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Contributors

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**HYGIENE AND CLEANSING
DEPARTMENT**

1973



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

1973

Health and Hygiene Committee as at 31st December 1973

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|
| Chairman | - | Councillor Mrs. S. Salter |
| Deputy Chairman | - | Councillor Mrs. A.V. Law |
| | | Alderman J. Whitehouse |
| | | Alderman C. Farmer |
| | | Councillor R.J. Ashby |
| | | Councillor T.C.W. Beeson |
| | | Councillor F.H. Bird |
| | | Councillor A.E. Diggett |
| | | Councillor D.W. Foster |
| | | Councillor N.F. Gibbons |
| | | Councillor A. Handley |
| | | Councillor J. Stokes |

Co-opted Members

- D. Saklatvala, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
W.J. Walkden, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.
J.F. Milligan, M.B., Ch.B.
Mr. J.O. Robins, F.H.A., F.I.A.C., F.R.S.H.

COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF
THE HYGIENE AND CLEANING DEPARTMENT

1913

Health and Hygiene Committee as of 31st December 1913

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| Chairman | - | Councillor Mr. A. Baker |
| Deputy Chairman | - | Councillor Mr. A.V. Law |
| | | Alfred J. Williams |
| | | Alfred C. Foster |
| | | Councillor F.L. Ashby |
| | | Councillor E.O.V. Benson |
| | | Councillor E.H. Bird |
| | | Councillor A.E. Huggitt |
| | | Councillor D.W. Foster |
| | | Councillor H.E. Adams |
| | | Councillor A. Hendley |
| | | Councillor L. Jones |

Co-opted members

- D. Seligson, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.,
V.L. Watson, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.,
J.F. Williams, M.B., Ch.B.,
Mr. J.O. Johns, F.R.S., F.I.A.H. & C.P.H.

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1973

Chief Public Health Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent - Stanley Cayton, M.B.E., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.S.W.M.,
C.Eng., 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
6 Public Health Inspectors
4 Technical Assistants

SPECIAL SERVICES SECTION

Senior P.H.I. - Wm. Cunningham
3 Public Health Inspectors
1 Technical Assistant
1 Pests Officer
3 Pests Control Manual Staff

MEAT HYGIENE SECTION

1 Public Health Inspector
4 Senior Authorised Meat
Inspectors
11 Authorised Meat Inspectors
1 Trainee Meat Inspector

AIR POLLUTION SECTION

Senior P.H.I. - C.R. Cresswell
3 Public Health Inspectors
1 Graduate Assistant
4 Technical Assistants

OFFICES, SHOPS, FOOD
AND DRUGS SECTION

Senior P.H.I. - C. C. Wilkes
(to Nov. 1973 & A. N. Adams
from 1.12.73)
5 Public Health Inspectors
2 Technical Assistants

PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTORS

3 Pupils B.Sc. Degree Course
at Aston University
2 Pupils, Diploma Course at
Matthew Boulton College

CLERKS

1 Senior Clerk - Mrs. G.M. Herbert
9 Clerks
(3 Clerks Sheepwash Lane
Cleansing Depot)
(2 Clerks holding established
posts of Technical Assistants)

PUBLIC CLEANSING SECTION

Assistant Cleansing
Superintendent-G.L. Collett
1 Senior Cleansing Inspector
2 Cleansing Inspectors
3 Chargehands
166 Workmen

VACANCIES

1 Public Health Inspector (Housing)
2 Public Health Inspector (Food)
1 Public Health Inspector (Air Pollution)

1 Authorised Meat Inspector
1 Technical Assistant (Housing)
1 Technical Assistant (Food) post held by clerk
1 Technical Assistant (Special Services) post held by clerk
1 Technical Assistant (Air Pollution)

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FOREWORD

I wrote my first annual report as Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent for the calendar year 1955. Normally I would have been writing my last, in 1975 but, because Local Government Reorganisation takes effect on 1st April 1974 I have requested, and the Council has agreed, that I can be allowed to retire from office on 31st March 1974 - about ten months earlier than would otherwise have been the case.

Since there are only about eight weeks after the end of the year 1973 in which to prepare and publish this report it cannot be in the usual form and must be shorter.

Staff

Discerning readers of earlier reports have realised the high calibre of all the members of the team who have taken so much pride in recording in successive annual reports a worthy contribution from their Section of the Department's work. The specialties which have proved so successful, particularly since the amalgamation of West Bromwich with Tipton and Wednesbury in 1966.

Staff Examination Results

Mr. A. W. Reeves	-	B.Sc. (Sociology)
Mr. R. D. Cottrell	-	Construction Technicians Certificate T.3
Mr. P. S. Fisher	-	Diploma in Air Pollution Control
Mrs. L. M. Loughrey	-	Diploma in Air Pollution Control
Miss P. A. Baker	-	First year O.N.C. in Public Administration
Mr. K. Mayou	-	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Environmental Health)
Mr. C. D. Potts	-	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Environmental Health)
Mr. D. B. Ashford	-	B.Sc. Course, Third Year, Aston University
Miss C. Horrell	-	B.Sc. Course, First Year, Aston University
Miss K. Lewis	-	B.Sc. Course, First Year, Aston University

Academic attainments have always been regarded highly and it would be difficult to find a better qualified or more able team of officers, anywhere.

In this connection special mention must be made of Mr. Reeves' degree in Sociology. He has been in charge of all matters appertaining to housing since April 1969 so the subject matter is very appropriate. Not only was it External, and therefore all done in his own time but also, only briefly after his Diploma in Municipal Administration.

At the other end of the age range is Miss P. A. Baker who has been in the Department barely two years as a Clerical Assistant, completing successfully the first year of her course in Public Administration.

The list is also noteworthy for the inclusion of the names of three ladies. Mrs. Loughrey the first lady Public Health Inspector in the Department adding the Diploma in Air Pollution Control to her other qualifications and Miss Horrell and Miss Lewis the first lady pupils, have completed successfully the first year of their Course in Public Health Inspection.

One Technical Assistant, Mr. R. D. Cottrell, is also included in the list. He is making good progress in his Course in building and allied subjects.

Technical Assistants

The demand for Public Health Inspectors with adequate training and experience for the special problems of the Midlands has for many years exceeded the supply. So, in order to make the best possible use of those we have, a division of duties has been arranged to enable Technical Assistants with suitable training or experience to carry out routine duties within their competence.

Retired police officers and fire officers are doing invaluable work in multi-occupied houses. Former clerical officers, young men and women, are finding satisfying work in the preparation and completion of Smoke Control Orders. A lady science graduate is doing painstaking work in connection with the measurement of noise.

Fifteen young men, formerly butcher's assistants and now authorised meat inspectors work under the direction of Mr. Albert Mercer, one of the Deputies. Occasionally, it is necessary for them to have assistance from the Public Health Inspectors, for example, in outbreaks of disease in animals or other emergencies. To recruit a sufficient number of Public Health Inspectors to perform all the inspections of meat and poultry required here would be very difficult and for all practical purposes, impossible.

The Technical Assistants in total now number 26. There is no lack of work to fully occupy the time and special abilities of each one of them and there is no doubt their contribution to the output of the Department has been of outstanding value to the Authority.

Clerical Officers

The number of clerical officers is obviously very small for the output of the Department. This is possible because of the ability and ceaseless efforts of Mrs. Gwen Herbert (neé Lemar) and those who work with her.

The contribution made by the Typing Pool (Mrs. B. Taylor, Head of Typing Services and Miss J. Farmer, Typing Supervisor) is gratefully acknowledged. They have long since dispelled the early suspicions and misgivings associated with the various changes which followed the amalgamations of 1966.

Housing

Despite all that has been done, particularly in the post-war years, to replace worn-out houses with new ones, well-designed and equipped and laid out with attractive features and open spaces, much remains to be done. The Corporation is itself bringing up-to-date large numbers of its older stock of houses. This is a continuing process applicable to the private as well as the public sector. Amongst the criteria for a fit house more emphasis should be placed on the suitability of the environment for continued use for residential purposes. The deleterious effects of noise, offensive odours, smoke, grit and dust should all be taken into account and balanced against the intrinsic value of the house.

The lately enhanced value of a well-built house should encourage a greater willingness to invest money in better repair, maintenance and modernisation. Since the number of tenanted properties, apart from those owned by the Corporation, has declined to a mere 3 - 4000 houses many of which are not worth improving, house improvement is firmly in the hands of the owner-occupiers. Who better to take advantage of the financial assistance now available? The Corporation should be ready to buy properties worthy of improvement, from owner-occupiers incapable of undertaking the work, rather than jeopardise areas marked out for General Improvement.

Air Pollution and Noise Control

The dramatic decline in the average annual level of smoke at ground level between 1958 and 1973 is shown graphically later in this report. The decline in the level of sulphur-dioxide is less marked but still very satisfactory despite the predictions when smoke control was introduced, that it would rise and nullify to some extent the benefits claimed for a clean air policy.

The West Bromwich Corporation Act 1969, Section 75, has proved extremely useful in controlling noise from air-powered tools or compressors. It is rare to find any civil engineering or other contractors using road-breaking or similar tools without muffles or silencers. No such powers have been written into the Environment Protection Bill. Our experience suggests that similar powers could be beneficial when applied nationally and encourage the development of better silencing devices.

Although first in the field with a Smoke Control Order in 1957 it seems unlikely that West Bromwich or its successors will produce a repeat performance with a first Noise Control Order. There are many difficulties, administrative and physical which must first be overcome. The principal contributor to the ambient noise level is traffic which, it is proposed, will be exempted. How can this be justified without jeopardising the whole idea? Vigorous control by planning would seem a better way.

Food Hygiene and Quality Control

The sale of food in the streets from barrows and carts which was common in West Bromwich about the turn of the century has almost disappeared. The accommodation provided by the Corporation within the Town Centre Shopping Precinct, with the advantages of a permanent building and the attractions of a modern food hall where all the food traders are grouped together must hasten the end of street trading in food.

The Department is not only concerned with cleanliness in food but maintains a close watch on quality, especially in relation to food products manufactured in the town. The number of samples was 514, slightly more than three for every thousand of the population, and the highest number ever taken. Of these, less than 1% were below standard.

Our combination of quality control and hygienic production has raised both to a level which is very creditable to the food traders in West Bromwich.

The specialist team of officers to deal with food, excluding meat and poultry inspection, which was recommended at the time of reorganisation in 1966 but not approved until April 1970, has achieved outstanding success.

Meat Hygiene and Meat Inspection

Though we exercise strict supervision over the fitness of meat and poultry for human consumption we have in this case no control over quality. It is therefore the more gratifying to report again the continued high quality of young animals and birds passing under our supervision. Distribution goes far beyond the boundaries of West Bromwich but whatever the destination the carcass marking is the same "Inspected in West Bromwich" and the individual inspector concerned can be identified too.

Acknowledgements

It is again my pleasure to record an appreciation of the thought and effort directed to the maintenance of refuse collection vehicles by the staff of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive. Operating conditions in the latter part of the year were particularly unfavourable and the vehicles were subjected to exceptional stress on account of very adverse, though unavoidable, tip surfaces.

The assistance of officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, particularly in matters of animal health is also gratefully acknowledged as is the co-operation of the Chief Officers and Heads of other Departments.

A special word of appreciation is due to each of my Deputies, Mr. S. W. Hogg and Mr. A. Mercer. They have had an onerous and anxious year endeavouring to serve two Masters, West Bromwich County Borough Council and Sandwell Metropolitan District Council. To a lesser extent the same can be said of the leaders of the specialist sections of the Department and each and every member of the Department including the clerical officers.

As I write, there are signs that the team which has served West Bromwich and myself so loyally and well is breaking up. Possibly, this will prove after a little time for adjustment, beneficial to the new authority and the officers concerned. Perhaps "trained in West Bromwich" has come to mean something. We always hoped it would. For myself, it will be my good fortune and pleasure to look back on the last years of West Bromwich as years of high endeavour and good fellowship.

Finally, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, my thanks to you and your predecessors for the consistent support which I have always received since I commenced my duties here on 1st March 1955.

S. CAYTON
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

GENERAL STATISTICS

Description of the Area

Total Acreage	11,704
Population (1971 census)	166,593
Product of a 1p rate	£235,000
Rateable Value of the Borough	£24,843,708

Meteorology - Weather Station Wigmore:

Total rainfall	-	1973	26.57"
	-	1972	30.67"
	-	1971	25.98"
	-	1970	31.55"

Monthly Rainfall 1973 inches

January	1.48
February	2.76
March	0.96
April	2.31
May	2.98
June	3.33
July	3.58
August	1.13
September	1.86
October	2.06
November	2.40
December	1.72

26.57 inches

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

	Inspections	Notices Served		Prosecutions	Work in Default
		Formal	Informal		
<u>HOUSING</u> (Slum Clearance) Repairs, Improvement grants, multi-occupation and surveys.	8,209	202	155	-	7
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS</u> Food premises Food and Drugs Act Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Sampling <u>OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963</u>	4,003 - 895 625 1,831	- - - - -	1,120 - 393 - 659	11 12 19 - -	- - - - -
<u>MEAT HYGIENE</u> Meat and Poultry	9,244	-	9	-	-
<u>AIR POLLUTION AND FACTORIES</u> (Smoke observations, Surveys, Complaints, Volumetric measurements) Factories Act Industrial Noise	11,914 201 836	22 - 18	67 24 50	6 - 2	- - -
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</u> (Special Services) (Nuisance, refuse collection and disposal, Civic Amenities Act, 1967, rodent control, pests and infectious diseases, domestic noise and drainage).	8,815	250	396	-	506
TOTALS	46,573	492	2,913	50	513

Introduction

In the last full year of the existence of West Bromwich as a separate local authority it is tempting to dwell on past accomplishments. However, it is more pertinent to look at the problems which remain and which will become the responsibility of the new Council on 1st April, 1974.

The housing survey carried out during 1972 revealed that there are approximately 6,000 privately owned sub-standard houses in the Borough which are more than 60 years old. These include houses which fall short of the statutory standard of fitness and those which are deficient in modern amenities. Whilst the worst features of the housing of the Victorian era have been virtually eliminated by past slum clearance, development of the statutory standard of fitness which, in the final analysis is simply a reflection of what the general public is prepared to tolerate, means that there are still some fairly large areas where clearance will be needed in the future. Present government policy is tending to shift the emphasis from large scale clearance, as it has been practised in the past, towards selective demolition, improvement and redevelopment proceeding systematically area by area. Whilst conservation of existing stock has an important part to play in a comprehensive housing strategy the tendency to regard improvement as a direct substitute for clearance must be resisted.

If future Council policy towards sub-standard housing is to place the major emphasis on conservation it is necessary to consider the implications of such an attitude.

The internal physical planning of housing accommodation has already become one of the criteria to be used in determining unfitness and it is probable that public opinion will ultimately force the addition of criteria relating to the general environment which the Dennington Committee recommended in 1965. Such an addition would lead either to a need for clearance of houses presently regarded as fit or a demand for action to reduce the effects of air pollution, noise, etc., in residential areas either by stricter controls or by relocation of offending industrial processes. Decisions to opt for improvement must therefore take into account the present state of the environment and the scope for its improvement.

In addition to structural limitations which impose constraints on the standard of the accommodation which can be produced by improvement, some of which might be overcome by the production of smaller units, the social constraints are also crucial in terms of complete success of an improvement policy. The age and financial resources of owners will ultimately determine whether houses will actually be improved and opting for this must necessarily include decisions to acquire houses by agreement and, in the last resort, by compulsory purchase in order to ensure that improvement will be complete.

The style of life has changed radically since the older residential neighbourhoods were planned and developed and it is necessary to make provision for such things as the present level of car ownership, and the likely future trends, as well as providing a pleasant outlook by creation of more open space, landscaping, etc. Decisions to retain and improve large areas of housing must take into account the need to provide off street car parking, children's play areas, shops and public open space and the land required must be made available if necessary by clearance of some of the houses.

The improved houses must be capable of providing a satisfactory standard of accommodation over the future life envisaged for the whole area. Generally speaking the poorer quality house is more expensive to improve and the standard attainable is lower than with houses of good quality. A comparatively short life after improvement seriously affects the viability of the exercise so that, in the long run, clearance and redevelopment may often be the better alternative on economic grounds.

The concept of housing action areas, for instance has merits, but policy within such areas must be directed towards attaining standards which will be genuinely acceptable to future residents for many years rather than a mere postponement of the need for clearance and redevelopment by mitigating the more pressing problems. That policy can only be effectively implemented by the Council.

Designs become obsolete, and deterioration of the fabric is a continuous process, so that it can be argued that the problem of sub-standard housing will never be solved. The smart housing estate of today is, potentially, the slum of tomorrow. Policy for the future needs to strike a balance between clearance and conservation which will enable economic resources to be used with maximum benefit to all sections of the community.

New Housing Accommodation

TABLE I

	1973	1972
Number of houses and flats built by the Local Authority	104	209
Number of houses and flats built by private enterprise	292	325
	<u>396</u>	<u>534</u>

TABLE II

Clearance Areas

Clearance Area	Date of Representation	Order	No. of Houses	No. of Persons to be Displaced	No. of Families
Hurst Lane No. 332	24.7.73	Hurst Lane Clearance Order 1973	4	9	4
Hurst Lane No. 333	24.7.73	Hurst Lane C.P.O. 1973	12	22	12
Beeches Road No. 334	30.1.73	Beeches Road C.P.O. 1973	6	21	3+1 House in mult. occup.
Reform Street No. 335	30.1.73	Reform Street C.P.O. 1973	20	63	17
Vicarage Road No. 336	30.1.73	Vicarage Road C.P.O. 1973	12	24	12
Vicarage Road No. 337	30.1.73	Vicarage Road C.P.O. 1973	3	8	3
Bromford Lane No. 338	27.3.73	Bromford Lane C.P.O. 1973	4	4	2
Whitehall Road No. 339	27.3.73	Whitehall Road C.P.O. 1973	4	11	4
Whitehall Road No. 340	27.3.73	Whitehall Road C.P.O. 1973	5	13	5
Whitehall Road No. 341	27.3.73	Whitehall Road C.P.O. 1973	7	14	7
Lewis Street No. 342	27.3.73	Lewis Street C.P.O. 1973	5	9	5
Leabrook Road No. 343	1.5.73	Order not yet made	9	16	5
Leabrook Road No. 344	1.5.73	Order not yet made	11	44	18
Leabrook Road No. 345	1.5.73	Order not yet made	6	1	1
Leabrook Road No. 346	1.5.73	Order not yet made	3	6	2
Dudley Street No. 347	26.6.73	Dudley Street C.P.O. 1973	4	11	4
Birmingham Road No. 348	26.6.73	Birmingham Road C.P.O. 1973	6	21	6
Witton Lane No. 349	26.6.73	Witton Lane C.P.O. 1973	4	27	2+3 Houses in mult. occup.
Kendrick Street No. 350	24.7.73	Order not yet made	2	9	1
Church Hill No. 351	24.7.73	Order not yet made	3	-	-
		TOTAL	130		

TABLE III

Individual Unfit Houses.

	Houses Demolished	Demolition Orders made	Closing Orders made
1973	6	17	27
1972	30	25	31

Progress in rehousing and demolition of unfit houses.

A total of 171 families comprising 540 individuals were rehoused during the year from houses the subject of Closing or Demolition Orders or included in confirmed Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders.

TABLE IV

Houses Demolished.

	1973	1972
Houses in or adjoining clearance areas.	80	173
Houses subject of demolition orders.	6	30

Housing Repairs.

TABLE V

Notices under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957 as amended by Housing Act, 1969.

	Number of Houses
Notices served	19
Work carried out by owners	2
Work executed in default	7

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT

Houses made fit.

One house the subject of a Closing Order was made fit and the order determined.

Requests from tenants under Section 19, Housing Act, 1961.

Requests from the tenants of six houses for the exercise of the Council's power to require improvement were received. Preliminary improvement notices were served and the owners subsequently submitted applications for improvement grants.

Burlington Road General Improvement Area

Seventeen applications for improvement grants were approved during the year bringing the total since the formal declaration of this Area to 28. Whilst the substantial increase must be welcomed it is also necessary to point out that after completion of all the work some 260 houses remain below the required standard and a very substantial increase in the rate of improvement will be necessary if the clearance of significant numbers of houses in future years is to be avoided.

Negotiations were commenced for the acquisition of a number of houses which had been offered to the Council, for subsequent improvement. In view of the problems of elderly occupiers and lack of financial resources which are militating against voluntary improvement, this course of action represents the best prospect for the successful rehabilitation of the neighbourhood and in the final analysis the Council will have no option but to seek compulsory purchase powers to ensure completion of the necessary improvements and the general improvement of the Area - which is the basic objective.

Improvement Grants.

Three hundred and fifty seven applications for improvement grants and 62 applications for standard grants were approved during the year. Corresponding figures for 1972 were 355 and 64. The total of applications in respect of tenanted houses was less than in 1972, 24 for improvement grants and 18 for standard grants compared with 37 and 15 respectively.

An analysis of houses which have been improved to the 12 point standard under the 1969 Act grant provisions reveals that, out of a total of 630 houses 442 were built after 1914 and only 35 were tenanted. Thus in $4\frac{1}{2}$ years out of a total of nearly 5000 pre-1914 houses with a potential future life well in excess of 15 years only 188 have been brought up to a sufficiently high standard for that life potential to be realised. From information which has become available as a result of personal contact with the owners of houses in this category it seems that the slow progress is due mainly to the old age of a large proportion of the occupiers with its attendant problems of low income, inability to cope with the inconveniences of extensive repair and modernisation work and under-occupation. Problems of deterioration of the fabric are becoming acute in some parts of the Borough and unless means of producing a very substantial increase in the number of improvements can be found it is difficult to see any alternative to clearance and redevelopment within the next 10 years. What is apparent is that voluntary action cannot be relied upon and if the Council wishes to see substantial numbers of older houses brought up to a modern standard of repair and amenity it must itself acquire and improve houses on a large scale, either by agreement with owners or by the use of compulsory purchase powers.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Type of Grant	Applications received	Applications rejected	Applications approved	Houses for improvement	Houses for conversion	No. of dwellings resulting from conversions	Grant approved £
Improvement Grants	360	3	357 (333 owner/occupiers)	350 (146 grants with £100 of Statutory Limit)	7	32	312,116
Standard Grants	66	4	62 (44 owner/occupiers)	62	-	-	17,107
Special Grants	3	-	3 (18 households)	3	-	-	685
Grants for separate Water Services	4	-	4	4	-	-	150

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

Improvement Grants				Standard Grants											
Improvement 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 Amenities Provided		Sink	Grant Paid £	
											at 3 points	at 1 or points			
296	214395	4	10	8573	56	36	20	42	43	52	36	10	Nil	14359	
Special Grants															
					Houses Improved	No. of Households	Standard Amenities Provided								Grant Paid
					3	10	Bath or Shower	1	3	1	13	4	286		

Separate Water Services	
Work completed	3 houses
Grant paid	£95.43p

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

TABLE VII

Houses with all Standard Amenities,
(Qualification Certificates Section 28 (5), Housing Finance Act, 1972).

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Applications received during the year	13	81
Qualification certificates refused or not required	21	181
Qualification certificates issued	36	57
Applications under consideration at end of year	-	44

TABLE VIII

Houses requiring one or more of the standard amenities.
(Certificates of Provisional Approval - Section 29(3) Housing Finance Act, 1972).

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Applications received during the year	1	17
Provisional certificates not required	4	6
Provisional certificates issued	1	10
Qualification certificates issued	3	7
Under consideration at end of year	-	4

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

TABLE IX

Notices Served.

Section 90, Housing Act, 1957 (Abatement of overcrowding).	4
Section 19, Housing Act, 1961 (Directions to prevent or reduce overcrowding).	67
Section 15, Housing Act, 1961 (Provision of additional facilities).	54
Section 16, Housing Act, 1961 (Provision of satisfactory means of escape from fire).	80
Section 12, Housing Act, 1961 (Management Orders).	8
Section 60, Housing Act, 1969 (Closing Orders where means of escape cannot be provided at reasonable cost).	24
Section 14, Housing Act, 1961 (Remedy of neglect of proper standards of management).	4
	4

Compliance with Notices.

Overcrowding - Section 90	3
- Section 19	54
Provision of additional facilities (Section 15)	15
Provision of means of escape from fire (Section 16)	31
Remedy of neglect (Section 14)	1

AIR POLLUTION, NOISE CONTROL AND FACTORIES

Introduction

There has been a large surge forward during the year in the field of noise control. In the past ten years the importance of eliminating or reducing noise has increased enormously and from being a minor part of public health work about which few inspectors had much knowledge, it is now considered to be of equal importance with air pollution.

The appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector and a fourth Technical Assistant, mainly to deal with the work involved under the Noise Insulation Regulations and an accelerated smoke control programme, has been agreed in principle and is now under consideration by Sandwell Metropolitan District Council.

Industrial Air Pollution

The policy of routine inspection of industrial processes and equipment without awaiting complaints has continued albeit at a slower rate than is desirable due to the pressure of other work. Once again reference must be made to the appallingly low standard of maintenance by the major proportion of firms. The attitude of not wishing to spend time and money on plant and equipment not directly concerned with production predominates. Possibly the fuel crisis in which the country finds itself at the end of the year may make firms look more closely into the thermal efficiency of combustion equipment but past experience suggests that this is wishful thinking.

An attempt has been made to obtain a reduction in the visible emissions, odours and grit and dust from cold blast cupolas by persuading companies to maintain combustion in the cupola shafts, if necessary by the use of after burners. This type of equipment, like most other, is in short supply and there are delays in obtaining supplies and therefore achieving the desired results. However, the value of our efforts in this direction will no doubt become gradually more apparent in 1974.

The use of oil fired rotary furnaces in the melting of iron can give rise on occasions to excessive smoke. One foundry is troublesome on this account and the process has been discontinued at a second. Smoke emissions occur usually as a result of failure to adjust burners when the furnaces are newly charged and if an improvement cannot be quickly achieved it will be necessary to consider recommending legal action. There are now four cold blast cupolas in the Borough fitted with twin wind belts to reduce metallurgical coke consumption, but it is too early to say whether there is any significant reduction in emissions. Thought is being given to the use of gas injection at another foundry and the inspection of a cupola outside the Borough utilising this system showed a reduction in overall emissions but a break of some 15/20 seconds of ignition in the cupola shaft during charging.

The problem of odour arising from shell moulding is still with us. At one foundry a highly efficient extraction system was installed which discharged the fumes at a high velocity via a duct terminating 65ft. above ground level. Unfortunately measures taken inside the factory to reduce extraneous air to the exhaust system made working conditions intolerable for the men and it became apparent that such a system can only be successful when casting is carried out in one small area by using, for example, a continuous line. At

one foundry with a small shell moulding section, a partial answer was found by drawing the combustion air required for the cupolas from over the casting area.

An interesting situation arose at a factory where it was proposed to install a series of replacement heat treatment furnaces fired by gas oil. The equipment being replaced used residual fuel oil and as the furnaces were not equipped with chimneys combustion gases were allowed to disperse throughout the workroom. Each of the proposed furnaces was rated well below 1.25×10^6 B.T.U/hr. but the combined rating was considerably higher than this figure and in our opinion therefore a chimney discharging at a suitable height was necessary. The Factory Inspector agreed that it was undesirable for a relatively large volume of combustion products to be discharged into a workroom and the firm were persuaded to erect a chimney of appropriate height.

Successful proceedings were instituted for a Nuisance Order in respect of dark smoke from one factory whilst proceedings against the same firm for grit and dust fall-out and odour emission were adjourned for six months as the firm had installed an electrostatic precipitator which they claim will obviate the nuisance.

The senior and one other inspector have been trained by N.I.F.E.S. to measure grit and dust burdens in chimneys and flues. Mark IIIA equipment was purchased and all the inspectors were given opportunities to watch a C.E.G.B. team using this type of equipment at an electricity generating station.

Efforts to eliminate the emission of dark smoke from industrial bonfires has continued with marked success except on demolition sites. Four successful prosecutions were instituted for offences in contravention of Section 1, Clean Air Act, 1968, against demolition contractors. The burning of domestic garden refuse, however, still poses a considerable problem. Very few formal complaints are received as people are unwilling to inform on neighbours and run the possible risk of arguments and unpleasantness. However, the large number of anonymous telephone requests for information about the legislation dealing with nuisances arising from garden bonfires indicates that many people are troubled by this particular form of pollution. Free collection of all but excessive quantities of garden refuse is offered by the Corporation but the general public seem reluctant to make use of this service.

Three meetings of the Greets Green Pollution Committee were held and the residents were supplied with volumetric equipment for measuring smoke and sulphur dioxide. The instrument was purchased by one of the local firms and advice on the operation given by staff of the Air Pollution Section. The Committee continues to provide a forum for both industrialists and local residents to express their views and a number of minor irritations which were sources of complaint, were eliminated.

As always it is impossible to categorise the various complaints received during the year, but the total received undoubtedly fell. In all, there were 81 complaints and petitions received concerning industrial air pollution.

In 15 cases notices were served relating to smoke emissions (Section 30 Clean Air Act 1956) and in seven instances, Abatement Notices relating to smoke (Section 16 Clean Air Act 1956) and grit, dust or effluvia (Sections 92 and 93 Public Health Act, 1936).

Odours.

Probably due to the gradual elimination of gross pollution by smoke, grit and dust, complaints relating to unpleasant odours have increased. The sources of the odours included cupolas, casting, coating of steel strip, paint spraying, burning of film, quenching of heated metal springs, fish frying, and feather processing. Although tracing the sources of the smell normally presents little problem, eliminating the nuisance completely to the satisfaction of the complainants in most cases proves impossible to achieve. However, good housekeeping and the installation and correct use of proper equipment e.g. after burners, scrubbers, etc. depending upon the source of the odour, has reduced emissions considerably.

The processing of feathers produced the most complaints and considerable time was spent by the Committee and their officers in deciding upon the best course of action to take. The Company changed hands in July and the new owners appear to appreciate the need for works to be carried out and improvements in general housekeeping. The Health and Hygiene Committee called in a Consultant in October and on receipt of his report it was decided to require the firm to carry out the Consultant's recommendations within three months and in the event of failure to do this to institute proceedings for a High Court action. In the meantime, the District Alkali Inspector took tests of the exhaust gases and the Chief Alkali Inspector decided that as hydrogen sulphide was being emitted the process should be registered under the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act, 1906.

The coating of steel strip with some types of acrylic and vinyl enamels produced the second largest number of complaints relating to odours, although the particular processes are carried on at a factory where there are relatively few dwellings in the vicinity. The installation of after-burners was recommended but the Company, against our advice, decided to install taller chimneys and at the end of the year complaints were still being received.

Whenever new paint spraying plant is being installed the firms concerned have been required to provide a filtration system. Similar action has also been taken with existing paint spraying booths where justified complaints have been received.

New Equipment.

40 notifications of intention to install new furnaces and applications for prior approval were received during the year. Of the furnaces notified, 27 were oil fired, 8 gas fired, 1 electrically heated and 4 burned solid fuel. Of the latter, two were incinerators and 2 cold blast furnaces.

Failure to notify the intention to install new furnaces is still rife and it would appear that prosecution of offenders may be the only way in which to achieve compliance with the requirements of Section 3, Clean Air Act, 1956.

Alkali Registered Processes.

No record is kept of complaints received about processes registered under the Alkali etc., Works Regulation Act 1906 and complainants are encouraged to contact the District Alkali Inspector directly. Noxious odours emitted from chemical manufacturing processes caused the most nuisance, although smoke and fume emissions from secondary aluminium smelting are also a frequent cause of concern. Unfortunately none of the latter are to date equipped with the best practicable means although progress towards this end is anticipated during 1974.

An application was made to the Department of the Environment requesting transfer of control, from the Alkali Inspectorate to the Corporation, in respect of emissions arising from a feather processing plant. The decision of the Secretary of State is still awaited.

Smoke Control.

Smoke Control Areas, 22, 23, 24 and 25 became operative on 1st October, bringing a further 2990 houses under control. Areas 26 and 27 were approved by the Corporation and will become operative on the 1st October, 1974, while Area 28 has been surveyed and all the necessary statistics obtained for submission to the Health and Hygiene Committee in early January. These three new areas will increase the number of dwellings under control by 3266, bringing the proportion of dwellings in the borough under control to 39%.

The West Bromwich Clean Air Council.

The Clean Air Council held their Annual Meeting in the Council Chamber in March, when Dr. H.N.M. Stewart gave an extremely interesting talk on "Odours". The discussion was lively and the questions so numerous that the Chairman had to close the discussion to permit the speaker to leave for home at a reasonable hour.

The policy of providing speakers to interested bodies continued and in particular many talks were given to school children of all ages. The services we could offer were adequately publicised in the bulletin circularised to all schools and this added considerably to the number of requests for information and assistance. Instruments were loaned for the Summer months to one comprehensive school so that the Science teachers were able to give their students some practical experience in measuring pollution.

In June the Council were represented by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary at a Joint Meeting of Clean Air Councils held in Manchester. The meeting was addressed by Professor P. Lord of Salford University after which a number of short papers were presented by various individuals. The Secretary of West Bromwich Clean Air Council spoke on the measurement of heavy metals in the atmosphere.

Measurement of Pollution

The average monthly concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide as measured at 5 permanent sites are shown on the first graph. The second graph clearly indicates the downward trend in pollution over the years since volumetric measurements were commenced.

I am again indebted to those who have co-operated in making sites available at the following premises:-

- The Chest Clinic, Heath Lane, West Bromwich.
- The Cemetery, Alexandra Road, Tipton.
- Grove Vale Junior School, Great Barr, Birmingham B43.
- Delta Diecastings Limited, Greets Green, West Bromwich, who also made the daily readings at their Nelson Works on our behalf.

As before, whenever complaints of excessive pollution by smoke or sulphur dioxide are received, and it is considered that measurement would be of assistance in satisfying complainants or furthering our investigations, a portable volumetric machine is used. In no area where such measurements were taken were there higher concentrations of smoke or sulphur dioxide discovered than were already being obtained from our permanent measurement sites.

The routine measurements of heavy metals in the atmosphere commenced in mid-1972, continued until the Autumn of 1973. The decision to measure for metals suspended in the atmosphere, rather than found in grit and dust etc., was taken as we understand that inhalation is normally more likely to be a health hazard than ingestion.

For the purposes of this exercise, use was made of surplus equipment from the normal volumetric apparatus, although the dreschel bottle was dispensed with and a 0.8 um Millipore filter paper was used in lieu of the normal Whatman paper. The sampling period in each case was 2 weeks and the results varied from:-

Cadmium	nil to 0.6	ug/m ³
Chromium	nil to 0.7	ug/m ³
Copper	nil to 16.5	ug/m ³
Iron	0.34 to 16.6	ug/m ³
Lead	nil to 2.5	ug/m ³
Nickel	nil to 0.99	ug/m ³
Zinc	1.46 to 16.0	ug/m ³

The nil results were not all obtained from the same sites, in fact in the 30 or so results obtained to date, no discernible pattern has become apparent. Measurements have been taken simultaneously at varying distances from motorways, heavy industry known to be emitting air contaminated with fine particles of metal, and under a variety of meteorological conditions.

It is difficult to put into perspective the results obtained as it is now over 13 years since Stocks published the results obtained in Merseyside and other northern localities. In any event, use was then made of smoke stains, in a similar way to that reported by the Chief Alkali Inspector in 1972. Comparison with the Factory Inspectorate's threshold limits reduced to 1/30th or 1/40th where the metal is known to have a cumulative effect, indicates that there would appear to be little apparent hazard to human health in West Bromwich at the moment. However, Warren Spring laboratory and other authorities are known to be carrying out measurements of heavy metals in the atmosphere and it is to be hoped that their results will be published at an early date.

Complaints of damage to vegetation alleged to be caused by air pollution are not uncommon, and visual examination or submission of damaged plants for analysis rarely produces a conclusive result. On the last occasion when such a rash of complaints occurred, in a residential area adjoining an industrial zone, it was decided to take representative samples of the soil for analysis. Pollution by metals was suspected, hence, the figure that really mattered was the zinc equivalent. This is the sum of the concentration of zinc in p.p.m. plus copper x 2 and nickel x 8. The different factors are used as copper is considered to be twice, and nickel 8 times, as toxic as zinc.

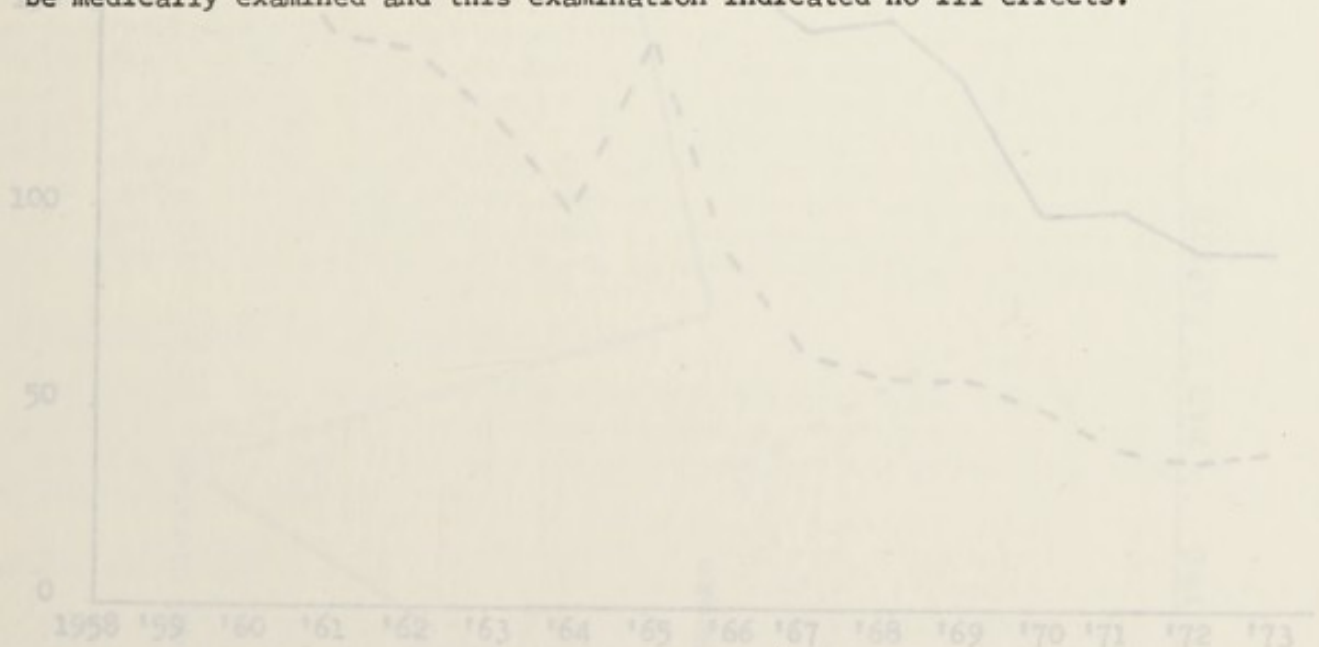
Our results on 5 sites indicated zinc equivalents varying from 162 to 1417, while the Ministry of Agriculture considered a figure in excess of 250 as harmful to plants. There is no simple way of knowing what proportion of the metals has been present for years and what is of recent origin, and no practical way of removing metal from the soil. The effect of toxic metals may be reduced by the addition of lime and organic matter to the soil, but we were advised that this would not be effective in our case.

In an attempt to ascertain how representative these results were in relation to the whole of the Borough, samples of soil were taken from the gardens in the residential area furthest away from industrial development, and again in the centre of the most heavily industrialised part of the town. These showed a zinc equivalent in the residential area of 560 and in the garden surrounded by heavy industry, 2960. In neither case had occupiers complained and they were apparently satisfied with what they were able to grow in their gardens. It may be interesting to note, that the minimum and maximum figures in p.p.m. obtained for other metals in the soil samples were as follows:-

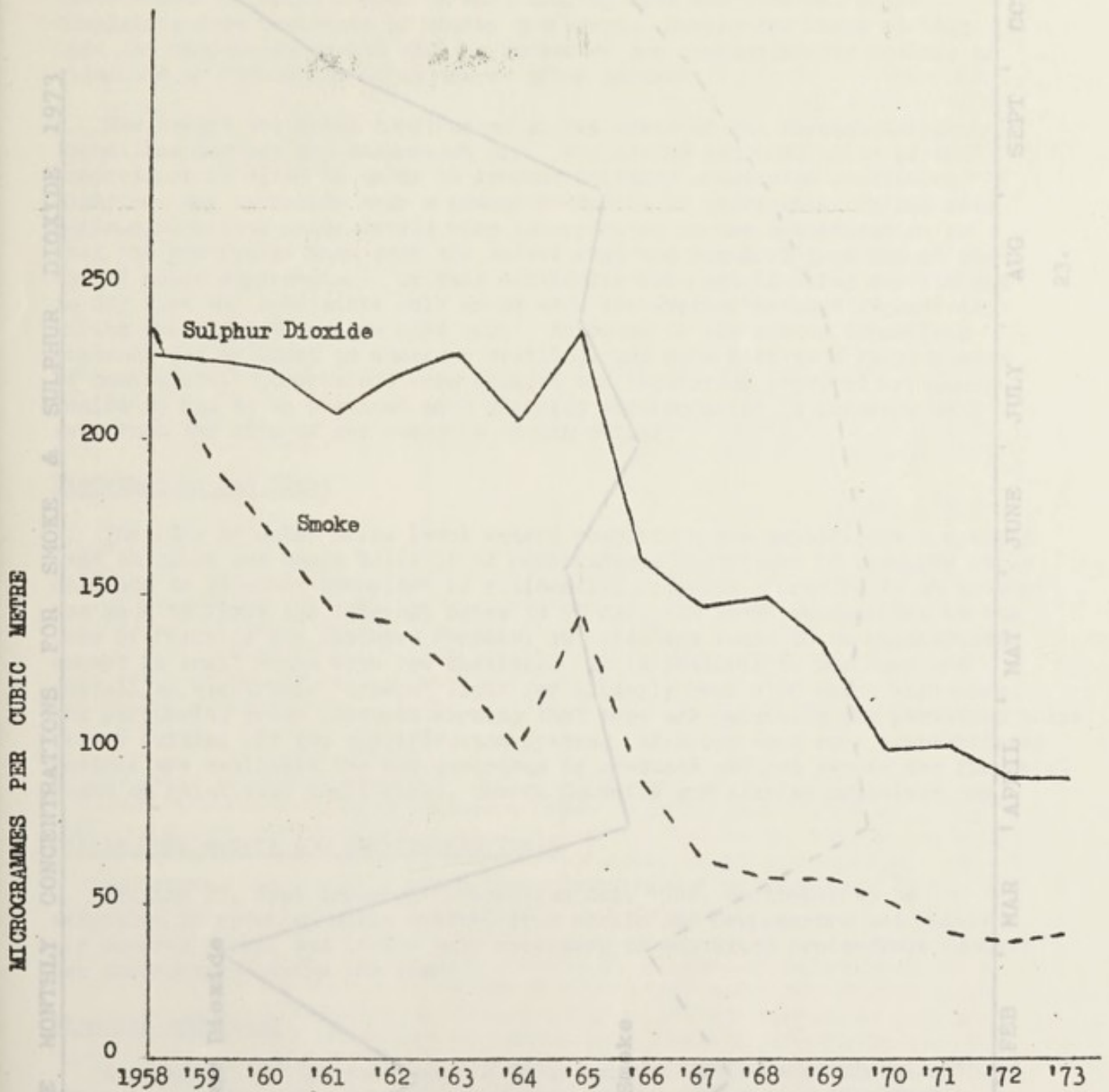
Cadmium	10 - 20
Chromium	30 - 160
Iron	2500 - 3500
Lead	80 - 480

In the areas of complaints, the Parks Superintendent has been requested to advise complainants what plants could tolerate soils which are heavily contaminated with metals.

A further aspect of measuring possible hazards to health from lead was passed on to us by Birmingham Corporation. In their investigations into lead emissions from a works, it was discovered that dirty overalls from workers involved in handling lead compounds were transported to a laundry in West Bromwich for washing. The overalls were carried in bags but we were requested to look into possible hazards. An inspection of the methods employed at the laundry was sufficient to satisfy the officer that adequate precautions were being taken. However, to quell any remaining doubts, samples of the washing water and waste collected from the filtering media attached to the driers has been submitted to the Analyst for his report which is awaited. The worker who handles the bags containing the dirty overalls was also responsible for handling the dirty overalls prior to the introduction of bagging. The Medical Officer of Health thought it prudent that she should be medically examined and this examination indicated no ill effects.

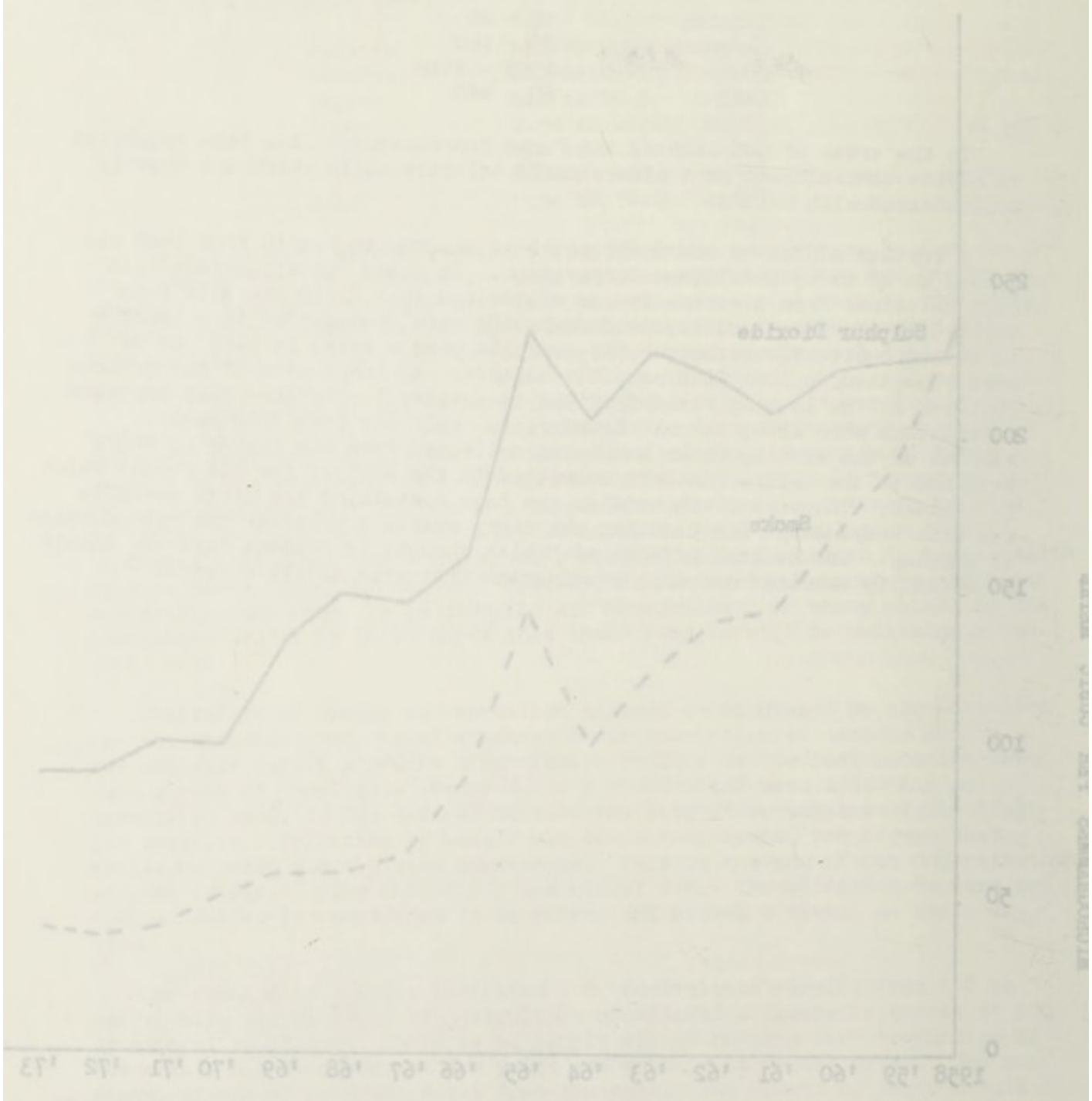


AVERAGE YEARLY CONCENTRATIONS
FOR SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE



AVERAGE YEARLY CONCENTRATIONS

FOR SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE



NOISE CONTROL

General Notes.

Eighty-five complaints or petitions of excessive noise were received and investigated. The sources were mainly industrial processes where a number of pieces of equipment contributed to the nuisance. This type of complaint is the most difficult of all to deal with as when one fan, coil, motor, etc. is silenced, the noise being emitted from another adjacent machine or plant takes precedence and has to be dealt with and so on. It is quite common to spend a year or more dealing with one fire and noise complaint from residents of nearby dwellings. During the winter of that time the company concerned and the inspector are systematically working to eliminate or reduce noise sources after another.

New areas are being considered in the areas of the Borough using muffling methods and compressed air. The silencing and insulation of the compressors is vital in order to prevent nuisance which is continuous night and day operation over a number of months is inevitable. On one site where particular noise levels were investigated in the specification so that the contractor may know the extent of what was required from him in the way of noise abatement. On this particular contract blasting was limited by the night to remove hard rock. As a result of the second tunnelling contract was adjacent to numerous dwellings and was rise to large number of complaints. Compressors were changed and insulation provided but nearby residents had to be provided with sleeping accommodation in caverns well away from the site of the works to obtain relief.

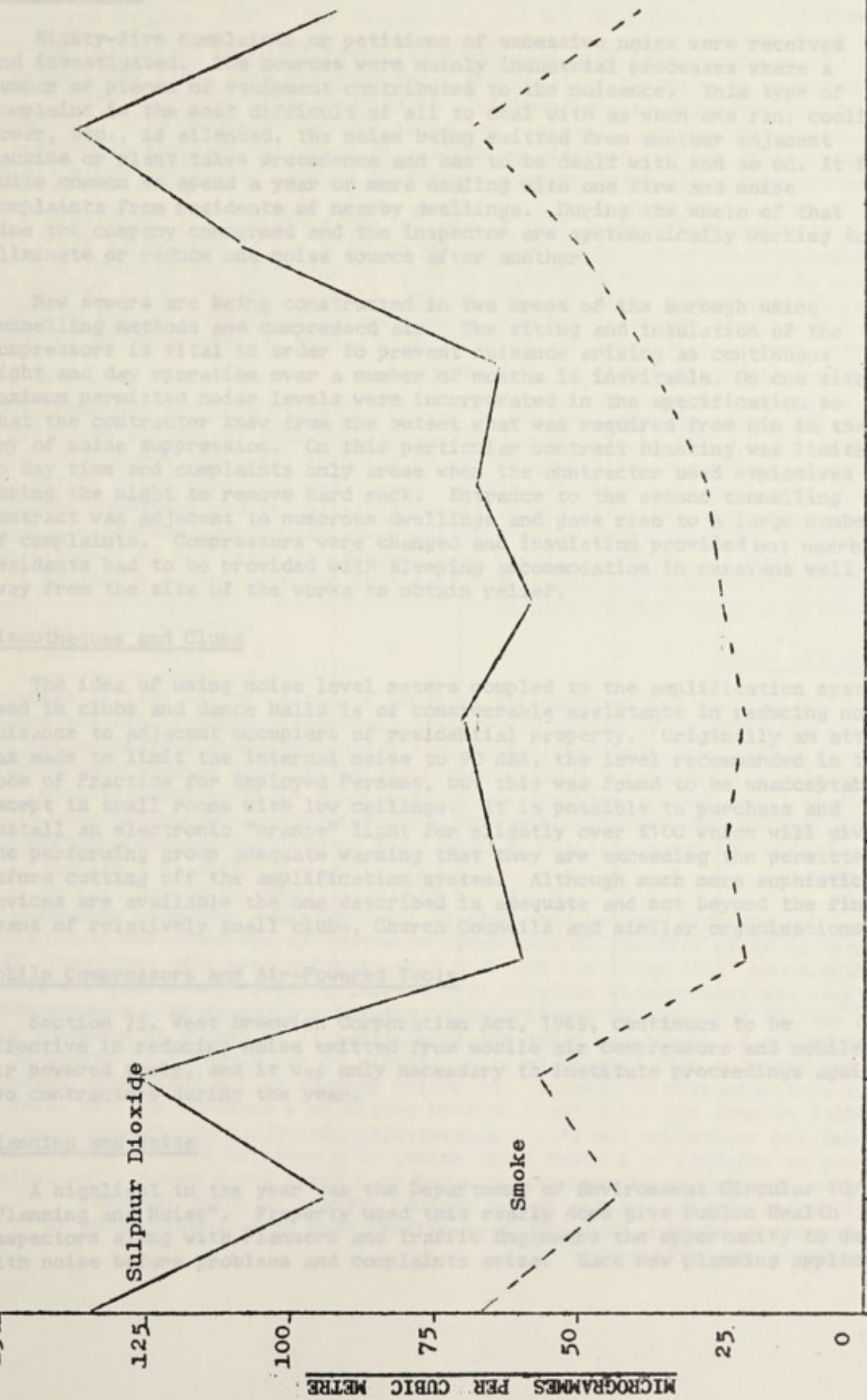
Insulation and Cladding

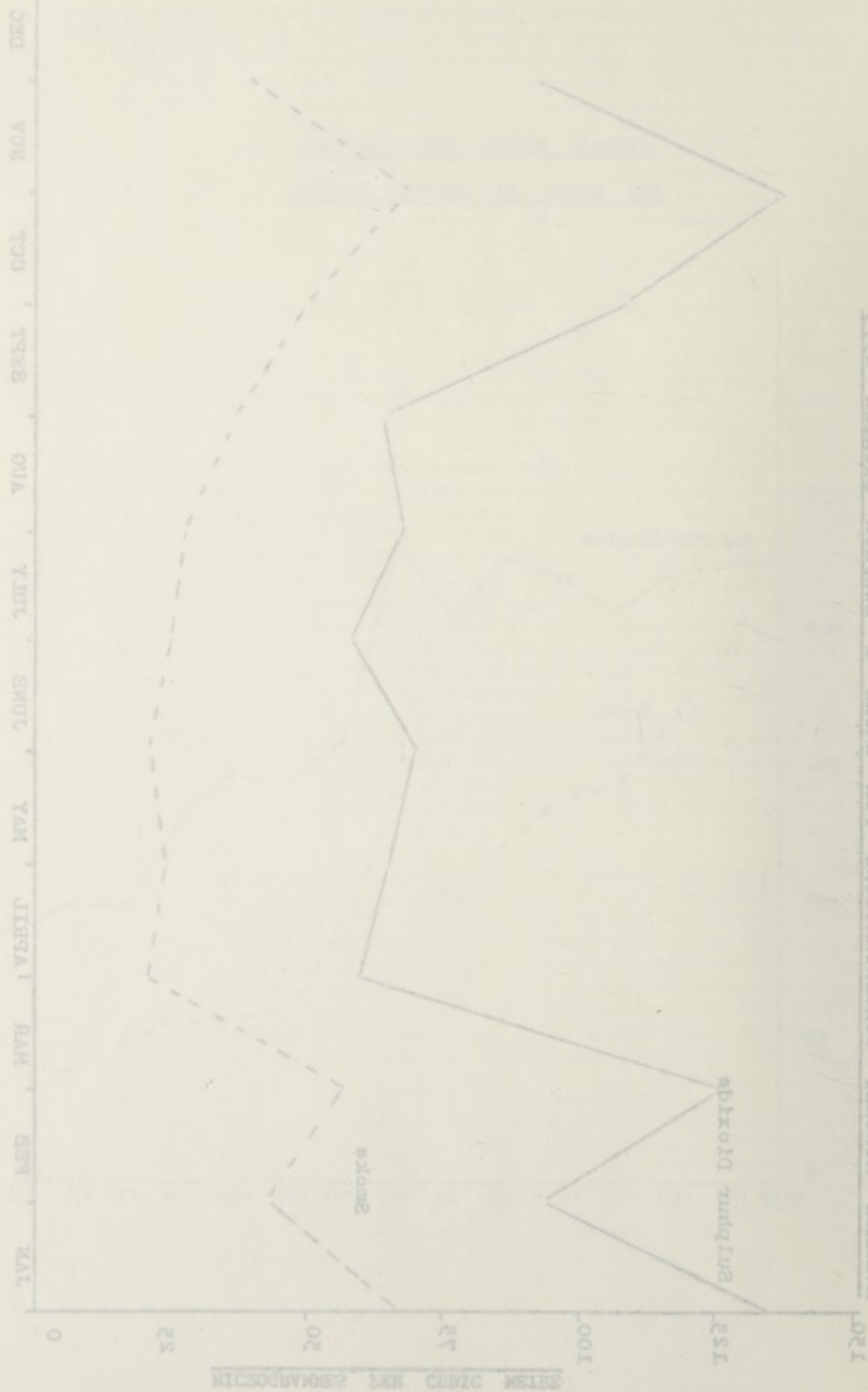
The idea of using noise level meters coupled to the amplification system in clubs and dance halls is of considerable assistance in detecting noise levels to prevent complaints of residential property. Originally an attempt was made to limit the intensity of noise to 100 dB, the level recommended in the Code of Practice for Employed Persons, but this was found to be unacceptable in small rooms with low ceilings. It is possible to purchase and install an electronic "orange" light for slightly over £100 which will give a visual warning when they are exceeding a pre-set variable noise level cutting off the amplification system. Although such noise abatement devices are available the one described is adequate and not beyond the financial means of relatively small clubs, Church Halls and similar organisations.

Section 75, Water Pollution Act, 1969, provides for the discharge of effluent into water courses to be controlled by the local authority. It is necessary to institute proceedings against any person who discharges effluent into a water course in contravention of the Act.

A right to the quiet enjoyment of one's property is a common law right which is protected by the law. It is necessary to institute proceedings against any person who interferes with the quiet enjoyment of one's property.

AVERAGE MONTHLY CONCENTRATIONS FOR SMOKE & SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1973





MONTHLY CONCENTRATIONS FOR SMOKE & SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1947-1953

NOISE CONTROL

General Noise.

Eighty-five complaints or petitions of excessive noise were received and investigated. The sources were mainly industrial processes where a number of pieces of equipment contributed to the nuisance. This type of complaint is the most difficult of all to deal with as when one fan, cooling tower, etc., is silenced, the noise being emitted from another adjacent machine or plant takes precedence and has to be dealt with and so on. It is quite common to spend a year or more dealing with one firm and noise complaints from residents of nearby dwellings. During the whole of that time the company concerned and the inspector are systematically working to eliminate or reduce one noise source after another.

New sewers are being constructed in two areas of the Borough using tunnelling methods and compressed air. The siting and insulation of the compressors is vital in order to prevent nuisance arising as continuous night and day operation over a number of months is inevitable. On one site maximum permitted noise levels were incorporated in the specification so that the contractor knew from the outset what was required from him in the way of noise suppression. On this particular contract blasting was limited to day time and complaints only arose when the contractor used explosives during the night to remove hard rock. Entrance to the second tunnelling contract was adjacent to numerous dwellings and gave rise to a large number of complaints. Compressors were changed and insulation provided but nearby residents had to be provided with sleeping accommodation in caravans well away from the site of the works to obtain relief.

Discotheques and Clubs

The idea of using noise level meters coupled to the amplification systems used in clubs and dance halls is of considerable assistance in reducing noise nuisance to adjacent occupiers of residential property. Originally an attempt was made to limit the internal noise to 90 dBA, the level recommended in the Code of Practice for Employed Persons, but this was found to be unacceptable except in small rooms with low ceilings. It is possible to purchase and install an electronic "orange" light for slightly over £100 which will give the performing group adequate warning that they are exceeding the permitted noise before cutting off the amplification system. Although much more sophisticated devices are available the one described is adequate and not beyond the financial means of relatively small clubs, Church Councils and similar organisations.

Mobile Compressors and Air-Powered Tools.

Section 75, West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1969, continues to be effective in reducing noise emitted from mobile air compressors and mobile air powered tools, and it was only necessary to institute proceedings against two contractors during the year.

Planning and Noise

A highlight in the year was the Department of Environment Circular 10/73 "Planning and Noise". Properly used this really does give Public Health Inspectors along with Planners and Traffic Engineers the opportunity to deal with noise before problems and complaints arise. Each new planning application

is carefully scrutinised for possible effect on ambient noise levels and conditions are attached where necessary to the consent. By these means it is anticipated that background levels can be gradually brought under control.

It is appreciated that only new development is being controlled but the number of planning applications being received each month where noise problems may arise is considerable. As the number of noise outlets brought under control increases the noise sources remaining will stand out more clearly and may possibly be dealt with under the Nuisance procedure, thereby giving the Corporation a measure of control across the whole field.

Planning is the ideal tool to use for noise control. It involves a high degree of consultation between departments and it also means that some of the initiative in dealing with noise passes to the planners and traffic engineers. This does not matter, provided ambient noise levels are being held steady or reduced. The opportunity is here to make positive steps forward to improve the noise climate and we are endeavouring to grasp it in collaboration with our colleagues.

The amount of work involved in trying to comply with the recommendations of Circular 10/73 is of course considerable and most inspectors concerned with this work now anticipate having to spend at least one evening every week away from home measuring noise. Many firms have been given advice on the construction of buildings or the installation of new machinery to minimise the emission of noise. At the same time, where residential development is concerned, it has been possible to point out to planners and architects where protection or insulation is required and on occasions to provide detailed specifications.

Traffic Noise.

In July the Senior Inspector attended a meeting at the British Airport Authority Offices in London where the Land Compensation Act 1972 and the draft Noise Insulation Regulations were discussed and in particular the experience of Staines U.D.C. in operating the Heathrow Airport Soundproofing Scheme. Two further meetings at the Department of Environment Offices, Birmingham, were attended after the Noise Insulation Regulations were published and these assisted in clarifying many of the numerous queries that arose.

Considerable use has been made of the prediction method of assessing traffic noise although in some cases measurements utilising the B and K 2209 sound level meter and the Uher tape recorder have been necessary. The tapes are subsequently analysed by the staff at Aston University who provide a service for which we are extremely grateful. Although this measurement technique is acceptable under the Regulations it is costly in manhours and consideration will have to be given shortly to the purchase of automatic or semi-automatic equipment. The choice appears to lie between an instrument which records the noise for a desired period on a cassette and can later be analysed to produce the L10, a mechanically controlled electro-magnetic counter attached to a sound level meter, or a modified form of battery or mains operated chart recorder attached to a sound level meter. The latter is infinitely the cheaper and at present appears to offer the most attractive solution, but all these methods need more investigation to evaluate them properly.

In conjunction with the Corporation's traffic engineers, costs of complying with the Noise Insulation Regulations have been prepared in respect of all dwellings affected by highways improved or brought into use since October, 1969. The Engineering and Building Committee are considering the whole problem of protecting people against traffic noise in the light of the requirements of the Land Compensation Act and as considerable sums of money are involved it will no doubt be some months before a decision can be reached.

The Department of the Environment anticipates publishing before Easter 1974 either lists of eligible properties or maps indicating dwellings affected by noise in excess of the criterion arising from the traffic on the M5 and M6 motorways. The choice between the use of barriers or individual insulation will no doubt be decided primarily on the difference in expense involved, although it is to be hoped that barriers will be used whenever possible as they offer protection to the whole of the environment and not simply to the interior of dwellings.

Separate Regulations to protect schools, hospitals, and other special buildings are being prepared by the Department of the Environment and as some of the former are adversely affected by traffic noise in West Bromwich it is hoped that this new legislation will not be delayed.

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	3	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	915	196	24	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.(excluding out-workers premises).	3	2	-	-
Totals	928	201	24	-

Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Referred by H.M.I.
Ineffective drainage of floors (s6)	-	-	-	-
San.conveniences (s7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	24	18	-	5
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-
Totals	24	18	0	5

Inspection of sanitary accommodation under the Factories Act has been carried out whenever necessary. Conditions generally were good and no major problems were encountered.

Out-Workers.

A total of 214 out-workers are employed on carding of buttons, hooks and eyes, hair grips and similar light repetitive handwork. Seven visits were made to the homes of out-workers.

Considerable use has been made of the prediction (noise) by J.A. (excluding out-works) in which the noise level is predicted by the use of a sound level meter and the Uney tape recorder have been necessary. The tapes are subsequently analysed by the staff at Aston University and provide a service for which the Department is grateful. This technique is acceptable under the Regulations it is costly in manhours and consideration will have to be given shortly to the purchase of automatic or semi-automatic equipment. The choice appears to lie between an instrument which records the noise for a desired period on a cassette and can later be analysed to produce the L10, a mechanically controlled electro-magnetic counter attached to a sound level meter, or a modified form of battery or mains operated chart recorder attached to a sound level meter. The latter is infinitely the cheaper and at present appears to offer the most attractive solution, but all these methods need more investigation to evaluate them properly.

C. C. Wilkes, M.A.P.H.I.
Senior Public Health Inspector
(to Nov. 1973)

A. N. Adams, M.A.P.H.I.
(with effect from 1.12.73)

FOOD HYGIENE

Premises

During the year under review 1,120 notices were served requiring the carrying out of work at food premises. In only 11 instances was it found necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of food premises. In each case repeated warnings have been ignored by the defendants before the Council resorted to Court Action.

In two previous annual reports I referred to the urgent need for regulations imposing stringent controls over the temperatures at which high-risk foods are stored. These regulations have still not materialised despite the fact that improper storage of food such as meat products at temperatures suitable for bacterial growth is a crucial factor in the overwhelming majority of food poisoning outbreaks.

The present regulations regarding temperature control are quite inadequate and are so worded as to be practically unenforcible. It is fortunate that most food traders respond in a responsible manner to the advice offered by the Public Health Inspector as to the storage of food at temperatures which do not encourage the rapid growth of bacteria.

Most deficiencies found by Inspectors during their visits to food premises related to a basic lack of cleanliness. There are no technical difficulties in rectifying this, but a small minority of traders still lack the will.

180	Convicted	7 Charges - food rooms not kept clean and sanitary accommodation not kept clean.	Grocery Supermarket
390	Convicted	13 Charges - Cold room, wash room and shop not kept clean; inadequate lighting in toilet and wash room; towel and nail-brush not kept at wash basin; sanitary accommodation not kept clean; W.C. pan not kept clean.	Butchers Shop
-	Case Dismissed	1 Charge - manager smoking whilst engaged in the handling of open food.	Green Groceries Shop
880	Convicted	17 Charges - food equipment not kept clean; wash basin not kept clean; kitchen, chef's pantry, vegetable preparation room, food cellar and bar not kept clean.	Licensed Restaurant

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970

Type of Premises	Offences	Result	Total Fines	Costs
			£	£
Bakery	1 Charge - confectionery depositer not kept clean.	Absolute Discharge	-	10
Restaurant	17 Charges - food equipment not kept clean; food exposed to contamination; W.C.pan not kept clean; food room communicating with sanitary convenience, inadequate lighting, wash basin not kept clean; food rooms not kept clean.	Convicted	220	12
Public House	1 Charge - licensee smoking a cigarette whilst handling food.	Convicted	15	10
Bottling Plant Cash & Carry, Wines & Spirits Warehouse.	14 Charges - W.C. pan not kept clean; sanitary accommodation not kept clean; notices re: handwashing not displayed; washing facilities not conveniently accessible; no soap, towel or nailbrushes at wash basins; wash basins not kept clean; sink not kept clean; bottling dept. and sales room not kept clean and not in such a condition as to be capable of being cleaned.	Convicted	215	10
Public House	1 Charge - licensee smoking a cigarette in a room containing open food.	Convicted	15	10
Public House	1 Charge - licensee smoking a cigarette in a room containing open food.	Convicted	15	10
Grocery Supermarket	7 Charges - food rooms not kept clean and sanitary accommodation not kept clean.	Convicted	180	12
Butchers Shop	13 Charges - Cold room, wash room and shop not kept clean; inadequate lighting in toilet and wash room; towel and nailbrush not kept at wash basin; sanitary accommodation not kept clean; W.C.pan not kept clean.	Convicted	390	12
Greengrocery Shop	1 Charge - manager smoking whilst engaged in the handling of open food.	Case Dismissed	-	-
Licensed Restaurant	17 Charges - food equipment not kept clean; wash basin not kept clean; kitchens, chef's pantry, vegetable preparation room, food cellar and bar not kept clean.	Convicted	880	25
	29. TOTAL		£1930	£111

Food Vehicles

560 inspections of food vehicles were carried out. These included mobile shops, hot dog sales vehicles, and both wholesale and retail delivery vehicles. 287 notices were served, requiring improvements to vehicles and requiring vehicles to be presented for re-inspection. In 17 cases prosecutions were instituted.

Several food companies operating vehicles in the Borough have improved their fleets by the introduction of insulated and refrigerated vehicles for the carriage of cooked meats and other perishable foods. However, many companies still operate vehicles where no regard is given to the control of the temperature of the food carried. Temperatures in excess of 80°F (26.6°C) have been recorded in vehicles during the summer. Such temperatures are ideal for the growth of food poisoning organisms. This further illustrates the need for effective temperature control regulations.

Recent advances in the production of metal alloys, laminated plastics, insulating materials and improved refrigeration have made it possible to buy, at a price, a thoroughly hygienic food vehicle. Nevertheless, simple economics will lead many companies to purchase basic production vehicles not converted for the carriage of food. Traders are encouraged to consult the Department for advice as to the standards required on such vehicles before they are used for the carriage of food. Much remains to be done in the field of vehicle hygiene but the amount of time invested by the Department in this direction has already reaped rich rewards in improved standards.

Market Stalls

Over 200 inspections of market stalls were carried out and as a result 100 notices requiring works of improvement were served and in two instances legal proceedings were instituted.

The new West Bromwich Market Hall was opened in October 1973 and following close liaison between my Department, the Architects and the Market Management a separate food hall was incorporated into the very enterprising design for the building. The standards of structural hygiene and facilities offered by the completed market hall represent significant advance, of which the Borough can be justly proud.

10	Dismissed	8 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; shelves not cleanable; no hot water on the vehicle; no wash hand basin; no first aid equipment; no name and address displayed; operator handling food with dirty hands and wearing dirty overalls.	Oriental Food Mobile Shop
10	Dismissed	1 Charge - dirty chopping boards. 3 Charges - no wash hand basin; no sink; no first aid kit.	Poultry Market Stall
20	Convicted	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Wholesale Poultry Delivery Vehicle

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970

Stall or Vehicle Type	Offences	Result	Fine £	Costs £
Wholesale Bacon Delivery Van	3 Charges - floor, side and wood-work not kept clean.	Convicted	75	10
Wholesale Cooked Meats Delivery Van	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	50	10
Wholesale Cooked Meats Delivery Van	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	40	12
Wholesale Cooked Meats Delivery	1 Charge - Vehicle not kept clean.	Case Dismissed	-	-
Wholesale Bread & Cakes Delivery Van	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	30	12
Wholesale Batter Flour Delivery Van	3 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; not kept in such a condition as to be capable of being cleaned; no name and address displayed.	Convicted	50	12
Wholesale Bacon Delivery Van	3 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; not kept in such a condition as to be capable of being cleaned; hessian cover not kept clean.	Convicted	150	12
Bread Delivery Vehicle	1 Charge - Vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	30	12
Egg and Cheese Market Stall	4 Charges - no hot water to the wash basin; no hot water to the sink and dirty sink; accumulation of refuse at the stall.	Convicted	30	12
Oriental Food Mobile Shop	8 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; shelves not cleansible; no hot water on the vehicle; no wash hand basin; no first aid equipment; no name and address displayed; operator handling food with dirty hands and wearing dirty overalls.	Dismissed	-	-
Butchers Shop	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	30	12
Poultry Market Stall	1 Charge - dirty chopping board. 3 Charges - no wash hand basin; no sink; no first aid kit.	Convicted Dismissed	10 -	- -
Wholesale Poultry Delivery Vehicle	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	50	10
Licensed Restaurant	17 Charges - food equipment not kept clean; wash basin not kept clean; kitchen, chef's pantry, vegetable preparation room, food cellar and bar not kept clean.	Convicted	880	25

Stall or Vehicle Type	Offences	Result	Fine £	Costs £
Wholesale Meat Delivery Vehicle	2 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; no name and address displayed.	Convicted	40	10
Mobile Hot Dog Vehicle	2 Charges - no hot water to wash hand basin and sink.	Convicted	40	15
Wholesale Sausage Delivery Vehicle.	2 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; vehicle not in such a condition as to be capable of being cleaned.	Convicted	60	12
Wholesale Hard Oils Delivery Vehicle	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	75	12
Wholesale Greengrocer Delivery Vehicle	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	25	12
Wholesale Confectionery Delivery Vehicle.	2 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; vehicle not in such a condition as to be capable of being cleaned.	Case Dismissed	-	-
TOTALS			£755	£163

Food Complaints

There was another rise in the number of complaints relating to food purchased in the Borough. This is a continuation of a trend reported for several years. 144 such complaints were dealt with by the Department in the year.

This rise indicates that consumers are becoming more discerning and demanding in regard to the quality of their food and are less reluctant to complain. The activities of consumers organisations and the increasing price of food have added further impetus to this welcome trend.

However there was a decrease in the number of complaints which were so serious as to warrant the institution of legal proceedings. Only twelve complaints (8.3%) fell into this category, compared with twenty-six (19.4%) in 1972. I welcome this decrease and I trust that it indicates increased vigilance on the part of the food industry in maintaining the highest standards of food quality so rightly demanded by the public.

All complaints lead to a thorough investigation of the production, handling and storage of the food concerned and significant improvements in hygiene and quality control are secured as a result. Most complainants seek action to prevent a recurrence of the problem rather than legal action by the Council against food traders. However, in the small number of cases where negligence is revealed it is the duty of the Council to prosecute the offender.

Wholesale Delivery Vehicle	1 Charge - Vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	50
Wholesale Delivery Vehicle	3 Charges - vehicle not in such a condition as to be capable of being cleaned.	Dismissed	-
Wholesale Delivery Vehicle	2 Charges - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	30
Wholesale Delivery Vehicle	4 Charges - vehicle not kept clean.	Dismissed	-
Market Stall	Wash basin; no hot water to the sink; accumulation of refuse at the stall.	Dismissed	-
Oriental Food Mobile Shop	8 Charges - vehicle not kept clean; shelves not cleanable; no hot water on the vehicle; no wash hand basin; no first aid equipment; no name and address displayed; operator handling food with dirty hands and wearing dirty overalls.	Dismissed	-
Foultry Market Stall	1 Charge - dirty chopping board.	Convicted	10
Foultry Market Stall	3 Charges - no wash hand basin; no sink; no first aid kit.	Dismissed	-
Wholesale Foultry Delivery Vehicle	1 Charge - vehicle not kept clean.	Convicted	50

Section	Offence	Result	Fine		Costs	
			£	p	£	p
8	(3) Possession for sale of unfit food. 1 Shrimps. 2 & 3 Ox Liver.	Guilty	65.00		5.00	
2	Adulteration of Whisky.	Guilty	50.00		16.55	
2	Adulteration of Whisky.	Guilty	50.00		12.30	
2	Sale of Milk containing rust particles.	Guilty	20.00		16.55	
2	Mould in Sterilised Milk.	Guilty	25.00		18.55	
2	Sale of Mouldy Can of Peas.	Guilty	25.00		12.00	
2	Sale of Date and Walnut Cake containing a nail.	Guilty	25.00		12.00	
2	Sale of Jar of Marmalade containing an insect.	Guilty	25.00		12.00	
2	Mouldy Cheese and Mushroom Spread.	Guilty	20.00		12.00	
2	Sale of Pasty containing Pigs Tooth.	Guilty	25.00		12.00	
8	Fan Wafers - Mice nibbled.	Guilty	30.00			
8	Part Cooked Potato with Mice droppings.	Guilty	30.00			
8	Olive Oil containing Mouse droppings.	Guilty	60.00			
2	Sale of Flan Case containing Fly.	Guilty	30.00		12.00	
TOTAL			480.00		140.95	

Total weight surrendered in 1972

7 tons 7½ cwt.

Milk

The number of dealers licensed under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1941/65 at the end of the year was 254.

Imported Food

Work continues to be carried out under these Regulations with the regular arrival of milk containers at two food premises within the Borough.

Health Education

During the year a vigorous programme of food hygiene education was carried out. Lectures were given to various groups and organisations and also to workers in food factories. Many companies co-operated in this exercise by sending members of their staff to the lectures and talks given by Public Health Inspectors.

A series of one day symposia was organised by the Department at the College of Commerce and Technology under the title "TOWARDS CLEAN FOOD". Over 200 food trade workers attended and both management and food handlers were represented.

Two synchro slide programmes were prepared by the Department and these illustrated food hygiene in catering premises and basic bacteriology. They proved to be very useful audio visual teaching aids. The closed circuit television video tape programme "COME HOME TO HYGIENE", produced jointly by my Department and the West Bromwich College of Commerce and Technology in 1972, was again used in schools and continues to be requested for use by other Local Authorities.

Courses preparing students for the Royal Society of Health Certificate of Food Hygiene have continued and were well attended.

I am convinced that, with the high rate of turnover of staff in food premises and the rapid changes in handling and production techniques within the food industry, there is a constant need for hygiene training and re-training of food handling personnel to keep abreast of new potential risks. The Public Health Inspector has a vital and expanding role to play in the education and training programme required to fulfil this need.

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Food Control

A planned programme of food sampling was continued during 1973 and was mainly aimed at maintaining a quality check on food manufactured in West Bromwich.

Of 514 informal samples taken, 218 were manufactured within the Borough. Four of these, all manufactured in the town, failed to meet the required compositional standard and in these four instances subsequent formal samples were found to be satisfactory. One sample of bread produced in the Borough was found to contravene the Labelling of Food Regulations. Eight labelling offences were found in foods not produced in the Borough. In all cases the labelling was amended by the manufacturer as requested by the Department.

A series of 53 samples of spirits sold in Public Houses were included in the year's work. Two from 1972 were found to be adulterated with added water. The two licencees concerned were successfully prosecuted under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Food Inspection

There has been a substantial drop in the quantity of food condemned during 1973 compared with 1972.

	tons	cwts	lbs
Meat at retail shops		17	105
Cooked meats and meat products		8	30
Canned meat		3	16
Other canned food		10	63
Frozen foods	3	7	99
Other		11	93
	5	19	70

Total weight surrendered in 1972

7 tons 7½ cwts.

Milk

The number of dealers licensed under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963/65 at the end of the year was 254.

Imported Food

Work continues to be carried out under these Regulations with the regular arrival of bulk containers at two food premises within the Borough.

The routine inspection of premises covered by the Act has continued and it is pleasing to report that in every case any work requested by the Department to comply with the Act was carried out by employers without the need for recourse to legal proceedings.

The number of accidents reported fell from 40 in 1972 to 21 in 1973. It seems that many notifiable accidents are not reported and publicity is needed to make employers aware of their legal obligation to report all accidents which involve employees not being fit for work for three days or more.

A matter of some concern is the difficulties which arise in the enforcement of ventilation requirements in multi-storey office accommodation owned by development companies. When these buildings are completed the floor space is sub-divided and leased to several different occupiers and often internal work rooms may be created by partitions. The occupiers are then required to carry out expensive alterations to provide ventilation systems to these rooms.

Ideally an integrated air conditioning system should be provided for such buildings during the course of their construction. However, some development companies are reluctant to incur this additional capital outlay.

Future Developments

During the year the Government announced their intention to introduce legislation to implement the main recommendations of the Robens Report on Safety and Health at Work. Therefore, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is likely to be replaced by a much more comprehensive Act intended to unify, simplify and strengthen the present system of protection for all work-people and the general public.

In the 10 years since the introduction of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act conditions for workers in offices and shops have improved tremendously. Overcrowded, dimly-lit and ill ventilated working conditions are now rarely seen.

The premises covered by this legislation now receive a general inspection every two or three years. Following the completion of initial inspections under the Act in 1969, inspectors are now mainly concerned with maintaining and improving upon the standards originally enforced.

Despite the improvements secured under the Act I suspect that both employees and employers are generally somewhat apathetic about their working conditions. Only a handful of complaints regarding unsatisfactory conditions are received from employees every year. It seems that many employees prefer to suffer poor working conditions rather than risk their employers disfavour by complaining. Consequently frequent and thorough inspections by the department assume a much greater importance than would otherwise be the case.

It is to be hoped that the proposed legislation will achieve the aim of involving both employers and workers much more closely in a dual responsibility for effective measures to protect health safety and welfare at work and hence build on the foundation laid by the present Act.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

1. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During 1973	Total No. of Premises Registered at the end of 1973	Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection During 1973
Offices	45	339	218
Retail Shops	36	674	394
Wholesale Shops/ Warehouse	15	58	29
Catering Establishments	4	246	132
Fuel Storage Depots	-	5	3
TOTALS	100	1322	776

2. The number of visits of all kinds to premises registered under the Act was 1831.

3. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises at the end of 1973.

Class of Premises	No. of Persons Employed 1973
Offices	3765
Retail Shops	3422
Wholesale Shops/Warehouse	690
Catering Establishments	1544
Fuel Storage Depots	47
TOTAL	9468

MEAT HYGIENE

Throughput.

Throughput of carcass meat from five slaughterhouses has again been at a very high level, in fact it has been much greater than in any previous years, the total "kill" being 594,685 animals, 147,502 more than last year, an approximate increase of 33%.

This is, in fact, a major production increase and has caused considerable problems with regard to hygiene and meat inspection.

On the basis of a 10% increase during the first 7 months of the year, the establishment of the section was strengthened by the addition of two more authorised meat inspectors, one being a Senior and one student. With this continuing expansion of the fresh meat industry, it will be necessary to make further additions to the staff of the section very soon.

One of the reasons for the spectacular increase in carcass meat production was the granting of an E.E.C. Licence to one company where extensive redevelopment and structural improvements had been completed, thus enabling the commencement of an export programme.

Condemnations and Disease.

A continuing cause for concern, especially with the present shortage of animal protein food, is the amount of carcass meat and offal condemned, some 380 tons, but by percentage, it is considerably less than in 1972. Again it must be stressed that much of the wastage is due to animal parasites which can with some effort be controlled and even eliminated.

Only 3 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year, and it was gratifying to note only 3 positive infections of tuberculosis in bovine animals. In each instance the infection was of the avian type and confined to the intestines. Full details of these animals were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Pathology

Only two specimens of diseased organs and meat were submitted to the pathological laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Wolverhampton for further diagnosis. One, a bovine liver and the other a bovine kidney, in both organs lesions were demonstrated which had the appearance of lymphosarcoma.

New Legislation.

The Government has introduced a new Bill to bring together into one document all the laws and regulations in England and Wales relating to slaughterhouses, knacker's yards and the slaughtering of animals. The Slaughterhouse Bill, a consolidation measure, is due to come into operation on April 1st., 1974.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

On the 31st December, 1973, there were 49 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the Act. All were engaged in licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Poultry Slaughtering.

There is one large poultry processing plant in the County Borough area with an output in 1973 of 982,277, a 38% increase on 1972.

Chickens	437,172
Hens	535,931
Turkeys	9,174

Of these birds, 10,277 (comprising 18 tons) were rejected as being unfit for human consumption.

Plans for the enlargement of the premises are being considered, and would be completed if it were not for the uncertain future of the "New York" dressed bird, for which there is considerable preference in the West Midlands area.

Daily inspections of the poultry is carried out by an Authorised Meat Inspector, on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 22/61, which allows for a system of scrutiny by a "spotter" under the general oversight of the Local Authority.

During the year Circular SFH 1/73, Poultry Meat Hygiene, was published.

The Circular informed Local Authorities of changes in the administrative responsibility for the exercise of powers under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in relation to poultry meat hygiene and inspection.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food now assumes full responsibilities in relation to hygienic production and inspection of poultry meat. The Department of Health and Social Security retains responsibilities for the hygiene of poultry meat in the chain of distribution and Local Authorities will still retain executive and enforcement responsibility in regard to hygiene and inspection of poultry meat.

The E.E.C. Directive 71/118/EEC will be applicable to all slaughterhouses serving the domestic market from the 15th February, 1976, and all poultry meat subject to the Directive will have to be inspected by a veterinary officer or his trained assistants.

Percentage of Food Animals affected by Tuberculosis.

1973	1972	1971	1970	
100.	100.	100.	100.	Cattle (excluding cows)
-	-	-	-	Cows
-	-	-	-	Calves
2.4	2.04	1.3	1.03	Pigs

Carcasses Inspected and Unfit Meat Surrendered.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed and inspected.	21,346	34	954	170,520	401,831
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses rejected	13	-	11	174	921
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	9,112	14	18	21,789	134,258
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	43.0	41.0	2.0	13.0	33.0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses rejected	-	-	-	-	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	3	-	-	-	9,831
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.001	-	-	-	2.4
CYSTICERCI					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	3	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-

Percentage of Food Animals affected by Tuberculosis.

	1970	1971	1972	1973
Cattle (excluding cows)	0.004	.002	.007	.001
Cows	-	-	-	-
Calves	-	-	-	-
Pigs	1.03	1.3	2.04	2.4

On the 31st December, 1973, there were 49 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the Act. All were engaged in licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Summary of Carcasses Inspected.

	1970	1971	1972	1973
Cattle (excluding cows)	23,726	25,595	25,656	21,346
Cows	173	77	75	34
Calves	1,853	1,508	1,073	954
Sheep	84,414	83,707	73,743	170,520
Pigs	341,046	345,491	346,636	401,831
Totals	451,212	456,378	447,183	594,685

Total Weight of Meat and Offal Surrendered as Unfit for Human Consumption.

	1970	1971	1972	1973
Tons	248	311	368	380

SPECIAL SERVICES

Gypsies and Other Travellers

During the latter part of the year, the construction of a shower and laundry unit has been taking place and this is due to come into use in the early part of next year.

The granting of formal Designation still remains outstanding.

Pets and Domestic Animals

Regular inspections of premises and examination of registers, were made under the provisions of the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963 and the Riding Establishment Act 1964 and 1970. The number of premises licensed and operating was as follows:-

Pet Animals	..	..	..	..	..	16
Boarding Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	3
Riding Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	2

Water Supply

Twelve chemical and forty-five bacteriological examinations were made of drinking water in addition to the regular examinations carried out by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department, the two undertakings providing mains supplies to the area.

Most of the samples were taken from high rise flats. One of these samples proved unsatisfactory but an investigation into the supply to the block and a further sample proved satisfactory.

Swimming Pools

With the demolition of the public baths at Wednesbury, there now remains one at West Bromwich and one at Tipton. Both are controlled by the Baths and Estates Committee. In addition, there are twelve swimming pools, varying considerably in size and technical specification, situated in the following schools.

	1970	1971	1972	1973
Cattle (excluding cows)	Alexandra High	.002	.007	.001
Cows	Churchfields High	-	-	-
Calves	Joseph Edward Cox Junior	-	-	-
Pigs	Dartmouth High	1.3	2.04	2.4
	Fir Tree Junior			
	Glenvale Special			
	Grorse Farm Junior			
	Grove Vale Junior			

Harvills Hawthorn Junior

Millfields Special

Shenstone Lodge Special

Yew Tree Junior

Forty-four bacteriological samples of swimming pool water were submitted for examination in conjunction with pH and free chlorine readings taken at the pool side.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 and Medicines Act 1941

The number of shopkeepers registered with the Council for the sale of items under Part 2 of the Poisons List numbered 42 at 31st December, 1973.

Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951

There is only one manufacturing premise within the Borough.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs

No samples were taken for analysis during the year.

Deposit of Poisonous Wastes Act 1972

This Act, which came into being as the result of indiscriminate tipping of cyanide waste, resulted in 1170 single and 72 season ticket notifications being received by the Borough during the year.

The liquid effluents may be roughly broken into two categories;

- (a) oily waste and
- (b) chemical waste, which consists mainly of pickling liquors, lime sludge and metal plating waste whilst the solids deposited were in the main, lagging containing asbestos, metallic salts and sludge waste.

On eight occasions, notification was received of proposed deposit of cyanide waste, in the liquid and solid state.

Water Sampling - Statistical Summary

	Bacteriological			Chemical		
	No. Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
a) Public Supplies	45	43	2	12	9	3
b) Swimming Pools	44	44	-	-	-	-
c) Watercourses sampled for toxic chemicals	12	12	-	13	11	2
d) Percolations into basements	9	7	2	12	10	2

Rodent and Pest Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Summary of Destruction of Rats and Mice : 1973

Properties other than Sewers	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	75,285	13
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	2,983	-
(b) Number infested by (i) rats	2,107	1
(ii) mice	876	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	214	-
(b) Number infested by (i) rats	147	-
(ii) mice	67	-

During 1973, 3,197 treatments were carried out against rats and mice, and excluding secondary treatments, consisted of:-

Private and Council dwellings	.. .. .	1,943
Factories and Shops	.. .. .	1,254

Sewers

During the course of the year some 800 covers were lifted and treatment made. As in previous years the number of manholes affected remained at 1% or slightly less, and in no case was there any serious infestation.

Rodent Control in Factories

Contracts covering rodent and insect control now number 268 which includes factories and shops. The close co-operation between rodent control and the public health inspectors has continued and as a result several measures have been enforced to prevent reinfestation occurring on the premises under contract.

Insects

During 1973 some 266 treatments were carried out, at factories, shops and houses.

Cockroaches	158	Wasps	13
Bed Bugs	25	Bees	5
Flies	4	Crickets	2
Silver Fish	3	G.S. Beetles	3
Clover Mite	0	Ants	36
Moles	16	Stored products pests	0
Fleas	1		

G. L. Collett, M.Inst.S.W.M.

Assistant Cleansing Superintendent

CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

Refuse Collection

Residents of the Borough again enjoyed 52 collections of their refuse in 1973.

There was little variation in the number of bins emptied from the previous year, approximately 55,000 per week. However, requests for all other collection services increased, the largest being for special collections which topped 6,000, a 20% increase on the previous year.

Refuse Storage

There was a reduction in requests for plastic dustbins of 13% on the previous year.

Eighty orders for 1 1/4 cubic yard containers were received. Unfortunately, due to poor deliveries resulting from the general shortage of steel, only 50 orders had been supplied on the 31st December.

A static packer was installed at the new West Bromwich market in October, the second by the Borough. The machine is serviced by the Department's Dempster Dumpster and enables 30 cubic yards of refuse to be removed per load.

Waste Paper

"Recycle refuse, particularly paper and cardboard" became a national cry at the latter part of 1973. The Department has been aware of the need to salvage materials, in the national interest, for many years. Unfortunately many other Local Authorities dispensed with salvaging on economic grounds. West Bromwich has never accepted this view and has sought and tried new collection systems.

In February 6,000 properties in the Hill Top/Hateley Heath area were put on a pilot collection scheme. A salvage van and trailer with a driver and two collectors covered 2,000 premises per day for 3 days per week. They collected bundles of newspapers and sacks of waste paper which residents put at the front of their premises. Initial response was good but the figures below show that around 4 tons per 6,000 premises per week was what the scheme settled down to.

Private and Council dwellings	1,943
Factories and Shops	1,254

Average Weekly Weight

		Tonnes
February	8	"
March	6	"
April	4.5	"
May	4.25	"
June	4.75	"
July	4.25	"
August	4.0	"
September	3.75	"
October	3.75	"
November	4.00	"
December	4.25	"

At 1973 prices one man on the above scheme would have to collect one tonne per day to make it economically viable. However, with the current shortage of fibre indications are that prices for salvaged paper will rise. A price rise of approximately 20% on December 1973 prices would make the scheme acceptable.

A collection system involving trailers behind refuse collection vehicles was drafted in 1973. This system has proved itself economical in many Local Authorities and could be the answer. The system, if implemented in West Bromwich, would require capital of approximately £10,000 and negotiations with appropriate trade unions. Because of these two factors and the advent of "Sandwell" on 1st April 1974 the scheme has been deferred.

A de-inking process, developed in America, has been introduced in this country. The process enables newspapers to be recycled. Indications are that it will be used extensively and create a good market for the sale of newsprint. In this case all Local Authorities should be preparing schemes, through their refuse collection service, to ensure that full advantage is taken of the situation in both the local and national interests. Apathy will result in the opportunity being missed and the initiative will pass to commercial operators who "cream off" that which is easiest to collect ignoring those extra tonnes which are needed.

Civic Amenities

Because of numerous complaints by local residents the Civic Amenity Site at Sheepwash Lane was closed. The Black Lake site was resited and given a "face lift". Ten Dempster Dumpster containers were installed representing an increase in storage of 230%. The site rapidly became popular with 450 cubic yards of refuse being deposited each week. Enquiries have shown that residents and traders from outside the Borough are using the site. One wonders whether this is due to its convenience on the West Bromwich to Wednesbury road or shortage of such sites within the West Midlands.

In June the Civic Amenity collection crew were put on a productivity scheme. They visited 170 known dumping sites within the Borough every 10 days removing any rubbish. In addition they visited 240 abandoned cars of which they removed 120 for disposal.

Indications are that the special collection service and the Civic Amenity Site have reduced indiscriminate dumping in the Borough.

Vehicles and Equipment

Deliveries of vehicles ordered during the year have been poor. Consequently two refuse collection vehicles were put into their eleventh year of service. Consequently keeping services operational was difficult at times.

Two replacement salvage vans were delivered and put into service in December.

Public Conveniences

New conveniences by the new West Bromwich market were opened in October. They are open on market days only at present. In 1974 they will be open Monday to Saturday from 8.00 hours to 18.00 hours and replace the Dartmouth Square conveniences which will be demolished to make way for the next part of the redevelopment scheme for the Town Centre.

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

	Tons	£
Wastepaper (various grades)	1583.05	22008.78
Baled Ferrous Scrap	22.63	192.36
Abandoned Cars (104)		333.84 (inc. VAT)
	<u>1605.68</u>	<u>22534.98</u>

Total salvage collected and income received from 1970:-

	Tons	£
1970	1555	17330
1971	1733	19590
1972	1579	18332
1973	1605	22534

MONTHLY STATISTICS OF TIME LOST DUE TO SICKNESS AND ABSENCE 1973

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
(a) Sickness/Accident	376	210	220	144	166	168	186	183	205	355	275	199
(b) Casual Absence	80	51	70	66	17	25	34	24	32	39	46	59
Average Strength	164	165	168	165	164	166	166	164	163	161	163	162
No. of Working Days in Month	23	20	22	21	21	21	22	21	20	23	22	19
Possible No. of Working Days	3772	3300	3696	3465	3444	3486	3652	3444	3260	3703	3586	3078
% Loss Sick	9.96	6.36	5.94	4.15	4.81	4.81	5.09	5.31	6.28	9.50	7.66	6.46
% Loss Casual Absence	2.12	1.54	1.89	1.90	0.49	0.71	0.93	0.69	0.98	1.05	1.28	1.91
% Total Loss	12.08	7.90	7.83	6.05	5.30	5.52	6.02	6.00	7.26	10.55	8.94	8.37

Average Monthly Loss %
Sickness and Accidents
Casual absence

1970 1971 1972 1973
9.14 6.46 8.53 6.36
0.55 0.73 1.12 1.38

Hygiene and Cleansing Department

In 1885 the borough of West Bromwich was granted the status of a County Borough. In that year the population was 60,284, which had risen steadily from 56,299 at the Census of 1881 and was continuing to rise. The area of the town comprised 5,710 acres occupied at an average density of 11.20 persons per acre, ranging from 3.9 persons in Lyndon Ward to 24.1 in the Spon Lane Ward.

The Inspector of Nuisances, who is not named, in his annual report to the Sanitary Committee, said in 1888 that 15,553 ashpits and privies had been cleansed. That was the biggest single item in the year's work.

In January 1890, Arthur Clarke succeeded him, having the designation of Sanitary Inspector. This designation was unusual at this time and many years in advance of the general adoption of the title.

He reported taking up his duties in the midst of a strike of night-soil men. After three weeks he persuaded them to return to work on the same pay, though he did obtain a 25% increase in the number of men employed. This must be considered an achievement for the men as well as for Mr. Clarke. In consequence, he was able to report in his first year of office the cleansing of 16,222 privies and ashpits, a record number, and the closing of one insanitary tent and one insanitary van.

The reports for the last decade of the 19th Century are an unbroken record of disease and death, often violent. The gross offences against health which were then widely committed were listed in statistics and byelaws, and their enforcement must have required an inspector of robust physique and undaunted character. Much resistance to change of any kind can be read into the reports, not only from property owners, tradesmen and the people who would have benefited, but from members of the Council, too.

In 1894, we have the first recorded attempt at Health Education. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Herbert Manley and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. B.J. Horner, began jointly lecturing, we are told, to "mixed audiences" on the "common laws of public health". Doubtless, very "down to earth" talks.

In 1899, Mr. H.H. Spiers became Chief Sanitary Inspector, and he had three assistants. In his report for 1906 he writes of houses which were "very filthy and dilapidated", 225 of which were cleansed and limewashed. Mention is also made of "old insanitary brick sinks" which were situated in outside wash-houses without taps or drains.

Mr. Spiers presented his 20th Report in 1918. He then referred to a "serious and increasing shortage of dwelling-houses" which prevented him from recommending any closures except for a wooden hut, formerly used for stabling goats and occupied by a canal boatman and his family. It was not necessary to follow any demolition formalities as the hut caught fire and was burnt to the ground. Happily, without any injuries to the occupiers. In another case, an evicted family took refuge in a brick hovel used by miners as a shelter whilst waiting to go down the pit. They were found alternative accommodation but nothing is recorded as to the fate of the boatman and his family. There is something familiar in this story!

In September 1918, as a result of pressure from the National Salvage Council, an effort was made to salvage paper, rags, tins and glass, but with little success. More effective, was the appeal for fruit stones and nut shells to make charcoal for gas masks. Children collected 417 pounds weight, which were solemnly sent to the Home Office.

The severe shortage of houses reported in 1918 did not go unnoticed, for in 1921 the Council began building houses to let. In the twenty years to 1938, nearly 4,600 had been built by the Corporation and 2,465 by others. The total of occupied houses was then 21,130, so, with over seven thousand of them less than 20 years old, the town must have received a dramatic "face-lift".

In 1933 a Slum Clearance programme began, with a target of 1,500 houses to be demolished in 5 years. In fact, over 1,400 were demolished by 1938. A very creditable achievement.

Mr. Spiers retired in 1934, and the "Spiers Prize for Housing" was established by the Sanitary Inspectors' Association in recognition of his work. Shortly after he retired he was awarded the M.B.E.

His successors reported to the Sanitary Committee until 1948, when it became the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee, which had clearly defined responsibilities for environmental matters, as distinct from personal health which remained the concern of the Health Committee. This was a sensible division of personal health and environmental hygiene, which has often been applauded and envied by members and officers in other authorities.

The department continued to be known as the Sanitary Department until 1957, when the title of the controlling committee replaced it.

It was about this date that legislation was enacted to change "Sanitary Inspector" to "Public Health Inspector". Though the designation "Sanitary Inspector" had been used in West Bromwich for over sixty years, it had become inappropriate to the office in its present-day development.

In 1957, yet another programme was commenced to clear away unfit and worn-out houses. This time, the programme aimed at 4,000 houses to be cleared by 1970. In fact, the total for the post-war period to 1970 amounted to 11,044. A part of this was contributed by the boroughs of Tipton and Wednesbury which were amalgamated with West Bromwich in 1966. The area of the town then increased to 11,679 acres and the population to 172,650 persons.

Most of the worst houses, by present standards, have gone, and the number of weekly rented properties has diminished to about 7% of the 50,000 or so, which accommodate the present population of 165,440 persons - average density per acre, 14.1 persons. Consequently, about 60% of all houses are owned by the Corporation and about 30% by the owner/occupiers.

the Council, too.

Such unfitness as remains is likely to be found amongst the few rented properties, though some remedial action may be possible as a short-term project. Much more opportunity for lasting house improvement lies with the owner-occupiers and who could benefit more? It should be possible to prevent most of these houses from decaying beyond economic reconditioning.

The post-war years have been notable for new National legislation reflecting changed public opinion. Resistance to change of any kind, which was reported at the turn of the Century remains, so the Smoke Control Areas which were introduced following the Clean Air Act 1956 were, at the outset, vigorously opposed. Despite this, the first Smoke Control Order in the country was submitted from West Bromwich to the Minister responsible. Mr. John Dugdale, Member of Parliament for West Bromwich at that time, received the Minister's congratulations in the House of Commons.

The extension of smoke control has shown the visible advantages which were initially so difficult to promise and could not be demonstrated. The days of thick fog are now almost unknown, the hours of sunshine so increased, and houses so much cleaner, that householders are installing smokeless heating appliances for their comfort and convenience without waiting for formal Smoke Control Orders. Although 40% of the properties in the town are subject to Control, many more are not emitting smoke, largely by reason of gas and electrical heating.

The control of air pollution from commercial and industrial premises is much more sophisticated. Smoke from these sources is rarely seen, but a great deal of effort is being directed, with the help of legislation, to control and suppress wherever practicable, grit, dust and fumes.

Complaints of "volumes of noxious vapours" from a foundry were recorded in 1885, and also "evil odours" arising from the manufacture of manure from offal. These matters still trouble us and the Department of the Environment has a Working Party dealing with offensive odours from offensive and selected other trades. The present Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. Cayton, M.B.E.,

represents the Association of Municipal Corporations on that Body.

The development of West Bromwich has proceeded parallel with that of the motor car. The engineers, Lanchester and Austin were building the first motor cars in 1895. Now in 1974, there are over 40,000 road vehicles registered annually in West Bromwich.

There is no doubt that slum clearance has made highway planning and improvement physically easier and possibly less costly. Although this has been necessary to accommodate the motor vehicle into the structure of the town, it has also accelerated the draining and paving of road surfaces, two major short-comings of the earliest years.

The motor car and other road vehicles have compelled the provision of clear roadways in place of narrow, winding and mean streets, but they have brought a new problem - that of traffic noise. With it has come the Noise Insulation Regulations 1973, which authorise the payment of Grants from public funds to protect householders from the deleterious effect of traffic noise in the environment in which they live. At the same time there is a greater sensitivity to noise from any source, and this includes the noise of instrumental music electrically amplified for entertainment.

The physical cleaning of the town still goes on. It is in this sphere that true progress has been made quietly and persistently, almost without notice. The privies and ash-pits have gone and with them the "cisterns of filth, offensive beyond description" as they were described in 1892. Instead of 15,500 ashpits emptied annually in 1888, we now empty almost that number of dustbins daily. A few dustbins made their appearance in 1892 and were regarded as a "great advance", as undoubtedly they were. National legislation to enable the Sanitary Inspector to insist on them being provided instead of ashpits, was not available to him until 1936. In design they are not greatly changed.

In 1951 West Bromwich accepted responsibility for maintaining a dustbin at all domestic premises in the town after the first one has been purchased by the owner. This was of great advantage when the substitution of plastic bins for metal was being considered in 1963.

In that year the Chief Public Health Inspector designed and pioneered the modern plastic bin, with a local manufacturer, Messrs. J. Brockhouse & Co. Ltd. This has almost replaced those of steel throughout the town, and has reduced the dead weight of metal carried to and fro by the refuse collectors, by more than half - from 23 pounds to 10 pounds each bin.

From the dustbin of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet has developed the container of $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yards and the demountable container up to 40 cubic yards capacity.

The collection of refuse from every occupied property has been accepted as a responsibility by this local authority since 1955. This viewpoint has not been widely accepted by local authorities but it is now set out as the future National policy in the Environment Protection Bill. Not all have sought this Service and priority has always been given to householders who bear the cost of the Service in their Rates. They receive fifty-two collections annually in addition to free collection of bulky or very heavy items of domestic refuse for which they have no further use, including garden refuse. In addition, areas which are wantonly or carelessly disfigured by dumped waste of one kind or another, are cleared by the department and kept clean. Even so, there is a very strong and proper demand for greater cleanliness in every aspect of urban life.

Amongst these, food ranks high if not highest in the minds of most people. The quality of food in West Bromwich is high, and the level of adulteration, low - below 1% of 514 samples taken in 1973. The sale of food in the street from carts, barrows or stalls has almost disappeared, but the firmly held belief that markets and bargain prices are synonymous keeps street trading alive. An alternative to the open market is the purpose-built market hall in a permanent shopping centre. An excellent example, which was opened in 1973, has been provided by the Corporation in the town centre. The assembly of all the food stalls into a "food hall" has had a very beneficial effect on the standard of hygiene.

Although the sale of food in the open-air has diminished, a great many vehicles traverse the roads of West Bromwich carrying food. Over 500 were again inspected in 1973, and a great deal of care and attention is being given to food in transit, including refrigerated vehicles.

Foreign matter in food is a recent phenomenon and one which demands constant attention. The backyard bakehouse has gone, and with it the well-known and respected local baker, often known by his Christian name. He may have made an occasional mistake, which was readily forgiven, but this reasonable attitude of mind does not extend to his successors, the supermarket operators. Their every error is reported very vigorously by critical housewives and the number of complaints is increasing annually. Those which justified legal proceedings, however, declined from 19.4% in 1972 to 8.3% in 1973. This is a very welcome sign that the food traders, particularly the retailers, are themselves being more vigilant.

The inspection of meat and poultry for evidence of disease or abnormalities which make it unwholesome or unfit for human food, reached an unprecedented level in 1973. Certainly far above that carried out in any town of similar size in the U.K. In fact, it is probable that West Bromwich is one of the five largest slaughtering centres in the whole country.

The last 20 years in the life of West Bromwich as we have known it, have been characterised by the need for much more sophisticated forms of control over things detrimental to living standards. These include, as well as those already mentioned, the factories, office and shops where people work, the public houses, restaurants, cafes and snack bars where they eat, and the places of entertainment where they spend their leisure hours.

The backyard bakehouses and slaughterhouses have gone, along with the food barrows and carts. Their successors may claim "untouched by hand" which may mean "mauled by a machine".

New methods bring new problems and with them a different type of officer with a more scientific training to deal with them. Men, and women too, for we know from our experience in recent years that this is no longer the exclusive field of robust and rugged males, as in the last century.

It is unlikely that sufficient highly trained and qualified public health officers will be available for the needs of the Environmental Services of the future. Nevertheless, we have men and women of character and ability who can perform routine work within their capabilities, reliably and diligently. They have for some years contributed substantially, as technical assistants, to the output of the Hygiene and Cleansing Department of today. Without them, and our clerical officers, the work and progress here recorded would have been very different and in some instances could not have been attempted.



