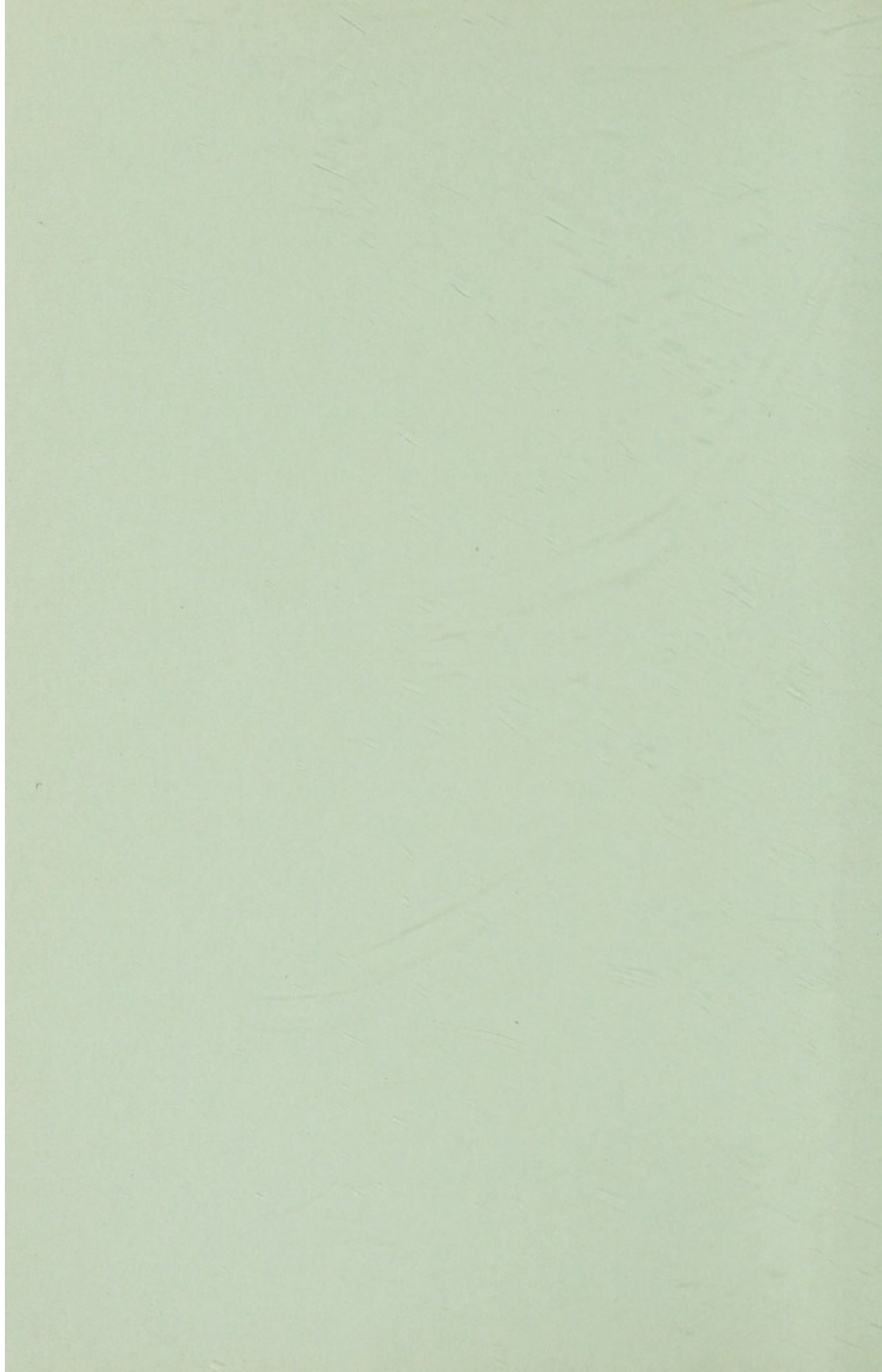
PART V

Welfare Services	85-102
General Arrangements	85
Care of the Aged	85-86
Residential Accommodation	86-89
Finance	90
Staffing	90
Voluntary Organisations	90
Meals on Wheels	91
Lunch Club	91
Sons of Rest	91
Care of the Blind	92-96
Welfare of the Deaf & Dumb	96
Physically Handicapped	97-102
Craft Classes	100
Transport	101
Mental Health Services	102-108

PART VI

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PART 1
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
Vital Statistics



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1970

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 (105.77 – 173.43 metres)
Geological formation :	Consisting chiefly of shales, red sandstones and magnesium limestone. Coal seams are prevalent in certain areas.
Rainfall (inches) :	31.55
Area in acres (land and inland water)	11,704
Population per acre :	14.7

New houses constructed, including flats 1970 :—

Local Authority	437
Private Enterprise	<u>359</u>
	<u>796</u>

Estimated number of houses in the Borough as at 1st April, 1970 :	54,109
Rateable value as at the 1st April, 1970 :	£8,195,035
Rate at 1d in the £ estimated to produce at 1st April, 1970 :	£33,800

Vital Statistics

Population (estimated civilian population mid 1970)	173,010
(Sample Census 1966)	170,370
Census 1971 (preliminary)	166,626
Live Births :	
Males	1,409
Females	1,379
	2,788
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population)	16.1
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population) corrected	15.1
Comparability Factor (Births)	0.94
Ratio of Local Adjusted Birth Rate & National Rate :	0.95

Illegitimate Live Births :	212
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births :	7.6
Stillbirths :	44
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths) :	15.5
Total Live and Stillbirths	2832
Infant Deaths	61
Infant mortality rate (Per 1,000 Live Births) :	22.0
Legitimate infant mortality rate (Per 1,000 Legitimate Births) :	20.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate (Per 1,000 Illegitimate Births) :	42.0
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 Live Births)	15.0
Early neo-natal rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 Live Babies)	11.4
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths)	26.8
Maternal deaths (including abortion) :	2
Maternal mortality rate (including abortion per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) :	0.71
Deaths :	Males 967
	Females 813
	1780
Death Rate (Per 1,000 Population) :	10.3
Death Rate (corrected 1.40) :	14.4
Ratio of Local Adjusted Death Rate to National Rate :	1.23
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate (Per 1,000 Population) :	0.05
Cancer Death Rate (Per 1,000 Population) :	2.2

England and Wales

Birth Rate :	16.0
Death Rate :	11.7
Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 total Births) :	13.0
Infant Mortality Rate :	18.0

Name and Address of Medical Officer of Health :

H.O.M. Bryant, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Health Department, West Bromwich.

Telephone : 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)	1961	96,041 (Census)
1952	87,640	1962	97,050
1953	87,960	1963	97,710
1954	88,650	1964	97,600
1955	89,640	1965	98,040
1956	90,720	1966	171,760
1957	93,380	1966	(Sample Census 170,370)
1958	93,380	1967	172,650
1959	93,590	1968	172,350
1960	93,780	1969	171,850
		1970	173,010
		1971	166,626 (Census preliminary figure)

On 1st April 1966, the Borough boundaries were enlarged by the WEST MIDLANDS ORDER, 1965.

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 2,788 live births during the year to residents of West Bromwich, giving a birth rate of 16.1 per 1,000 population, and the number of births, and the birth rates for the last 10 years are shown in the following table. Of the total of 367 births (included in the above) to coloured persons, 354 occurred in hospital and 13 at home.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population
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
1969	2,969	17.3
1970	2,788	16.1

The Birth Rate in 1970 showed a fall from 1969.

There were 1409 boys and 1379 girls born in 1970 and of these 212 were illegitimate births, giving an illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births of 76 compared with 72 in 1969.

Stillbirths

The total number of stillbirths to West Bromwich residents was 44 giving a stillbirth rate of 15.5 per 1,000 live and still-births, which is a lower rate than for 1969. The rate for England and Wales is 13.00.

Deaths

There were 1,780 deaths of West Bromwich residents (967 males and 813 females) during the year, 1,123 of which occurred in persons aged 65 years and over. This gives a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 10.3. 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 14.4 compared with 15.7 for 1969.

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 14.4 compares very unfavourably with England and Wales at 11.7.

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

Summary of the Principal causes of death for years
1961/1970.

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Cancer	209	154	194	190	169	306	347	393	379	383
Heart Disease	222	282	231	259	298	574	568	527	570	520
Pneumonia	56	73	74	98	77	125	104	117	157	143
Bronchitis & Other respiratory diseases:	116	82	105	88	81	197	170	158	227	176
Vascular lesions	119	108	130	138	111	244	224	235	244	210
Tuberculosis:										
Pulmonary	11	11	7	7	6	21	20	8	6	10
Non- Pulmonary	—	1	—	1	1		1	3	6	—

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.

	No. of Deaths During		Rate per cent of total cancer deaths	
	1969	1970	1969	1970
Stomach	61	51	16.1	13.4
Lungs & Bronchus	104	119	27.4	31.1
Breast	29	44	7.7	11.4
Uterus	11	3	2.9	0.7
Others	174	166	45.9	43.4
	379	383	100.0	100.0

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung causes concern. Cancer of the breast in women shows an 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
1964	0.57
1965	0.43
1966	0.50
1967	0.59
1968	0.59
1969	0.60
1970	0.68

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 10 giving a pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.05 per 1,000 population which compares with 0.03 for 1969.

	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	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	4	1	8	6
1 — 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
5 — 14 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
15 — 24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 34 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
35 — 44 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	3	2
45 — 54 years	1	1	1	1	9	2	8	1	—	—	19	5
55 — 64 years	—	1	3	1	17	8	22	1	7	4	49	15
65 — 74 years	5	—	1	3	16	16	40	15	3	4	65	38
75 years & over	—	—	3	2	22	41	27	27	1	5	53	75
Totals	7	3	8	7	69	74	99	44	17	16	200	144

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 :—

	England & Wales	West Bromwich
Cancer of the Lung	0.61	0.68
Cancer of the Breast	0.21	0.25
Cancer of the Stomach	0.26	0.29
Coronary Disease	2.83	2.08
Bronchitis	0.61	0.82

Attention is drawn to the high death rate from Bronchitis in comparison with the National figures. In comparison 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 61 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 22.0. The equivalent rate for England and Wales is 18.0. Nine illegitimate babies died. Of the total of 61 deaths 13 occurred in coloured babies.

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

Infant Deaths

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
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
1969	28	16	10	5	—	59	20.0
1970	42	10	7	—	2	61	22.0

This is a high infant mortality rate compared with 18.0 for England & Wales

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 Month
Enteritis & other Diarrhoeal Diseases	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	—	—	1	—	—	1
Benign & Un-suspected Neoplasms	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningitis	1	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	2	2	4	—	1	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	3	—	—	1	5
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Anomalies	8	1	1	—	—	10
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	16	—	—	—	—	16
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	12	—	—	—	—	12
Symptoms and Ill Defined conditions	—	1	—	—	—	1
All other Accidents	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals	42	10	7	—	2	61

Deaths Under Four Weeks of Age

There were 42 deaths of infants under 4 weeks, giving a neonatal mortality rate of 15.0 per 1,000 live births compared with 9.4 in 1969. 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 Month
25	5	—	—	2	—	—	7	2	1	42

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 :—

$$\frac{(\text{Deaths in the first week of life} + \text{stillbirths}) \times 1,000}{\text{Total births (Both live and still)}}$$

Total births (Both live and still)

The figure for West Bromwich this year is 26.8 compared with 27.0 in 1969. 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 23.0.

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
1970	22.0	15.0	15.5	26.8
1969	20.0	9.4	18.0	27.0
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

Maternal Mortality

Two deaths in pregnancy occurred in 1970.

Suicide

Six deaths were due to suicide which compares with 10 in 1969. The age groups and sex of the persons concerned, together with the methods employed are shown in the following table :—

DEATHS FROM SUICIDE	AGE GROUP					
	15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cyanide Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drove Van into Petrol Station	—	—	—	—	—	—
Struck by Motor Van	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbiturate Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hanging	1	—	—	—	—	—
Coal Gas Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1
Overdose of Drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asprin Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning	—	1	1	1	—	—
Gunshot Wounds	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway Train	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	1	1	—	1

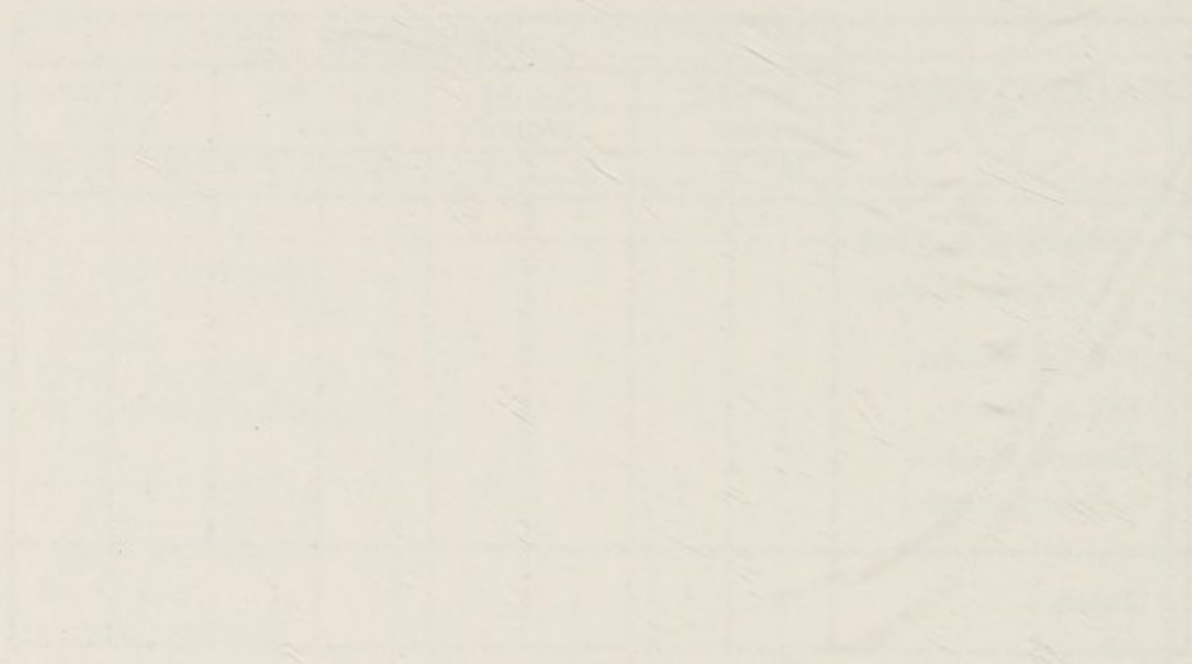
Motor Vehicle Accidents

Twenty-nine deaths were due to road accidents compared with 24 in 1969. The following table shows the age groups, sex, and types of accident :—

TYPES OF ACCIDENT	AGE GROUP							
	0 – 14 years		15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 Years & Over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pedestrian Struck by Car	—	3	1	—	3	2	4	2
Fell Under Bus	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scooter Rider/collided with Car	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Passenger in Car which Mounted Pavement	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Cyclist /collided with Tanker Pillion Passenger	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Cyclist /collided with Car	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Car/Articulated Lorry collided	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Van/Lorry collided	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Car/Lorry collided	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Car collided with support	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Car/Horse Box collided	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	—	3	8	1	7	2	5	3

A further 33 deaths have been classified by the Registrar General as due to accident, 7 of which are known to have occurred in the home. Brief details are given in the following table :—

DEATHS AT HOME	AGE GROUPS							
	0 – 14 years		15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 Years & Over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Clothing caught fire – Paraffin Heater	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fall Downstairs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Fall at Home	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	1
Electric Blanket –Over Heated	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Totals	–	1	–	–	–	1	3	2



PART 11

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Midwifery

Health Visiting

Home Nursing

Vaccination and Immunisation

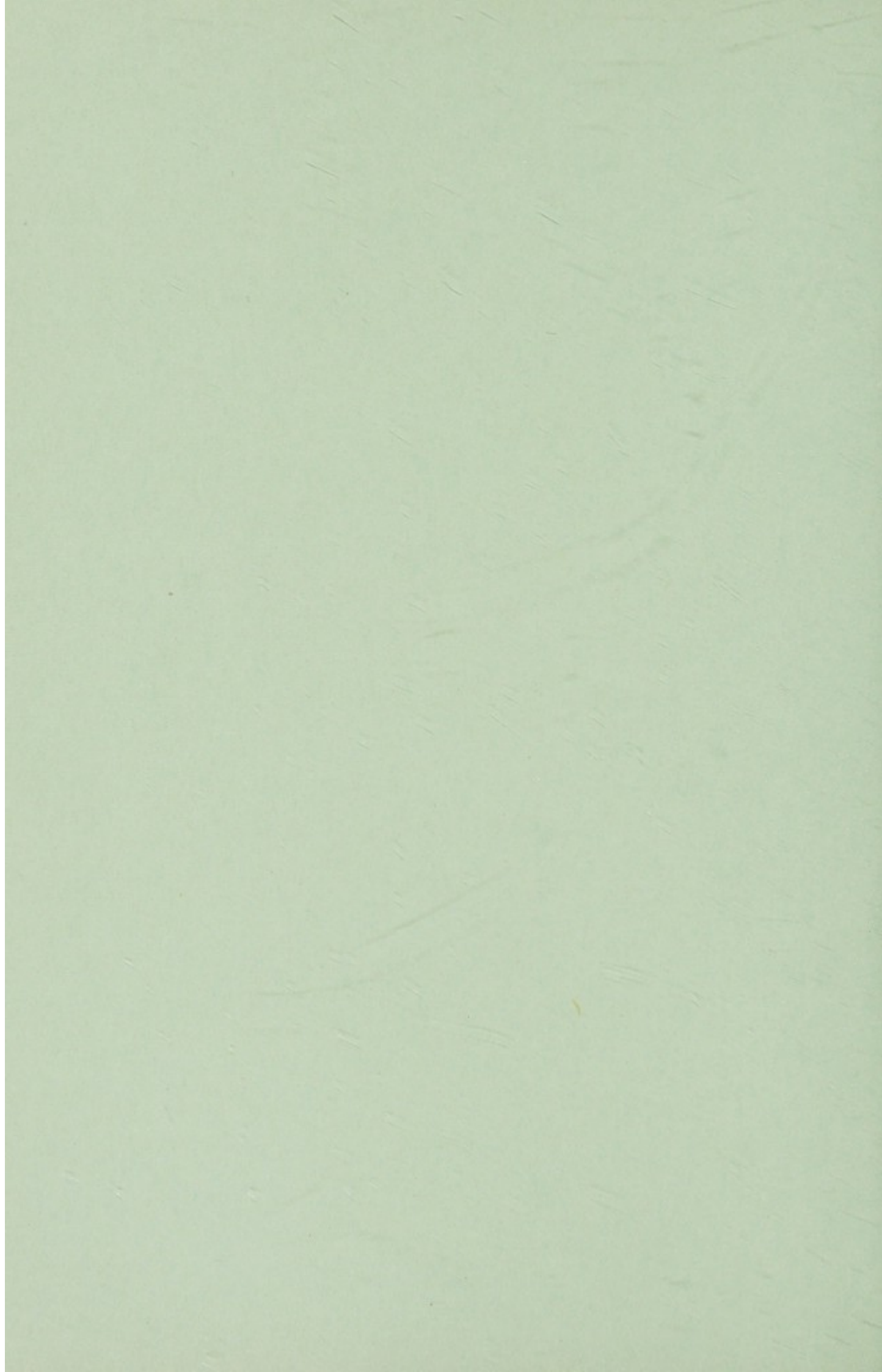
Ambulance

Care and After Care

Chiropody

Home Help

Cervical Cytology



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 Hamstead Highfields Hill Top Hill Lane Stone Cross
Walsall —	Yew Tree
Tipton —	Birch Street Central, Horseley Road
Wednesbury —	Mesty Croft

The clinics were staffed by nurses from the local authority and medical officers from the hospital service. There was an average of 44 sessions per month held during the year with an average attendance of 10 patients per session.

Attendances

	1967	1968	1969	1970
New Bookings	1,248	1,248	1,180	776
Return Visits	5,454	5,253	4,571	3,100

The following table shows the number of mothers attending and attendances made for Mothercraft teaching and relaxation exercises during 1970.

Attendances for Mothercraft and Relaxation Exercises

CENTRE	Institutional Booked	Domiciliary Booked	Persons Attending	Attendances
Hill Top & Highfields	30	22	52	156
Boulton Road	10	16	26	153
Hamstead	13	5	18	66
Hill Lane	29	25	54	339
Yew Tree & Stone Cross	12	20	32	214
Hallam Hospital *	56	—	56	372
Birch Street *	53	24	77	331
Central, Tipton	12	6	18	95
Mesty Croft	49	6	55	371
Totals	264	124	388	2097

This service is increasing in popularity

* Mothercraft Only

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

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

PLACE	Day	Total Sessions during the year	Total Attendances during the year
Boulton Road	Tuesday	49	3256
	Thursday	52	
Friar Park Hamstead	Wednesday	52	1807
	Friday	50	2868
Greets Green Highfields	Wednesday	52	1188
	Monday	48	
Hill Top	Thursday	52	4078
	Monday	48	
Hill Lane	Tuesday	52	2069
	Monday	48	
Stone Cross	Tuesday	49	3225
	Tuesday	49	
St. Mary's Hall Charlemont Farm	Tuesday	49	2840
	Friday	50	915
Yew Tree	Wednesday	52	2843
	Friday	50	
Birch Street	Monday	48	5928
	Tuesday	49	
	Thursday	52	
	Monday	48	
Central, Tipton	Thursday	52	3147
	Monday	48	
Burnt Tree	Wednesdays (alternate)	26	1241
	Ocker Hill	Tuesday	49	6097
	Wednesdays	52	
Mesty Croft	Monday	48	6711
	Wednesdays	52	
	Friday	50	
Albert Street	Tuesday	49	4291
	Thursday	52	
Chapel Lane	Thursday	52	1474
Totals		1484	53,978

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		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Children between 0 - 1 year	3,115	3,073	2,724	35,314	32,037	31,127
Children between 1 - 2 years	88	84	74	10,778	10,026	9,466
Children between 2 - 5 years	154	182	173	11,259	10,125	10,414

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 :—

	1968		1969	1970
National Dried Milk	669 tins free		796	734
	3,960 tins at 2/4d		2,703	2,213
	5,910 tins at 4/-		4,683	3,640
Total	10,539		8,182	6,587
Orange Juice	31,429 bottles at 1/6p		31,644	32,824
	2,470 bottles free		2,459	2,616
Total	33,899		34,103	35,440

	1968	1969	1970
Cod Liver Oil	1,877 bottles at 1/- 879 Free	1,635 796	1,585 846
Total	<u>2,756</u>	<u>2,431</u>	<u>2,431</u>
Vitamin Tablets	1,207 packets at 6d 59 packets Free	1,299 71	1,355 57
Total	<u>1,266</u>	<u>1,370</u>	<u>1,442</u>

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

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

A total of 106,763 items of various proprietary foods was sold giving an income of £15,239. The price in each case was the cost to the Corporation plus 10%, and usually was less than the normal retail price, and 140 cartons were issued free of charge.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL SERVICE 1970

I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Cuzner, the Principal Dental Officer for the following report.

"Once again there is little to report on for the past year. Difficulties have been caused by the shortage of dentists as in previous years. This shortage applies to the town as a whole as well as to our own service. For England and Wales there is one dentist in National Health Service practice for each 4,600 of the population. In West Bromwich, however, the ratio is one to 8,210. Thus with the shortage of dentists both in the local authority and general dental services West Bromwich is very badly off indeed for dentists and until there is an increase in our staff there is little more that we can do.

The Dental Clinic was opened in Albert Street, Wednesbury, early in the year, but little maternity and child welfare work has been done there. Any requests for examination and treatment have been seen to.

There is very little significant change between the figures for 1969 and 1970, the increases and decreases roughly cancel each other out. A welcome improvement is a slight fall in the number of emergency cases both for children and for the nursing and expectant mothers. The chief value of this service is for the pre-school child. Most mothers who care about their teeth already have a dental practitioner before they are eligible to be treated by the local authority service and there is no useful purpose in their changing to our care temporarily. The only mothers we have as patients, who care greatly about their teeth, are those recently moved into the town and who have not yet acquired a dentist of their own. Many of the mothers we do see are referred by doctors and health visitors, their teeth are often sadly neglected, they receive really what amounts to first aid treatment to help them over this period of their life and then sadly revert once more to dental neglect. This is not a happy state but it does help to keep the mother fit to look after the baby at least for a while.

Without an increase in dental staff there is no hope of expanding this service. As some 60% of the children examined need treatment, and we only see a small proportion of all pre-school children in the town, the need for dental treatment in this age group throughout the town must be very great indeed. Generally young children are not

really welcome in practice and mothers are not always aware that this service is available for the pre-school child. When staffing permits I hope it will be possible to extend this service for the younger child."

The following table shows forms of treatment given and the number of mothers and young children provided with dental care during 1970 :-

	Children 0 - 4 (incl.)		Expectant & Nursing Mothers	
	1969	1970	1969	1970
Attendances and Treatment				
First Visits	326	258	62	76
Subsequent Visits	53	79	79	112
Total	379	337	141	188
No. of additional courses of treatment other than the first course commenced during year	8	2	3	2
Treatments provided during the year :-				
No. of fillings	150	157	35	57
Teeth filled	140	143	32	54
Teeth extracted	752	580	223	176
General Anaesthetics given	245	218	43	29
Emergency visits by patients	242	204	26	19
Patients X-rayed	4	7	2	2
Patients treated by scaling and/or removal of stains	1	1	11	30
Teeth otherwise conserved	-	1	-	-
Teeth Root Filled	-	-	-	-
Inlays	-	-	-	-
Crowns	-	-	-	1
Number of Courses of Treatment completed during the year	97	79	30	39
Inspections - No. of patients given first inspections during year	764	486	51	58
No. of patients who required treatment	404	309	48	56
No. of patients who were offered treatment	394	305	48	54
Prosthetics - Patients supplied with F.U. or F.L. (1st time)	9	6		
Patients supplied with other dentures	6	7		
Number of dentures supplied	25	18		
Anaesthetics - General Anaesthetics administered by Dental Officers	1	-		
Sessions - No. of Dental Officers Sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients				
For Treatment		90.5	51.6	
For Health Education		3.9	0.4	

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 52 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, 7 babies were not considered to be malformed, leaving a total in the year of 45 four 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, of 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 216 illegitimate births (212 live and 4 still) during 1970, representing 7.6% of the total births, was recorded in respect of women normally resident in the borough.

A total of 42 cases in which illegitimate births occurred in 1970 have been dealt with by Miss Harrington of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare: and these are reported on below. Ten expectant mothers whose babies were due to be born in 1971 had the necessary plans made for their confinements. This makes a total of 52 cases under care in 1970.

Fourteen mothers were accommodated in Diocesan Homes, 27 went into local hospitals for their confinements and 1 had her baby at home.

Four cases were married women: 1 divorced, 1 legally separated

and 2 reconciled.

One girl married the putative father.

In all cases where it was possible the putative fathers were interviewed and 3 affiliation orders were made and 4 agreements signed.

The ages of the mothers ranged from 14 to 40 and are listed as follows :-

Aged 14 - 1	Aged 15 - 1	Aged 16 - 5
Aged 17 - 5	Aged 18 - 2	Aged 19 - 3
Aged 20 - 7	Aged 21 - 6	Aged 22/27 - 8
Aged 28/34 - 3	Aged over 40 - 1	

The ages of the putative fathers ranged between 16 and 40 are listed below. The ages of 5 were not known.

Aged 16 - 2	Aged 17 - 1	Aged 18 - 2
Aged 19 - 5	Aged 20 - 7	Aged 21 - 1
Aged 22/27 - 9	Aged 28/34 - 7	Aged 35/40 - 2
Aged over 40 - 1		

The 42 babies who were born were placed as follows :-

- 15 with mothers at home
- 5 with parents married
- 3 with foster parents
- 1 local authority home
- 17 adopted through this Association
- 1 adopted through alternative society

Approximately 126 visits have been paid in connection with the 52 cases under care. In addition the homes of 9 prospective adopters have been visited and reported on, 7 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."

This service became the responsibility of the Director of Social Services from 1st January 1971.

Family Planning

The Secretary of the West Bromwich Branch of the Family Planning Association reports as follows on the work for 1970 :—

“At Control House, Shaftesbury Street, weekly sessions are held on Monday afternoons and evenings, Wednesday mornings and afternoons, Thursday mornings and Friday evenings.

During 1970 we held 194 clinic sessions (339 doctor sessions) and of the 882 new patients registered nearly half came through personal recommendations. There was a significant drop in the number referred by their family doctor and most of the remainder, on interview, stated that they were aware of the existence of family planning clinics through the various channels of publicity and information put out by the Family Planning Association.

The largest age group was between 20–24 years and the smallest between 30–34 years. A total of 463 patients had no children, 273 had one or two children and 146 had three or more children.

Of 745 cytological smears taken, only one was positive and the patient has received hospital treatment.

In accordance with the Family Planning Act 1967, the only charge made to registered F.P.A. patients living in the West Bromwich area, other than for supplies, is £1.00 for a pregnancy test.

The cervical smear tests and pregnancy tests are still available to non F.P.A. patients for a charge of £1.00 and £1.50 respectively.

At Horseley Road, Tipton, a weekly session is held on Tuesday mornings. During 1970 there were 48 clinic sessions and of the 101 new patients registered half came through personal recommendation and half in response to publicity and information put out by the Family Planning Association.

The largest age groups were between 20–24 years and 25–29 years. Seven patients had no children, 43 had one or two children and 51 had three or more children.

Of 50 cytological smears taken none were positive

There was no domiciliary family planning service operating in 1970".

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

Ultra violet light clinics were discontinued in August 1969.

Day Nurseries and Child Minders

The Council have no day nursery operating in the Borough and at the end of the year there were sixteen 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 ten play groups at the end of the year, having 238 places, and there were 465 children on the registers.

A total of 1134 sessions was held during the year, with a total attendance of 20,779, giving an average attendance of 18.3 children per session.

Visits of inspection were carried out during the year.

MIDWIFERY

Staff

A principal nursing officer is employed. The staff concerned solely with midwifery was as follows :—

1	Supervisor of Midwives			
21	Full-time Midwives			
2	Three-quarter time Midwives			
2	Half-time Midwives			
	Full time Equivalent	...	...	24½ .

There was one resignation from the service during the year. This vacancy was filled by increasing the working hours of two half-time midwives to three-quarter time equivalent.

One member of staff was on sick leave for a period of eight months.

Functioning Aspect of the Service

A forty-two hour working week on 2 straight shift systems continues to operate satisfactorily. There are four shifts operating, to provide a twenty-four hour service.

Midwifery calls after office hours are accepted at Ambulance headquarters and then passed on to the midwife on call. Radio telephony facilities are available to the domiciliary midwives at all times; this means of communication is also controlled by ambulance personnel.

On booking a midwife for home confinement, patients are provided with written instructions on how to call a midwife when necessary. No insuperable difficulties have arisen through the foregoing arrangements.

Statutory Notification

The number of midwives who notified their intentions to practise with the County Borough during the year were as follows :—

Domiciliary Midwives	26
Hallam Hospital	27
Portland House	9 (General Practitioner unit)

There were no midwives in private practice in the area during the year.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Eleven sessions were held each week in Local Authority buildings. Two clinics in West Bromwich area had a Consultant Obstetrician in attendance, alternating weekly with clinics in Wednesbury and Tipton areas. The obstetric registrar from Hallam Hospital attended Stone Cross Ante-natal clinic weekly.

General Practitioners may refer their ante-natal patients to these "Specialists" clinics when necessary, therefore avoiding the need for the expectant mothers to travel from the more distant parts of the Borough to Hallam Hospital for the same purpose.

Ante-natal clinics held in other areas were conducted as midwives clinics. These sessions were for the benefit of the domiciliary booked cases to provide for midwives to give ante-natal care as required by their rules.

Midwives at all ante-natal clinics take blood samples from the expectant mother for pathological investigations.

There has been a decrease in the number of patients attending Local Authority ante-natal clinics. This change was inevitable due to increase in the number of General Practitioners' ante-natal clinics with midwife attachment. The number of sessions held weekly has increased from seventeen to twenty-three from the previous year.

Expectant mothers seen at these clinics by the midwife do not attend the Local Authority clinics except when referred to the Consultant for examination.

This arrangement of General Practitioner-midwife attachment has provided better co-ordinated care for the expectant mother and also

opportunities for direct communications between the doctors and midwives concerned.

Domiciliary Confinements

As expected there was a decrease in the number of home confinements. The introduction of a more flexible system for the early discharge of Post-Natal patients from midwifery units has made available more maternity beds for the special categories of patients where hospital confinements are advisable.

Although the number of domiciliary confinements has shown a steady decrease over recent years, and this trend is likely to continue, the midwife's role is extended to other aspects of her professional duties. A considerable number of expectant mothers whose confinement took place in hospital received home visits by the district midwives to assess if the home was suitable for early discharge (Social assessment visits).

Post Natal Care

Post-natal mothers including early discharges from midwifery units were visited daily for a minimum of ten days – receiving two visits daily for the three days following confinement.

Classes on Teaching and Preparation for Childbirth and Parenthood.

Eight sessions are held each week at different clinics. These classes are conducted by Midwives and Health Visitors. Hospital or domiciliary booked cases may attend.

Educational films are shown at intervals, also visual aids and other techniques demonstrated.

Inhalational Analgesia

Entonox or Trilene apparatus is available to all the district midwives and may be administered to patients who are medically certified as being suitable to receive analgesia of this type.

Teaching Midwives and Student Midwives

There are seven approved teaching midwives on the staff. These midwives are responsible for teaching student midwives during their district training. Ten students were coached during the year, and they were all successful at the examinations set by the Central Midwives

Board. These students were resident at Hallam Hospital. Transportation arrangements were provided by the hospital taxi service.

Post Graduate Courses

Five midwives attended statutory post-graduate courses during the year and two teaching midwives attended a five day course on teaching and preparation for childbirth and parenthood.

Post Registration Training

One teaching midwife has undertaken to attend a course on Clinical Teaching and Management at Sorrento Maternity Hospital. This course extends over a period of twelve months, and is organised by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Study days were organised at Post-graduate Educational Centres in the adjoining Boroughs. A limited number of midwives were able to attend.

	Number of Domiciliary Confinements	Number of Hospital Confinements	% at Home
1967	935	2227	29.5
1968	877	2248	28.0
1969	715	2309	23.8
1970	617	2241	27.5

Cases of potential difficulty who were confined at home :—

(Primigravida over 30 years of age :—

1967	6	1969	3
1968	9	1970	1

(Multipara over 40 years of age :—

1967	5	1969	0
1968	6	1970	3

(Women in their 4th or subsequent pregnancy :—

1967	122	1969	94
1968	156	1970	89

Number of early discharges from maternity units

Year	Up to 2nd day	Up to 5th day	6th to 10th day	Total
1967	270	253	1324	1857
1968	340	292	1624	2256
1969	405	555	1296	2256
1970	342	778	1127	2247

Number of Ante-natal Visits

1967	—	5573	1969	—	5179
1968	—	6073	1970	—	4866

Number of Post-natal visits

1967	—	22936	1969	—	22292
1968	—	22284	1970	—	22162

Screening for the Early Detection of Phenylketonuria

The use of the Guthrie test to detect this abnormality in the new-born commenced in September. Blood samples are taken from the baby's heel on or soon after the 6th day of the baby's life — with parental permission — and sent to a regional laboratory at Hollymoor Hospital.

The hospital and domiciliary midwives are responsible for carrying out this task. Repeat tests are done by the Health Visitor. No unsuromountable difficulties have arisen in the carrying out of this procedure.

HEALTH VISITORS

Staff

At the end of the year the staff consisted of 1 Principal Nursing Officer, 1 Deputy Nursing Officer, 18 Health Visitors, 1 Student Health Visitor, 8 Full-time School Nurses, 5 Part-time School Nurses, 3 Hygiene Assistants, 1 T.B. Visitor:

The present number of qualified health visitors is still below the full establishment of 29 and the school nurses continue to assist wherever possible.

Working Arrangements

Health Visitors are attached to General Practitioners' Surgeries and consequently, as each covers the same geographical area of work as the General Practitioner, her sphere of influence has broadened. She is responsible for the family as a whole the result being increased work satisfaction.

The nursing staff continue to work in close association with the Field Centres and retain their good relationship with other social agencies.

Clinics

All clinics within the Local Authority continue to be managed by the health visitor with assistance from the school nurse i.e. Child Health Clinics, Ante-natal Clinics, Cervical Clinics, Relaxation and Mother Craft Clinics.

One Relaxation and Mother Craft Class in Hallam Hospital has operated for several years and is still conducted by one of the Senior Health Visitors.

There is a developing number of well baby clinics held in general practitioners' surgeries conducted by the health visitor.

The Elderly

The Principal Nursing Officer continues to visit with the Consultant

Physician assessing the elderly and deciding on hospital admission, care at home, or admission to one of the homes within the Borough.

Paediatrics

One senior health visitor attends the consultant clinic sessions regularly each week maintaining a valuable relationship with the hospital and Local Authority Services.

A senior health visitor continues to attend the diabetic clinic regularly helping with problems and diet, keeping other nursing staff in touch with changes and recent advances regarding treatment of diabetic patients.

Screening

Tests for deafness continue to be given to infants from 6 months onwards. All babies and toddlers thought by the health visitor to be at risk or handicapped are entered into a special register and visited at regular intervals.

Health Education

Health Education talks were presented throughout the year, and subjects covered a broad spectrum of topics through a variety of ways.

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

Illustrated talks have been given to various clubs and organisations by the Deputy Principal Nursing Officer and Health Visitors.

Films and talks together with display material have been given in child health clinics and ante-natal clinics and also at five of the senior schools.

Over the year a total of 37 films have been shown and 30 talks given.

Posters and leaflets continue to be issued from the clinics on the varying subjects relating to health.

Training

Practical instruction has been given to student health visitors pupil midwives, student district nurses and student nurses training in the hospital.

Two girl school leavers expressed an interest in the work of the health visitor and arrangements were made for them to accompany one of the Senior Health Visitors at the Child Welfare Clinic and on certain visits.

The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board has arranged lectures for all nursing staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hallam Hospital and the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Attendance was made by the Deputy Principal Nursing Officer at a middle management course and a Senior Health Visitor at first line management course.

Six school nurses attended a special course arranged by the Midlands Post Registration Nurse Training School.

Six health visitors attended a post graduate course in Shrewsbury and three health visitors attended refresher courses organised by the Health Visitor's Association.

One student health visitor was sponsored by the Local Authority to commence training at the Birmingham College of Commerce and Technology. The student of the previous year was successful in gaining the Health Visitor's Certificate.

Guthrie Tests

Since 16th September, 1969, Guthrie Tests have been done for all babies up to the tenth day by Midwives, and after the tenth day by Health Visitors.

A total of 2,689 tests were carried out during 1970, plus 21 Scriver Tests, making a total of 2,710.

Home Visits

Health Visitors work in clinics and General Practitioners Surgeries and visit the homes, and School nurses work in schools and clinics :-

Analysis of Home Visits	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
First visit to births	2,967	3,067	2,959	2,984	2,863
Re-visits to children under 12 months	5,076	7,050	6,851	8,066	6,430
Re-visits to children 1 - 5 years	12,757	16,126	15,247	17,984	14,430
Visits to cases of infectious diseases	15	110	127	160	186
Visits to expectant mothers	356	482	400	470	359
Other Visits (including Tuberculosis)	1,651	4,404	3,665	3,284	4,632
B.C.G. Vaccinations	3	67	21	17	16
Totals	22,825	31,306	29,270	32,965	28,916

During 1970, a total of 5,434 visits that were made were fruitless because there was nobody at home. 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 13,964.

The average case load per Health Visitor of children under five was 775 and 23,723 home visits were made by the Health Visitors. There is 1 tuberculosis visitor (S.R.N. 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.

HOME NURSING

Staff

The staff consisted of a Principal Nursing Officer, a Supervisor of District Nurses (who is also Deputy Principal Nursing Officer), 24 District Nurses (2 men and 22 women).

It is pleasing to report that the full establishment has been maintained. One male district nurse emigrated to Australia and one moved to Nottingham to take charge of a Residential Home, and both have been replaced by female staff.

Of the 24 nurses, 23 are State Registered and 1 is State Enrolled, 22 of whom are district trained.

Working Arrangements

The district nurses are supervised by the Supervisor of District nurses jointly with the health visitors. There were no charges in their working arrangements.

The work continues to come through requests from the General Practitioners and Hospitals following discharge of the patient.

The nurses work is programmed to provide a night and weekend rota.

Work is in hand for early attachment of District Nurses to General Practitioners which will open up new possibilities for more rational and economical use of professional skill.

As in previous years incontinent pads are distributed through the District Nurses.

A small number is maintained for distribution to patients not attended by a District Nurse but referred by the General Practitioner.

Training

Two practical work instructors were trained in preparation for assistance in the future training of student nurses from the local hospitals.

The practical work instructors have assisted with the work under-

taken by the Post Registration Nurse Training School arranged between the Five County Boroughs. The training of the District Nurses continued throughout the year. Two nurses within the Authority were successful in gaining the National Certificate for District Nurses, one of whom was a State Enrolled Nurse. Provision has been made for one district nurse to commence her training in September 1971.

Much valuable work has been done regarding rehabilitation of the elderly patients recovering from strokes by endeavouring to keep them mobile in their own homes.

Cases Nursed

Year	Average Number of Nurses Employed	Number of New Cases	Total Number of visits
1961	11	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
1969	24	1,375	74,539
1970	24	1,490	76,878

One Thousand Four Hundred and ninety cases were referred for home care during 1970 :-

1099 by General Practitioners
385 by Hospitals
6 by the Chest Clinic

No cases were transferred from Other areas during the year.

	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	530	129	550	7090
February	550	117	572	6050
March	553	132	571	6571
April	571	153	576	6575
May	576	116	564	6284
June	564	125	569	6078
July	569	120	574	6469
August	574	106	585	6171
September	585	100	566	6017
October	509	125	582	6281
November	582	144	606	6713
December	583	123	500	6579

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The recommended timetable for immunisation and vaccination of infants was as follows :—

- 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 or Oral Polio vaccine
- 12 months to 2 years of age — Vaccine against Smallpox
- 5 years or at entry to school — Diphtheria and Tetanus combined antigen and one dose of Oral Polio vaccine.

Re-vaccination against Smallpox two weeks later if required

- 13 years of age — B.C.G. and Rubella Vaccination
- 15 years or on leaving school — One dose Tetanus antigen and one dose of oral Polio vaccine, and 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)	18	647	322	58	1045
Number re-vaccinated	—	11	10	49	70

A total of 511 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
1970	987	14,300
1969	1111	14,080
1968	1481	14,080
1967	1305	14,080
1966	1393	8,000
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 1833 infants was given protection against diphtheria during the year and a total of 1,626 reinforcement injections was given to school children. The corresponding figures for 1969 were 1671 and 3559 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
1970	13
1969	901
1968	726
1967	51
1963/66	244
Others Under age 16	58
Totals	1,993

The number of persons given a reinforcing dose of oral vaccine after primary immunisation with Salk or oral vaccine was 2192.

The foregoing immunisation figures show a slight improvement but with a staff of health visitors well below establishment further 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

Two thousand seven hundred and four children were vaccinated against Measles, as follows :—

Born — 19 70	1969	1968	1967	1963/66	Others Under 16
10	741	619	302	969	63

Owing to technical reasons, national supplies of vaccine were difficult from about May onwards.

Vaccination Against Rubella

Seven hundred and forty-six children born in the years 1956/1957 were vaccinated against Rubella.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN

The following table shows the percentage of children vaccinated at the 31st December 1970, who were born in the years 1968 and 1969, with the equivalent national figures :—

	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Smallpox (Children Under 2
West Bromwich				
Born 1968	53	56	59	22
England and Wales				
Born 1968	79	81	79	35

B.C.G. VACCINATION

B.C.G. Vaccination continued to be offered to children attaining the age of 13 years, and was also offered again to children aged 15 years who had not received it previously.

Vaccination was, therefore, offered to a total of 4,177 children and of these 3,326 accepted (81.3%). Vaccination was found to be un-necessary in the case of 80 of these, because records showed they had been vaccinated previously, or had previous positive skin tests, indicating that they were already tuberculin positive and are not in need of B.C.G. vaccination.

Of the remainder, a total of 3,057 were given a skin test (Tine Test) to determine whether or not they required vaccination against tuberculosis, and 2,866 were finally vaccinated.

Children who had strongly positive skin tests were given appointments for X-ray of the chest, and as a result one girl aged 15 years, was admitted to hospital for investigation and later notified as a case of tuberculosis.

During the year, 123 babies of Asiatic origin were given B.C.G. vaccination (65 at clinics and 58 in hospitals) within eight weeks of birth.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

General Arrangements

The administration of the Service was transferred from the Transport Department to that of the Health Department on the 1st October, 1969.

The system of Control remains the same, Oak Lane No 1 station operating on a 24 hour basis and the Tipton No 2 station operating on a 15 hour basis.

The establishment of the Service remains unchanged and provides for the following staff:—

	1 Superintendent
	1 Deputy Superintendent
	8 Shift/Leaders
	4 Deputy Shift/Leaders
	36 Driver/Attendants
	2 Clerk/Telephonists
	—
Total	52
	—

The above figures of 36 Driver/Attendants provides for holiday and sickness cover of 80 hours and an additional 40 hours for training.

Motorways

Additional responsibility was added to the Ambulance Service due to the opening of the Midlands Link Motorway on the 15th May 1970, but the envisaged employment of additional staff for Motorway cover has not proved to be necessary.

Training / First Aid

All personnel within the Service are now in possession of First/Aid qualifications.

New Vehicles

Two new Ambulance vehicles were received and put into Service during April, 1970. i.e. :—

Ambulance 33 — XEA 33H
Ambulance 34 — XEA 34H

Two new Ambulances and a sitting case vehicle were placed on order as replacements for 1970 – 71.

Old Vehicles

Ambulance vehicle 21 – KBF 983 was taken out of Service during March 1970. Ambulance sitting case vehicle 25 –SBF 906 was taken out of Service during June 1970.

Vehicles in Service

Vehicle No.	Make	Placed in Service	Mileage 1970
20	BEDFORD	21.1.61	10984
21	BEDFORD	26.1.61	1620
23	BEDFORD	20.3.62	13713
24	BEDFORD	5.4.62	16857
25	BEDFORD	5.4.62	7641
26	BEDFORD	19.4.62	9964
14	MORRIS	18.7.62	10658
15	MORRIS	10.9.62	10801
16	MORRIS	23.4.63	13795
17	AUSTIN	16.11.64	9357
18	AUSTIN	22.2.65	10078
19	MORRIS	6.10.65	12409
27	MORRIS	17.2.67	12922
28	AUSTIN	15.6.67	14973
29	MORRIS	21.2.68	16620
30	MORRIS	13.4.68	20050
31	MORRIS	11.10.68	11890
32	AUSTIN	16.8.68	13480
89	AUSTIN	25.7.69	21423
33	B.M.C.	6.4.70	10349
34	B.M.C.	1.4.70	14273
Total :			263,857

Work Done in 1970

Patients carried ...	...	65,600
Ambulance Mileage ...	...	242,434
Sitting Car Mileage ...	...	21,423
Total Mileage :		263,857
Number of Out-Patients		52,673
Number of Accident Cases		3,079
Other Cases ...		10,848
Average Miles per Patient		4 approx

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.

An 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.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Convalescence

No provision has been made for convalescent Home Care since the 31st March 1968.

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 Euresis alarms
Crutches	Ripple beds
Urinals	Spinal carriages
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.

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

The service is provided by the Council for various sections of the community for the following categories, at the following charges :—

	Clinic Treatment	Home Treatment
Aged, Handicapped		
Blind persons	15 p	25 p
Expectant Mothers	25 p	37 p

An appointment system is applied. The staff consists of two full-time chiropodists working 20 sessions per week. They are assisted by seven part-time chiropodists who provide 24 sessions per week.

During the past year the demand for chiropody treatment has increased, the patients being seen for regular treatments at eight or ten weekly intervals.

The following number of treatments given is as stated :—

Clinic		Domiciliary		Residential Accommodation	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1343	5493	516	2646	291	616
Total :		6836		3162	
				907	

The Grand Total of 10905 Treatments is 443 more than the previous year.

Patients treated — Old age pensioners	2245
Other (Handicapped persons)	37
Total :	<u>2282</u>

HOME HELP SERVICE

Staff

The Home Help Service at the end of the year employed 135 part-time staff, making an equivalent of approximately 81 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
1960	72	382
1961	58	420
1962	53	422
1963	50	426
1964	34	468
1965	42	520
1966	21	895
1967	26	1081
1968	26	1178
1969	18	1231
1970	19	1297

During the year a total of 390 new patients was given help for the first time and of these 330 were chronic sick, 19 maternity and 1 case of tuberculosis.

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

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Confinements at home	46	49	27	30	35	21	26	24	10	13
Other Maternity cases	12	4	3	4	7	2	3	2	8	6
Aged & Chronic sick	420	422	426	468	520	895	1081	1178	1231	1297
Tuberculosis	8	6	9	10	8	7	10	3	4	2
Problem Families	8	10	8	3	—	1	1	1	—	1
Mental Health	—	—	6	7	8	3	9	6	5	7
Other-including acute illness	57	49	60	55	53	133	43	26	36	40
Totals	551	540	539	577	631	1062	1173	1240	1294	1366

Of 1366 cases attended during the year, 111 paid full cost and 89 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 3 cases were attended during the year.

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

Chronic Sick (Terminal illness)	2
Senscence	—
Long illness	1

Cervical Cytology

Eighty sessions for women requesting "smear" tests were held at 2 clinics, Birch Street, Tipton and Stone Cross. The laboratory tests were carried out at Dudley Guest and Hallam Hospitals.

Cervical Cytology	Business Premises	Birch Street	Stone Cross	Totals
Sessions Held :	2	20	58	80
Attendances (by appointment)	33	218	711	962
Number showing abnormal cells suggesting a pre-cancerous condition	—	1	2	3
Cases referred to General practitioners	14	45	222	281
Average attendance per session	16.5	10.9	12.2	12.0
Percentage of cases attending referred to General practitioners	42.4	20.6	31.2	29.2

TRAINING CENTRES

The Crest Senior Training Centre

Facilities at The Crest are provided for 60 mentally handicapped adults to receive various types of training.

The number of trainees attending the centre on the 31st December, 1970 was 60, 27 males and 33 females. There was a waiting list of 10 persons at the end of the year.

The following table shows the trend of attendances during the year.

	January to March	April to June	July to Sept.	October to December	Total
Number of days open	59	57	44	55	215
Attendances	2836	2979	1986	2638	10439
Average daily attendances	48.0	52.2	45.1	47.9	48.5
Number on Register					
31st December 1970		Males	27		
		Females	33		

The staff at this centre on the 31st December, 1970 was :—

- 1 Manager
- 1 Deputy Supervisor (Female)
- 4 Craft Instructors (Females)
- 2 Domestic Assistants (Females)

The Manager states :—

“There are five classes, with an instructor for each class.

Outwork has considerably increased since last year, and all trainees take part in this work. The centre is now doing work for firms at :— Lye, Stourbridge; Friar Park and Tipton, and has five machines

which are operated by a foot pedal supplied by the Tipton firm.

Training is being given in domestic work, general social matters, woodwork and a certain amount of education.

About 10 of the trainees are very keen on swimming, and we now have facilities for doing this at Churchfields School and the West Bromwich Swimming Baths.

A holiday was enjoyed at Skegness by 24 trainees, two members of staff and two helpers. Although two of these were of the less able type, they did not present very many problems.

The trainees have been taken for walks to Dartmouth Park, and some have walked to the West Bromwich Shopping area; they have been on shopping expeditions, visited the Midland Bank and the West Bromwich Library, used bus travelling facilities and the telephone.

During the Mental Health week there were over one hundred visitors, and many of them took an interest in the work being done by the trainees. The majority of the parents of trainees have visited The Crest during the year.

This year for the first time eight trainees entered the Gateway Sports held at Nuneaton in July. Although none of them were successful, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

This year's Garden Fete held at The Crest in September was well patronized, and the results were good.

This year there has been a Beetle Drive, a film show of Skegness, a talk and Film Show on Fire Precautions, a talk by a Welfare Officer for the Blind, and a demonstration as to how his dog acts as a guide dog.

Jobs were obtained for eight of the trainees during the year. Two are still in employment, two are at the Industrial Therapy Unit, one is now helping his father at home, two are back at The Crest and one has since been transferred to St. Margarets Hospital because of behaviour trouble.

Bonfire night was a great success, a great number of trainees and

parents attended. Refreshments were provided by parents and staff which were prepared on the premises.

The West Bromwich Association for the Mentally Handicapped are continuing to hold their meetings at The Crest."

"Glenvale" Junior 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), and was enlarged during 1969 to take 105 children (90 juniors, 10 nursery class and 5 special care), the extension being opened on the 1st April, 1969.

	Jan. to March	April to June	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	Totals
Number of Days Open	57	47	37	52	193
Attendances	4598	4372	3407	4935	17312
Average Daily Attendance	80.6	93.0	92.0	94.9	89.6
Number on Register at December, 1970	Juniors and Nursery Class		Males		71
			Females		49
	Special		Males		10
			Females		7

The composition of the staff at 31st December, 1969 was :-

1 Supervisor	3 General Assistants
7 Assistant Supervisors	1 Caretaker
1 Nurse S.E.N.	1 Domestic
1 Nursery Nurse	2 Dinner Assistants

Miss Blake, the Supervisor, comments

"Visits made this year included the Zoo to see our tortoise – all children went at different times, either by public transport or by the minibus.

Top classes went to Birmingham Airport, and to see "Fiddler on the Roof", which was their first taste of the theatre other than "Pantos" – they sat enthralled.

Competitions : Twenty children took part in the National Crayoning Competition – 14 were runners up and had a certificate and a box of crayons.

Six children took part in the "Mentally Handicapped Australia Competition" – no winners, but one painting went to London to be exhibited, and this was done by a child then in special care.

Parties and Shows : The Christmas party was a great success, as the entertainer was excellent. Most of the children had a book as a present from Father Christmas.

The top class rehearsed "The Ronald Stone Show" in their drama lessons, then invited old people from across the way, who enjoyed the show.

Six classes took part in the Carol Services, to which local school children were invited one morning and the childrens' parents the other morning.

Children Leaving : One 5 year old left for Normal School in September.

One 4 year old left for Nursery Class in September.

One 7 year old left for Millfields E.S.N. School in May.

One 15 year old left for E.S.N. Residential School in the Summer.

Three children are waiting to go to E.S.N. School at Easter 1971.

School Children : Local school children from Manor High, Churchfield and George Salters Schools assist in the Centre at set times.

Swimming : All the children try hard, and one nine year old girl has managed to swim the width of the bath.”

PART 111

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence and Mortality

Tuberculosis

Venereal Disease



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence

There were 1,112 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 :—

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	3	7	1	25	26	9	31	23	1
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—
Measles	1160	188	807	330	541	436	1088	283	379	947
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	2	—	5	—	4	4	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	1	2	3	5	2	1	5	2
Poliomyelitis :—										
Paralytic	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	27	17	14	7	43	64	67	37	25	37
Smallpox	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	5	147	15	55	89	68	19	8	73
Paratyphoid Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	17	4	7
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	51	41

Notifications

On the 1st October 1968, there were certain changes in the notification of infectious diseases 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	Food Poisoning
	Relaxing Fever

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

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases

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

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	3	1
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	—	2	2	—	3	1	2	3	1

Dysentery

One case of dysentery was notified during the year. The illness was mild in character and there was no general spread of infection.

Measles

A total of 947 cases of measles were notified compared with 379 in the previous year and 283 cases in 1968. There were no deaths in 1970.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

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

Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified during 1970 and this is the ninth 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 73 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 1970.

Infective Jaundice

Forty-one cases were notified during 1970, compared with 51 in 1969. 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 1970 the facilities offered at the West Bromwich Chest Clinic remained unchanged, except that Doctor Margaret Sheldon was away ill for the whole of the year. This, of necessity, added to the load carried by the other doctors.

The integration of the Wednesbury Chest Clinic was completed, although some patients from the edges of the County Borough of West Bromwich found it easier to attend the Chest Clinic at Dudley and Walsall. The central administration for the area was centred at the West Bromwich Chest Clinic.

New Notifications

During the year there was a total of 49 primary notifications of tuberculosis in respect of patients living in the County Borough. This represents a fall of 4 from the previous year. In addition, 4 patients were notified as cases of tuberculosis coming to live in the area. Of the notifications, 27 men and 12 women were found to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and for the first time no children were notified. In addition, 2 men 6 women and 2 children were found to be suffering from tuberculosis other than of the respiratory system.

Thus, on the 31st December, 1970 there were a total of 579 men, 411 women and 100 children who were notified as suffering from a tuberculosis infection on the Chest Clinic Register. This figure shows a drop of 33 from the previous year. Looking at the figures in a little more detail there was only 1 case notified posthumously. Of the others 18 men and 10 women were sputum positive during the year. However, of this total and including sputum negative cases only 5 men and 5 women were considered to be suffering from advanced disease. In previous years I have commented on the fact that the incidence of miliary tuberculosis is said to indicate the size of the infector pool in an area. In West Bromwich only 1 case of miliary tuberculosis was diagnosed in 1970.

The vast majority of notifications came from Heath Lane Chest Clinic, with Hallam Hospital and the District Hospital, West Bromwich, being secondary sources of notifications.

Deaths

Seven men and 2 women died during the year as the result of tuberculosis. In addition 8 men and 1 woman who had received treatment for tuberculosis in the past, and who were still under supervision, died of conditions not associated with tuberculosis. Two of the men died of cardiovascular accidents; 3 of cancer other than in the lungs; 2 of cancer of the lungs, and the remaining man died of a road traffic accident. The woman died of cancer.

Tuberculosis in Immigrants

The incidence of tuberculosis in immigrants continues to run at a much higher rate than it does in the local inhabitants. In 1970, 12 of the males notified came from the Continent of India. One was a Pole and 1 an Adeni. Of the females 1 woman was Italian, and 6 women came from the Continent of India, 1 via Kenya. It was noteworthy that the female patients were notified in the last part of the year, and since there has been a large influx of wives and families from the Continent of India and from Kenya, I anticipate that the incidence of tuberculosis in Asiatic females will continue to rise for a year or so.

Once again I must say that immigrant patients make a very high call upon hospital beds, and 1970 was no exception. Over 40% of admissions for Tuberculosis at Heath Lane Hospital consisted of immigrants. It is a popular misconception that the immigrant brings his tuberculosis with him. From our experience in West Bromwich it would appear that the Asiatics constitute a susceptible group, and that, when exposed to infection, they become patients very quickly and with rapidly spreading disease. This, of course, makes the identification of patients in multi-occupied premises vital. It is also imperative that contacts are picked up quickly. The language barrier is becoming less noticeable with the presence of increasing numbers of English speaking children in the home. It remains difficult, however, to pick all the contacts up for examination, and on occasions the Tuberculosis Health Visitors cannot gain admission to the house until a man is there. All

in all, however, our Asiatic patients are very co-operative, and do their best to carry out instructions as soon as they understand them. They respond well to treatment, and I have high hopes that the problems of tuberculosis in immigrants will decline as the years go by. What no-one knows at present, however, is how the children born and bred in England will react to infection when the time comes.

Attendances

During the year 1,782 new patients attended the Clinic for the first time, and 5,691 patients re-attended. These figures show a continued welcome reduction, and I hope that it augers well for the future.

Skin Testing

As in previous years skin testing for reaction to old Tuberculin was carried out on all child contacts attending the Clinic, and on their first attendance in 1970, 38% were positive reactors. This figure is a further fall from last year, and the figures for the past 4 years are :—

1967	60%	Positive
1968	52%	„
1969	43%	„
1970	38%	„

This fall probably indicates better standards of hygiene among the contacts, associated with less overcrowding, and with the fall in the number of advanced cases found.

Treatment

The full range of anti-tuberculous drugs continues to be available to patients through the National Health Service. The same problems of resistance of the organism to the first line drugs commented upon in my report of 1969 remain much as before. No new drugs of real promise became freely available during the year.

Other Chest Diseases

Cancer of the lung remains the prime killer of middle-aged males, with a long history of heavy cigarette smoking. It cannot be too

strongly emphasized that the cigarette must be regarded as a nail in an individual's coffin, and that the more you smoke, and the more you inhale, the sooner will the coffin be ready to receive its unhappy victim. Every effort should be made by all responsible people to encourage the young not to take up this dangerous habit. To those who are addicted I can only say 'cut it out or cut it down if you wish to live longer in the land which the Lord giveth'. After all, West Bromwich is not such a bad place that you should take active steps to leave it permanently too soon and too unpleasantly.

I am happy to report that pneumoconiosis appears to be on the decline. This must be due to improved safety measures in the foundries and mines, and one can only congratulate those who drafted the appropriate Regulations.

Chronic bronchitis is, of course, ever with us, and was responsible for 80% of the non-tuberculous admissions to Heath Lane Hospital in males. It, like cancer of the lung, has a mathematical association with cigarette smoking. It is also associated, it is believed, with atmospheric pollution, although there is little real evidence of this statistically. With increasing clean air zones, and better anti-biotics to control the acute attacks of bronchitis, it is hoped that this distressing ailment will become less of a problem to future generations of doctors.

In 1970 we saw a surprisingly large number of patients with asthma, especially among teenagers. Some of the sufferers were undoubtedly made worse by their psychological state, and it may be that this is part of the price that society has to pay for the increased speed of living, together with mechanisation and the loss of the sense of job security and job satisfaction.

After-Care

As usual I end this short Report by paying tribute to the West Bromwich After-Care Committee who work very hard in raising funds to enable patients to be helped in ways outside those provided for by the Department of Health and Social Security. Over the past few years the After-Care Committee has concentrated on the provision of

caravan holidays at Highley on the banks of the River Severn. These holidays are deeply appreciated, and give great benefit to those lucky enough to go. They really do make all the difference to a patient with the thought that the next Winter may be just around the corner.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the After-Care Committee and the Health Department for their ready help throughout the year; to my own staff at the Chest Clinic and Hospital without whom the patients would be in a sorry way; and all my colleagues in Hospital and in General Practice, whose united efforts have contributed now and in the past to the vast improvement in the outlook for those found to be suffering from tuberculosis in any shape or form."

VENEREAL DISEASE

Details of the new cases of venereal disease in West Bromwich residents treated during 1970 at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below together with figures for 5 previous years.

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Syphilis	6	7	—	4	2	3
Gonorrhoea	37	67	58	60	85	60
Conditions other than Venereal	75	145	107	118	167	150
<hr/>						
	118	219	165	182	254	213
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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.

Venereal disease is not a notifiable condition.

Contact Tracing

This presented a difficult problem in a conurbation. After extensive discussion the County Boroughs and the Regional Hospital Board devised a joint scheme whereby the hospital authorities employed contact tracers who could work throughout the area and each authority contributed to the cost.

The Consultant Venereologists approved the arrangement which provides for clinic based tracers and it was due to commence at the beginning of the financial year 1971/72.

Health Education in Venereal Disease

There is no Health Education Section and apart from some posters little has been done in 1970 in this respect.



PART IV

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

13

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

Application 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 1970 a total of 187 applications was received. No cases received a maximum of 25 points, 6 cases received 20 points, 13 cases received 15 points, 2 received 12 points, 41 cases received 10 points and 107 received between 2 and 10 points. In 18 cases no medical 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 fifteen 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 priority in transfer of tenancy on medical grounds continued to be referred to the Medical Officer of Health and 356 cases were dealt with in 1970.

For several years a situation has existed where the number of suitable properties available for medical transfers has been less than the number of medical recommendations made. Consequently efforts are made to carry out the Housing Committee's instructions to the Medical Officer of Health, to restrict priority transfers on medical grounds to cases of very serious illness or handicap only, where the housing circumstances have a direct bearing on the case. Greater stringency in recommendations does not, unfortunately reduce the amount of work which has to be carried out by the Senior Medical Staff. Closer scrutiny and greater investigation of many borderline cases is necessary and even then it is extremely difficult to make equitable decisions.

In 1970, 240 recommendations for priority transfer on medical grounds were made out of a total of 356 applications.

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

The Medical Staff of the Health Department are responsible for the routine examination of children in care, but arrangements are made for those "boarded out" with families to be examined by their own doctor, as the latter is responsible for the treatment of these children during sickness.

Local Authority doctors made 275 examinations of children in connection with the Children's Department, 282 examinations were made in 1969.

Altogether 339 medical examinations were carried out and these can be classified as follows :—

Medical Examinations of Children in Care 1970

Reception Home

1. Number of children examined on admission	33
2. Number of children examined for boarding out	6
3. Number of children examined on discharge	18
4. Number of routine examinations (all over 5 years)	17

Children's Homes

1. Number of children on admission	36
2. Number examined for boarding out	9
3. Number examined on discharge	29
4. Number of routine examinations under 5 years	6
over 5 years	31
Examinations for direct boarding out children	44
Examinations for discharge from direct boarding out	46
Annual examination of boarded out children by West Bromwich Local Authority Doctors	—
Annual examination of boarded out children by General Practitioners	64

In addition 16 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 of the chest before appointment.

The work done during 1970 was as follows :-

Examination before appointment

A total of 367 officers completed satisfactory declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination, which compares with 363 in 1969.

Medical examinations	55
Accepted	51
Deferred for re-examination	4

Examination for Sickness & Accident Scheme

A total of 551 servants completed satisfactorily declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination – this compares with 565 in 1969.

Medical examinations	174
Accepted	143
Deferred for re-examination	12
Failed	31

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

Medical examinations	134
Accepted	133

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

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

In order to co-ordinate the services concerned with the prevention of child neglect, meetings of the officers working with particular families were held at each of the three 'Field Centres' in the County Borough, and in this way the whole of the area is covered.

These meetings were held under the leadership of the Principal Assistant (Social Work) and the following services are included :—

Health Visiting Service
Children's Department
Education Welfare
Housing Department
N. S. P. C. C.
Probation Service
Dental Welfare Service
Social Welfare Service
Department of Health & Social Security
Department of Employment & Productivity

From these meetings there have developed case discussions which are arranged as problems are foreseen. In this way it was possible to speed up co-ordination in individual cases.

The implementation of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, will occasion the re-organisation of the Local Authority personal social services within one Social Services Department under its Director, Mr. Geoffrey S. Dunn, and will affect the method in which this aspect of preventive work is organised in the future.

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 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 Services		Other Health Services (Refuse Collection Prevention of Diseases etc.)	
	National Health Services Act 1946		National Assistance Act. 1948			
	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop
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	105,352	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
1968/69	482,438	2,799	291,243	1,691	409,050	2,373
1969/70	507,697	2,954	348,044	2,025	440,703	2,564

PART V

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Aged

Care of the Handicapped

Other Welfare Services

Mental Health Services



WELFARE SERVICES

General Arrangements

The Authority's functions in this field under the National Assistance Act, 1948 were discharged through the Health and Welfare Committee. The administration in 1970 was under the Director of Welfare Services, who is also the Medical Officer of Health. He was assisted by the Principal Welfare Officer responsible for the day to day administration of the Service.

The staff excluding those at residential establishments and cleaning staff of the Social Centre at the 31st December, 1970 consisted of :-

- 1 Principal Welfare Officer
- 1 Deputy Principal Welfare Officer
- 2 Senior Social Welfare Officers
- 9 Social Welfare Officers
- 8 Welfare Assistants
- 3 Home Teachers for the Blind
- 1 Senior Craft Instructor
- 9 Craft Instructors (6 full-time, 3 part-time)
- 1 Warden - Social Centre

In addition one Trainee Welfare Officer was seconded for training on a two year course and one Senior Social Welfare Officer was seconded for a one-year course in social work training. The duties relating 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 in the former West Bromwich area by the Walsall, West Bromwich and Aldridge-Brownhills Society for the Blind, and in the Tipton area by the Wolverhampton, Dudley and District 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. Currently, it can be estimated that about 1 in 10

residents of the Borough are over 65 years of age, thus giving an estimated population for the elderly of 17,301 in 1970.

On the 31st December 1970, the department has a record of some 1591 elderly persons who for some reason had come to notice. Not all persons over 65 had need of special services and the difficulty is finding those who do.

Welfare Services

In general, during 1970 a Local Authority had 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 service for the welfare of the elderly contained in section 45 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 were not in force during 1970.

Residential Accommodation

Accommodation under Part 111 of the National Assistance Act 1948 is provided directly by the Corporation at :—

"The Hawthorns", Green Lane, Great Barr, West Bromwich		For 21 elderly ladies
"Beech Holme", Beeches Road, West Bromwich	....	For 20 elderly men
"Lyndon House", Scott Street, West Bromwich	....	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, Clarke's 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 21 elderly persons (either sex)
“Silver Trees”, Birch Street, Tipton	....	For 48 elderly persons (either sex)
“Glebefields House”, Strathmore Road, Tipton.	....	For 50 elderly persons (either sex)
“John Dando House”, Hamstead Road, Birmingham, 22a.	....	For 50 elderly persons (either sex)

Blocks of flats are provided by the Housing Committee with a resident Warden provided by the Health and Welfare Committee, they are :—

“Newport House”, Monmouth Drive, West Bromwich	....	For 22 elderly persons
“Sandfield House”, Walsall Road, West Bromwich	....	For 22 elderly persons
“Bromley House”, Redwood Road, Yew Tree Estate, Walsall	....	For 22 elderly persons
“Swancroft House”, Strathmore Road, Tipton.	....	For 31 elderly persons
“Albion House”, Richard Street South, West Bromwich.	....	For 31 elderly persons
“Salisbury House”, Lily Street, West Bromwich	....	For 31 elderly persons

Further accommodation of this type is also provided at King’s 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 development comprising 12 — 1 bedroom flats for 2 people, 8 bedsitting units in a converted house, and 6 small bungalows for single persons. At the end of 1970 the number of residents in Part III accommodation was as follows :—

<u>Home</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>In Hospital</u>
“The Hawthorns”	—	14	2
“Beech Holme”	17	—	4
“Lyndon House”	5	24	6

<u>Home</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>In Hospital</u>
"Greenside House"	14	26	4
"The Willows"	7	—	2
"66, Clarkes Lane"	—	9	1
"Bromford House"	20	34	2
"Kelvedon"	3	16	2
"Silver Trees"	19	29	4
"Glebefields House"	21	27	7
"John Dando House"	15	32	4

During the year a purpose-built Home "John Dando House", was opened at Great Barr and provides accommodation for 50 elderly persons of either sex.

The general position at the end of the year was that 355 beds were provided for old persons (this is the extent of the provision made by the Welfare Services and excludes the provision made at Warstone House by the Health Services for the mentally disordered). The waiting list at 31st December, 1970 consisted of 34 males and 62 females.

The Homes are intended to be run with regard to the individual resident, visiting was not restricted and free choice of doctors by the residents was 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 were made available for those who wished to participate. Extra comforts (sweets, tobacco and beer) were issued. Holidays for the residents of the Homes were arranged directly by the Health and Welfare Committee and in September 52 people went to Guest Houses in Morecambe.

In addition to the residents of the Council's own Homes, other elderly persons were maintained in Local authority or voluntary homes elsewhere, usually because they had established ties with other areas or the homes provided special facilities. At the 31st December, 1970 these were as follows:—

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Chalfont Colony, Buckinghamshire.	—	1
"Priceholme", Scarborough	—	2

Cheshire Foundation Homes	Men	Women
Wolverhampton	2	—
Sutton Coldfield	—	1
David Lewis Colony	1	—
Stoke Park Colony	2	—
East Court, Cheltenham	1	—
Maghull Home for Epileptics	1	—
Ivy House, Cannock	—	2
Dibdale, Sedgley	—	3
Homer House, Wolverhampton	—	1
New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford	—	2
Lightwoods, Cheadle, Stafford	—	1
West Hope, Stafford	—	2
Barton Land Home for the Blind	1	—
Nearfield House, Lichfield	—	1
Engleberg, Wolverhampton	1	—
The Limes, Aldridge	1	—
The Viewlands, Wolverhampton	1	—
Castel Forma, Leamington Spa	—	1
Christadelphian Home, Birmingham	—	1
Training College, Oswestry	1	—
Langho Colony, Liverpool	—	1
The Beeches, Birmingham	1	—

The number of admissions and discharges from the 1st January, 1970 to the 31st December, 1970 was as follows :—

	Hawthorns	Beech Holme	Lyndon House	Greenside House	66, Clarkes Lane	Willows	Bromford House	Kelvedon	Silver Trees	Glebefields House	John Dando House
No. of beds	21	20	31	42	10	10	52	21	48	50	50
No. of admissions	10	8	7	12	2	4	18	7	18	18	55
No. of re-admissions from Hospitals	4	3	2	—	—	5	1	3	5	10	1
*No. of discharges	5	4	3	5	2	2	5	1	4	3	2
No. of deaths	3	2	5	9	—	2	13	7	9	12	3
% beds occupied	77.65	82.59	97.10	97.52	89.20	90.51	99.40	95.22	94.10	96.12	85.40

*Discharges included admission to hospital for long term care.

Finance

The full costs charged by the Corporation per resident in directly maintained Homes was estimated at £12.78 per week at the 31st December 1970 and 244 residents without private means were paying the minimum charge of £4 per week, 55 were paying a proportion of the charge, whilst 33 were paying the full cost. Each resident received a minimum of £1 per week pocket money. A total of 78.3% of all admissions was to groundfloor beds. The sex distribution of residents at the 31st December 1970, was 36% male and 64% female. The average age was 79 and the average length of stay was 37 months excluding temporary admissions.

Staffing

Changes of senior staff occurred at Lyndon House during the year.

Voluntary Organisations

There were in 1970 sixteen "over 60" Clubs in West Bromwich, 7 in Wednesbury, 6 in Tipton and 4 Clubs organised by the W.R.V.S. The following organisations also acted as co-ordinating bodies :—

West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee

Wednesbury Old People's Welfare Committee

Tipton Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of Aged Persons

West Bromwich Council for the Welfare of Old People

Meals on Wheels

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service supported by 2 teams, each 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 668 meals per week.

For the financial year ending 31st March 1970, the Corporation allowed for a grant of £2860, to the service. The meals were purchased from the Gala Restaurant at 2/10d each and the cost to the recipient was 1/6d. The meals for the Tipton area were purchased from 3 works canteens at a cost of 2/9d and 2/6d each. The number of meals supplied during the year rose to 34,243 an increase of 3,824 over the previous year's figures.

Lunch Club

The W.R.V.S. during the year operated a successful Lunch Club for old people at the Social Centre, Walsall Street, on Fridays of each week. The meal cost the recipients 2/- and the average attendance was 75.

Sons of Rest

There were 13 Homes in the Borough at the 31st December 1970, and men over the age of 65 not in full employment may apply for membership. Each Home organised its own affairs.

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

	No. on Register	Days Open Each Week	Average Weekly Attendances
Dartmouth Park	55	5	125
Friar Park	32	5	75
Hamstead	35	4	90
Eli Fletcher	51	5	100
Oakwood Park	45	5	120
Eliza Corbett	50	5	100
Kenrick Park	32	5	80
Farley Park	45	5	100
Hateley Heath	18	2	30
Hamstead	40	5	115
Homelea	50	5	100
Wednesbury	80	5	120
Princes End	30	4	60
Total	563	—	1215

Care of the Blind

There were 303 registered blind persons in the Borough, in age groups as follows:—

	Under	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Total
M	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	5	5	11	25	16	15	12	8	10	12	5	130
F	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	6	1	9	11	13	27	27	32	25	13	173
T	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	5	9	11	12	34	27	28	39	39	42	37	18	303

Twelve men and 27 women died during the year. Seventeen men and 35 women were certified blind during the year :—

	Under	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Total
M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	17
F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	7	9	5	6	2	35
T	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	5	10	11	7	8	3	52

The service was continued on an Agency basis. Tipton cases were dealt with by the 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 15 blind persons in homes for the Elderly.

Employment

At 31st December 1970, the following were employed in Workshops for the Blind :—

- 3 Basket Makers
- 2 Miscellaneous Workers
- 6 Brush Makers
- 1 Boot and Shoe Repairer
- 1 Wireworker
- 1 Piano Tuner

There were 3 blind people in the home workers scheme :—

- 1 Basket Maker
- 1 Salesman
- 1 Carpenter

Twenty-two people were known to be employed in open industry :—

- 1 Social Welfare Worker
- 1 Proprieter (Haulage)
- 2 Gardeners
- 1 Storekeeper
- 1 Typist
- 8 Machine Tool Operators
- 5 Labourers
- 1 Shop Assistant
- 1 Miscellaneous Worker
- 1 Proprietor – Manager

Blind Persons with Additional Handicaps

	Mentally Ill	Mentally Handicapped	Physically Defective	Deaf No Speech	Deaf with Speech	Hard of Hearing	Mentally Ill & Physically Defective	Physically Defective & Hard of Hearing	Mentally Ill & Hard of Hearing	Mentally Handicapped & Physically Defective	TOTAL
M	2	3	12	1	2	9	—	—	—	—	29
F	1	8	22	1	7	9	1	1	1	1	52
T	3	11	34	2	9	18	1	1	1	1	81

Visiting

A total of 2096 visits was made to blind and partially sighted persons in their own homes during the year. (There were fewer visits in the West Bromwich area due to shortage of staff at the beginning of the year).

Teaching in the Home

Only a few handicraft lessons were given in stool seating, knitting, cane-work and typewriting in the home as most of the people interested were able to attend the Social Centres. Many aids were distributed during the year (white sticks, clocks, kitchen timers, tools, bread cutters, games etc., etc.)

Training and Employment

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

Holidays

A total of 40 blind persons and their guides from West Bromwich spent a week at Weymouth. Fifty-two blind persons and their guides from the Tipton area also went to Weymouth for a week and the people from Wednesbury made their own arrangements. All blind persons had holiday grants.

Guide Dogs

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

Talking Books

An increasing number of people were using "talking books" during the year and several have had their names put on the waiting list.

Wireless

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 was held on Tuesdays at West Bromwich. On the third Wednesday in each month a Concert was held at the Walsall Institute. A social was held on the second Tuesday in the month at Tipton. Transport was provided for these functions.

Summer Trips

A varied programme was again drawn up and during the year outings were arranged to Blurton, Clent, Trentham Gardens, Peak District and Stourpourt.

Christmas Parties etc.

Christmas Dinners were held at the Wolverhampton Institute, including blind persons from Tipton, and at the Walsall Institute including blind persons from Wednesbury. A New Year party was also held in the Walsall Institute.

The blind persons from West Bromwich had a Christmas party at The Royal Oak, Dudley Port.

Several people received cash grants towards clothing, gas and electricity.

The Wednesbury blind people received coal during the year.

Every registered blind person received a Christmas Gift of £2.00.

Large Print Books

The Public Library had available for loan a large 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, 1970 was 57. The following table shows the age and sex distribution :-

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	TOTAL
M	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	-	1	1	20
F	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	1	-	1	4	3	2	3	8	1	4	1	37
T	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	5	5	1	2	5	4	4	4	10	1	5	2	57

Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb

The Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb has been provided over the previous years by the Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb at Walsall under the Missioner. The number of deaf registered at 31st December, 1970 was as follows :-

Classification	Male	Female	Total
Deaf without speech	45	39	84
Deaf with speech	20	14	34
Hard of Hearing	8	10	18
Total	73	63	136

A weekly Social Club was held at the West Bromwich Social Centre and in addition the Mission to the Deaf, Walsall is utilised by the West Bromwich deaf for Religious Services and some Social activities.

Physically Handicapped

At the 31st December 1970, the number of physically handicapped in the Borough was 944.

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

Group 'A'

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

Group 'B'

Physically handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary 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 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 responsibility under Section 29 of the Act.

The numbers in each group at the end of 1970 were as follows :—

Group	Total at 31.12.69	Additions 1969	Total	Deaths	Moved out of Area	Other Removals	Part 111	Total	Total 1970
A	136	18	154	2	1	1	—	4	150
B	29	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	29
C	14	—	14	1	—	—	—	1	13
D	710	115	825	76	7	2	15	100	725
E	28	—	28	—	—	1	—	1	27
T	917	133	1050	79	8	4	15	106	944

The analysis of the age group is as follows :—

	Children	16-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Total
Males	5	43	78	175	151	452
Females	8	39	54	149	242	492
Total	13	82	132	324	393	944

The 944 cases known to the Department can be classified as suffering from disability as shown in the following table :—

	Coding	A	B	C	D	E	Total
Amputations	A/E	20	2	2	50	—	74
Arthritis & Rheumatism	F	9	4	2	192	—	207
Congenital Malformations	G	24	4	1	31	5	65
Diseases of the Digestive & Genito Urinary Systems; of the Heart or Circulatory systems; of the Respiratory system (other than Tuberculosis)	H/L	32	2	2	263	4	303
Injuries of the Head: Face: Thorax: Injuries or Disease (other than Tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and spine	Q/T	20	4	2	68	—	94
Organic Nervous Diseases : Epilepsy, Poliomyelitis, Hemplegia Sciatica etc.	V	40	11	3	110	1	165
Mental Disorders	U/W	1	1	1	12	—	15
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	X	1	—	—	1	—	2
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	Y	2	—	—	6	3	11
Diseases: Injuries not specified above	Z	1	2	—	5	—	8
Totals		150	30	13	738	13	944

The number of known cases of Epilepsy in the Borough was 90 consisting of 16 men and 24 women, 23 boys and 27 girls. There were also 93 known cases of cerebral palsy 74 adults (44 male, 30 female) and nineteen children (ten boys and nine girls).

Car Badges for the Disabled

A total of 41 car badges were issued by the Corporation to severely handicapped persons to identify their vehicles when parked and so facilitate parking for the disabled.

Holidays 1970

The Welfare Committee arranged a week's holiday for the physically handicapped which took place in July at a holiday camp at Corton, Lowestoft. A total of 241 adults and two children, together with fifteen staff attended.

The numbers were made up as follows :—

159 Physically Handicapped
82 Escorts
2 Children
15 Staff

The net cost after allowing for contributions from the participants was £1,553.5.4d.

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 New Horizons which meets in the West Bromwich Social Centre each Friday evening, the Tipton Physically Handicapped club which meets in the Tipton Social Centre 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 £115 to enable 19 physically handicapped and their escorts to take part in the holiday at Corton. A similar amount was made available to approximately 50 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, and local hospitals to facilitate transport of patients in geriatric wards for trips and outings.

It also provided monetary grants for special needs of handicapped persons, though these have been restricted with a view to purchasing a new ambulance in 1972.

A motorized wheelchair owned by the association has been re-allocate to a double amputee who is finding it extremely useful.

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 an outing to a Pantomime, a Summer Trip and a coach trip in the Autumn. In addition to the monthly meetings visits were made to Church Fellowships, and the Townswomen's Guild. A Christmas Party was held for approximately 140 members.

Day Centres

These were held for elderly persons, house-bound by physical infirmity 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, 1970 there were 98 persons on the Register and the average attendance was 80 per week. Persons attending the day centres were collected from their homes at 10.00 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 1/9d 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.

Craft Classes

During the year, classes were held at the West Bromwich Social Centre. There were 14,575 attendances and the Register stood at an average of 90 during the year.

There were 2061 attendances at the Wednesbury Town Hall and the average number on the Register was 16.

There were 9676 attendances at the Tipton Social Centre and the average number on the Register was 34.

Domiciliary Work

Owing to shortage of Staff less Domiciliary Work was accomplished. There were 533 visits made during the year. One hundred and fifty-seven 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

Outing to the Cotswolds and Tea at Tewkesbury. Visit to exhibition of crafts at Aldridge and a Christmas party was held on 10th December 1970.

Wednesbury Town Hall

Outing to Blackpool and a Christmas party on 15th December 1970.

Tipton Social Centre

Outing to Drayton Manor Park and a Christmas party on 17th December 1970.

Transport

During 1970 there were four tail lift buses in use. The numbers of passengers transported were as follows :—

Occupational Therapy	12,916
Clubs for the Blind	3,386
Day Centres	3,977
New Horizon Club for Physically Handicapped	2,729
Tipton Physically Handicapped Club	1,929

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 39.724:—

Events arranged by the Welfare Department accounted for	32,037
New Horizon's Club	3,489
Use by the Health Services & Circle of Friendship	1,153
and the Tipton Physically Handicapped Club	3,045

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In 1970, Local Authorities had responsibilities in providing the services of mental welfare officers and social, recreational and residential services for persons suffering from mental disorders.

The provisions available in West Bromwich to patients in the community and not in hospital included training centres for the mentally sub-normal 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.

In 1970 the Health and Welfare Committee was the responsible committee of the Council and the duties were 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
- 5 Mental Welfare Officers
- 1 Mental Welfare Officer engaged specifically on work with subnormal children.

Mental Illness

The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board has revised the arrangements for admission of patients into 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 70 cases during the year. These powers can, of course, only be exercised on medical recommendation 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 121 patients living in the borough were known to have been admitted informally and in 69 cases powers of detention were used.

The Health 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. Two persons who lived outside the borough were admitted to places within the borough and therefore the total number of cases admitted and known to the department was 192 during the year.

Where patients are detained under compulsory powers the hospital decided in the light of the patients condition whether to discharge, continue to care for the patient on an informal basis or to extend the period of compulsory detention. Of the residents in West Bromwich admitted compulsorily 37 were kept in hospital for a period under seventy-two hours, 22 were kept for a period up to twenty-eight days. In 1970 one of these admissions came as a result of an Order from the Courts. A total of 4 patients admitted for periods up to seventy-two hours remained voluntarily for treatment at the end of their period of compulsory detention.

The All Saints Hospital, Birmingham has a very successful "Day" Hospital. Out-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, 24 were over the age of sixty-five at the time of admission. In 4 of these cases, compulsory powers were used.

Residential Accommodation for the Elderly Mentally Disordered

Warstone House was opened in 1963 to cater for this type of patient. During the year it had beds available for thirty-eight elderly persons with mental disorder, most of whom were also physically disordered. (An extension providing a further 11 beds having been opened during the year). Warstone House provided for patients who do not require care in hospital for mental disorder, but are beyond management at home or in accommodation provided for old people. The home was full throughout the year.

The following table shows the admissions and transfers :—

	Admissions	Transfers	Re-Admissions	Discharges	Deaths
From/To All Saints	16	—	—	2	—
From /To General Hospital	2	—	—	4	2
From Part 111	—	4	—	—	—
Of Temporary Nature	1	—	—	—	—
At Warstone House	—	—	—	—	14
From/To Own Home	14	—	—	—	—

The majority of residents stay in Warstone House until their deaths 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 the residents. In addition to those taken on a permanent basis one patient was admitted for a temporary period to provide relief to the family.

Work in the Community

At the end of 1970 a total of 2416 persons with a history of mental illness were known to the staff and receiving some form of visit or help. With a staff of the size indicated this was of a minimal nature in most cases as a great deal of visiting has to be undertaken to provide the social background of patients for the benefit of the hospital consultants undertaking treatment.

A club for the mentally ill with a membership of about 59 and a weekly attendance of approximately 45 meets once a week in the Social Centre, Walsall Street, West Bromwich and transport is provided to assist those who could not otherwise attend.

Relations with Hospitals

Thanks must be given to the Staff of All Saints Hospital Birmingham. Regular meetings are held with the consultant medical staff and Mental Welfare Officers of the various authorities involved. The Medical Director and his Staff advise the Medical Officer of

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

Mental Subnormality

The following table shows the new cases added on to the Register as known sub-normal persons during 1970.

	S/Subnormal				Subnormal			
	Under 16		Over 16		Under 16		Over 16	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Notified by Local Education Authority	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—
Transfers from other Local Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Courts	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Hospitals and discharges from inpatient treatment	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
General Practitioners	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5
Mental Welfare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	8	5	1	—	8	—	6	11

During the year 8 cases (4 boys and 4 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 2 boys and 3 girls were admitted to the special care unit attached to the Glenvale Junior Training Centre which provided care for those who are greatly physically handicapped in addition to their mental sub-normality. A waiting list existed at the end of the year consisting of 2 boys and 2 girls.

A total of 9 men and 5 women were admitted to the Senior Training Centre at the "Crest" and 16 were on the waiting list for admission at the end of the year.

Care in Hospital

During 1970, 4 patients suffering from mental sub-normality were admitted to hospital informally, and one under section 26 of the Mental Health Act, 1959 and 1 under Section 25 of that Act. In addition 18 persons suffering from mental sub-normality were admitted for periods of short term care. At the end of the year there were known to be 221 persons originally from the West Bromwich area who were receiving care and training in various hospitals for mental sub-normality. The following table gives the details :—

	Males	Females	Totals
Subnormal	30	24	54
Severely Subnormal	80	87	167
Total	110	111	221

At the end of the year, 199 of this total were under no compulsion to remain in hospital and the remaining 22 were subject to various forms of compulsory detention under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959.

Care in the Community

A total of 511 persons suffering from mental sub-normality 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 sub-normal persons on their visiting lists. The extent of this visiting is comparatively small bearing in mind the size of the staff.

Of this total of 511 there were 9 boys and 5 girls under the age of sixteen categorised as sub-normal and 73 boys and 54 girls categorised as severely sub-normal. In the group over the age of sixteen there were 101 men and 95 women in the sub-normal category and 73 men and 101 women in the severely sub-normal category.

Clinics for the Mentally Sub-Normal

Arrangements have continued throughout the year for a consultant psychiatrist from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, to attend at one of the Local Authority's Clinics to provide advice and help on sub-normal persons sent to him through the Health department by appointment. A total of 28 persons attended during the year at 9 such sessions held. It is notable that only 1 failed to keep the appointment. This local service of a Consultant psychiatrist in mental sub-normality is of most valuable help.

I am indebted to the Director of Social Services, Mr. G.S. Dunn, for the information on Welfare Services during 1970. These services were transferred to the new social services department, together with the staff, on the 1st January 1971.

PART VI
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE
HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT, 1970

Health and Hygiene Committee as at 31st December 1970

Chairman — Councillor E. Clarke
Deputy Chairman — Councillor F. Westwood

Alderman Mrs. M. Owen
Councillor R. Ashby
Councillor F. Bird
Councillor S. Bridgewood
Councillor B. Burton
Councillor G. Collett
Councillor J. Dicken
Councillor Mrs. B.U. Jones

Co-opted Members

D. Saklatvala, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
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 DEPARTMENT
ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1970**

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent — Stanley Cayton, M.B.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.,
M.Inst.F.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Meat Hygiene) — Albert Mercer, M.A.P.H.I.,

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Other Services) — Stanley W. Hogg, M.A.P.H.I.

Housing Section

Senior P.H.I. — A.W. Reeves
4 Public Health Inspectors
2 Technical Assistants

Special Services Section

Senior P.H.I. — Wm. Cunningham
(Associate Chief P.H.I.)
3 Public Health Inspectors
1 Technical Assistant
1 Technical Assistant (Pests Officer)
3 Pests Control Manual Staff

Meat Hygiene Section

1 Public Health Inspector
2 Senior Authorised Meat Inspectors
7 Authorised Meat Inspectors

Air Pollution Section

Senior P.H.I. — C.R. Cresswell
1 Public Health Inspector
1 Graduate Assistant
3 Technical Assistants

Offices, Shops, Food and Drugs Section

Senior P.H.I. — C.C. Wilkes
3 Public Health Inspectors
4 Technical Assistants

Public Cleansing Section

Assistant Cleansing Supt. —
G.L. Collett
1 Senior Inspector
2 Cleansing Inspectors
3 Chargehands
163 Workmen

Pupil Public Health Inspectors

5 Pupils B.Sc. Degree Course
Aston University
1 Pupil (Supernumerary)

Clerks

Senior Clerk — Miss. G.M. Lemar
4 Clerks
3 Clerks (Sheepwash Lane Depot)

Vacancies

1 P.H.I. (Housing)
4 Technical Assistants
1 Authorised Meat Inspector
1 Clerk (Sheepwash Lane)

Typing

Typing Services are supplied by the Central Typing Pool operated on behalf of all departments by the Town Clerk.



East Meets West

Senior Public Health Inspector Fiji discussing problems of mutual interest in environmental hygiene, with Chief Public Health Inspector, West Bromwich — a dialogue made possible by World Health Organisation Fellowship.

By courtesy of the Birmingham Evening Mail.

FOREWORD

Fire and Flood

The year 1970 has been a turbulent one— fire in tipped refuse, though of short duration, caused acute nuisance in the neighbourhood and some danger. The cause was not spontaneous combustion but deliberate fire lighting for misguided amusement.

Flooding of a part of Collins Road, Wednesbury in August followed from the overflow of a water course and caused much distress and anxiety. Although a relatively small number of people were involved the emergency revealed the strength of the Corporation's resources in engineering and welfare equipment which was used very effectively. Improvements since carried out by the River Authority prevented any recurrence despite the exceptional rain fall of November.

Fire and flooding were not followed by pestilence as is often the case but by the longest interruption of refuse collection in our experience. It taught us much about improvisation and of the usefulness of plastic and paper sacks as an alternative to the traditional dustbin. With negotiations for a productivity agreement between our refuse collectors and the Corporation well advanced it is hoped that fifty two collections per dwelling in the coming year will be possible instead of only forty in 1970.

A long-established business of "knacker" was replaced by a drying and grinding process to convert feathers and poultry offal into an additive for animal feeding meals. At the outset the proposed change seemed beneficial and the handling of dead animals was transferred elsewhere.

The new process, though economically desirable, proved very offensive and pollution by odour became the source of widespread complaints. Modification proposals by the operating company were resisted until the plant, its operation and the liquid and gaseous effluents had been thoroughly examined. In December the Health and Hygiene Committee agreed to share with the operating company, the cost of an investigation by the Department of Chemistry of Aston University to determine the cause of the offensive smell. By

this means it is hoped to avoid a repetition of previous abortive, costly and time consuming trials.

The Company have also appointed consulting engineers and it seems likely that the problem will be solved – but there will be some justifiable delay. In the interim, the nuisance is being controlled by reduced intake of materials for processing.

House Repair and Improvement

Despite these difficulties and insufficient staff particularly to deal with multi-occupation and repair and maintenance of houses, much has been done to improve suitable properties with the assistance and encouragement of discretionary and improvement grants. The totals recorded, though much better than in any previous years, need to advance further and faster to achieve the objective, namely prevention of a further programme of slum clearance after the completion of the present one.

It is considered that at least four thousand houses should be improved and thoroughly repaired within ten years if this policy is to succeed.

A parallel activity of house improvement by declared improvement areas is likely to stimulate the process but a beginning on the ground as opposed to planning has still to be made and sustained by the declaration of succeeding areas, annually. Suitable areas of property worthy of improvement are likely to include a significant proportion of houses in considerable disrepair bordering on unfitness and some multiple-occupation. On the evidence available to us, 1971 should be a Housing Year especially, as it seems likely there will be building tradesmen available for this type of work.

Food

The benefits which follow from the appointment of a senior inspector to specialise in a major responsibility are very apparent in the section of the report dealing with food, drugs, offices and shops. This has been further advanced by the appointment of a deputy with special responsibility for meat hygiene and inspection. The addition of two authorised meat inspectors to his team has reduced

the necessity for public health inspectors to be withdrawn from other specialities, often with detrimental effect.

Air Pollution and Noise

The operation of the new powers to deal with noise from compressors and other mobile power driven tools which are contained in the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1969, is recorded for the first time. All the nine cases presented to the Magistrates Courts were successful and control is complete.

The reduction in pollution of the atmosphere of West Bromwich by sulphur, smoke and particulate matter when compared with the National and West Midlands statistics is dramatic, particularly with regard to sulphur, the most difficult pollutant to reduce.

This information is obtained from the National Survey of Air Pollution undertaken by Warren Spring Laboratory for the Department of Trade and Industry and published in 1970 through the Standing Conference of Co-operating Bodies recording air pollution.

There have been many occasions when this information would have been useful to show whether real progress was being made. Now that it is available and scientifically unassailable it is both encouraging and stimulating.

Naturally, the summer months provide the lowest level of pollution. They indicate the level of industrial pollution without any significant amount of domestic space heating. The domestic heating trend is away from solid fuel to gas and electricity and if this continues, even without the benefits of formal smoke control areas the autumn and winter peaks will decline and possibly give us minimum levels over a longer period than the months of June, July and August.

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Mahboob Hasrat Ali, a Senior Public Health Inspector in Fiji, spent six months in the United Kingdom studying public health inspection in a variety of British local authorities assisted by a

World Health Organisation Fellowship.

Between June and July he was in West Bromwich at the request of the Department of Health and Social Security.

It was a pleasant experience for us to meet Mr. Ali and hear his views of our ways of working and living at the same time as we demonstrated to him aspects of public health administration likely to be of value to him in his work in Fiji.

Examination Successes and Appointments

Congratulations to the following on their attainments. The appointment of Mr. Jacob to be Chief Public Health Inspector, London Borough of Islington is worthy of special commendation. He left behind a fine record of service.

The retirement of Mr. Owen after 13 years in West Bromwich in charge of meat inspection is well earned as is his trip to Australia. Meat inspection in Australia will be an interesting experience. We shall expect a full account in due time.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Miss E.M. Taylor | — Certificate in Food Hygiene and Handling of Food — Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. |
| Mrs. C.A. Morris | — Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene Diploma in Food Hygiene. |
| Mr. P.S. Fisher | — B.Sc. Course Second Year, Aston University. |
| Mr. V.P.H. Whelan | — B.Sc. Course Second Year, Aston University. |
| Mr. K. Mayou | — B.Sc. Course First Year, Aston University. |
| Mr. C. Potts | — B.Sc. Course First Year, Aston University. |
| Mr. L. Medlycott | — Royal Society of Health — Air Pollution Diploma |
| Mr. G.L. Collett | — Testamur Institute of Public Cleansing |
| Mr. C.R. Cresswell | — Senior Public Health Inspector (Air Pollution) appointed Examiner for Air Pollution Diploma — Royal Society of Health. |

Principal Staff Changes in 1970

- March — Mr. M. Jacob, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector to Chief Public Health Inspector, London Borough of Islington.
- April — Mr. N.H. Owen, Senior Public Health Inspector (Meat Hygiene) — retired.
- April — Mr. A. Mercer, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Royal Borough of Sutton Coldfield, appointed Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Meat Hygiene).

- April – Mr. S.W. Hogg, Senior Public Health Inspector (Food Control) appointed Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Other Services)
- April – Mr. C.C. Wilkes, Public Health Inspector appointed Senior Public Health Inspector (Food Control)
- April – Mrs. C.A. Morris, Clerical Assistant, appointed to Food Control Section as Technical Assistant (Food Hygiene)
- June – Mr. M.J. Mason, Assistant Cleansing Superintendent to Cleansing and Transport Superintendent – Royal Borough of Kingston-on-Thames.
- July – Mr. G.L. Collett from London Borough of Haringey, appointed Assistant Cleansing Superintendent.
- Nov. – Miss. E.M. Taylor, Clerical Assistant, appointed Technical Assistant (Air Pollution)
- Dec. – Messrs D. Keegan and T. Rawlins, Authorised Meat Inspectors to Senior Authorised Meat Inspectors.
- Dec. – Mr. G.W. Rehorn – retired.

Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to express appreciation of the work done on our behalf by the West Bromwich Officers of the West Midlands P.T.A. in maintaining vehicles for refuse collection and associated activities.

The assistance of all the Chief Officers and Heads of other departments is also gratefully acknowledged as is the team work of my deputies, Mr. S.W. Hogg and Mr. A Mercer who are so enthusiastically supported by the specialist Section Leaders and every member of the department.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my thanks and appreciation for the confidence and consistent support I have received from yourself and the members of your Committee in every aspect of the department's work.

S. CAYTON.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Description of the area :

Total acreage	11,704
Population (at 31.12.70)	173,010
Product of a Penny (1d.) Rate	£33,700
Rateable Value of the Borough	£8,295,919

Meteorology – Weather Station, Wigmore :

Total rainfall – 1970	31.55''
1969	31.09''
1968	31.30''
1967	30.47''

Monthly rainfall – 1970 inches

January	3.49
February	3.39
March	3.05
April	3.38
May	0.76
June	2.28
July	1.74
August	4.28
September	1.42
October	1.09
November	5.53
December	1.14

31.55 inches

Maximum temperature – 90°F – 7.7.70

Minimum temperature – 11°F – 9.3.70

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

	Inspections and visits	Notices Served Formal	Informal	Prosecu- tions	Work in Default	Properties and Premises Repaired or Improved
HOUSING (Slum Clearance) repairs, improvement grants, multi-occupation and surveys	9,345	329	554	10	1	161
FOOD AND DRUGS						
Food Premises	5,439	—	1,100	8	—	—
Food and Drugs Act	—	—	—	14	—	—
Markets, stalls and delivery vehicles	279	—	85	1	—	—
Sampling	241	—	—	—	—	—
OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963	2,387	—	620	4	—	490
MEAT HYGIENE						
Meat and Poultry	6,750	—	3	2	—	—
AIR POLLUTION AND FACTORIES (smoke observations, surveys, complaints, volumetric measurement)	4,903	24	67	3	—	—
Factories Act	555	—	84	—	—	—
Industrial Noise	561	7	35	9	—	—
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Special Services)						
(Nuisances, refuse collection and disposal, Civic Amenities Act 1967, rodent control, pests and infectious diseases, domestic noise & drainage)	10,091	187	438	1	516	639
TOTALS	40,551	547	2,986	52	517	1,290

HOUSING

The year 1970 was notable for a resumption of slum clearance, an increased interest in improvement grants and the issue of qualification certificates under the Housing Act, 1969. The two latter items have resulted in a considerable increase in work for a depleted staff, and other activities have had to suffer as a result. Action in connection with multiple occupation has proceeded at a much slower rate than is necessary. At the end of the year there were still more than 600 houses believed to be in multiple occupation, which had received no attention at all. In view of the increasing problems in this sphere, this state of affairs needs to be remedied at the earliest opportunity.

It has not been possible to begin any systematic inspection of the housing stock of the borough in fulfilment of the Council's obligation under Section 70 of the Housing Act, 1969, nor to complete inspection of the houses in the first area designated for general improvement. The inspection and classification, particularly of the older houses in the borough, is an essential pre-requisite to determination of the Council's future policy in relation to unfit houses, house and area improvements and multiple occupation. The long term planning of these operations is a matter to which increased attention will have to be devoted if the benefits of early implementation of the current legislation are to be fully realised.

Early in the year the Council transferred its powers relating to multiple occupation, from the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee, to the Housing Committee and this, together with the delegation of powers and duties under the Housing Act, 1969 means that the Housing Committee now has responsibility for all the Council's housing activities.

New Housing Accommodation

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Number of houses and flats built by the Local Authority	437	682
Number of houses and flats erected by private enterprise.	359	301
	<u>796</u>	<u>983</u>

Slum Clearance

The declaration by the Council at its January meeting, of the clearance areas included in the first phase of the clearance and redevelopment of the Burnt Tree area of Tipton, marked the resumption of slum clearance in accordance with a revised programme produced after the re-appraisal of housing needs and resources, in terms of both houses and finance, which took place in 1969. The declaration of clearance areas has continued steadily during the year. It will be noted that most of the clearance areas are very small and this is likely to be the pattern in the future, now that the clearance of the remaining unfit houses, which are not regarded as capable of renovation and improvement, is nearing completion. Future action, for the most part, will be merely a "mopping up" operation. The representation of 331 houses in clearance areas involved the declaration of 37 separate areas. Closing or Demolition Orders were made in respect of 73 individual unfit dwellings.

Two public local enquiries were held during the year, the first in respect of one Compulsory Purchase Order, and the second in respect of one Compulsory Purchase Order and three Clearance Orders. The five Orders contained a total of 138 houses considered to be unfit. In respect of the first inquiry there were objections to the "unfit" classification of 19 houses. In confirming the Order the Minister upheld the objections in respect of 7 of the houses and transferred these and 1 additional house, which was not the subject of an objection, to Part III of the Order. In connection with the second inquiry, objections to classification as "unfit" were made in respect of 10 houses, but an objection in respect of 6 of these was withdrawn. The Minister's decision is awaited. Two unopposed Clearance Orders in respect of 27 houses were also confirmed, without modification, during the year.

In October the Council resolved to make a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of 38 houses in the vicinity of the Tipton Town Centre which were included in clearance areas in 1968.

Progress in re-housing and demolition of unfit houses.

A total of 317 families, comprising 971 individuals, were re-housed during the year from houses the subject of Closing and

Demolition Orders, or included in confirmed Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders. The number of houses demolished were 694.

Since the post-war resumption of slum clearance more than 11,000 houses have been dealt with as unfit in the area of the present County Borough. (See Table IV). This is more than 1/5th. of all the houses now in existence and is equivalent to the relocation of a sizeable town. Members of the present and former Local Authorities can feel a justifiable pride in such an achievement, since it represents a significant improvement in the general standard of housing in the Borough. Clearance of all the unfit houses in the area, which are not regarded as improvable, should be virtually complete by the end of 1974.

TABLE 1
Representations of Houses in Clearance Areas

Clearance Area	Date of Representation	Order	No of Houses	No. of Persons to be Displaced	No. of Families
Franchise Street No. 258.	26.2.70.	Franchise Street Clearance Order 1970.	6	24	7
Franchise Street No.259.		Franchise Street C.P.O. 1970.	7	14	7
Alexandra Road No. 260.		) Alexandra Road Clearance Order 1970	11	31	14
Alexandra Road No. 261.			11	27	11
Gospel Oak Road No. 262.		) Gospel Oak Road Clearance Order 1970	3	10	3
Gospel Oak Road No. 263.			2	5	2
Gospel Oak Road No. 264.		) )	4	16	5
Leabrook Road No. 239.			4	10	4
No. 240.	30.4.70	) Leabrook Road Clearance Order 1970	18	54	20
No. 241.			5	13	5
No. 242.		) Leabrook Road C.P.O. 1970	9	29	9
No. 243.			7	19	6 + 1 House in mult. occup.
No. 244.		) )	6	13	6
No. 245			2	6	2
No. 253		)	2	4	2
Tividale Road No. 252.	25.6.70.	Tividale Road Clearance Order 1970	12	29	12

Table 1 - continued.

Clearance Area	Date of representation	Order	No. of Houses	No. of Persons to be Displaced	No. of Families
Peel Street No. 265	25.6.70.	Peel Street C.P.O. 1970	23	63	23
Queens Road No. 266		Queens Road Clearance Order 1970	8	21	8
Perry Street, Wednesbury No. 267.		Perry Street Clearance Order 1970 Perry Street C.P.O. 1970	56	207	48+8 Houses in mult. occup.
Dudley Street		) Dudley Street	2	6	2
No. 268		) Clearance Order 1970	2	2	1
No. 269		) Dudley Street C.P.O. 1970	4	22	6
No. 270		)	3	18	4
No. 271		)	4	19	4
No. 272		)	3	6	3
New Road No. 273		New Road C.P.O. 1970	5	12	5
Dudley Road	23.9.70	Order not yet made	4	12	4
No. 274			2	8	2
No. 275			7	31	5+2 Houses in mult. occup.
No. 276			23	58	23
No. 277			2	7	2
No. 278			4	11	4
No. 279			31	85	30
No. 280			2	3	2
No. 281			4	7	3
No. 282			7	17	6
No. 283			26	49	21
Dudley Port	21.10.70	Order not yet made	7	17	6
No. 203			26	49	21
No. 204					

TABLE II**Individual Unfit Houses**

	Houses Demolished	Demolition Orders Made	Closing Orders Made
1970	29	37	36
1969	8	28	15

TABLE III**Houses Demolished**

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Houses in or adjoining clearance areas	665	701
Houses subject of demolition orders	<u>29</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>694</u>	<u>709</u>

TABLE IV**Post war slum clearance within present boundaries of West Bromwich**

Individual Unfit Houses (Closing and Demolition Orders)	3,121
Houses in and adjoining Clearance Areas	
Clearance Orders	1,002
Compulsory Purchase Orders	6,921
	<u>11,044</u>

Housing Repairs

Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 were served in respect of thirty-six houses. Seventeen of the houses had been the subject of requests from tenants under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964 for the exercise of powers to require provision of the standard amenities. Eleven of the houses had been made fit at the end of the year, ten by the owners and one in default. Improvement grants were paid in six of the cases.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT

Houses Made Fit

Four houses, the subject of closing orders, were made fit during the year and the orders revoked. In three cases the houses were also improved with the aid of grants.

Requests from Tenants under Section 19 Housing Act, 1964.

Requests for exercise of the Council's powers to require improvements were received in respect of sixteen houses. In one case proceedings for the making of a closing order were pending at the end of the year. In all the other cases it was necessary to serve notices under Section 9 of the 1957 Act. One application for a grant was approved and work commenced. In twelve cases the owners have signified their intention to apply for improvement grants.

General Improvement Areas

Inspection of houses in the Burlington Road area, provisionally designated as the first general improvement area, was commenced during the year and a working party of officers from the departments involved with the various aspects of improvement and rehabilitation was set up.

The reaction of local residents to the proposed declaration of a general improvement area has on the whole been favourable but it is likely that problems will arise from multiple occupation and with some of the older residents whose present houses are too big for them and for whom the present day cost of normal repair and maintenance is becoming a burden. The working party has considered

these and other related problems as well as suggestions for environmental improvement and it is hoped to produce a final report on the area, for formal declaration by the Council in 1971.

The report for 1969 made mention of the limited amount of time available for improvement of those houses which are worth saving and this must be emphasised again. In all those parts of the borough which are likely to be suitable for designation as general improvement areas there is a proportion of houses, sometimes a very significant proportion, whose life is very limited because of neglect of essential repairs. If the maximum amount of present housing stock is to be preserved a future programme for general improvement areas must aim to deal with all the improvable houses within the next 10 years, otherwise many houses which can be reconditioned now at reasonable cost will be beyond repair after ten years or perhaps earlier. The same vigorous approach will be necessary as that accorded to slum clearance in past years.

The completion of the improvement of houses in the Burlington Road area together with a continuance of the present level of improvement grant applications from elsewhere will mean that the target of 400 houses improved per year will be reached probably in 1972 or 1973 by which time the virtual completion of slum clearance will enable the level of activity in general improvement to be raised.

Improvement Grants

Response of owners of houses to the more generous provision of financial assistance for improvement introduced by the 1969 Act has been most gratifying. Whilst the number of applications for standard grants (provision of standard amenities only) has remained at roughly the same level as in previous years, applications for discretionary grants have increased dramatically from fourteen in 1969 to 87 in 1970. Although the amount of work involved in dealing with these has imposed a considerable burden on the staff of the housing section this is a trend which must be welcomed wholeheartedly since it represents a substantial investment in the existing housing stock of the borough, and augurs well for the future success of the conservation policy initiated by the Act. The total number of applications for improvement and standard grants, if maintained in future

years beings the target rate of improvements within striking distance.

A high standard was adopted from the outset. It was felt that the requirements of the 12 point standard ought only to be waived in exceptional circumstances and a substantial number of the proposals which have been approved will result in dwellings which very nearly achieve the full Parker Morris Standard. In addition to the level of improvement a high standard has been set for repairs so that the result of the improvement will be dwellings with a future life of at least thirty years which will require little beyond routine maintenance for a considerable part of that period. The need to contemplate clearance action has thus been postponed in many cases for twenty years or more at a fraction of the capital cost of new dwellings.

A point worthy of note is the total of thirty six applications approved in respect of tenanted dwellings. These were distributed equally between improvement and standard grants. The corresponding figures for 1969 were 3 and 21 respectively. Some of these applications were made in conjunction with applications for qualification certificates, (see table VII). It is hoped that the balance represents a development of interest in improvement on the part of landlords which will increase still further in future years. The number of improvable tenanted houses found to be unfit and the continuing very large discrepancy between applications for grants from owner/occupiers and landlords which has been noted in former years, are indications that there is a considerable amount of lee-way to be made up. The hope expressed last year that the new provisions for removal of rent control would result in an improvement, has been realised in a small way. It is hoped that publicity both national and local will give further impetus to this development.

TABLE V
Financial Assistance For Improvements

Type of Grant	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Applications Not Approved	Houses For Improvement	Houses For Conversion	No. of Dwellings Resulting From Conversions	Grant Approved
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	87	85 (67 owner occupiers)	—	83	2 (1 owner occupier)	5	£42,900
Standard Grants	111	114 (96 owner occupiers)	1	114	—	—	£20,730
Special Grants	1 (7 households)	1	—	—	—	—	£45
Grants for Separate Water Services	7	7	—	—	—	—	£371

Improvements carried out

Improvement Grants				Standard Grants										
Improvements:		Conversions		Standard Amenities Provided								Grant Paid		
Improved to 12 Point Standard	Grant Paid	Houses Converted	Dwellings Provided	Grant Paid	Houses Improved	Higher Limit Grants	Normal Limit Grants	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	In-ternal W.C.	Hot Water Supply		Sink	Grant Paid
								At 3 Pnts	At 1 or 2 Pnts		At 3 Pnts	At 1 or 2 Pnts		
42	£18,924	2	6	£3,182	100	49	51	71	77	96	65	18	7	£17,245

Conversion of Controlled Tenancies to Regulated Tenancies

Qualification Certificates

TABLE VI

Qualification Certificates (Section 44(1) Housing Act, 1969)	
Applications received during the year	170
Qualification Certificates refused	25
Qualification certificates issued	
(a) Dwellings with rateable value of £60 or more	16
(b) Dwellings with rateable value of £40 to £60	6
(c) Dwellings with rateable value less than £40	Nil
Applications under consideration at end of year	124

Because of staff shortage it has not been possible to deal with these applications as expeditiously as one would have wished but of those under consideration at the end of the year 101 are in respect of houses which were found on inspection not to satisfy the qualifying conditions. The procedure advocated by the Minister has been adopted in these cases. Submission of the applications for consideration has been deferred to give the owners an opportunity to make good the deficiencies.

With any new legislation there is always a "running in" period in which the standards to be applied have to be worked out. The qualifying conditions are the same as those applicable to applications for standard grants, namely that the dwellings shall be in good repair having regard to age, character and locality and be in all other respects fit for human habitation. It therefore seemed reasonable to ask for those repairs which would be required if the dwelling was the subject of an application for a grant for provision of standard amenities.

In only one or two cases has any objection been raised to the contentions made informally that the houses were not in good repair and these have been satisfactorily resolved after discussion with the applicants. There have been no appeals against refusal of qualification certificates. The present system seems to be operating smoothly

but some of the applications must have been submitted without any examination of the dwellings by the owners or their agents since a substantial number of them have generated quite long lists of defects and some have been lacking in one or more of the standard amenities.

Certificates of Provisional Approval

TABLE VII

Certificates of Provisional Approval (Section 44 (2))

Applications received during the year	15
Provisional certificates issued	13
Qualification certificates issued	3
Under consideration at end of year	4

These were combined applications for qualification certificates and standard or improvement grants.

Rent Act, 1957 – Certificates of Disrepair

One application was received during the year and a certificate of disrepair was issued.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Further progress was made in dealing with multiple occupation during the year within the limits of availability of staff. Much more remains to be done. Out of a total of approximately 850 houses suspected of being in multiple occupation less than 200 have so far been inspected.

A working party of officers from the departments concerned with the problems arising from multiple occupation was set up during the year. It considered the observations of the various departments and produced a report towards the end of the year. This dealt at length with the special problems produced by multiple occupation and isolated the difficulties facing all departments to a greater or lesser degree. It made recommendations which are under consideration and

which, it is hoped, will lead to a solution. It is all too apparent that the achievement of acceptable living standards in this field will be both costly and protracted.

A change in the pattern of multiple occupation has been apparent for some time. The supply of larger houses having been virtually exhausted, it is increasingly extending into houses which are basically suitable for use only by single households. Because of the lack of space for installation of amenities such as additional food preparation and cooking facilities statutory action has, as in previous years in similar cases, been confined to the giving of directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 and the service of notices for provision of adequate means of escape from fire.

The provision in Section 60 of the 1969 Act has been valuable, not only in reducing the hazards arising from outbreaks of fire but also in reducing the numbers of occupants in houses which lack adequate amenities. The making of closing orders on attic rooms has reinforced the limits imposed by directions by imposing a direct prohibition of the use of those parts of the houses.

TABLE VIII

Houses in Multiple Occupation – Action Taken

Notices Served

Section 90, Housing Act, 1957 (Abatement of overcrowding)	...	10
Section 19, Housing Act, 1961 (Direction to prevent or reduce overcrowding)	...	49
Section 15, Housing Act, 1961 (Provision of additional facilities)		5
Section 16, Housing Act, 1961 (Provision of satisfactory means of escape from fire)		27
Section 60, Housing Act, 1969 (Closing Orders where means of escape cannot be provided at reasonable cost)		16
Section 14, Housing Act, 1961 (Remedy of neglect of proper standards of management)		1

Compliance with notices

Overcrowding Section 90	9
Section 19	8
Provision of means of escape from fire	9
Houses which reverted to single household use	8
Houses vacated	1

Court proceedings

Section 16	5	(1 fined £25 plus costs) (2 fined £5 each plus costs) (1 withdrawn) (1 absolute discharge)
Section 90	1	(fined £15 plus costs)
Section 19	4	(2 fined £40 plus costs) (1 fined £30 plus costs) (1 fined £5 plus costs)

AIR POLLUTION, NOISE AND FACTORIES

Air pollution and noise in such a highly industrialised area as West Bromwich demands a considerable degree of specialised knowledge which takes time to acquire. Few Public Health Inspectors like to commit themselves to such a specialised field as they are concerned that they may fall behind in other aspects of public health work. In order to provide adequate continuity within the section, therefore, an appointment originally held by a Public Health Inspector has now been filled by a Science Graduate who is specialising in air pollution and noise control.

Industrial Air Pollution

With the exception of a few special processes, outside our control and cold blast cupolas to a varying extent, it is now comparatively rare to see chimneys attached to furnaces and boilers emitting smoke. There is always the occasional smoke emission of course, but it is usually found upon investigation to be due to a minor defect in the burners or equipment. Little progress has been made in reducing smoke and visible fume from the cold blast cupolas. Although the use of after-burners reduces the density of these emissions, it is doubtful if smoke and visible fumes will ever be eliminated. The best hope for the future appears to lie in the use of alternative means of melting iron and in this respect the shortage and very high cost of metallurgical coke may offer other fuel industries an opportunity of becoming competitive.

No complaints were received concerning grit and dust emissions from boilers or furnaces where the material being heated does not add to the stack solids e.g. annealing furnaces, billet heating and similar processes. Means of reducing grit and dust emissions are being employed in connection with other furnaces with varying degrees of success. The only way in which real progress will be made, however, are either by the introduction of legal standards or again by a change in the type of furnace being used.

Emissions of odours and other gaseous pollutants cause concern as it is often quite difficult to pin point the source of emission and even more difficult to suggest ways and means of eliminating it

once the source has been discovered. This is an area of air pollution control deserving more attention as little appears to be known about either the ways in which some of these pollutants are produced or whether they constitute a hazard to health. Health hazard or no, they are always objectionable or offensive and being deleterious to the environment must give cause for concern.

Many of our citizens are suffering from the lack of planning in past years when dwellings and industry were often sited alongside one another. Although attempts are being made to prevent these mistakes from being repeated, the high price that building land for housing can command, together with the need for more new low cost living accommodation, does mean that we see dwellings being erected on sites where the occupants will almost certainly complain about pollution which, at present, it is impossible to prevent.

As an example, a great deal of time was spent during the year at one comparatively small ironfoundry which is adjacent to dwellings and a school. The firm, at considerable expense, reduced emissions of all types to a minimum consistent with present standards and knowledge which is as much as they can be asked to do. Inevitably odours are produced from this type of foundry and in spite of careful maintenance, filters and other equipment become defective, and grit and dust escapes. Though it may be only a few minutes before the defect is detected and remedied it is a source of distress and annoyance. In such situations, whilst appreciating both sides of the problem, the only completely satisfactory answer is re-siting of dwellings, school or foundry – none is economically feasible.

In times of economic difficulty, the maintenance men, being non-productive are the first to go, maintenance deteriorates and the consequence is pollution in a variety of forms. The single largest source of complaint is still the emission of fine particles from industrial processes not involving combustion. Although in most cases the exhaust from these processes is filtered before discharge to atmosphere, maintenance of these filters is often inadequate. The processes are so numerous that routine inspection and testing of the filtration equipment is impossible so these particles of fine dust

escape to disfigure and discolour streets and buildings and perpetuate the drab and dingy environment we call "the Black Country".

The strike of refuse collection and disposal staff caused some burning of industrial waste in the open. This was unavoidable. Fortunately, however, the strike did not last very long and few problems arose. It was particularly noticeable that very little burning took place in scrap metal merchants' yards, premises which have in the past given rise to numerous complaints. One must bear some sympathy with firms engaged in this industry as we in West Bromwich have endeavoured to apply Section 1, Clean Air Act, 1968, as intended, whether nuisance is caused to other persons or not. It would appear, however, that in some areas this legislation is not so strictly administered and, therefore, there is a certain amount of inequality of treatment between one firm and another.

Complaints

It is difficult to categorise the various complaints received during the year. Often the original complaint on investigation, was due to a different cause. There seems to be an increasing belief by members of the public that petitions will produce more and quicker action than individual complaints. Petitions quite often only complicate matters as on speaking with a number of the signatories, difficulty is experienced as they tend to complain about entirely different things. However, the total number of individual complaints and petitions received relating to the various aspects of air pollution was 125.

Most of the improvements gained are the result of much discussion and correspondence and rarely does the necessity for a "Notice" arise. Generally, industrial firms want to be good neighbours and are prepared to go to trouble and expense to minimise or eliminate the causes of pollution. Nevertheless, it was necessary, in sixteen cases, to serve notices relating to smoke emission and in eight cases abatement notices under Section 16 Clean Air Act, 1956 and Sections 92 and 93 Public Health Act, 1936.

Successful prosecutions were instituted in two cases in respect of the emission of dark smoke from chimneys and in one case for cold blast cupolas not equipped with means for arresting grit and dust.

New Equipment

Fifty-three notifications of intention to install new furnaces were received during the year and fifty-two applications for prior approval. Chimney heights were agreed in respect of 102 new furnaces and five replacement chimneys. Of the furnaces notified sixty-seven were oil fired, thirty gas fired, four were heated with solid fuel and one by electricity.

The calculation of chimney heights for new large natural gas-fired boilers gave us some concern. The very small sulphur content precluded use of the Memorandum on Chimney Heights and the quantities of oxides of nitrogen produced when burning natural gas are negligible at the temperatures we encounter. So there was no obvious pollutant to use as a guide. The principal products of combustion are water vapour and CO₂ and in an attempt to calculate a chimney height bearing some relationship to possible air pollution hazards, the latter was selected as a parameter. Use was then made of the simplified Sutton formula and the height obtained corrected for the effect of adjoining buildings and downdraught.

The problem of calculating chimney heights for large natural gas-fired plant was raised by the West Bromwich representatives in June at the Standing Conference of Co-operating Bodies of Local Authorities and other Organisations measuring air pollution. As a result of the discussion that took place at this meeting, the Working Party on Chimney Heights was re-convened to consider the question and produce a suitable Memorandum for the guidance of all concerned.

Alkali Controlled Premises

There are twenty-four premises where the emissions are under the control of the Alkali Inspectorate and as in previous years they have given rise to numerous complaints. The frequent emission of black and dark smoke from one process, where the plume from the chimney falls on a new housing estate is a considerable nuisance.

A decision has still not been received from the Minister in respect of our application for the control of emission from nine industrial processes to be transferred from the Chief Alkali Inspector to ourselves. The application was made in October 1968.

Domestic Smoke Control

Smoke Control Orders No. 18 and 19 were confirmed by the Minister and will become operative on the 1st October 1971. Area 18 covers two hundred and seventy acres and contains two hundred and seventy dwellings, while Area 19 had an acreage of one hundred and eleven and includes three hundred and fifty-four dwellings. These new areas adjoin ten existing areas and the dwellings involved, with the exception of thirty, are newly erected. In only four cases are works of adaption required and the total estimated cost to the Corporation is £28. The situation in the Borough now is that 27% of the total dwellings and 23% of the total acreage is smoke controlled.

Two notices under Section 12 (2) Clean Air Act, 1956 were served in connection with properties in Smoke Control Area No. 17 and in each case the work was carried out in default.

It was necessary during the year to write to only four occupiers of houses in the Smoke Control Areas reminding them that it is an offence to emit smoke from chimneys unless they are burning one of the authorised fuels. A few complaints of persons delivering coal in these areas were investigated but none could be proved. Consultations were held with coal merchants and views exchanged on the supply of solid smokeless fuels and the operation of Section 9, Clean Air Act, 1968, which prohibits the sale of raw coal in the smoke controlled areas. The Midlands, and West Bromwich in particular, appears to have escaped the serious shortage of solid smokeless fuel affecting some parts of the country. Although the public have not always been able to obtain the particular smokeless fuel of their choice, other suitable types have always been available.

It is common knowledge that an increasing number of householders outside smoke controlled areas are preferring to burn gas or electricity rather than solid fuels. Not only does this apply to central heating installations but also to individual room heaters. The reason is not zeal for clean air but for convenience, greater cleanliness indoors and less work.

The West Bromwich Smoke Control Area No. 1 became operative in November, 1958. A survey of this area at the end of 1969 and reported last year, indicated that 54.4% households had changed

completely from burning solid smokeless fuel to gas or electricity, and a further 30.4% had replaced at least one solid smokeless fuel appliance by gas or electricity.

The extent of this conversion was so considerable that it was decided early in the year, before the shortage of solid smokeless fuels in some areas received publicity, to re-visit houses inspected in the sample survey carried out three years ago. The original survey was used to ascertain the likely cost of bringing the whole of West Bromwich into smoke controlled areas and the results were reported in the annual report for 1967. The re-inspection, which was limited to houses outside the smoke control areas, showed that in the last three years 23.3% of the houses visited had ceased burning bituminous coal and were using gas or electricity. A further 7.4% had replaced at least one solid fuel appliance with an appliance designed to burn gas or electricity. There will, no doubt be a hard core of persons who will continue to burn bituminous coal until their houses are included in smoke control areas. Annual sample surveys of no more than 2% of the hereditaments not already controlled should tell us when this hard core has been reached.

West Bromwich Clean Air Council

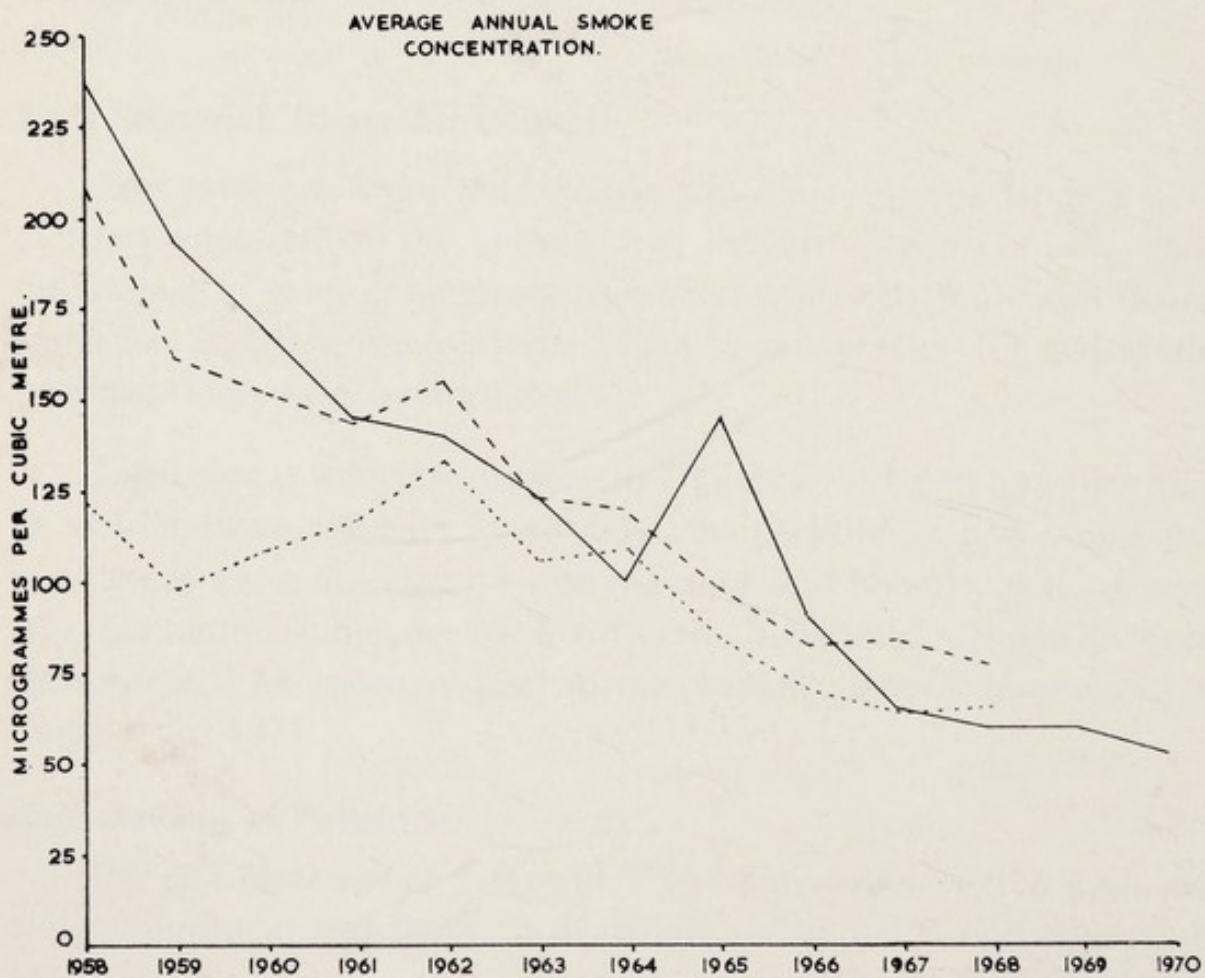
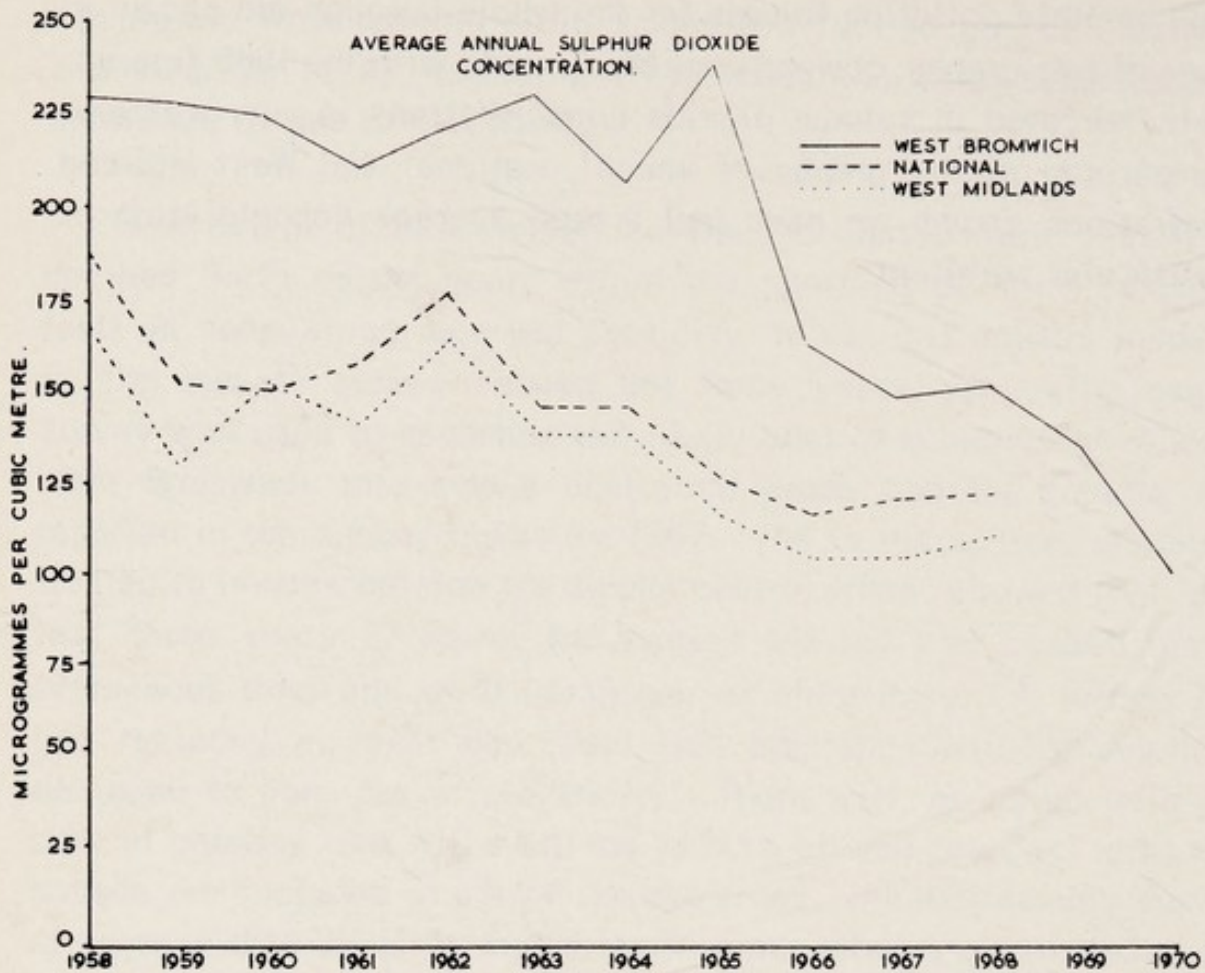
Two meetings were held during the year. At the first, a series of films supplied by the various fuel industries were shown, and at the second, a panel of lecturers from West Bromwich Technical College spoke on Standard International Units in preparation for metrication. Both meetings were well attended.

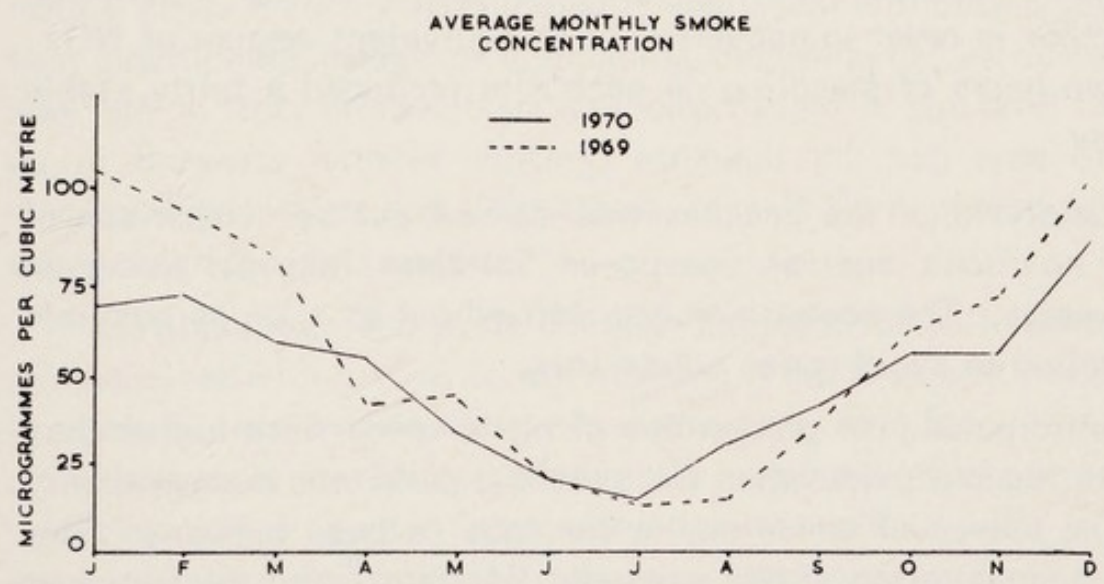
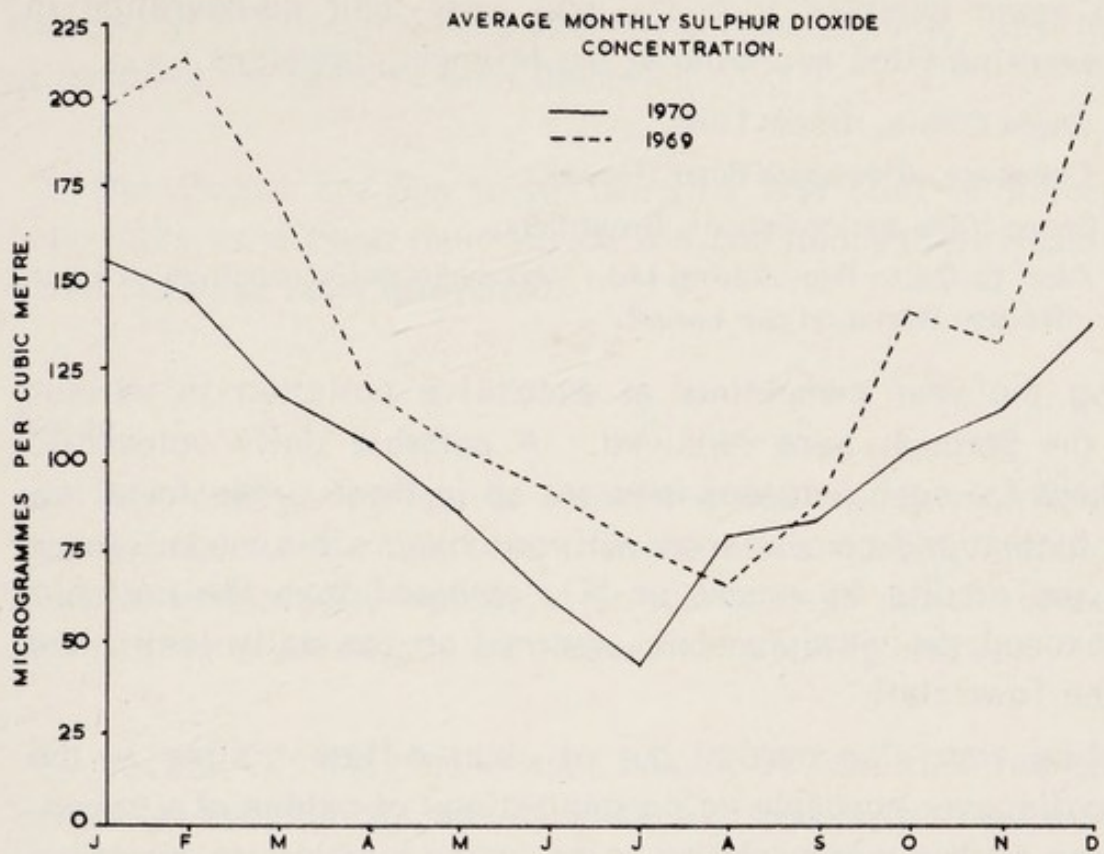
The Council was inaugurated in February 1957 and has functioned on similar lines since its formation. Consideration is now being given to changes as it is believed that the aims and objects of the Council may be better achieved by a different approach. These proposed changes will be recommended to the Annual General Meeting of the Council in 1971.

Measurement of Pollution

The measurement of smoke and SO₂ proceeded at five sites with daily volumetric machines, 3 of which are of the 8 port type. The

average monthly pollution figures for the whole Borough are shown in the form of two graphs, comparisons being made with the 1969 figures. The fall indicated in sulphur dioxide concentrations is very welcome as comparison of the graphs of annual, national and West Midland concentrations shows we have had a high average concentration of this particular pollutant.





I am again indebted to those who gave their co-operation in making measuring sites available at the following premises.

Chest Clinic, Heath Lane,
Cemetery, Alexandra Road, Tipton.
Grove Vale Junior School, Great Barr,
Also to Delta Die-casting Ltd., who make daily readings at their
Nelson Works on our behalf.

During the year complaints of excessive pollution in various parts of the Borough were received. A portable daily volumetric machine kept for such purposes was set up in these areas for a few weeks at a time and comparisons with our fixed sites made. In no case did the results for smoke or SO₂ obtained from the portable machine exceed the measurements obtained on the daily instrument sited at the Town Hall.

Sampling was also carried out at eight different sites in the Borough to discover atmospheric concentrations of oxides of nitrogen. The Saltzman method was employed using fritted bubblers to determine concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide. The absorbent used was Griess Saltzman reagent but before the nitric oxide could be absorbed it was necessary to pass the sample through a permanganate bubbler in order to convert it to an equivalent amount of NO₂. One or two hours of sampling on each site produced a fairly stable pink colour.

The analysis of the samples was carried out by comparison of the pink solutions against unexposed Saltzman reagent, using an absorptiometer. The comparison was carried out as soon as possible after sampling to avoid undue colour loss.

As anticipated, the proportions of nitric oxide were higher than those of nitrogen dioxide when the sampling point was comparatively near to the source of emission, in our case, a busy highway. The maximum concentration of NO measured 94, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the minimum 3, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, while the maximum NO₂ found also amounted to 94, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the minimum to 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The Factory Inspectorate recommend maximum occupational exposure of 30,000, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of NO and 9,000, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of NO₂. If the usual factor of 1/30th is taken to allow for a general reduced resist-

ance of some members of the general population, then figures are reduced to 1,000, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 300, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively, well in excess of anything we found in West Bromwich.

Our thanks are due to the Director and Staff of Warren Spring Laboratory as without their advice and assistance these measurements could not have been attempted.

Noise

Fifty-one complaints of excessive noise were received and investigated. As always, noise nuisances are most noticeable late at night or in the early mornings, so that a large number of visits and measurements were made outside normal working hours.

Section 75, West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1969, which became operative towards the end of 1969, has been extremely effective in enabling us to reduce noise from mobile air compressors and air powered tools. Five Civil Engineering Contractors and two Statutory Undertakers were successfully prosecuted for using mobile compressors or road breaking equipment without employing the best practicable means of minimising the emission of noise. It is now rare in West Bromwich to see compressors in use with the sides up or breakers without muffles, although the bag type of muffle quickly deteriorates and Contractors have to be reminded frequently to renew dilapidated muffles.

All plans received by the Borough Engineer for building purposes are examined with a view to ascertaining if the proposed development is likely to increase noise levels in the area. In a few cases refusal of development is recommended while in others attempts are made to get machines re-sited or construction changed in order to reduce the possibility of nuisance. Visits have been made to firms operating outside West Bromwich and noise measurements taken so that we were in a better position to appreciate special problems and made practical suggestions. This is work which takes up a considerable amount of time with little as yet to show for the effort.

Discotheques and beat groups create problems as the noise

produced usually continues until late at night when most householders wish to sleep. Under the West Bromwich Corporation Act premises have to be licensed annually before they may be used for Public Music, Singing or Dancing, Inspections of 99 such premises were made and the Town Clerk's Department advised accordingly.

Factories Act, 1961

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices	No. of Prosecutions
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	10	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	877	553	84	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers premises)	4	2	—	—
TOTALS	891	555	84	—

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	2	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	82	73	—	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	84	74	—	4

Inspection of premises under the Factories Act has been regularly carried out as a statutory obligation. The overall standard of sanitary accommodation provided is undoubtedly improving and inspections reveal less evidence of misuse by employees.

Outworkers

A total of 211 outworkers are employed on carding of buttons, hooks and eyes, hair grips and similar light repetitive handwork.

Prosecutions

Proceedings were instituted in 23 cases and fines totalling £1,005 were imposed as follows :-

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Eight cases involving 44 separate offences - fines totalling £670 with 37 gns. in costs.

One Cafe proprietor disqualified from catering for 2 years. An appeal to Quarter Sessions in respect of this case was dismissed.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

Proceedings instituted in one case involving 5 offences. Fines totalling £25 were imposed.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Section 2 (General protection of purchaser). Of nine cases taken, seven were proved and fines totalling £165 were imposed. One case was dismissed and one withdrawn following the Warranty Defence.

Section 9 (Examination and seizure of suspected food). There were five cases of seizure of food and proceedings instituted under Section 8 (Sale of unfit food). All were proved and fines totalling £145 were imposed.

Food Control

The following table shows the number of food samples taken for chemical analysis during 1970.

1970	Samples Analysed	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
			Analysis	Labelling
1st Quarter	162	161	1	—
2nd Quarter	48	46	1	1
3rd Quarter	80	78	—	2
4th Quarter	31	27	4	—
TOTALS	321	312	6	3

Unsatisfactory Samples

Vitamin Pills : Informal action re description

Grape (Flavour) Syrup : Label changed following informal action

Meat Pasty : Slightly low in meat content. Informal action only

Chili Powder : Consisted of compound chili powder. Label was changed following informal action.

Food Colouring : Label did not comply with the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations. Label was changed following informal action.

Meat Pasty : Deficient in meat. Formal samples taken and awaiting result.

Pork Sausages: One informal sample of pork sausage was deficient in lean meat and a subsequent formal sample was again deficient. Legal action pending. One informal sample of pork sausage was deficient in total meat. Formal sample taken, result not yet received.

Bacteriological Sampling

Seventy-four bacteriological samples were taken during the year. These involved cream, ice cream, gelatine and chickens for salmonellae. Three hundred and eighty eight swabs were taken from cutlery, plates, drinking glasses and working surfaces during the year.

Ice-Cream

There are two manufacturers and 202 premises registered for ice cream sales within the Borough.

Milk

(The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1963-65). The number of dealers licensed at the end of the year was 253.

Food Complaints

Food complaints received by the department in 1970 totalled 71. All were fully investigated and proceedings instituted in 9 cases.

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 round).

d) 4 Cinemas (2 in West Bromwich, 1 at Great Barr, 1 at Wednesbury.

e) 1 Ballroom specifically used as such and other public halls used regularly for dancing.

f) 5 Bingo Halls.

g) 5 Clubs (4 licensed) open for music, dancing, games etc. to members (4 at West Bromwich, 1 at Wednesbury). These do not include recreation clubs of various organisations in the Borough.

All the above was subject to inspection under the Food Hygiene Regulations and where applicable the Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

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

	Tons	Cwts
Meat at Retail Shops		2½
Cooked meat and meat products		1
Canned Meat		17½
Other Canned Foods	4	—½
Frozen Foods	2	17½
Other Foods	2	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total weight surrendered in 1969 :	14	13

Health Education

During the year six one-day courses in food hygiene were held at the West Bromwich College of Commerce and Technology. The courses were attended by 160 food handlers and the lectures were given by public health inspectors from the food hygiene section.

A handbook entitled "Food and Drink in West Bromwich" was produced by the department and this was launched by a six-day exhibition held in the Central Library from December 7th – 12th. The exhibition dealt with food hygiene, the work of the public health inspector and many facets of food production and distribution.

We are indebted to the borough librarian (Mr. R.B. Ludgate, A.L.A.) for the use of facilities in the library and assistance with presentation and publicity.



Food and Drink in West Bromwich – Exhibition

Councillor Eric Clarke (Chairman of Committee) talking with the first "customers" after the formal opening.

Photograph by Courtesy of the Birmingham Evening Mail

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

1. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during 1970	Total Number of Registered Premises at the end of 1970	Total Number of Registered premises receiving general Inspection during 1970
Offices	26	290	120
Retail Shops	33	841	435
Wholesale Shops/ Warehouses	4	43	22
Catering Estabs.	4	254	149
Fuel Storage Depots	—	3	1
TOTALS	67	1431	727

2. Total Number of Visits of all kinds to premises registered under the Act : 2,387.

3. Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found
4 — cleanliness	425
5 — overcrowding	—
6 — temperature	119
7 — ventilation	128
8 — lighting	88
9 — sanitary conveniences	273
10 — washing facilities	175
11 — drinking water	16
12 — accommodation for clothing	45
13 — sitting facilities	12
14 — seats for sedentary work	10
15 — eating facilities	1
16 — floors, passages etc.	248
17 — fencing of machinery	49
19 — training of persons re dangerous machinery	3
20 — lifts and hoists etc.	6
23 — prohibition of heavy work	3
24 — first-aid	169
49 — registration of premises	18
50 — information to employees	151
	<u>1,939</u>

4. Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises at the end of 1970.

Class of Premises	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	3,417
Retail Shops	3,414
Wholesale Shops/Warehouses	748
Catering Establishments	1,297
Fuel Storage Depots	44
	8,920

Legal proceedings were taken in 4 cases resulting in £100 fines and 15 guineas costs being imposed by the Magistrates.

Notification of Accidents

Any accident involving death or disability preventing normal work for three days or more must be notified to the local authority under the Act.

Reported Accidents

Work Place	Number Reported		Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non-Fatal		Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	—	2	2	—	—	2	—
Retail Shops	—	8	8	—	—	8	—
Wholesale shops and warehouses	—	7	7	—	—	7	—
Catering Estabs.	—	7	7	—	—	7	—
Fuel Storage Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	24	24	—	—	24	—

No fatalities were reported in 1970 and most accidents brought to the department's attention were only minor in nature. However most were investigated and in some cases advice given.

Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Premises	Catering Establishments	Fuel Stores
1. Machinery	—	3	—	—	—
2. Transport	—	—	3	—	—
3. Fall of persons	2	3	1	2	—
4. Stepping on or striking against object or person	—	—	—	1	—
5. Handling goods	—	1	2	3	—
6. Struck by falling objects	—	—	—	—	—
7. Fire and explosions	—	—	—	—	—
8. Electricity	—	—	—	—	—
9. Use of hand tools	—	1	—	—	—
10. Not otherwise specified	—	—	—	1	—

MEAT HYGIENE

A. Mercer

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector
(Meat Hygiene)

To ensure the safety of food supplies is one of the oldest and most important responsibilities of a Local Authority. It is undertaken by the routine inspection of food premises and the inspection and sampling of food produced and sold on and from those premises.

In addition, in order to ensure a safe meat supply, which is a major food, all meat animals are subject to a rigorous post-mortem inspection and there is also strict hygiene control of slaughtering premises.

In West Bromwich the responsibility is exceptional and amounts to about 8,000 meat animals per week slaughtered at six different premises. To provide undivided attention for so important a task this section has been strengthened by the appointment of a Deputy with whole-time responsibility. Also, two additional Authorised Meat Inspectors were appointed, following the creation of two new posts of Senior Authorised Officers.

The Meat Hygiene Section has necessarily been assisted by the Public Health Inspectors from other sections, one Inspector being available each week to inspect at one of the smaller premises and one being available on a rota stand-by duty to assist during holidays and sickness etc. The Section would have had great difficulty in operating adequately but for this assistance which was called upon on a number of occasions, at very short notice.

Various projects have been undertaken during the year and particular reference must be made to bacteriological research undertaken with the Micro-biologists of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Wolverhampton who carried out bacteriological "swabbing" of carcasses of pigs and cattle to estimate bacterial growths at different points during the slaughtering process. This work is continuing at five slaughterhouses and is of particular importance in slaughter houses where meat products are an integral part of the general business and it may give some indication as to where bacterial multiplication is greatest and whether special precautions should be taken to control it.

The trend within the meat industry in this area has been one of continual expansion and from the evidence available it appears that this expansion will continue as plans have already been deposited for the improvement and expansion of three already large slaughterhouses. In this respect we are fortunate to have such up-to-date slaughtering facilities provided by the meat industry itself. Besides these major proposals more than sixty items of improvement have been carried out during the year at the various slaughtering premises.

It is of special interest to note that during the year only one case of bovine tuberculosis was recorded and that in a steer from Ireland. The spread of tuberculosis in the animal was generalised and because of its rarity, confirmation was sought and obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Animal Health Division).

The continued co-operation with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, is appreciated and welcomed particularly as we are able to reciprocate with information regarding post-mortem findings and the provision of specimens for examination and inspection.

The transport of meat and products from wholesale premises to the retailer is largely undertaken by the wholesalers, and where this is so the hygiene standard is very high. At the same time, some transport of meat is casual and careless and needs to be improved. Particularly is this the case where private cars and small vans are used. Though quantities may be small this is no reason for neglect of hygiene.

Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969

Unfit meat and offal is removed from slaughterhouses by five major firms and is transported and processed in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

Carcases Inspected and Unfit Meat Surrendered

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	23,726	173	1853	84,414	341,046
Number inspected	23,726	173	1853	84,414	341,046
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole Carcasses Surrendered	5	1	24	54	589
Carcases of which some part or organ was surrendered	7,213	69	—	9,670	127,758
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	30.4	40.4	1.3	11.5	37.6
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcasses surrendered	1	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was surrendered	—	—	—	—	4,408
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.004	—	—	—	1.03
CYSTICERCI					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	9	—	—	—	—

Percentage of Food Animals affected by Tuberculosis

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Cattle excluding cows	0.01	—	0.014	0.004
Cows	—	0.05	—	—
Calves	—	—	—	—
Pigs	2.03	1.89	1.5	1.03

Summary of Carcasses Inspected

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Cattle (excluding cows)	26,554	22,662	21,587	23,726
Cows	223	1,692	111	173
Calves	4,451	2,078	1,999	1,853
Sheep	126,105	106,979	89,180	84,414
Pigs	223,733	268,621	299,090	341,046
TOTALS	381,066	402,032	411,967	451,212

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

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Tons	293	270	265	248

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

On the 31st December 1970 there were 65 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the above Act. All are engaged in slaughtering work within the Borough in licensed establishments.

Poultry Slaughtering

There is one large poultry processing plant with an output in 1970 of 440,616 birds :-

Broilers	100,038
Capons	39,336
Hens	288,863
Turkeys	12,379

Of these birds 3,396 were rejected as being unfit for human consumption, comprising almost 5 tons. There was an increase of throughput from 1969 of approximately 35,000 birds.

The premises are good and poultry inspection is carried out on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 22/61 which allows for a system of scrutiny by the industry under the general oversight of the local authority. The success of this system is made possible by frequent and regular visits to the poultry plant and by the full co-operation of the processor concerned.

There are approximately 12 other premises scattered throughout the Borough, known to slaughter poultry in smaller numbers. These premises are occupied by people of various nationalities and the poultry is slaughtered at any time during the day or night. To add to the problem it is known that sometimes the type of birds slaughtered are inferior quality reject birds and old hens. The need for control of slaughtering at these premises is as important as the major premises and yet the Local Authority has very little control because of the inadequacy of present legislation.

On the 1st January 1970, the Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967 came into force and it provided for no turkey or domestic fowl, kept in captivity, being slaughtered for the sale for human consumption except by certain methods, which include dislocation of the neck and decapitation, and unless the bird is first stunned.

Local Authorities have to maintain a register of premises only where birds are stunned before slaughter. Therefore, although we have thirteen known poultry slaughtering premises in West Bromwich there is only one on the Poultry Slaughtering premises register. In addition, the Act authorises the Minister to make regulations for securing humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of poultry, but as yet no Regulations have been made.

The poultry trade is now on a tremendous scale and the need for control of slaughtering premises is more and more pressing as the dangers to public health and the possibility of cruelty to animals becomes more and more apparent. To reduce these dangers we would welcome positive Government action towards the introduction of legislation which will require the annual licensing of premises where poultry is slaughtered with provision for adequate inspection and regulations to guide these powers.

Nuisances

Works of repair and maintenance to old properties were required of owners or were carried out in default by the Corporation's contractors during the year, together with drain clearing and repair, both under Public Health Act procedure and under the amended Housing Act powers.

The number of inspections made in this respect was 2,692. One house in imminent danger of collapse was closed. The tenant was offered (and accepted) immediate rehousing.

Gypsies

In connection with the problem of gypsies and other itinerants, some 87 visits were made in regard to caravan sites and 286 in removing caravans from the borough throughout the year.

A site for 15 caravans has been provisionally chosen within the borough in accordance with the provisions of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968. This has not been done without diligent searching and consideration of possible consequences. An alternative suggestion that numerous sites for smaller numbers of caravans be distributed throughout the borough was rejected partly because of the physical difficulty of finding suitable locations and partly because of increased problems of supervision and cost.

This caravan site should be constructed and in use by the middle of 1971. It only remains to be seen whether the gypsies will be as responsible in maintaining this site for their own welfare as West Bromwich has been in providing and financing it.

Animal Health and Welfare

West Bromwich, although primarily an industrial and residential town, presents a diversity of tasks in this sphere. Meat Inspection apart, administrative and technical supervision, under the Disease of Animals Act and analogous legislation, is required in 6 slaughterhouses, 1 large poultry slaughterhouse, 12 smaller poultry slaughterhouses, 17 farms and smallholdings, 10 licensed waste food processing

plant and 1 large establishment processing poultry waste.

During the fowl pest outbreak in the latter part of 1970, one premise in West Bromwich was subjected to restriction on confirmation of the disease amongst the poultry flock. The department assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in a rapid surveillance of the area and in imposing restrictions on other poultry in the vicinity. Healthy poultry, under veterinary licence from premises under restriction in other counties were slaughtered in the large slaughterhouse since hygiene was of a standard acceptable to the Ministry. Waste material, from restricted areas, was licensed also to the processing factory. In both cases, frequent and regular supervision of the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and equipment devolved upon the department. Although there have been other cases of fowl pest within the geographical county there has been no recurrence in the Borough.

Consideration has been given to the report of the Committee on Foot and Mouth Disease and to the revised legislation. Emergency plans are available to cope with any repetition of the 1967-68 outbreak and provision has been made for the availability of centralised cleansing and disinfection facilities for livestock vehicles.

Three carcasses of animals in slaughterhouses were submitted to suspected Anthrax procedure-blood smear staining and examination, in each case, proved negative.

Three notices under The Poultry Premises and Vehicles (Disinfection) Order, 1956, were served and were complied with. In one case, where both animal health and nuisance to the public was involved, the Poultry Premises Notice was combined with an Abatement and Prohibition Notice under the Public Health Acts.

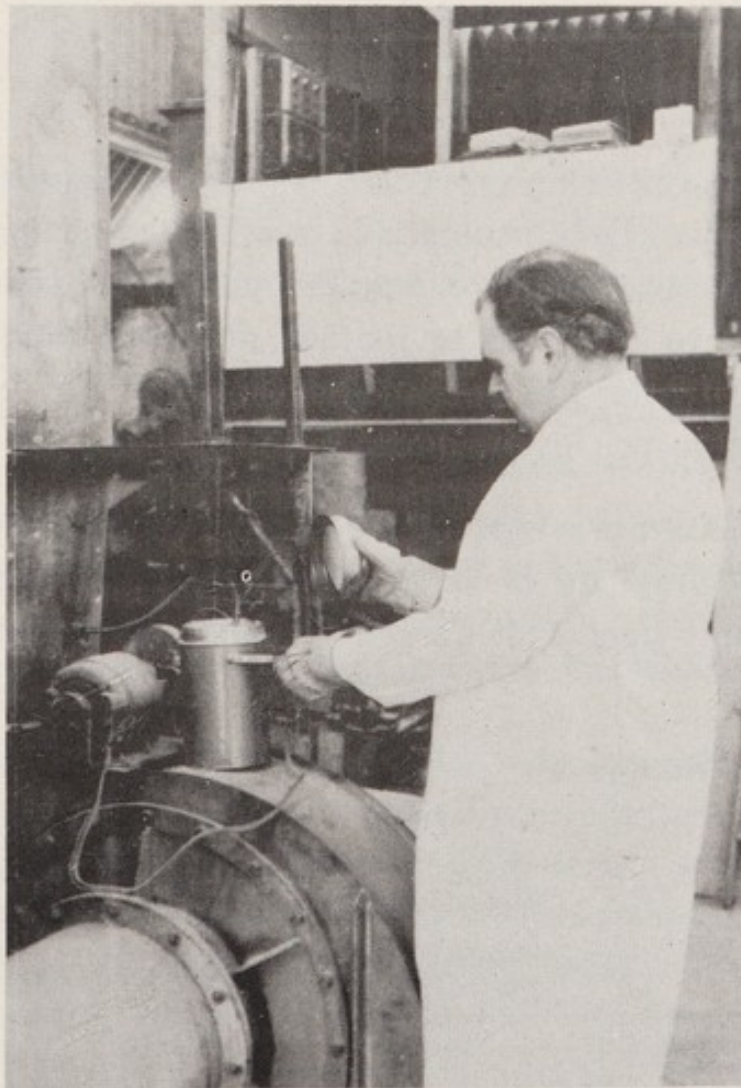
There was no legal prosecution undertaken during the year.

Animal Organic By-Products

The Town's industries include a number of such trades, principally fat extraction and sausage casing manufacture. In addition there is a plant converting poultry feathers into a high protein animal feed

additive. Work in this particular field is comparatively new and there are but few plants in the country to deal with this large and valuable potential aid to the economy. It is surprising, perhaps, that the conversion of clean, fresh feathers into dry meat should give off organic gaseous effluents, in the most minute quantities, which, when mixed with the vast volumes of air used for drying, produces odours highly offensive to the average sense of smell.

Early in 1970, expensive equipment designed to eliminate odour, was installed at this factory after lengthy practical investigation by the company, but it was unsuccessful. The department, in conjunction with the University of Aston, is liaising with the Company's consultant in securing a positive and acceptable method of treating the effluents from this process.



Obtaining a sample in respect of an offensive odour complaint.

Pet and Domestic Animals

Regular inspections of premises and examinations of registers, were made under the provisions of the Pet Animals Act, 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, and the Riding Establishments Acts, 1964 and 1970.

The number of premises licensed and operating was as follows :-

Pet Animals	16
Boarding Establishments	3
Riding Establishments	1

There was no prosecution during the year. Particular attention was paid to pet shops in view of the changes in the law relating to the staining and heat treatment of pets' meat by the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969.

Water Supply

As a routine monitoring procedure, and in the investigation of complaints, 19 chemical analyses and 23 bacteriological examinations of domestic water supplies were required during the year. Routine monitoring should be extended to include all those high rise flats having pump-aided water systems, since responsibility for purity of the water above pump level devolves upon the local authority.

Mains supplies are provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and by the City of Birmingham Water Department. Both undertakings supply copies of quarterly routine sampling reports to the department.

Typical Chemical Analysis

	South Staffordshire Waterworks supply	Birmingham Water Dept. supply.
Appearance	Bright few small particles	Bright few small particles
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.003	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.019	0
Chlorine in Chlorides	31.2	11.4

Typical Chemical Analysis - continued

	South Staffordshire Waterworks Supply	Birmingham Water Dept. Supply
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.9	3.7
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	0	0
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	290	70
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.002	0
pH	7.8	7.2
Free Chlorine	0	0
Radioactivity :	—	—
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C.	389 micromhos/cm ³	86 micromhos/cm ³

Some preliminary investigations into the use of drinking fountains in parks were begun : 3 water samples and 10 bacteriological swabs were taken. The information was insufficient to be able to draw any positive conclusions.

There was an increase in the number of complaints of fresh water crustacean infestation. In several instances, mains were specially treated and fine mesh filters were fitted to individual systems. Members of the public raised many queries on the changing palatability of water supplies in various parts of the town. The following statement is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company :—

“To meet increasing water consumption demands, during 1970 the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company completed the installation of a major 45 inch diameter trunk feed main which, when brought into operation in mid-summer, afforded extensive augmentation of the water supplied to West Bromwich and adjacent areas. The extra water provided was treated water derived from the River Severn.

Treated surface waters typically have a different taste compared with water derived from underground sources. West Bromwich was

formerly supplied with treated surface water from another source. As a result of the changes made during the year, the proportions of water from the two sources would vary according to localised variations in water consumption.

Treated surface water from different sources may not have exactly similar tastes. It is possible, therefore, that consumers with a sensitive palate would observe a difference in the taste of the water from the two distinct sources."

Houses without indoor supplies or having inadequate supplies

The number of houses without indoor water supplies was estimated at 400 at the 31st. December, 1970.

But for the delays with slum clearance action, this figure would have been substantially reduced from the previous year and the need still remains to deal with these properties as a matter of priority.

In addition, numerous complaints were received from various streets in West Bromwich of inadequate supplies and reduced pressure of mains water. This is rapidly becoming quite a substantial problem where numbers of terraced properties are supplied from a single service pipe.

Where bathroom and other additions have been provided to properties in the past without the provision of separate service pipes, the extra load on the supply reduces the water available for all properties in the terrace. Some headway has been made by the provision, at the expense of property owners, of larger common communication pipes.

Grants are available to assist owners in providing separate service pipes, but at the present time the number of properties affected exceed the finances available for grant aid.

Swimming Pools

In addition to the public baths at West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Tipton, which are controlled by the Baths and Estates Committee, there are 11 swimming pools, varying considerably in size and technical specification, situated in the following schools :-

Alexandra High
Churchfields High
Joseph Ed. Cox Junior
Dartmouth High
Fir Tree Junior

Gorse Farm Junior
Grove Vale Junior
Harvills Hawthorn Junior
Millfields Special
Shenstone Lodge Special
Yew Tree Junior

A total of 106 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, 3 were found to be below standard. The difference (132) between the number of pool visits (238) and the total samples (106) is an indication of the time spent by inspectors, in supervisory revisits to school pools, when other aspects of pool hygiene or water treatment were in need of correction.

In addition to bacteriological purity, the water must be physically clean, i.e. subjected to continuous and effective filtration, and both free chlorine content and the pH value must be kept in proper balance if discomfort to bathers and damage to plant is to be avoided.

Following representations from the department, all the schools' pool plant was examined by specialist contractors and a programme of repairs, renewal and regular servicing has been instituted. Standing instructions, for the use and routine maintenance of plant, were being drawn up by the contractor for each school and recommendations relating to hygiene, management and chemical control of water purity have been prepared by the department. A training course for school caretakers responsible for pools, in which the department is to participate, is envisaged for 1971.

The department assisted the Education Department by providing a lecturer on school hygiene generally, for a training course for caretakers held in 1970.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 and Medicines Act 1941

The number of shopkeepers registered with the Council for the sale of items under Part II of the Poisons List, numbered 49 at 31st December 1970.

Hairdressers and Barbers

Inspection of most premises is made under the Offices, Shops

and Railway Premises Act 1963 and the total number of establishments in the Borough is now 137.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act

There is only one manufacturing premises within the Borough. No samples were taken.

Rodent and Pest Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Summary of Destruction of Rats and Mice, 1970

Properties other than Sewers	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District	65,255	15
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	2,225	—
(b) Number infested by :		
(i) rats	2,023	—
(ii) mice	202	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	211	—
(b) Number infested by :		
(i) rats	170	—
(ii) mice	41	—

This year has seen little change in the range of rodenticides and insecticides used for pest control. Use has been made of Di-Thoxin, which consists of an attractive base plus a powerful and selective rat killing chemical, Shoxin Norbormide, and as this rodenticide is harmless to humans and animals, it is ideal for use on domestic premises.

Rats & Mice

During the year 2,436 treatments were carried out against rats and mice, this figure however does not include follow up visits made after the first treatment.

Sewers

Seven-hundred and fifty manhole covers were lifted and treatment carried out.

Insects

During the year 381 treatments were carried out against a variety of insects, as follows :-

Fumigation & Disinfection	18	Leather jackets	2	Flies	6
Clover mite	10	Cockroaches	183	Wasps	13
Wood Worm	2	Ants	86	Bees	5
Maggots	2	Bed Bugs	38	Silverfish	9
Flour Moth	2	Fleas	6		

Rodent Control in Factories

The contract scheme has been extended and the number of factories now under regular treatment is 212. The value of this scheme can be assessed by the good condition obtained in the factories, and by the reduction in complaints received in the private houses adjacent to the industrial areas.

CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

G.L. Collett,
Assistant Cleansing Superintendent.

The year 1970 has not been a good one for the refuse collection and disposal service.

Industrial, commercial and domestic premises have been denied any service for a total of eight weeks on account of official and unofficial strikes. Half of this period 7th October – 9th November was in response to a National Official Strike and since there was some warning of intended withdrawal of labour it was possible to make emergency arrangements. These consisted of eight disposal sites to which refuse in sacks could be taken by householders. These were very successful especially where voluntary Wardens were in charge to receive filled and tied sacks or nearby residents, individually or through their associations, took an active interest. Plastic sacks were issued through the public libraries, clinics, welfare centres and other public offices and these, when filled and tied, ensured that nuisance from vermin, unsightliness or smells were minimised. More than 1,000 tons of refuse was removed from these sites by contractors immediately the strike ended.

Accumulation of refuse from two open markets was prevented by an instruction to every trader to remove rubbish themselves at the end of every day. This they did, most conscientiously and brought great credit on themselves and the markets generally.



(a) Arthur Street/Boulton Road.
Accumulated sacked refuse - October/November 1970



(b) Arthur Street/Boulton Road.
Clearing up - November 1970.



(c) Kennedy House, Charlemont Farm Estate —
Refuse compound - October/November 1970.

Multi-storey flats and maisonettes were the most difficult premises as refuse storage space is minimal in normal circumstances. External disposal compounds were gradually developed though they were really needed at the outset with the tenancies being treated as individual dwellings with a special problem.

The Chief Fire Officer was quick to draw attention to a potential fire hazard from sacks of refuse on staircases and landings and the Caretakers responded promptly with neat stacking of filled sacks on open spaces in the vicinity.

Productivity Agreement

In order to improve the earnings of refuse collectors and employ collection vehicles more effectively, discussions with the Trade Union Organisers and the Shop Stewards are continuing with the hope that a scheme based on Work Study may be submitted to the National Joint Council for approval and put into operation as soon as possible in 1971.

Salvage

The return of waste paper and used containers to the paper mills for repulping is a very desirable and important activity. The most economical way of doing it is by means of trailers attached to refuse collection vehicles. This service suffered the same disruption as did the collection of other refuse but aggravated by problems of trailer maintenance, wilful damage and theft of electrical fittings necessary to comply with Road Traffic Regulations.

The total recovery of waste paper was consequently lower than at any time in the past six years. This is particularly regrettable when there is more paper available for recovery and re-use than ever before.

There is an added difficulty that commercial collections are too often spoiled by the admixture of rubbish which is unacceptable to the mills and renders the paper valueless. Serious consideration will need to be given to the imposition of trade refuse charges for such material instead of the free collections made hitherto.

Dustbins

Successful trials with plastic bins in 1964 encouraged the replacement of heavy metal bins of treble the weight and less capacity. This change is now justifying itself and the plastic bin is giving longer service than steel ones at less cost. 4,000 were issued in 1970.

Civic Amenities

Lack of a collection service may be an excuse for dumping unwanted cars, furniture, bedding or just floor sweepings and waste-paper. These items would be collected without charge if a single request were made for a service and so avoid the risk of a prosecution and extra public expense for collection from out-of-the-way places. This Service is to be extended in 1971 despite its cost, to try and reduce the unsightliness and squalor which results from such inconsiderate and anti-social actions.

Eighty-two cars were collected and disposed of to a local merchant.

There were no prosecutions under the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

Vehicles and Equipment

The following vehicles comprise the fleet in use at the 31st of December, 1970 for all purposes within the cleansing section.

Mobile Plant

- 1 – 977K Caterpillar tractor
- 1 – 944A Caterpillar wheeled shovel
- 1 – D 6C Caterpillar Bulldozer

Static Plant

- 1 – Brick Crusher
- 1 – Lister Tug
- 1 – Shirtliff Paper Press
- 1 – Morimil Helmond Heavy Duty Metal Press
- 1 – 2 ton Demag Electric Hoist

Other Vehicles of the Cleansing Section

- 8 – 50 cubic yard Pakamatics
- 4 – 35 cubic yard Pakamatics
- 1 – 50 cubic yard Ramillies with bulk loading attachment
- 10 – 18/20 Fore and Aft Tippers
- 5 – 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
- 1 – Dempster Dumpster on Ford chassis
- 1 – Eagle Compressload 3 on Ford chassis
- 1 – Short Wheel base Land/Rover
- 7 – 20/40 cwt. salvage vans
- 3 – 5 cwt. vans – for Cleansing Inspectors
- 1 – Ford Transit van for public conveniences
- 1 – 2 ton vehicle trailer
- 19 – Salvage trailers

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	£	s	d
Wastepaper (various grades)	1486	18	—	16,738	6	9
Baled Ferrous Scrap	68	12	—	360	3	2
Steel Scrap	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardboard boxes	—	—	—	8	10	0
Abandoned Cars (82)	—	—	—	224	0	0
	<u>1555</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,330</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>

The total salvage collected and income received from 1967 :—

	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	£	s	d
1967	3168	3	—	27459	18	6
1968	2293	—	2	19393	8	6
1969	2111	11	—	19378	3	9
1970	1555	10	—	17330	19	11

Recruitment of Labour

Labour turnover : On 1st January 1970 — 170 men were employed
On 31st December 1970 — 163 men were employed
18 employees left during the year and
11 new employees were taken on.

MONTHLY STATISTICS OF TIME LOST DUE TO SICKNESS - ACCIDENT CASUAL ABSENCE 1970.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
(a) Sick Accident	612	340	406	322	292	252	297	234	300	357	213	165
(b) Casual Absence	55	54	18	12	14½	11	9	10	16	2	16	14
Average Strength	170	170	172	172	169	168	168	166	166	166	164	164
No. of working days in month	22	20	20	22	19	22	23	20	21	4 18-strike	16 5 strike	21
Possible No. of working days	3740	3400	3440	3784	3211	3696	2841	3320	3486	3652	3444	3444
% Loss Sick	16.35	10.00	11.80	8.53	9.09	6.82	10.45	7.05	8.60	9.78	6.18	4.79
% Loss Casual absence	1.40	1.59	0.52	0.32	0.45	0.30	0.32	0.30	0.49	0.05	0.46	0.41
% Total Loss	17.75	11.59	12.32	8.85	9.54	7.12	10.77	7.35	9.09	9.13	6.64	5.20

Average monthly loss %

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Sick	5.44	7.65	9.57	9.14
Casual	1.93	1.47	1.62	0.55

