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Worcestershire County Council

ANNUAL REPORT


of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for

THE YEAR 1957



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WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1957

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The statistical review for 1957 shows that the health of the county continues to be satisfactory.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 15.7 whilst the death rate per 1,000 was 10.5. The infant mortality of children under one year of age of all infants per 1,000 live births was 22. Deaths from measles and whooping cough of all ages was NIL and deaths from cancer of all ages 790.

The maintenance of an adequately trained staff of district nurses and midwives has been extremely difficult and although the scheme for the provision of houses for district nurse/midwives is making progress the large number of nurses now reaching retiring age living in their own or rented houses who will continue to live there on retirement makes the housing of their successors an acute and extremely difficult problem.

Many district councils have been most helpful in allowing the nurse to rent one of their District Council houses and even when their own local housing needs have been most pressing have allocated a house temporarily to a nurse until the County Council have been able to build or buy another house.

Increased home nursing has been undertaken in order to delay or avoid admissions to hospital and also to facilitate early discharge from hospital, and thus more hospital beds have been made available for the treatment of acute and chronic cases.

The midwives attended 2,239 home confinements and the applications for hospital beds on social grounds have been scrutinised severely. The proportion of cases delivered at home shows little change from last year at 33.2%. Whatever may be the arguments for or against a woman being confined in hospital or at home there is no doubt that there are not enough maternity hospital beds available for those who would like to go into hospital and therefore hospital admissions have been limited to those who should be admitted for medical or social reasons.

The County Nursing Association under the Chairmanship of Mrs. J.C. Wilson, and its many district members, with their experience extending over many years continue to render special help to the domiciliary nursing services and to the care of individual nurses in particular.

The home nursing and midwifery services, in association with the Home Help Service, does invaluable work in keeping patients and the elderly infirm at home, but there is a limit to the domiciliary work which can be undertaken by a Local Health Authority. The amount of money and manpower which can be devoted to this admirable and essential service is not inexpensive or inexhaustable but in my opinion this service will continue to expand even though only deserving cases are helped.

The W.V.S. is to be complimented on the way in which all the voluntary organisations, under the able direction of Mrs. Moore Ede and Miss Pollard, continue to administer so efficiently this difficult and complicated service. Home helps visit many homes for varying periods for different lengths of time and some must also be available to meet the numerous emergency calls for assistance.

The immense problem for the care of old people who may soon reach the proportion of 1 in 7 of the population is reported upon by the County Welfare Officer and shows the variety of effort, the progress and achievements which have been accomplished in this sphere of social work.

The difficulties in providing for the care of the handicapped has not occurred only in recent years but is one of those aspects of medical social welfare which is now more fully appreciated and is no longer disregarded or left entirely to chance or charity.

At long last the awareness of the vast problem of mental illness, its treatment and prevention, has been acknowledged. Fundamental changes in the administration of this service will soon be in operation and I hope that this will mean more than a mere redistribution between the hospitals and Local Health Authorities of the large number of cases of persons who are mentally ill.

At the time of writing this introductory letter it would seem that the demand for increased supplies of water for industrial purposes is fast leading to a position where it would not be wise to abstract more underground water from our "bunter sandstone" area of North Worcestershire and the only other available source of supply to meet the need of the ever growing West Midland industrial area will have to be the River Severn.

It would seem to me that the powers of the Severn Rivers Board must be extended so that they may exercise statutorily a necessary control over abstraction of water throughout the whole course of the river or some alternative body like the Thames Conservancy Board should be established.

I should like to pay tribute to all those members of the many voluntary organisations who take an active and vital part in the Health and Welfare Services of our County. Their assistance is immeasurable and this Annual Report is one of the few occasions when any appreciation can be acknowledged and gratefully recorded.

The professional, technical, and clerical staff of the department have given of their best and I am indebted and grateful to them.

As in previous years the Chairmen of the various Sub-Committees, and Alderman H. Parkes, the Chairman of the main Health Committee, have continued to advise and encourage me in the work of the department.



County Medical Officer and
Principal School Medical Officer.

Health Department,
County Buildings,
Worcester.

December 1958.

HEALTH COMMITTEE
(as at 31st December 1957)

Chairman: Mr. H. Parkes
Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. T. Melsom

The Chairman of the County Council: Mr. R. R. Adam
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council: Major M. F. S. Jewell
The Chairman of the Finance Committee: Mr. R. R. Adam

County Aldermen:

Mr. J. W. Bright Col. W. R. Prescott, M.C., D.L.
Mrs. H. C. M. Porter

County Councillors:

Mrs. R. G. Addenbrooke	Mrs. M. B. Matty
Major D. Blore	Miss E. M. Newth
Dr. J. E. Blundell-Williams	Mr. J. G. Parker
Mr. E. J. Broughton	Mr. W. Parkes
Mr. D. G. Dymott	Mr. W. Perrins
Mr. H. Eccles	Mr. A. Poole
Mrs. J. F. Goode	Brig. J. Scott
Mr. G. E. Gregg	Mr. G. A. Southall
Mrs. E. M. J. Gunn	Mr. H. J. Tooby
Mr. W. Hayes	Mr. E. A. W. Treadgold
Dr. C. Hicks	Miss M. E. Vernon
Mr. W. F. Kimberley	Mrs. E. D. Walker
Mrs. D. L. Lawrence	Mr. J. H. Wooldridge
Dr. C. A. Mather	

Co-oped Members:

Chairmen of Kidderminster and District and Oldbury
Area Sub-Committees

Dr. R. S. MacArthur	}	Local Medical Committee
Dr. W. K. Earle		
Miss F. E. Bailey		Local Dental Committee
Mrs. J. C. Wilson	}	County Nursing Association
Mrs. F. I. Lane		
Miss H. M. Pollard		Women's Voluntary Services
Miss D. S. Tomkinson		Worcestershire Federation of Women's Institutes
Mrs. E. R. Chadwick		Mid-Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee

PUBLIC HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE
Mr. H. Parkes (Chairman)

Mrs. R. G. Addenbrooke	Mrs. H. C. M. Porter
Major D. Blore	Col. W. R. Prescott
Mr. D. G. Dymott	Mr. E. A. W. Treadgold
Mr. H. Eccles	Mr. H. J. Tooby
Dr. C. Hicks	Miss M. E. Vernon
Mr. W. F. Kimberley	Mrs. E. D. Walker
Mrs. D. L. Lawrence	Mr. J. H. Wooldridge
Mr. W. Parkes	

The Chairman of the County Council	}	ex-officio
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council		
The Chairman of the Health Committee		
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee		
The Chairman of the County Finance Committee		

Co-opted Members

T. S. Bennett, Esq.,
W. Scott, Esq., Divisional Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries
Miss D. S. Tomkinson
Dr. R. J. Henderson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester
Royal Infirmary

Mrs. E. R. Chadwick.

MILK MINOR SUB-COMMITTEE
Mr. H. Parkes (Chairman)

Mr. R. R. Adam	Mr. D. G. Dymott
Mr. T. S. Bennett	Col. W. R. Prescott
Major D. Blore	

AMBULANCE, PREVENTION AND AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE
Mr. E. J. Broughton (Chairman)

Mr. H. Eccles	Brig. J. Scott
Mr. J. G. Parker	Mr. G. A. Southall
Mr. W. Perrins	Mrs. E. D. Walker
Mr. A. Poole	Mr. J. H. Wooldridge
Mrs. H. C. M. Porter	

The Chairman of the County Council	}	ex-officio
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council		
The Chairman of the Health Committee		
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee		
The Chairman of the County Finance Committee		

Co-opted Members

Miss A. E. Dingley
Lt. Col. D. A. Davison, O.B.E.,
Dr. R. S. MacArthur, or Dr. W. K. Earle
The Chairman of the South Worcestershire After-Care Committee
Mrs. F. Pratt
Mr. H. J. Paramore
Mrs. E. R. Chadwick

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE
Mr. H. Parkes (Chairman)

The Chairman of the County Council
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council
The Chairman of the Health Committee
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee
The Chairman of the County Finance Committee

The Chairmen of the following Sub-Committees:-

Public Health
Maternity and Child Welfare
Ambulance, Prevention and After-Care
Mental Health
Welfare

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs. H. C. M. Porter (Chairman)

Mrs. R. G. Addenbrooke
Mr. D. G. Dymott
Mrs. E. M. J. Gunn
Dr. C. A. Mather
Mrs. M. B. Matty
Miss E. M. Newth

Mr. J. G. Parker
Mr. W. Perrins
Miss M. E. Vernon
Mr. J. H. Wooldridge

The Chairman of the County Council
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council
The Chairman of the Health Committee
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee
The Chairman of the County Finance Committee

ex-officio

Co-opted Members

Dr. R. S. MacArthur
Mrs. F. I. Lane
Miss F. E. Bailey

Dr. W. K. Earle
Mrs. J. C. Wilson
Miss H. M. Pollard

Miss T. M. Ashwin

MENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. J. W. Bright (Chairman)

Mr. H. Eccles
Mrs. J. F. Goode
Mrs. E. M. J. Gunn
Dr. C. Hicks
Mrs. D. L. Lawrence
Mrs. M. B. Matty

Mrs. H. C. M. Porter
Mr. G. A. Southall
Mr. H. J. Tooby
Mr. E. A. W. Treadgold
Mr. J. H. Wooldridge

The Chairman of the County Council
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council
The Chairman of the Health Committee
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee
The Chairman of the County Finance Committee

ex-officio

Co-opted Members:

Miss D. S. Tomkinson
Mrs. T. H. Charles
The Rev. W. E. Warner

(Dr. R. S. MacArthur or
Dr. W. K. Earle
Mrs. F. Pratt

Mrs. A. E. K. Kent

WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE
Mr. J. G. Parker (Chairman)

Mrs. R. G. Addenbrooke
Major D. Blore
Mr. E. J. Broughton
Mr. H. Eccles
Mr. G. E. Gregg
Mrs. E. M. J. Gunn
Mr. W. Hayes

Dr. C. A. Mather
Mrs. M. B. Matty
Miss E. M. Newth
Mrs. H. C. M. Porter
Brig. J. Scott
Miss M. E. Vernon
Mr. J. H. Wooldridge

The Chairman of the County Council
The Vice-Chairman of the County Council
The Chairman of the Health Committee
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee
The Chairman of the County Finance Committee

ex-officio

Co-opted Members:

Miss H.M. Pollard
Mrs. C. Pagett
Lt.-Col. O. W. D. Smith

Mrs. J. A. Smallwood
Miss D. S. Tomkinson

The Chairman of the Visiting Committees to the Old Peoples Homes.

Heathlands
Blakebrook and Holmwood.. ...
Laburnum House
The Heriotts
Malvernbury and The Howsells
Swinford Old Hall

Mr. P. G. Feek
Mr. J. H. Wooldridge
Mrs. R. E. Hetherington
Mrs. R. G. Addenbrooke
Miss A. I. L. Harrison
Mr. E. J. Broughton

STAFF (as at 31st December 1957)

The following are the Chief Administrative Officers:-

County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

J.W. Pickup, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

T. McLaren Galloway, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer, Maternal and Child Welfare

B. Mary Thompson, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Divisional Area Medical Officers

Kidderminster

C. Starkie, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Oldbury

H. Tabbush, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Tuberculosis Officer

R.B. Mayfield, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Dental Officer

B.D. Britten, L.D.S.

County Welfare Officer

R. A. McDonald

County Sanitary Officer

R. W. T. Owen, M.R.S.H., M.Inst.S.P.

Lay Administrative Officer

G.P. Cooper

County Ambulance Officer

G. L. Pitt

Mental Health Administrative Officer

W. Phillips, L.L.B.

Superintendent Health Visitor

Miss A. Kean, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Superintendent of District Nurses

Vacant.

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives

Mrs. E. M. Davis, S. R. N., S. C. M.,

Health Education Organiser

Vacant.

Major Staff Changes

Medical Officers

Dr. A. M. Nelson, Assistant County Medical Officer at Stourbridge resigned his appointment as from the 30th April 1957 and Dr. J. D. Terrell succeeded him as from the 1st July 1957.

Dr. E. T. Shennan, Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health Redditch and Bromsgrove Urban Districts and Bromsgrove Rural District transferred as Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to Evesham Borough and Evesham and Pershore Rural Districts as from the 1st April 1957 and following this transfer the districts previously served by Dr. Shennan were divided and Dr. W. Drawneek was appointed Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to Redditch Urban District as from the 1st July 1957 and Dr. C.H. Phillips as Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Districts as from the 1st September 1957.

Superintendent of District Nurses

Miss V. Meadway Russell retired on the 15th September 1957 and reference to events during her service with the County Nursing Association and the Council was made in my Annual Report for 1956.

Health Education Organiser

Miss J. K. Pettit resigned her appointment on the 30th September 1957.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	438,221		
				MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Population, Census 1931	...	...	147,816	160,971	308,787	
" " 1951	...	...	195,431	205,307	400,738	
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1957				...	423,200	
Rateable value 1956-57	...	...		...	£4,513,779	
Sum represented by a penny rate, 1956-57	..			...	£18,879	
				MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births - Legitimate	...	...	3,233	3,165	6,398	
- Illegitimate	...	...	115	124	239	
Live birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population					15.7	
				MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Still-births	...	...	69	67	136	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					20.1	
Total births - (live and still)		...			6,773	
Deaths	...	...	2,299	2,132	4,431	
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population-					10.5	
Deaths due to or associated with Pregnancy and Childbirth					3	
Rate per 1,000 live births	..	...	...		0.45	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			...		0.44	
Infant Mortality	(Deaths of infants under one year of age)				147	
Deaths of all infants per 1,000 live births		...			22	
" " legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					22	
" " illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		...	...	...	25	
Neonatal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	...	...	...		15	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...		NIL	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...		NIL	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 1 year of age)					4	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		790	

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TABLE 2
Notifications and Deaths from certain causes.

DISTRICT		Meningococcal Infection		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria and Membranous Croup		Paratyphoid Fever		Puerperal Pyrexia		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Acute Poliomyelitis		Pneumonia		Acute Encephalitis		Measles		Whooping Cough		Dysentery		Food Poisoning		Erysipelas	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths(b)	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths(b)	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
U R B A N	BECKLEY BOROUGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	104	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	BROMSGROVE	-	1	5	-	-	-	5	-	42	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	37	-	-	515	-	49	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
	DROITWICH BOROUGH	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	42	-	70	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	EYESHAM BOROUGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	-	7	-	25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	HALESOWEN BOROUGH	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	74	22	-	-	679	-	33	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
	KIDDERMINSTER BOROUGH	-	-	21	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	15	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	16	26	-	-	849	-	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MALVERN	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	7	2	2	2	-	-	-	4	10	9	-	-	193	-	50	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	OLDEY BOROUGH	1	1	33	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	35	7	1	1	3	-	-	13	44	18	1	-	897	-	120	-	11	-	-	-	2	5
	REDDITCH	1	1	7	-	-	-	1	-	2	16	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	15	24	7	-	-	636	-	131	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	STOURBRIDGE BOROUGH	1	1	37	-	-	-	-	-	20	11	3	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	42	13	-	-	778	-	130	-	3	-	-	-	4	3
	UPTON UPON SEVERN	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	12	8	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	371	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		3	4	129	-	-	-	8	-	84	2	144	27	22	3	9	-	44	1	245	148	1	-	5071	-	761	-	27	-	23	-	12	-
R U R A L	BROMSGROVE	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	2	2	-	-	-	2	10	14	-	-	309	-	110	-	6	-	-	-	6	2	2
	DROITWICH	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	3	-	-	-	10	6	8	-	-	91	-	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	EYESHAM	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	-	-	92	-	19	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
	KIDDERMINSTER	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	26	4	4	-	-	234	-	28	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	MARTLEY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	2	-	-	-	1	10	4	4	-	-	86	-	52	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	PERNSHORE	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	2	1	-	-	1	4	5	2	-	-	31	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TEWKURY	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	2	7	-	-	72	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	UPTON UPON SEVERN	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	36	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS -		-	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	50	10	11	2	1	-	35	5	66	47	-	-	951	-	440	-	12	-	9	-	7	-
GRAND TOTALS		3	5	150	-	-	-	8	-	86	3	191	37	33	5	10	-	79	6	311	195	1	-	6022	-	1201	-	39	-	32	-	19	-

(a) The deaths refers to all cases of pneumonia, not only those which are notifiable.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE

Table I. Registrar-General's Statistics for County 1947-1957 and England and Wales 1957.

Mid year estimates

	LIVE BIRTHS			STILLBIRTHS			DEATHS			Per- in- atal	County population	0 - 1	1 - 4	0 - 5
	Legiti- mate	Illeg- itimate	L.B.R.	Legiti- mate	Illeg- itimate	Rate	IMR.	NN.D.	M.M.R.	Rate				
1947	7,059	353	19.7	187	9	26	36	-	1.08	-	375,860			
1948	6,897	335	17.8	152	13	23	30	-	0.99	-	387,980			34,119
1949	6,353	341	17.1	143	9	22	30	-	2.04	-	391,400			34,162
1950	5,972	295	15.6	125	6	20	29	19	1.25	-	401,810			34,180
1951	5,970	263	15.4	165	8	27	29	19	0.78	-	403,600			34,440
1952	6,106	241	15.7	141	5	23	24	16	0.30	-	404,600	6,152	26,448	32,600
1953	5,885	269	15.1	121	6	20	26	17	0.81	-	407,700	5,250	26,950	32,200
1954	5,768	231	14.7	118	11	21	27	19	0.66	-	410,200	6,080	25,420	31,500
1955	5,800	215	14.6	121	9	21.1	22	17	0.83	-	412,700	5,780	25,220	31,000
1956	6,157	218	15.3	133	8	23.2	21	14	0.31	-	417,800	6,200	24,900	31,100
1957	6,398	239	15.7	128	8	20.1	22	14	0.45	25	423,200	6,350	24,950	31,300
<u>England and Wales</u>														
1957	-	-	16.1	-	-	22.4	23.0	16.5	0.39	36.2	44,907,000	6,600	2,632,000	3,328,000

The total County population is estimated to have risen by 5,400 this year. The estimated mid-year population of children under a year was 150 higher than in 1956 and those aged between 1 and 5 years by 50.

The estimated number of persons aged 70 and over is approximately the same as that of children under 5.

Live Births totalled 6,637 (262 more than last year) continuing the trend noted in the past three years in both County and national figures. Worcestershire still lags behind the national rate. High rates this year occurred in Bewdley and Droitwich boroughs, Redditch urban district and Bromsgrove, Martley and Pershore rural districts. Upton rural district was outstandingly low at 11.7. The normal sex ratio was preserved in the legitimate group but the illegitimate births showed, as they did in 1954, a preponderance of females. Illegitimate births numbered 3.6% of the total, compared with the national rate of 4.6%. Higher district rates in the County however occurred in Droitwich borough and Droitwich, Martley and Pershore rural districts which all exceeded 5%.

Stillbirths this year totalled 136, 5 less than in 1956, producing a further fall in the rate, which is again well below the national one. The illegitimate babies again numbered 8 as last year but were, of course, a higher proportion of the total. High rates were recorded in Droitwich, Evesham and Oldbury boroughs and Redditch urban district and in Droitwich and Martley rural districts.

Total births showed an increase of 257 with an illegitimacy rate of 3.6%. Multiple pregnancies produced 52 sets of twins.

Infant Mortality: The County rate (22) continues to be lower than the national rate (23) but is not quite as satisfactory as last year; that for legitimate infants was equal to the County rate of 22, while the illegitimate rate was only slightly higher at 25 (20 and 28 last year) demonstrating a reduction of the odds against the illegitimate baby. High district rates occurred in Bewdley and Kidderminster boroughs and Martley, Tenbury and Upton rural districts.

Neonatal deaths: Of the 147 infant deaths recorded 100 occurred in the first month (68% compared with 70.2% last year). The majority of these, 84 (57% of total infant deaths) occurred in the first week and 3 out of the 100 were illegitimate. In Bewdley and Evesham boroughs and Tenbury rural district all the infant deaths occurred in the first month. Very low rates were recorded in Stourbridge borough, Stourport urban district and Droitwich and Kidderminster rural districts compared with the County rate of 15 and the national rate of 16.5.

Perinatal mortality: The total number of stillbirths (136) and first week deaths (84) per 1,000 total births enables this rate to be calculated. The Registrar-General has given this rate for the County for the first time this year and comparison with the national rate of 36.2 is satisfactory, with a figure of 32.49. The high districts, with rates over 40, were Droitwich and Redditch Urban Districts, Oldbury, Bewdley and Evesham Boroughs and Martley Rural, while Evesham rural and Bromsgrove urban districts were outstandingly low at about 20.

Maternal mortality: The Registrar-General this year recorded 3 deaths of County mothers compared with 2 last year, producing an increase in the rate above the national figure. In the detailed analysis of the cases in the midwifery section, the facts concerning these and three other cases known to have been associated with pregnancy are given.

Prevention of toxæmia: Meetings were held in the Mid and South Worcestershire Hospital areas, the Dudley and Stourbridge and the West Bromwich groups. Following these meetings, discussions were held with County staff to consider steps which might be taken through the Local Health Authority Services in cooperation with the other domiciliary and hospital workers concerned with the expectant mother.

It was generally felt that the ante-natal co-operation card was becoming more accepted and if properly used would be invaluable in ensuring adequate ante-natal supervision.

The work of the Health visitor in educating patients to the pattern of ante-natal care, thus ensuring intelligent co-operation, was dependent on access to these patients. Information about hospital bookings is available to the County office for all units except direct bookings of Bromsgrove General Hospital, and, in most of the County, health visitors attempt to see every mother at least once in the ante-natal period to advise her about local facilities for her guidance.

The extension of parentcraft classes by health visitor and midwife wherever possible in conjunction with relaxation classes, was felt to be of high priority, and it was suggested that health visitors might offer to provide a similar service in hospital ante-natal clinics where they were not already doing so. The importance of team work between general practitioner, midwife, health visitor and hospital workers was well understood, but pressure of work in all these spheres makes this difficult to achieve.

Midwives were advised that where they are not already doing so, they can co-operate with family doctors in supervising the toxæmic patient resting at home, even though she is booked for hospital delivery. A survey of facilities for regular weighing of patients was undertaken and sets of scales were issued to midwives in areas where this was necessary. A chart on which weight gain and blood pressure readings could be recorded and easily seen, was devised and issued for use by domiciliary midwives. Further extension of the health education programme by the design of posters for doctors' surgeries, clinics and National Insurance Offices and the preparation of "hand-outs" describing services available in each area had, unfortunately, to be postponed because of shortage of staff. It is hoped that education of the rising generation through talks in Colleges of Further Education will also assist here.

Home Nursing: A special comment has now been requested on the use of the district nursing service to prevent hospital admissions. There is a fairly strong local tradition that district nurses look after the sick in their own homes as long as possible (and in some cases longer than they think desirable because of the patient's wishes) and it seems unlikely that family doctors recommend hospital admission unnecessarily for such cases. Applications for beds for chronic sick patients are normally investigated first by the district welfare officer who always calls in the district nurse if her help is needed, and if adequate provision can be made admission is postponed. It is rare, however, for him to find cases where the district nurse is not already in attendance.

Refugees: World events were brought home to us by the arrival of refugees from Europe and North Africa, wanting either temporary asylum before emigrating, or permanent settlement. Hungarian refugees were accommodated in a Camp in the south of the County under the County Welfare Section. Health visitors and nurses visited children and organised ante-natal care as far as the language difficulty allowed, and issued welfare foods and assisted the local general practitioners who attended there. The idea of regular and frequent ante-natal care seemed fairly new to some of the mothers, some of whom had to be reminded, persuaded, and often collected to ensure their attendance.

Refugees from Egypt arrived at a large camp outside Kidderminster and discussion was easier since many of the husbands at least spoke English, school French was understandable and interpreters were available. This group consisted largely of deportees rather than able-bodied escapees and brought many problems among the aged, the chronic sick, the mentally ill and defective and blind. They withstood the change of climate and food remarkably well and the district nurses and health visitor worked with the Voluntary Red Cross detachment and W.V.S. who initially assisted the National Assistance Board in all the difficult first months. There were many children and the local health visitor opened a weighing centre with food distribution. Conversion tables were essential to advise mothers and fathers what their children had gained in kilogrammes and in teaching artificial feeding in metric measures. The idea of a 'welfare clinic' was difficult to interpret and if a doctor was present the sick arrived too! Weighing scales however were just as popular as with mothers in this country, offering, it seemed, the only tangible proof of satisfactory progress.

Mrs. Chadwick and her British Red Cross Workers made a very praiseworthy success from a situation which in its initial beginnings was to say the least chaotic and unpredictable.

Staff Changes:

During the year two members of the staff died, one suddenly and one after a long and distressing illness.

Among those retiring Miss Meadway Russell, who joined the staff in 1948 from the staff of the Voluntary County Nursing Association, will be greatly missed from her post of District Nursing Superintendent. She has seen many changes and laid the foundation of the present service. Miss Pettit, the first holder of the post of health education organiser, was another pioneer who left the county after three years service, during which she had built up the nucleus of a county organisation and started the habit of using County Headquarters as an advice centre for other organisations, as well as staff, on health education matters.

Two combined workers who had served their districts for 39 and 34 years, a health visitor for nearly 24 years and a district nurse/midwife for 15 years, were notable losses to the people in their areas. Such long service is exceptional among younger recruits to the service. One member with 13 years service transferred to part-time work. Other resignations totalled 4 district nurses, 9 district nurse/midwives and 5 health visitor/school nurses and 1 midwife. Nine extensions beyond retiring age were agreed in November - a valuable contribution to the maintenance of the service.

The Isobel Morcom Medal and Prize:- was awarded to Miss Nicholas of Rubery for 1957 and presented to her at the County Nursing Association Annual General Meeting in July. Miss Nicholas has worked in the County for 18 years.

Long Service Medals: for over 10 years service were also presented to the following at the County Nursing Association Annual General Meeting:-

Miss M. A. Clarry	(Wythall)
Miss M. A. Hill	(Kidderminster)
Miss V. Johansen	(Bredon Hill)
Miss E. G. Lunnon	(Hagley)
Mrs. E. E. Yarranton	(Oldbury)

Staff details

(1) Area Nurse Training Committee: Miss Kean the Superintendent Health Visitor is a member of this Committee and finds too that visits to local hospitals are useful in encouraging liaison between domiciliary and hospital fields.

(2) Training: Students from other Authorities: 4 Queen's nurse students from Nottingham and 16 health visitor students from Birmingham visited the County, 8 for 3 days regional and 8 for 5 days rural experience. In addition, 9 final year students from the mid-Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee training centre spent a day on the district in Kidderminster, Redditch or Bromsgrove observing the work of a district nurse and health visitor. A party of students from the Tutor's Course of the Royal College of Nursing also spent a period of observation in the County.

(3) County Council studentship: The Health Visitor training courses at Battersea Training College are now open to candidates from the County and this year the applications for admission increased. Two students were also accepted for the Health Visitor Course at Birmingham and one for the Queen's Institute Course in Brighton, while nurses were also accepted for district training in Queen's Institute Homes, prior to service on the district.

Five students completed training at Battersea in December, one in September at the Queen's combined course and three Queen's Nurses (one in January and two in August).

(4) Staff meetings: Staff meetings are held, usually at quarterly intervals, for the different professional groups. Petrol rationing caused the postponement of two of these. The development of regional staff meetings open to district nurses, midwives, health visitors, medical officers and other members of the Health department staff are now held regularly in three centres in the County and it is hoped these will be started in other areas in the next year. To these meetings members of the Children's department and other local welfare workers can also be invited, and they are proving most helpful in co-ordinating the various services involved in the care of the normal household as distinct from the problem family.

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children

Table 2. Summary of child welfare centres and weighing centres 1952 - 1957 - showing attendance as percentage of possible ones.

YEAR	No. of C.W.C.	Monthly openings	Children per centre (average)	Attendees		Attendances				Total attendees 0 - 5	% of possible	No. of weighing centres
				1st attendees 0 - 1	% of possible	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 5	All ages total			
1952	84	200	388	3,464	56.30	47,634	30,908		78,542	11,039	33.86	NR.
1953	86	196	374	3,912	74.51	53,061	14,913	17,746	85,720	11,822	36.71	NR.
1954	89	198	354	3,975	65.37	49,887	14,364	16,256	80,507	11,367	36.08	5
1955	90	200	344	3,885	67.21	47,793	13,725	16,264	77,782	11,516	37.14	5
1956	92	199	338	4,108	66.25	51,926	14,234	15,346	81,506	11,644	37.44	7
1957	94	211	333	4,473	70.44	53,968	15,138	16,533	85,639	12,495	39.92	5

Table 3. Summary of ante-natal and post-natal clinics 1955 - 1957

YEAR	No. of Centres	Total Annual Sessions	Ante-natal & Post-natal clinics					Relaxation attendances		
			Total attendances	Hospital applications	Blood Tests	A.N. care	P.N. care	County relaxation class	Attendances (new)	Attendances (total)
						NO. OF WOMEN				
1955	18	535	3,332	* N.R.	714	1,196	33	8	483	2,032
1956	18	630	5,460	875	632	1,241	20	8	566	2,823
1957	17	588	6,822	756	647	1,510	15	9	698 +	3,497

* NOT RECORDED.

Table 4. Investigations from clinics.

YEAR	WR/ Kahn	Blood Tests		Repeats	Chest X-ray
		Rhesus	Hb.		
1956	825	846	840	42	118
1957	845	782	864	85	181

Table 5. Relaxation class attendances

YEAR	C.C. A.N.C.		Hosp. A.N.C.		Other	
	New cases	Total Attendances	New cases	Total Attendances	New cases	Total Attendances
1956	566	2,823	206	729	127	484
1957	698	3,497	143	890	117	489

Table 6. Welfare Food Distribution

Child Welfare and Ante-natal Centres	83 (79 in 1956)
Others	60 (65 in 1956)

Table 6A. Variations in distribution 1956-57 and variation in birth rate.

	Total amount delivered in 1957	Increase or decrease on 1956	Birth rate compared with 1956
National Dried Milk	134,694 tins	15.9% decrease	
Cod Liver Oil	37,187 bottles	11% decrease	4% increase
A and D tablets	18,122 packets	1.3% decrease	
Orange Juice	299,348 bottles	11.6% increase	

Table 7. Mother and baby homes in County.

HOSTEL	Provision.			County cases helped	Average stay	
	Beds	Cots	Total cases in year		Ante-natal	Post-natal
Greenhill	14	9	34	20	8 weeks	8 weeks
St. Catherine's	24	24	27	1	-	42 "

Section 22. Care of mothers and young children

Child Welfare Centres: The mothers and children of the County are fairly adequately served through the 94 centres (92 in 1956) giving an average of one centre to 333 (334) pre-school children open at the end of the year. 11 of these are served by the mobile van. Monthly sessions numbered 211 this year (199 in 1956) and attendances increased to almost equal the total in 1953. 5 weighing centres were open at the end of the year providing 10 sessions a month.

Four rural health visiting areas still have no centre on their area but otherwise the provision is fairly spread and changes are usually limited to redistribution of the service. The growing population in the north-east of the County requires more centres, but suitable rented premises are difficult to find and community centres are built many years after the houses they serve, so that new estates in Redditch and Wythall are still without the clinics they require. Plans for future centres in two areas of Oldbury and for Rubery and Hasbury (Halesowen) were made; the conversion of Redditch Day Nursery to an all-purpose clinic and the building of a new centre in Blackheath are both proposed for 1958.

In the rural parts of the County however, new village halls are being built with the help of grants and it is sometimes possible to transfer a centre to more satisfactory premises, even though the cost of these may be higher. Rent increases have continued during the year to be agreed because of rising costs. The gradual closure of service camps has rendered centres in some areas unnecessary but three weighing centres have maintained steady attendances meriting the services of a doctor.

Staff shortage has restricted the amount of health education undertaken at centres, some of which have very heavy attendances. In the rural areas much individual advice is given but here the medical officer's time is very largely occupied by inoculation and vaccination procedures and when poliomyelitis vaccination is added, it may be difficult to ensure that the doctor's true function in the centre is not overshadowed. Last year 912 vaccinations, and injections against diphtheria and whooping cough numbering at least 3,763, were carried out during ordinary clinic sessions. The total attenders at centres were over two-thirds of the children under one in the County and half of those between 1 and 5.

Ante-natal Clinics:

The general trend mentioned in previous reports has continued during the year and the clinic at Rubery was closed. As mentioned earlier in the comments on prevention of toxæmia, the development of joint health visitor/midwives sessions for ante-natal education is continuing. At the end of the year there were 17 County ante-natal clinics still open with a medical officer in attendance but there were also 2 operating under the new arrangement and two where the two types were combined. Midwives continued to attend general practitioners ante-natal sessions in some areas, and in others to hold their own at their houses or clinics. Five weighing machines were issued to these during the year.

The tables show an increase in total attendances in spite of reduced sessions, but although blood taking has continued at about the same rate, attendances for all other purposes except relaxation classes, have continued to decline. New relaxation classes were opened at Wythall and Coston Common and were enthusiastically attended.

Blood tests: The blood tests taken in County clinics show that specimens are examined not only for rhesus and grouping but also for haemoglobin levels and Wassermann and Kahn reactions. This is apparently not the universal practice, but the results of the haemoglobin tests, for instance, show how essential it is to keep this value under supervision in the expectant mother, while the routine Wassermann test is still important as shown by a comment in the Annual Report of the Minister in 1956 that 4% of such tests are still positive in expectant mothers in the whole country.

Rhesus: It is estimated that the loss of infant life due to this cause could be reduced if all possible measures were initiated for its control and of those babies live born whose mothers have Rhesus antibodies, 50% to 60% need transfusion and hospital care.

Chest X-ray: A Ministry of Health circular in November emphasised the importance of protecting young children from tuberculosis by x-ray of all those likely to be in contact with them - the basis of the prospective parents scheme.

The County staff participated in 1956 in the national investigation into the increasing number of deaths from leukaemia or malignant disease in young children and records were collected on 16 of the 18 pre-school children included in the survey from 1953 - and an equal number of healthy 'control' children.

Voluntary help: The activity of interested lay workers in child welfare clinics is traditional and still an essential part of the service in Worcestershire. This participation gives each clinic a local character - while through it the workers become more fully aware of the aims of preventive medicine, and, in their turn, help to spread the knowledge to the community. In ante-natal clinics the need for voluntary helpers has been less and fewer have been recruited but it may be that an extension of this activity would help to educate the public in the aims and standards of good ante-natal care. The general ignorance on this score is perhaps one of the reasons why professional workers have to pay so much attention to the follow-up of defaulters.

Parents Groups: Parents groups in Malvern and Kidderminster continued regular meetings with an interested membership. The expectant mothers' discussion groups at relaxation classes may stimulate an interest which will carry on to child welfare attendances after the birth of their babies, but it is still difficult to draw in either expectant or nursing fathers - they are too useful as child minders while mother attends an evening meeting! Until parents groups are equally constituted, this is a very big gap on the health education programme.

Welfare Foods: Details of the distribution undertaken in the County are given in the tables. Much of this work is done by volunteers and gratitude is due to them for this invaluable assistance. Most child welfare centres and some ante-natal clinics distribute these foods to their areas.

Towards the end of the year orange juice was no longer available to children over the age of 2. This change took place following the report and the findings of the Sub-Committee on the vitamin needs of infants and children, and the suggested reduction in the vitamin D content of foods and milks was accomplished and the staff advised, so that the public can be educated to the fact that it is possible to have too much of a good thing.

Illegitimacy: The number of teenage parents has doubled in the past few years and it is distressing to read that one quarter of the pregnant 17 year olds are unmarried. This early age of pregnancy is one of the chief problems in dealing with the unmarried mothers, who are often unwilling to part from their babies but may be physically and emotionally unfit for the responsibility. The married woman expecting an illegitimate child is usually much older.

The Diocesan Moral Welfare Association continued to act as the County Council's agent in helping the majority of cases coming to notice, dealing with financial and legal problems and finding accommodation, and on the recommendation of the workers the County Council assisted in maintaining a total of 49 cases for periods of 2 to 6 months. 20 of these girls went to Greenhill Hostel and one to St. Catherine's, while the remainder were accommodated in hostels outside the County. Details of the work undertaken at these two Homes during the year are shown in the tables.

There has been a gradual increase of costs in the Mother and Baby homes associated with the rising cost of living and during the year three notified an increase in their charges.

Day Nurseries: The introduction of charges, on the basis of cost for each place provided, involved periodic increases of these following staff pay awards and rises in the cost of heating, lighting and food. Largely because of this the attendances gradually dwindled, until with less than 50%, it was uneconomical to keep the nurseries open. Redditch day nursery (the last training one in the County) was closed in March and the students who had to complete their course were accommodated in nursery schools and residential nurseries. The children still in attendance at the nursery when it closed were apparently accommodated satisfactorily by local minders, but none of these applied for registration.

At the end of the year, the only remaining day nursery at Oldbury continued to meet the need of a fairly large group of priority cases, although in unsatisfactory premises threatened with de-requisitioning.

Two County children during the year were accommodated in day nurseries in Birmingham and Smethwick.

Daily Minders: No daily minders have been registered since the County scheme was drafted. It has not been widely publicised but attempts to recruit suitable persons in areas affected by day nursery closure were usually unsuccessful, in spite of untiring efforts by the health visitors. Unfortunately, most day nurseries were in areas where female labour is in demand and the alternative help of the minder 'down the road' taking only one or two children and operating without supervision is more commonly sought.

Nurseries and Child Minders: The six private nurseries and child minders registered at the end of the year were providing sixty-seven places for children up to the age of 5. Some of these run as nursery classes, open only during school terms, while others are equivalent to small day nurseries open throughout the year, and a third group minds only three or four children.

Problem Families: The Family Welfare Home Help scheme has been less in evidence this year largely because of lack of demand. A new development in the training sphere was the use of Crowley House in Birmingham opened by the trustees of the Middlemore Homes, which takes a mother and children for residential training. The advantage of this over the other Homes already well established is that it is readily accessible from many parts of the County and that husbands can stay there for weekends. The follow-up work is also much more satisfactory when close co-ordination between the Home and district workers can be achieved after discharge. Two mothers and five children from the County were admitted here during the year under the auspices of the probation department, and the health visitor worked closely with the other members of the team in the rehabilitation and subsequent re-settlement of the families.

Winson Green Prison: The scheme for training of mothers convicted of neglect while serving their prison sentence is an interesting one, and follow-up reports have been sent during the year on cases returned to the County having apparently profited by this experience.

Family Planning Clinics: Voluntary clinics are now in operation in Oldbury, Kidderminster and Redditch and supplement the help given by obstetricians and general practitioners, to mothers who have been advised to avoid further pregnancies, and also assist couples who require advice on infertility.

Women's Institute Maternity Fund: No applications for help from this fund were received during the year.

Handicapped children: The register of children with various handicaps has been maintained and cases are reviewed periodically. It is felt this register serves three useful purposes in that the early assessment of defects enables skilled help to be given to parents and children outside the scope of the Education Acts. It has been pointed out that the training of two parents in giving a child specialised help is a far more constructive expenditure than giving the child institutional care. Intelligent parents can (with the assistance of a skilled worker calling in periodically) help their children to adjust and overcome handicaps and, in some instances, the date of admission for institutional care can be postponed to an age when the child will not suffer so much deprivation. -

The second advantage is that the health visitor can be put in touch with specialist workers concerned with the child and team work encouraged, (for instance as in the home training of handicapped children), and the third advantage is that the collection of these details makes it possible to survey the occurrence, distribution and progress of defects in an attempt to elicit some of the causes and ways of minimising their effects. This is particularly important nowadays when congenital defects are such a large cause of loss of life, and any pointers to their origin which would enable them to be reduced must be followed up.

Virus diseases in pregnancy: The results of this follow-up are not yet available, but during the year two children were referred for specialised testing to exclude unilateral deafness which has been found to occur in certain children whose mothers had german measles between the 12th and 14th weeks of pregnancy. Neither of these children was affected.

Handicapped mothers: Another group needing special help, just as their children do, has been under consideration this year. Many mothers in the County manage their families and households very adequately in spite of such disabilities as congenital dislocated hips, paralysis following poliomyelitis, and blindness. It may be that these disabilities bring their own reward in an extra spirit of neighbourliness, while those with less obvious defects such as deafness, diabetes, epilepsy or mental illness are not so likely to have sympathetic help from the family, neighbour or friends and their children may suffer because of this. Such cases are now being noted when they come to light and the health visitor pays special attention to the problems they raise assisting the family doctor and calling in whatever extra help seems appropriate. Co-operation between psychiatric social workers and the health visitors is particularly valuable when there is mental illness in the family and several cases of this type have been dealt with during the year.

Dental Care: The County dental officer gives full details of work undertaken for mothers and children in his report and comments on a disappointing and unexpected fall in the total numbers treated in spite of an increase at the beginning of the year. It is hoped that dental sessions can eventually be developed (if the staffing situation permits) in conjunction with ante-natal clinics and relaxation classes, which should stimulate attendances and cut out the present high number of wasted appointments because of mothers defaulting. The Ministry inspector who visited the County in June commented on the satisfactory improvement and hoped that eventually each dental officer would be able to devote the equivalent of one session a week to maternity and child welfare cases.

DENTAL TREATMENT OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE. 1957

In the first part of the year, the demand for dental treatment continued its upward trend. By the end of the year, however, there had been a noticeable falling off, the reason for which is obscure. There have been several changes in staff and by the end of the year, there were slightly fewer dental officers available to carry out work in this sphere.

Though there are two mobile units in the County it does not seem possible to carry out a satisfactory dental service for nursing and expectant mothers in the areas in which they serve. To be of the most value, dental treatment should be given during pregnancy and it is quite impossible to ensure that a mobile unit is within reach of the patient at the appropriate time in a rural area.

Weekly half days are set aside for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and young children in the clinics at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Redditch and additional evening sessions are carried out at Kidderminster, Stourbridge and Oldbury. Much of the treatment given to young children is carried out during sessions normally set aside for the treatment of school children especially on "gas session" days. The figures of sessions in the accompanying table, however, represent only those set aside especially for this class of patient plus the evening sessions.

The County Council authorised the setting up of a County Dental Laboratory and it is hoped to have it in service in 1958.

A considerable amount of wasted time and consequent annoyance is caused to dental officers by nursing and expectant mothers who are referred to them either failing to attend for examination or failing to keep subsequent appointments. During the year under review, 344 such patients were referred to the dental service. Of these, 55 failed to attend for examination and 65 either refused treatment or failed to keep subsequent appointments, in all 35 % of those referred. In view of the fact that over 98 % of patients seen were found to require treatment - some of it very extensive, - this state of affairs is much to be deplored.

Dental X-ray facilities exist in Oldbury, Halesowen, Stourbridge, Kidderminster and Redditch and also in the Mobile Dental Units.

B.D. BRITTON

Chief Dental Officer.

Table 8.

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) Number of Officers employed at end of year on a salary basis in terms of whole-time officers to the maternity and child welfare service:-	
(1) Senior Dental Officer	1/10th
(2) Dental Officers ...	1
(b) Number of Officers employed at end of year on a sessional basis in terms of whole-time officers to the maternity and child welfare service ...	-
(c) Number of dental clinics in operation at end of year	14
(d) Total number of sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients during the year	298
(e) Number of dental technicians employed in the Local Health Authority's own laboratories at the end of the year	-

Table 9.

DENTAL TREATMENT RETURN

A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE:

(1)	Examined (2)	Needing treatment (3)	Treated (4)	Made dentally fit (5)
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	287	282	218	177
Children under five	471	436	395	304

Table 10.

B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED:

(1)	Sealings and gum treatment (2)	Fillings (3)	Silver nitrate or treat-ment (4)	Crowns or inlays (5)	Extraction (6)	General anaes-thes-ics (7)	Dentures provided Full upp: or low: (8)	Partial upp: or low: (9)	Radio-graph (10)
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	161	476	-	-	1,308	42	123	63	47
Children under five	1	98	58	-	1,145	317	-	-	1

SECTION 23

MIDWIFERY TABLES

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Table 11

Details of home confinements 1956-7 and other work of domiciliary midwives

Year	Total	No. Dr. Booked		Dr. Booked		Medical Aid			Breast feeding at 14 days		Early discharge from hospitals	Home enquiries	Ambulance escort
		Dr. present	No doctor	Dr. present	No doctor	TOTAL	No doctor	Dr. booked	Number	% of total			
1956	2183	5	62	481	1635	284	20	264	1694	70	1363	1716	714
1957	2239	1	38	465	1735	204	20	184	1748	78	1909	1908	756
Increase	56	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	54	8	546	192	42
Decrease	-	4	24	16	-	80	-	80	-	-	-	-	-

Table 12

Analgesia in home confinements

YEAR	Total births at home	Percentage having		Dr. not present at delivery			Dr. present at delivery			Totals		
		G & A. or Trilene	Pethidine	G. & A.	Trilene	Pethidine	G. & A.	Trilene	Pethidine	G. & A.	Trilene	Pethidine
1956	2183	87	43	1389	17	807	441	64	209	1830	81	1016
1957	2239	89	54	1536	13	999	367	75	214	1903	88	1213
Increase	56	2	11	147	-	192	-	11	5	73	7	197
Decrease	-	-	-	-	4	-	74	-	-	-	-	-

Table 13

District staff at end of year

Duties	Full-Time	Part-time	F.T. Equivalent	Car drivers
Midwifery only	11	-	11	9
D.N. & midwives	47	2	28	47
Combined duties	41	1	13	42
Totals	99	3	52	98

Table 14

Pupil midwives trained in Part II Schools

	1955	1956	1957
Kidderminster (6/12 district)	5	3	6
Bromsgrove General Hospital (3/12 district)	10	4	10
Totals	15	7	16
Domiciliary training midwives	10	11	13

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES

Table 15

Midwives practising in County - showing number qualified to administer analgesia

YEAR	DOMICILIARY				INSTITUTIONAL				TOTALS			
	C.C. midwives	No. qualified	Private midwives	No. qualified	Hospital midwives	No. qualified	Nursing home midwives	No. qualified	Domiciliary Midwives	Qualified	Institutional Midwives	Qualified
1955	100	100	11	-	41	37	2	1	111	100	43	38
1956	104	103	18	-	41	35	3	1	122	103	44	36
1957	101	101	20	10	45	35	2	1	121	111	47	36

Central Midwives Board Rules. Notifications received.

	1956	1957
No. of medical aid requests	284	204

Notifications of infectious conditions 1956-7

	1956	1957
Ophthalmia neonatorum	5	10
Puerperal pyrexia	66	86

Other data

	1956	1957
Flying squad calls	17	15
Oxygen used	3	5
Premature outfit used	3	3
Maternity outfits issued	2502	2424
Maternity bed in nursing home	7	7
Population/midwife	8192	8138
Cases /F.T. midwife	43	43

Section 23 Midwifery Service and

Supervision of Midwives: There has again been an increase in the total births to County mothers and the additional work was shared between domiciliary and hospital midwives in the proportion of 1 to 2. Applications for hospital beds had to be more stringently scrutinised and many were refused. The principle of a reasonable stay for mothers needing hospital delivery is still accepted, rather than a hospital confinement, for all those requesting it with subsequent early discharge. The proportion of home births [33.2%] shows little variation from the 33.5% for 1956. The staff position is difficult in both services and pupil midwives coming for training are fewer, a distressing trend when the need for extra recruits is becoming apparent. It may be that potential midwives are awaiting the report of the Cranbrook Committee before entering this profession with its uncertain future.

Domiciliary midwifery: Staff: County staff employed on midwifery decreased by 2. 16 pupil midwives completed training in the County during the year. The 102 nurses undertaking midwifery were equivalent to 52 full time midwives, giving a proportion of 1 midwife to 8,138 population [8,192 in 1956] and an average of 43 deliveries per midwife - as last year.

Work: The total of domiciliary confinements attended by County staff increased by 56 to 2,239. The rise was fairly generally distributed, but in Redditch and the areas around Birmingham, additional staff will soon be needed to meet the rising demand. The number of cases without a booked doctor again showed a satisfactory decrease [from 67 to 39] but of the remaining ones with doctors booked, the numbers where the doctors attended the confinement fell slightly, to just over a quarter of the total. Early discharges from hospitals still produce a large proportion of the nurses work and this year they increased to 1909 from 1363. This means that 42% [last year 31%] of cases delivered in hospital are returning home early for nursing during the puerperium. Social enquiries on applications for home confinement also increased to 1908 and are a considerable burden in some areas where the demand is heavy, but the Stourbridge and Halesowen nurses have not so far been asked to undertake this again. Ambulance calls, when nurses accompany a mother in labour in her journey to the hospital, involve considerable expenditure of time and last year totalled 756. Much the highest number was in the Redditch area.

Analgesia: All the County midwifery staff, with the exception of 1 part-time relief nurse are qualified to administer gas and air, and the Kidderminster midwives are also able to use trilene. 89% of the mothers delivered at home had gas and air or trilene [87% in 1956] and 54% had pethidine [47% in 1956] 88 mothers had trilene. The comparable figure for gas and air or trilene for England and Wales in 1956 was 77%

Breast Feeding: 90 more babies than last year were breast fed at 14 days, an increase of 9%. This is satisfactory but only represents 79% of the total babies delivered at home and it is therefore a little lower than the national average for 1956 [79.6%].

Flying Squad: The flying squad was called out to 15 cases during the year, 3 for haemorrhage, [1 ante-partum], 8 with retained placentae, 3 cases of obstetric shock and 1 case of anaemia. The parity of the cases for whom help was needed were:-

Previous confinements	NUMBER OF CASES
0	-
1	3
2	4
3	6
4	1
5	1

In 1956 for England and Wales the average number of calls was 10 for each 1,000 domiciliary confinements, 77.8% of them during labour. The County rates for 1957 are well below this national average.

Oxygen: The emergency supplies of oxygen held on the district were used 5 times during the year, 4 times in Kidderminster and once in Stourbridge. Four of the babies helped were premature and four were admitted to hospital for care, while one recovered at home with the treatment.

Premature babies: 4.9% of the live babies born at home were premature by weight [4.9% in 1956]. Of the 90 delivered and nursed at home, 86 were still alive after a month, while 2 died within 24 hours. Of the 21 babies born at home and transferred to hospital for nursing, 16 survived the first month, while 4 died within the first 24 hours.

Twins: Of the 52 sets of twins 16 were delivered at home.

The ante-natal cooperation card. appears to be well established. The records prove their worth, particularly for cases of emergency midwifery admitted to hospital or in premature labour at home, and have done much to cut down any possibility of over-examination and to bring under-examination to light.

The ante-natal care of hospital booked cases by domiciliary midwives has been extended and is mentioned in more detail in the introduction.

Supervision of midwives: Two nursing officers at Headquarters gave the equivalent time of $1\frac{1}{2}$ officers in the non-medical supervision of midwives. During the year visits were paid to midwives on the staff and to private midwives and maternity units and enquiries were carried out on all still births occurring in the County, both hospital and domiciliary.

Private midwives: 20 midwives notified their intention to practise this year and attended 15 confinements at 4 of which no doctor was present; 10 of these midwives were qualified to give gas and air.

Nursing Homes: 2 midwives in 2 Nursing Homes taking maternity cases staffed a total of 7 maternity beds and altogether delivered 26 cases. Only one of them was qualified to give gas and air.

Hospital midwives: In the 5 maternity hospital units in the County 45 midwives notified their intention to practise and 35 of these were qualified to give gas and air. The number of their hospital deliveries increased by 200 to 2,806 distributed as follows:- [Deliveries of "out County" Hospitals are also shown and starred].

Table 16

Hospital Management Committee Group	Hospitals	1956	1957	Still-Births 1957	Rate /1000 Total births 1957
South Worcestershire Group	Avonside, Evesham	350	379	6	15.8
	Ronkswood, Worcester (county births only)	577	593	21	35.4
Mid-Worcestershire Group	Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport	381	394	3	7.6
	Croft Maternity Home, Kidderminster.	400	398	7	17.6
	Bromsgrove General Hospital (previously All Saints)	872	988	28	28.3
Dudley and Stourbridge Group	Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge.	646	660	7	10.6
West Bromwich and district group	Hallam Hospital (county births only)	339	328	8	24.4
Birmingham	Births to	373	436	20	45.9
Others	County mothers	382	351	7	19.9
Totals	in all	4320	4527	107	23.6
Early discharges.	hospitals	1363	1909	/	/
Home deliveries	-	2183	2239	22	9.8

Section 24 Health Visiting Service: The staffing position appeared to improve during the year because of larger numbers coming forward for training but in fact the number of staff employed at the end of the year has dropped while as shown in the tables, the work continued to increase.

The chief difficulty is that experienced by the newly trained full-time worker, who for the first year of her service so often finds the work is purely routine visiting, until she becomes known and accepted by her families and her advice is sought. The combined worker is more quickly accepted by the household if she assists at the delivery or attends as a nurse, and does achieve more immediate satisfaction from her practical work while the health visiting side is developing. The plan which will most repay the full time health visitor is that of getting to know the mother in the ante-natal period through mothercraft classes and this side of her work is gradually being developed.

The care of the aged is now one of the health visitor's major problems but until, the staffing position improves, work in this field is not being as rapidly expanded as is desirable to meet the need.

The loss of Miss Pettit, the Health Education Organiser, during the year entailed bringing members of the district staff into more local health education projects, and they have found these stimulating and interesting.

Staff: 85 nurses were undertaking health visiting at the end of the year (90 in 1956) equivalent to 35 full-time workers [38] and 42 of these were undertaking nursing and midwifery as well. Of the staff employed, the number of those without the health visitor's qualification who practise with a dispensation from the Ministry of Health fell again this year to 20. The designation of more car areas has helped to reduce the fatigue of domiciliary visiting and it is hoped that eventually every health visitor will have her own car.

Work: The estimated pre-school population in mid-1957 was 31,300, an increase of 200 on the previous year. This is reflected in the rise of 6,000 in the visits to pre-school children but only 1,106 of these were to children under 1 and the remainder probably represents a catching-up of the arrears of visits to the over 1's from previous years. 102 more expectant mothers were visited than last year. It is interesting to observe, that 24,425 households were visited by health visitors during the year, an increase of over 5,000 since 1956 and 19.8% of the estimated County total.

Wasted calls are now separately recorded and reached the phenomenal total of 11,723, 17% of the total visits. It may be that the trend towards providing health visitors with an office and telephone will ensure more visiting by appointment and less waste of time. Clinic attendances by health visitors, apart from those at chest clinics, showed a slight fall, probably due to the staff shortage.

Child life protection and adoptions: Visits to these cases continue to be made under the standing arrangements with the Children's Department.

Problem Family Committees: Where local Committees were operating, the health visitors were generally all able to attend and found them valuable for the interchange of information. They often feel however, that although cases are referred and known to these Committees, in many instances the responsibility of visiting and supervision returns to the health visitor, and they are left with the hard core of families which have to be watched and encouraged unless anything goes seriously wrong. Regular meetings were held in Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

Visits of co-operation: Health visitors called periodically at maternity units in the County, at residential nurseries and the Mother and Baby Homes. These periodic visits keep the units in touch with the district workers and facilitate the interchange of information with mutual benefit.

DISTRICT NURSING TABLES

Details of work 1956-57

Table 22

Year	Medical		Surgical		Infectious diseases		Tuberculosis		Maternity		Others	
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits
1956	5,492	141,987	2,153	40,543	68	364	59	2,493	14	362	8,945	9,328
1957	5,753	157,876	1,965	40,655	17	149	74	2,772	31	301	9,953	10,151
Decrease	-	-	188	-	51	215	-	-	13	61	-	-
Increase	261	15,889	-	112	-	-	15	279	-	-	1,008	823

Table 23

Analysis by age groups - percentage of totals

Table 24

Long term cases (more than 24 visits)

Year	0 - 5		5 - 65		65 +		Year	Cases	% of total	Visits	% of total
	Cases %	Visits %	Cases %	Visits %	Cases %	Visits %					
1956	9.1	2.3	46.6	33.0	44.3	64.7	1956	1,606	9.6	125,786	64.5
1957	8.1	2.1	46.6	29.4	45.1	68.3	1957	1,572	8.8	136,475	64.4

Table 25

Average number of visits to various types of cases 1953 - 7

Table 26

Increasing work of nursing service 1953-7

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957		Total cases	Total visits	F.T.staff equivalent
Medical	20	20	24	26	27	1953	20,383	172,205	56
Surgical	15	14	15	19	20	1954	19,088	182,880	64
Infectious diseases	5	8	5	5	8	1955	18,995	188,254	69
Tuberculosis	18	14	25	42	37	1956	16,761	195,077	63
Maternity	7	8	5	8	9	1957	17,793	211,904	66.5
Others	15	1	1	1	1	5 year increase	-	39,699	10.5
Average visits (all cases)	13	11	12	17	17	decrease	2,590	-	-

Table 27

Staff at end of 1957

Duties	No. of nurses Full-time	No. of nurses Part-time	Full-time equivalent	Car drivers	On extended service.
District nursing only	26	7	26	29	-
D.N. and midwifery	47	2	22.5	47	3
Combined duties	41	1	18	42	6
Totals	114	10	66.5	118	9

Administrative staff: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ at headquarters. 2 part-time in divisional areas.

There were 95 State registered nurses employed as full-time or/ ^{part-time} nurses at the end of 1957, 28 State enrolled assistant nurses and 1 midwife. 55 of the 95 were Queen's nurses.

The total of 124 nurses carrying out general nursing duties as part or all of their work is equivalent to 66.5 full-time general nurses. This gives a figure of one nurse to 6,413 population - compared with 6,303 in 1956. This is a slight improvement but is still below the establishment of 1 to 6,000. The number of visits continues to increase but the population served and the conditions for which they are attended vary from year to year.

Hop-pickers: The regular county staff in 1957 cared for hop-pickers on their districts and attended 255 patients [largely sufferers to the influenza epidemic]. Previously 3 extra fulltime nurses have been taken on for this work and numbers of patients attended varied from 273 - 466.

Section 25 Home Nursing: The figures show the calls on this service to be continually increasing, partly by more demands on it by patients discharged earlier from hospitals, and partly because a greater number of patients are now visited over long periods. In the towns, staff increases have become necessary, but in most rural areas the additional cases have been absorbed without difficulty, in spite of the small increase also apparent in domiciliary midwifery.

Staff: At the end of the year 124 nurses were employed [55 of whom were Queen's nurses] 26 as full-time district nurses, 47 as district nurse/ midwives and 41 on combined duties, while 10 general nurses worked part-time. The 3 male nurses were very fully employed and the calls on their help increased during the year. The equivalent time spent by these 124 nurses on district nursing is equal to that of 66.5 full-time staff, an average of one nurse to 6,412 population. Supervisory work was the responsibility of 1 full-time and 1 part-time officer at Headquarters and 2 part-time officers in Kidderminster and Oldbury boroughs.

Work: The tables compare the work in 1956 and 1957. The most notable increase is in the visits of nearly 16,000 compared with the rise of 4,000 last year. When these are examined in age groups, the visits to the over 65's increased by 18,425 [last year 12,743] and the "chronic" visits rose by 10,689 [rather less than last year's 14,418]. The cases attended increased by 1,032 following a fall last year and 606 of these were aged persons. This group now comprises 45 % of the total cases and 68.8% of the total visits.

Hop-pickers nurses: This year for the first time no special nurses were engaged and existing staff covered the farms in their areas. Unfortunately, an epidemic of Asian 'flu in the north-western area caused an enormous increase of work. Machines at most farms now make the use of resident labour unnecessary and it is hoped that by next year the same change will have occurred in the north-west.

Medical comforts: The work of the comforts depots organised by the St. John and Red Cross Societies is invaluable and this year the Marie Curie Memorial Fund could be drawn on to provide additional comforts for patients with malignant disease.

County Nursing Association: The Annual General Meeting was held in July when reports were given about matters discussed in the year.

Miss A. Black, Education Officer at the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, gave a very interesting talk on "The Working Party on the Training of District Nurses". This is the high-light of the year, but the day to day work of district nursing associations, guided by the County Nursing Association is invaluable.

A sub-committee, consisting of several members from the County Nursing Association and Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee met during the year to fix nurses rents following the national agreement on the new scales.

Nurse's Houses:

The County Council's building programme for nurses houses had proceeded well, although not as well as had been hoped. Three pairs of houses were completed in Droitwich, Blackheath and Wythall and one was purchased. Eight sites were approved for future building and six tenders agreed for the building of a further nine houses. The County Architect drafted a further standard plan for flats with two and three bedrooms for a site in Oldbury.

District Nursing Associations:

District nursing associations advised on the selection of sites and several were able to use their private funds to add extra fixtures to augment the nurses' comfort. As new houses were occupied the associations concerned took over responsibility as the local agent in watching over the houses just as they helped new nurses to settle in after appointment and acted as 'nurse's friend' through the years.

Other nursing associations were able to use their funds too to provide extras for patients on the recommendation of the nurses - to arrange an outing for the disabled or for a chiropodist to visit a home-bound old person or extra nursing requisites for the people in the district.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Table 28

Staff and work. Average for each quarter of 1957 and last quarter 1956.

	S T A F F			C A S E S			
	Full-time	Part-time	Occasional	Maternity	Tubercu- losis	Chronic	Other
Dec. 56	30	240	59	31	37	778	166
March 57	35	246	69	56	33	967	123
July 57	32	243	65	60	29	906	299
Oct. 57	32	244	66	59	29	933	380
Dec. 57	28	259	63	50	27	1011	356

Table 29

Staff at end of years 1955 - 57

Year	Voluntary Organisers	Full-time helps	Part-time and occasional helps
1955	24	32	222
1956	22	31	297
1957	29	29	336

Table 30

Types of Cases - Total attended during years 1955 - 57

Year	Maternity	Tuber- culosis	Chronic and aged	Others	Total
1955	375	70	974	532	1,951
1956	293	64	1,165	545	2,067
1957	370[22]	52[36]	1,275[830]	654[85]	2,351[973]

The figures for 1957 in brackets are the number of cases in which help began prior to 1957.

Section 29

Home Help Service: The growth of the work of district nurses and midwives is almost automatically dependent on a corresponding rise in the assistance from this service, and it can be seen from the figures for those two groups that any limitations imposed on the further expansion of the Home Help Service is likely to cause an associated limitation on the further expansion of the home nursing service. The more rigid control of this service has been a constant anxiety to Home Help Organisers striving to preserve a balance between two incompatibles, the number of workers available and demands for assistance, sometimes desperate, which cannot be ignored.

Maternity cases attended increased by 77 [from 293 to 370] and help for the chronic sick and aged by 110 [from 1,165 to 1,275]. Of these latter 830 cases had been on the register in the previous year and were, in fact, long-standing commitments. Other cases increased by 284 [from 2,067 to 2,351]. The only decrease was in the number of tuberculosis cases, but of these 36 were still in receipt of help from the previous year.

Staff: 29 full-time Home Helps [31 in 1956], 259 part-time and 63 occasional ones were employed at the end of the year. It is cheaper to employ part-time rather than full-time workers since the greatest demand is for morning help but it is not so easy to meet the needs of full-time cases, such as confinements or the aged sick living alone, or households where the mother is away or incapacitated. The influenza epidemic brought its problems both in increased demand and in staff absences, but the service was very creditably maintained during this crisis.

Training: Training continued during the year and 27 helps sat for the National Institute of Houseworkers tests. Of these, 26 passed, 8 with credit. The county training scheme continued and by the end of the year helps at all centres but Stourport had had an opportunity of attending a course of lectures.

Family welfare cases: No new cases were started during 1957. Help to cases from the previous year was discontinued and they were classified as 'ordinary cases.'

Transport: The use of motorised bicycles or Corgis has been of considerable assistance in rural areas - or parts remote from 'bus services.

Public Health Act 1936 Inspection of Nursing Homes: The number of these registered remain unchanged but the beds provided increased by 20 with the closure of one, the opening of another and an extension at three already approved.

Two Homes accept maternity cases and the number of beds for this remained at 7. Otherwise there was a gradual change in the cases accepted from acute to chronic nursing ones and it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between Homes approved under the Public Health Act and Homes for old people provided under the National Assistance Act, since with staffing difficulties patients are only accepted in the former with minimal nursing needs. Assistant County Medical Officers visited each home twice during the year and the non-medical Supervisor of Midwives also visited the maternity homes. It is hoped that the district nursing Superintendent can assist in the same way next year in visits to homes accepting general nursing cases.

Table 31

Details of openings and attendances - child welfare and weighing centres 1957

DISTRICT	CENTRE	HELD	Average Attend- ances	
			1956	1957
Bewdley Borough	Wribbenhall	Twice monthly	[17]	22
Bromsgrove Urban	Bromsgrove	Weekly and twice monthly	[41]	38
	Catshill	Weekly	[32]	33
	Rubery	Weekly from May	[49]	49
Bromsgrove Rural	Alvechurch	Twice monthly	[26]	30
	Beoley	Monthly	[13]	12
	Belbroughton	Twice monthly	[18]	17
	Cofton Hackett	" "	[12]	16
	Clent	" "	[19]	15
	Finstall	" "	[19]	21
	Hagley	" "	[33]	32
	Hollywood	" " from Jan.		35
	West Heath	Weekly from July	[35]	32
	Wythall	Twice monthly	[32]	45
Droitwich Borough	Droitwich	Weekly	[57]	52
Droitwich Rural	Crowle	Monthly	[16]	12
	Cutnall Green	"	[11]	9
	Fernhill Heath	Twice monthly	[21]	12
	Hartlebury	" "	[25]	28
	Ombersley	Monthly	[10]	8

DISTRICT	CENTRE	HELD	Average Attendances	
			1956	1957
Evesham Borough	Evesham	Weekly	[31]	33
Evesham Rural	Ashton-under-Hill	Monthly	[8]	11
	Badsey	"	[18]	25
	Beckford	"	[20]	21
	Bretforton	"	[31]	26
	Broadway	Twice monthly	[24]	21
	Honeybourne	Monthly	[29]	33
	Kemerton	"	[27]	26
	Littleton	Twice monthly	[15]	19
	Offenham	Monthly from April	[-]	29
	Pebworth	" " Jan.	[-]	20
Halesowen Borough	Blackheath	Weekly	[68]	78
	Cradley	"	[53]	52
	Halesowen	"	[74]	83
Kidderminster Borough	Birchen	Twice monthly	[22]	17
	Coppice			
	Broadwaters	Weekly	[27]	27
	Comberton	Weekly from July	[37]	35
	Coventry St.	Weekly	[43]	45
	Families Camp	Twice monthly	[19]	11
	Franche	Weekly	[32]	35
	Foley Park	"	[52]	53
Kidderminster Rural	Chaddesley			
	Corbett	Monthly	[14]	13
	Blakedown	"	[22]	20
	Cookley	"	[23]	23
	Gorst Hill	"	[13]	8
	Rock	"	[17]	18
	Wolverley	"	[31]	25
Malvern Urban	Lansdowne	Weekly	[37]	34
	Link	"	[30]	31
	Newtown	"	[28]	20
	Wyche	Monthly	[11]	12
Martley Rural	Broadheath	Twice monthly	[18]	17
	Hallow	" "	[19]	22
	Clifton on Teme	Monthly	[5]	4
	Holt	Bi-monthly	[8]	4
	Little Witley	" "	[6]	10
	Shrawley	" "	[10]	15
	Great Witley	" "	[13]	17
Oldbury Borough	Langley	Twice weekly	[59]	58
	Warley	" "	[58]	57
	Wesley Street	Weekly	[56]	54

DISTRICT	CENTRE	HELD	Average Attendances	
			1956	1957
Persnore Rural	Bredon	Monthly	[24]	29
	Eckington	"	[29]	23
	Fladbury	Twice monthly	[16]	12
	Persnore	" "	[44]	40
	Stoulton	" "	[10]	15
Redditch Urban	Redditch	Twice monthly	[19]	26
	[Abbeydale]	" "	[40]	37
	Astwood Bank	Weekly	[30]	32
	[Batchley]	Monthly	[12]	13
	Feckenham	Twice weekly since Oct.	[40]	48
Stourbridge	Redditch [Old Vicarage]			
	Lye	Weekly	[37]	39
	Norton	"	[32]	35
	Pedmore	Twice monthly	[13]	13
	Stourbridge -			
Stourport- On-Severn	Infants	Weekly	[47]	54
	Toddlers	Twice monthly	[8]	10
	Wollescote	Weekly	[31]	34
Stourport- On-Severn	Areley Kings	Twice monthly	[21]	29
	Stourport	" "	[22]	22
	Wilden	Monthly	[25]	20
Tenbury Rural	Tenbury	Twice monthly	[22]	23
Upton-upon- Severn	Callow End	Monthly	[13]	15
	Hanley Swan	"	[11]	12
	Kempsey	"	[46]	40
	Upton-upon-Severn	Twice monthly	[17]	17

Mobile Clinics

PLACE				Number of Visits	Average Attendance
Alfrick	...	...	...	12	12
Bishampton	...	...	...	10	27
Childswickham	...	...	...	12	12
Eastham [alternate months ]	...	...	...	6	13
Hanbury	...	...	...	12	14
Leigh	...	...	...	11	15
Lindridge [alternate months ]	...	...	...	5	21
Longdon	...	...	...	12	31
Martley	...	...	...	11	21
Sedgeberrow	...	...	....	11	18
Welland [vehicle comes once monthly ]	...	...	...	23	17

Weighing Centres

					Average Attendance
Evesham	...	...	...	...	28
Madeley Heath	...	...	...	...	6
Norton [Worcester]	..	...	...	...	10
Stoke Works	...	...	...	...	11
Suckley	...	...	...	...	2

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

TABLE 32

Clinic	Sessions per year	Total attendances	Mothers attending only for:-			Attendances for:		Details of blood tests taken:					Chest X-ray Reference for X-ray	Relaxation	
			Hospital applications	Blood tests	A.N. care	P.N. care	Hb.	Kahn W.R.	Rhesus	Rhesus neg. dis-covered	Repeat examinations			New	Total Attendances
Brookgrove	51	744	95	-	100	1	7	7	7	1	-		Nil	111	529
Cotton Common (West Heath)	24	144	1	3	27	-	4	4	2	-	-	1	1	-	114
Cotton Hackett	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Droitwich	23	395	52	13	160	-	19	18	16	5	-	-	-	38	169
Helesowen -															
Blackheath	50	271	59	84	126	2	78	74	87	27	13	12	-	-	-
Cradley	49	107	6	28	72	1	29	29	29	6	3	5	-	-	-
Tenier Street	50	1,135	9	120	38	1	109	105	114	17	6	2	-	174	969
Kidderminster	49	883	7	41	833	2	208	193	105	24	50	-	-	96	367
Malvern	37	627	71	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	474
Oldbury -															
Langley	26	428	125	61	239	3	166	171	175	37	10	28	-	-	-
Warley	25	552	53	58	149	1	166	171	175	37	10	17	-	69	290
Wesley Street	25	279	97	32	146	4	14	14	14	2	-	14	-	-	-
Redditch	47	139	115	9	14	-	14	14	14	-	-	98	-	Hospital class	-
Rubery (closed Nov.)	11	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stourbridge -															
40 New Road	51	978	9	150	233	-	186	182	185	44	3	4	-	132	585
• Lye	23	82	2	48	-	-	43	47	47	9	-	Nil	-	-	-
Worcester	23	38	35	-	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	588	6,822	756	647	2,143	15	864	845	782	172	85	181		698	3,497

Other relaxation classes were held as below and attendance of County cases are given.

New Cases Total Attendance

Evesham (midwives and hospital class)
 Redditch (hospital class)
 Stourport (hospital class)
 Worcester (City and County class)

A class is held at Rockwood Hospital but figures are not available for City and County mothers separately.

	98	394
	46	243
	97	647
	19	95
Total 1957	260	1,379
Totals 1956	333	1,213

* N.O. sessions here reduced during year to monthly.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* contents of leaves
 are given in mg/g of fresh weight of leaves.

2. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* contents of leaves
 are given in mg/g of fresh weight of leaves.

3. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* contents of leaves
 are given in mg/g of fresh weight of leaves.

Sample no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Sample no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

4. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* contents of leaves
 are given in mg/g of fresh weight of leaves.

5. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* contents of leaves
 are given in mg/g of fresh weight of leaves.

Sample no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Sample no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION [Section 26]

Smallpox Vaccination. The following is the vaccination return for the County for the year ended 31st December 1957:-

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
No. vaccinated	3,396	220	144	139	140	4,039
No. re-vaccinated	-	-	20	55	217	292

There were two cases of generalised vaccinia.

The corresponding total of primary vaccinations for the year 1956 was 3,467.

Of the 4,039 primary vaccinations, 795 were performed at clinics being 19.7% compared with 19.8% for 1956.

The following table gives the figures for each County District:-

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

VACCINATION - ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957 - SUMMARY

DISTRICT	NO. OF PERSONS VACCINATED					TOTAL	NO. OF PERSONS RE-VACCINATED					TOTAL
	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 OR OVER		Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 OR OVER	
BENDLEY BOROUGH	44	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-
DROITWICH BOROUGH	57	43	19	10	6	135	-	-	-	1	2	3
EVEHAM BOROUGH	60	8	10	9	7	94	-	-	-	4	18	22
HALESOWEN BOROUGH	336	11	7	7	30	391	-	-	1	-	3	4
KIDDERMINSTER BOROUGH	296	7	16	13	9	341	-	-	6	11	36	53
OLDURY BOROUGH	289	17	8	15	13	342	-	-	-	-	14	14
STOURBRIDGE BOROUGH	425	15	31	15	13	499	-	-	1	1	11	13
BROSGROVE URBAN	238	8	-	4	11	261	-	-	2	7	23	32
MALVERN URBAN	270	7	9	17	5	308	-	-	-	8	24	32
REDDITCH URBAN	345	7	11	14	5	382	-	-	1	2	8	11
STOURPORT URBAN	130	2	1	3	6	142	-	-	1	3	10	14
BROSGROVE RURAL	304	11	7	9	6	337	-	-	-	2	8	10
DROITWICH RURAL	54	65	5	2	2	128	-	-	-	1	3	4
EVEHAM RURAL	78	3	2	7	6	96	-	-	3	4	17	24
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL	81	-	-	5	7	93	-	-	2	5	11	18
MARTLEY RURAL	113	7	6	2	5	133	-	-	3	5	18	26
PERSHORE RURAL	128	5	5	5	4	147	-	-	-	1	7	8
TENBURY RURAL	57	-	1	-	-	58	-	-	-	-	4	4
UPTON UPON SEVERN RURAL	91	4	6	2	5	108	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3396	220	144	139	140	4039	-	-	20	55	217	292

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of children at 31st December 1957, who had completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time before that date [i.e. at any time since 1st January 1943].

Age on 31.12.57. (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1957	1 to 4 1953-1956	5 - 9 1948-1952	10 to 14 1943-1947	Under 15 Total
A. Number of children who have completed course [primary or booster] in the period 1953-1957	717	17,356	24,472	6,774	49,319
B. Number of children who have completed course [primary or booster] in the period 1952 or earlier			6,726	24,403	31,129
C. Estimated mid-year child population	6,350	24,950	70,100		101,400
Immunity Index 100/A/C	11.3%	69.6%	44.6%		48.6%

There were no notifications of diphtheria in the 0 - 15 age group in the County during 1957.

Diphtheria Immunisation - Annual Return for the year ended 31st December 1957

Number of children at 31st December 1957 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1943)
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)

Age at 31.12.57. i.e. Born in Year.	A. 1953 - 1957				B. 1952 - or earlier.			
	Under 1 1957	1 to 4 1953 - 1956	5 to 9 1948 - 1952	10 to 14 1943 - 1947	Under 15 TOTAL	5 to 9 1948 - 1952	10 to 14 1943 - 1947	Under 15 TOTAL
BEMLEY BOROUGH	12	180	268	68	528	88	293	381
DROITWICH BOROUGH	17	338	506	56	917	143	415	558
EVESHAM BOROUGH	24	600	728	196	1548	9	481	490
HALESOWEN BOROUGH	96	1949	2498	287	4830	836	3509	4345
KIDDERMINSTER BOROUGH	89	1513	2355	386	4343	570	2546	3116
OLDBURY BOROUGH	87	1857	3376	3323	8643	605	1502	2107
STOURBRIDGE BOROUGH	121	1814	2396	469	4800	410	2317	2727
BROMSGROVE URBAN	59	1303	1643	219	3224	422	1957	2379
MALVERN URBAN	13	1022	1124	239	2398	470	1062	1532
FEDDITCH URBAN	44	1691	2390	165	4290	464	2802	3266
STOURPORT URBAN	27	541	904	188	1660	199	749	948
BROMSGROVE RURAL	51	1249	1661	247	3208	670	2101	2771
DROITWICH RURAL	6	629	791	147	1573	401	862	1265
EVESHAM RURAL	21	646	1029	266	1962	10	482	492
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL	14	439	725	139	1317	148	683	831
MARTLEY RURAL	9	476	611	134	1230	217	772	989
PERSHORE RURAL	15	440	593	83	1131	656	748	1404
TEMBURY RURAL	9	216	317	53	595	75	339	414
UPTON UPON SEVERN RURAL	3	453	557	109	1122	333	783	1116
TOTALS	717	17,356	24,472	6,774	49,319	6,726	24,403	31,129

B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children

The scheme for tuberculin testing and B.C.G. inoculation of 13 year old school children operated without change again this year and the following table gives the results:-

B.C.G. Vaccination 1957

No. of Invitations Issued	No. of consents received	Percentage acceptance.	No. of children whose tests were read A	RESULT OF TEST		Percentage of positive reactors 100 B/A	Percentage of Negative reactors 100 C/A	No. of children vaccinated
				B	C			
6,102	5,260	86.2	4,944	797	4,147	16.1	83.9	4,147

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Circular 6/57 of the Ministry of Health dated 14th May, 1957 extended the scheme to include children born in 1955 and 1956 and provided for a second opportunity to be given to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive who had not hitherto been registered.

On the instructions of the Health Committee the scheme was widely publicised, full use being made of posters, press, radio and letters to parents issued through the County schools.

Circular 16/57 of the Ministry of Health dated 19th November, 1957, announced the extension of vaccination arrangements to include all children under age 15, expectant mothers, general practitioners and their families and local health authority ambulance staff and their families.

The Minister stated that this extension was possible as a temporary measure because Salk vaccine manufactured in Canada and the United States was being imported.

As a first step the parents of some 37,000 children already registered had to be given the opportunity of refusing the Salk vaccine and they were also asked to say whether they wanted the vaccination performed by their own doctor.

The extension of the programme was then advertised in the press and the parents of children in the new age groups 1943 - 1946 were approached through the schools.

By the end of the year 54,051 persons had been registered the first delivery of Salk vaccine was still awaited, in fact it did not arrive until the 8th January 1958 and then only 200 doses. Another 200 doses followed on the 29th January 1958 but it was not until the 14th February 1958 that the first substantial issue [44,100 doses] was received and the mass vaccination programme could at long last be started.

Whooping Cough Vaccination

With the approval of the Ministry of Health the County Council's scheme under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 was extended to include vaccination against whooping cough.

Generally the arrangements which became operative on the 1st April, 1957 were similar to those operating for diphtheria immunisation.

Ambulance Service [Section 27]

The total cases conveyed during the year showed a decrease of 282 compared with the number conveyed in 1956. The mileage increased by 519 miles, the miles per case remaining at 4.0.

2,561 accident cases were conveyed, compared with 2,472 the previous year, and out-patient treatment cases were 93,773 compared with 99,082.

No additional staff were engaged, but there will be a need for further appointments in the future if there is any extension in the present work.

Still more use was made of the facilities for conveying patients by railway, 676 being conveyed as compared with 584 in 1956. Every encouragement is given for patients to travel by railway whenever reasonably possible, and persistence is having its reward.

There would seem to be an increasing number of patients recommended for prolonged periods of out-patient treatment in which ambulance or car transport is required. These patients impose a great strain on the resources available, and in some cases a single patient's travelling costs upwards of £100 in only a few months.

A great deal of time is spent at headquarters and the ambulance stations arranging journeys so that the maximum number of patients can be carried on one journey, and avoiding the use of several vehicles.

Ambulance Stations

No new stations were built during the year. It is, however, expected that the building of a new station at Stourbridge will commence in the very near future. It is becoming increasingly difficult to accommodate adequately the number of vehicles now used, including those kept for civil defence use.

New Vehicles

Seven new Morris L.D.1. ambulances were purchased during the year, as well as a diesel sitting case ambulance. The fleet is now an up to date one, and it will be possible by yearly replacement to ensure that the older vehicles are not retained beyond the time when costly repairs become necessary.

It is not yet possible to report fully on the diesel ambulance.

Voluntary Agency

The Worcester City and District Voluntary Ambulance Committee continued to serve Worcester City and the surrounding county areas, and during the year 1,941 county cases were conveyed a total of 33,064 miles compared with 1,826 cases and 30,968 miles in 1956.

The building of the new Worcester Ambulance Station, the cost of which is being borne equally by the County and City Councils, was nearing completion by the end of the year.

Hospital and Hire Car Services

Hospital and hire cars were still used extensively to convey sitting cases and conserve ambulances. Again, the mileage shows [see Table A] a reduction over that for 1956. There is no doubt that the use of hospital and hire cars is cheaper than the authority buying its own cars and employing additional drivers. Hire cars in the majority of instances can be obtained at a moment's notice, and the arrangements made, work very well in practice.

Civil Defence Ambulance and Casualty Collecting Section

With the addition of two further centrally trained instructors, training continued in all areas. Two full scale section exercises were held from which lessons were learnt for the future. Exercises were also held in conjunction with other sections, and there was no lack of volunteers to participate.

At the conclusion of the winter session a section team competition is being held, and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

A Bedford civil defence ambulance which was delivered on loan has fulfilled a long felt need for practical training. The main need is still for training equipment, but approval has now been given for its purchase, and delivery is expected shortly.

During August, all the whole-time peacetime staff were given a full course of section training.

Volunteers

Thanks are due to the hard-core of members of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association for their help at the ambulance stations and as escorts on railway journeys. Also, to the many members of the hospital car service, who do such valuable work in all kinds of weather. I hope we shall continue to have this assistance, without which it would not be possible to run such an efficient as well as economical service.

TABLE A - Cases conveyed and mileages covered by ambulances, hospital and hire cars

	(a) Ambulances				(b) Hospital Cars				(c) Hire Cars			
	Cases		Miles		Cases		Miles		Cases		Miles	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
January	11,352	12,306	51,077	50,040	1,125	1,395	18,862½	17,211½	212	170	3,924½	3,043½
February	12,492	12,117	49,671	46,571	998	1,307	17,552	15,986½	180	194	3,184½	3,443½
March	13,068	13,314	54,669	50,018	1,151	1,354	18,722½	17,780	175	255	3,513½	3,565
April	10,774	10,578	47,530	46,917	1,111	1,427	17,367½	18,605	143	252	2,717	3,208½
May	13,010	14,583	53,413	52,307	1,344	1,405	21,795½	18,833½	149	302	2,823	4,433½
June	13,382	11,356	49,646	46,137	1,191	1,120	20,409	16,170	144	264	2,771½	3,850
July	13,720	14,286	53,509	55,156	1,208	1,583	18,669	21,326	301	315	4,785	3,298
August	9,774	9,599	43,556	45,559	934	1,368	18,002	19,082	164	182	3,276	3,036½
September	12,421	11,975	47,721	51,552	1,056	1,282	18,182	17,256	130	231	2,117½	3,844½
October	14,476	12,516	53,226	53,153	1,244	1,368	20,090½	17,369½	153	189	2,873	3,635
November	13,861	14,298	49,677	52,663	1,446	1,684	23,850	21,753	176	190	2,995½	3,083½
December	10,830	11,960	43,518	48,136	1,070	1,241	16,138	17,338	144	233	2,659½	3,937
	149,160	148,888	597,675	598,746	13,878	16,534	229,640½	218,711	2,071	2,777	37,640½	42,350½

+ includes 462) residue miles during year:-
 * " 537) Worcester City and District Voluntary Ambulance Committee.

TABLE B. Establishment at 31st December 1957

Ambulance Station	No. of vehicles	Driver-Attendants	
		Whole-time	Part-time
Bromsgrove	6	7	-
Droitwich	1	1	-
Evesham	2	-	2
Halesowen	5	6	-
Kidderminster	6	7	-
Malvern	4	5	-
Oldbury	5	6	-
Pershore	1	-	3
Redditch	5	6	-
Stourbridge	5	6	-
Tenbury	1	-	2
Wythall	1	-	-
Hayley Green Hospital..	2	-	1
Relief Driver-Attendants	-	3	-
	44	47	8

TUBERCULOSIS 1957

Mr. R.B. Mayfield, Chief Tuberculosis Officer and Consultant Chest Physician has given the following:-

Table I shows the notifications of Tuberculosis during the past five years. The new low record of notifications which was observed last year has been bettered in 1957, and must be taken as reflecting a real drop in the incidence of tuberculosis in the County. It seems that the epidemic which began before the days of Hippocrates is at last beginning to come under control. The possibility of bringing it to an end within the lifetime of many of us provides a real incentive for contact work and other case-finding endeavours.

Table II, records that the low death rate of 1956 has been maintained, and Table III, shows notification and death rates in the various districts of the County.

Table IV, summarises the important work of contact examination during the year.

The general organisation for prevention and after-care remains substantially the same.

TABLE I

Notification of Tuberculosis

Y E A R	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		All Forms*	
	No. of cases	Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 population	No. of cases	Rate per 1,000 population
1953	272	0.67	26	0.06	298	0.73
1954	327	0.80	47	0.11	374	0.91
1955	304	0.74	21	0.05	325	0.79
1956	227	0.54	37	0.09	264	0.63
1957	193	0.46	31	0.07	224	0.53

TABLE II

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Y E A R	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		All Forms	
	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 population
1953	72	0.18	10	0.02	82	0.20
1954	52	0.12	7	0.02	59	0.14
1955	48	0.12	6	0.01	54	0.13
1956	43	0.10	2	0.005	45	0.11
1957	37	0.09	5	0.01	42	0.10

TABLE III

Notification and death rates in districts
1957

Population	District	Notifica- tion rate per 1,000 population	Death rate per 1,000 population	Total cases notifi- ed	Total deaths
4920	Bewdley Borough	0.41	-	2	-
30910	Bromsgrove Urban	0.55	0.06	17	2
6850	Droitwich Borough	0.73	-	5	-
12330	Evesham Borough	0.90	0.16	11	2
42950	Halesowen Borough	0.37	0.07	16	3
39320	Kidderminster Borough	0.43	0.05	17	2
24880	Malvern Urban	0.60	0.12	15	3
54770	Oldbury Borough	0.73	0.15	40	8
32220	Redditch Urban	0.56	0.12	18	4

TABLE III [continued]
Notification and death rates in districts 1957 (continued)

Population	District	Notification rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Death rate per 1,000 population	Total cases notified	Total deaths
39130	Stourbridge Borough	0.36	0.08	14	3
11020	Stourport Urban	0.81	0.27	9	3
32600	Bromsgrove Rural	0.40	0.06	13	2
13580	Droitwich Rural	0.81	0.15	11	2
16730	Evesham Rural	0.24	0.12	4	2
12560	Kidderminster Rural	0.39	-	5	-
11800	Martley Rural	0.59	0.08	7	1
16440	Pershore Rural	0.67	0.06	11	1
5360	Tenbury Rural	0.37	-	2	-
14830	Upton upon Severn Rural	0.54	0.27	8	4
423,200	Whole County	0.53	0.10	225	42

TABLE IV
New Contacts examined in the Chest Clinics

Chest Clinic	New Contacts examined	Numbers of contacts diagnosed tuberculous	Totals of cases notified tuberculous	Number of contacts examined per new notified case
Bromsgrove General	78	1	22	3.4
Corbett Hospital	175	5	30	5.8
Kidderminster Gen.	141	1	35	4.0
Langley	133	1	40	3.4
Smallwood Hospital	121	1	26	4.7
Worcester Royal In.*	810	23	128	6.3
Whole County + Worcester City	1458	32	281	5.2

* Separate figures for County and City Contacts examined at the Worcester Royal Infirmary Chest Clinic are not available.

+ Includes Worcester as well as County notifications.

Occupational Therapy

During the year 1957, 110 patients have received 1,326 visits. A proportion of non-tuberculous patients in all areas have been added to the register owing to a drop in the number of tuberculous patients requiring attention from the Occupational Therapists.

In June Miss A.H. Lay, left the service of the County Council and in November Miss J.D. Fletcher was appointed. The county was re-divided into suitable areas for occupational therapy purposes and Miss Stott was made responsible for this service in:

Stourbridge,	Halesowen,
Kidderminster,	Bromsgrove,
Pershore,	Evesham,
Broadway.	

and Miss Fletcher for:

Oldbury,	Redditch,
Droitwich,	Malvern,
Martley,	Stourport on Severn,
Worcester City.	

It was decided that an effort should be made in future to reduce the amount of stock carried to below £300.

Three successful displays and sales of patients work were held during the year.

Physiotherapy and Orthopaedics

The following reports have been supplied by Miss Jeavons and Mrs. Johnson:-

The work has continued as in 1956 with supervision of plasters, splints, surgical footwear and special alterations to shoes.

Remedial and breathing exercises, including asthma classes at the Open Air School, Malvern, have been carried out under instructions from the Orthopaedic Surgeons and the school medical officers. Parents have been instructed how these should be carried out at home, but whether, in many cases, they do so, is a debatable point.

Monthly visits to the child welfare clinics at Evesham, Malvern and Pershore have continued and many children with minor orthopaedic defects have been seen. The health visitors have been most co-operative in referring these children at an early age.

Quite a large number of congenital talipes have been treated under the supervision of the orthopaedic surgeon. Fortunately the majority of these are of a minor nature and respond well to treatment and are usually referred within a few hours or days of birth. Only two babies were born with club feet during 1956 in the south of the County.

Relaxation classes at Malvern have been held fortnightly with an average of 16 patients per afternoon.

D.B. JEA VONS, M.C.S.P., O.N.C.

"The Orthopaedic work has followed the usual pattern.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

1. FEET AND FOOTWEAR

Routine inspections of school children show that whilst the general quality of footwear is good, far too many children wear shoes which are too small. This is most noticeable in infant schools and amongst teenage girls, a great many of whom wear casual type shoes. These are entirely unsuitable for growing feet.

A school uniform to include a suitable type of shoe would, I am sure, do a great deal to eliminate many minor foot defects.

2. POSTURE

The general impression is that posture is improving, particularly in schools which have good Physical Education facilities. I feel the inclusion of some "Swedish Drill" in the syllabus would add to this improvement.

INFANTS

It is a welcome sign that many mothers of toddlers are seeking advice with regard to footwear and minor foot defects. In an effort to encourage the interest shown by these mothers I have made periodic visits to several Infant Welfare Centres.

AFTER CARE

The early discharge of children from hospitals, in plasters, on spinal frames etc. has necessitated a great deal of domiciliary visiting.

Children who have attended Orthopaedic Clinics for minor conditions have been followed up either at home or at school."

K. J. JOHNSON, S. R. N., O. N. C.,
M. W. L.

Convalescent Treatment

The demand for this service fell slightly this year 207 cases being sent to 29 convalescent Homes compared with 224 and 31 in 1956. The service continued to be of real value to the individual patient and to the community.

Rather more cases were recommended this year during the Winter months although the heaviest demand occurred during the Summer months.

Escorts were provided and special transport arranged where necessary.

As in previous years all the cases were referred either by hospitals or general practitioners. The patients contributed towards the cost according to their means; about 30% of the patients were in receipt of National Assistance.

The usual stay at a convalescent home is two weeks and the majority of patients went to well-known Homes. A report is obtained upon any Home not already known to the County Council.

Medical Comforts Depots

I again extend my grateful thanks and those of the community to the personnel of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society for the untiring voluntary work they undertake in establishing medical comforts depots in many parts of the county.

This is a most admirable service which is appreciated by all concerned.

The articles of equipment, which are so vital and necessary for patients at home, are issued on a recommendation from a doctor or nurse. Only a small deposit is required and this is refunded when the equipment is returned to the depot. The County Council are happy to make an annual grant to each organisation in order that adequate stocks can be maintained.

Mr. F. J. Somers, the County Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, has very kindly supplied the following report on the medical comforts depots for which his Brigade are responsible.

During 1957 continued use was made of all our depots, and a new one was opened at our County Headquarters in St. John House, 34 The Tything, Worcester. Here there is sufficient accommodation to house the more bulky articles such as invalid chairs, commodes etc., on which to draw for other depots as required.

The number of articles issued during the year was 1,256.

Droitwich: Number of articles issued slightly up on last year, and additional back rests and air rings have been issued. Repairs to various articles have been paid for by deposits which have been given to the funds when returning the articles borrowed.

Dudley: Depot maintained in excellent condition. Here again more air rings, back rests and bed pans have been required. Thanks are expressed to members for their work in cleaning articles returned unfit for re-issue because of their condition.

Guarlford: This small depot is proving useful in the village and is adequately stocked.

Halesowen: This depot is again faced with the problem of settling in at new headquarters, but the new premises are well placed to give service to the people of the town.

Hanley Castle: The District Nurse and the wife of the Vicar continue to supply any articles required.

Hill & Cakemore: This depot has a good team of helpers and runs very satisfactorily. Two of their workers live near the depot, and will go along to issue any urgently required articles at any time when the depot is not officially open.

Kempsey: This depot is adequately stocked for the requirements of this small populace, and gratitude is often expressed for its services.

Lye: A very small decrease in the demand, but the depot is still proving very useful and needs rather more stock.

Malvern: The W.V.S. has now taken over the housing of the depot at their office and is responsible for issuing the articles, and this arrangement has proved most satisfactory, as the depot is now in the very centre of the town. Quite a number of gifts have been made to the depot, and people have expressed appreciation of its facilities.

Oldbury: One of our most active depots, with a very keen Officer in charge who is constantly wanting more articles.

Powick: This depot continues to serve the village, and is much appreciated. An attractively painted notice on the gate of the house where the depot is situated was contributed by a local sign-writer in appreciation of the depot's activities.

Redditch No. 1: Here again the depot is housed and administered by the W.V.S. 212 articles were issued during the year, and there is a constant demand for more articles.

Redditch No. 2: 40 articles were issued from this depot, which during the year had to vacate its premises and therefore worked under a handicap. It will be transferred to the new S.J.A.B. headquarters as soon as they are completed, and will continue to serve that part of Redditch.

Stourbridge: This is an efficiently run depot, and is very well stocked.

Upton-upon-Severn: A small depot still serving a useful purpose, with everything kept in good condition.

Worcester: A very fully stocked depot which should be of great use in the city. It is available all the time the County office is open, and it is possible to get articles at other times by the kind co-operation of the Nursing Institute opposite.

Lt. Col. J.H.A. Dean, County Director of the British Red Cross Society [Worcestershire Branch] to whom we are all indebted, has been kind enough to supply a detailed report on activities of the Society throughout the year. The following are interesting extracts from the Report which principally refer to help given within the county for services which can be described as being allied to the Health Department.

<u>Personnel</u>	Total personnel including V.A.D. Members, Members and Cadets [A considerable increase on the previous year].	1,664
<u>Ambulance Service</u>	The Worcester and District Voluntary Ambulance Service H.Q. is manned out of working hours on 5 nights a week and including Saturday afternoon and the whole of Sunday.	
	The Wythall Detachment is permanently on call to the Wythall Ambulance Station.	
	Assistance is given at several other Ambulance Stations in the County.	
<u>Nursing</u>	Number of visits made by V.A.D. personnel at District Nurses request.	148
	Number of Medical Loan Depots in the County.	13
	Number of articles issued from these centres.	1,297
<u>Welfare Activities</u>	Instances in which personnel helped in welfare work.	6
	Number of escort duties undertaken during the year.	149
	Number of after care and home visiting cases handled by personnel during the year.	Over 1,000
	Number of patients helped by personnel by diversional occupations in their own homes.	58
	Number of patients helped by personnel with other activities.	18
	Old People's Clubs.	3
	Disabled Persons Clubs.	3
	Chiropody Service with Old People's Clubs.	3
	Number of disabled people taken on holiday to a Red Cross Home in Yorkshire.	11
	Number of occasions where clothing, bedding or furniture were issued.	150
	A Flood Relief Boat is maintained and can be towed to any part of the County by Ambulance.	

With the help of the R.A.E.N. [Radio Amateur Emergency Network] an extra link can be supplied for the assistance of the Authorities in the event of a major accident or other disaster.

It is very gratifying to know that members of this Society can be approached at any time concerning new activities which might occur and for which they cannot be praised too highly. This gives a clear indication of the voluntary spirit still prevailing within the community and from the numbers of personnel mentioned the prospect for the future is even brighter.

Smoking and Lung Cancer:

The connection between tobacco smoking and cancer of the lung has been carefully considered throughout the years following the important statement on this subject made by the Minister of Health concerning advice given to the Government by the Medical Research Council, viz, that "the most reasonable interpretation of the very great increase in deaths from lung cancer in males during the past twenty five years is that a major part of it is caused by smoking tobacco, particularly heavy cigarette smoking."

It is pleasing to know that having considered this statement the Education Committee were of the same mind as the Health Committee and that it was agreed that in schools with senior pupils some positive steps ought to be taken to discourage children from starting to smoke when they leave school. It was recognised that success would depend very largely on adopting suitable methods and that more harm than good might be done by a wrong approach, e.g. by instilling a fear of serious illness in later life.

The Teachers' Advisory Committee endorsed this view and advised that this matter should be dealt with rather as an aspect of health education, with its emphasis on physical and mental fitness.

With regard to adults it was agreed that at least for the time being nothing further than the distribution of posters etc. on this subject should be embarked upon.

Venereal Diseases:

The following information has been supplied by the Hospitals at which the patients attended:-

Treatment Centre	Number of Worcestershire Cases			
	Syphilis	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total
WORCESTER	6	7	54	67
KIDDERMINSTER	5	1	30	36
BIRMINGHAM	4	22	79	105
DUDLEY	2	4	27	33
TOTALS 1957	17	34	190	241

Venereal Diseases [continued]

Treatment Centre	Number of Worcestershire Cases			
	Syphilis	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total
1956 ...	16	33	230	279
1955 ...	16	31	191	238
1954 ...	34	29	247	310
1953 ...	46	61	285	392
1952 ...	53	78	271	402
1951 ...	54	44	259	357
1950 ...	42	52	279	373
1949 ...	68	98	311	477
1948 ...	105	111	350	566
1947 ...	104	142	450	696
1946 ...	126	226	592	944
1945 ...	88	140	675	903
1944 ...	93	70	555	718
1943 ...	114	129	661	899
1942 ...	94	135	517	746
1941 ...	58	99	304	462
1940 ...	55	126	241	422
1939 ...	33	83	237	353
1938 ...	48	138	187	373

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. ADMINISTRATION

Mental Health Sub-Committee

The County Council's powers in relation to mental health have been delegated to the mental health sub-committee which is constituted as stated in my previous reports. The medical superintendents of the mental hospitals and the mental deficiency institution in the county attend the meetings of the Sub-Committee in an advisory capacity.

Staff

The staff consists of an administrative mental health officer, five duly authorised officers, three assistant duly authorised officers, and two psychiatric social workers. The post of mental health worker [female] became vacant during the year and despite repeated advertisements remains unfilled. Eleven mental health workers are employed at the occupation centres.

Co-Ordination with Regional Hospital Boards, Etc.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Board's officers are available for consultation whenever required. Cases on licence from institutions are supervised by the Council's officers on behalf of Hospital Management Committees and periodic reports on their progress are made. In addition the services of the social workers have been made available for use by the mental hospitals in the County.

Voluntary Associations

There are no voluntary associations in the county particularly dealing with mental health but use is made of the service of the Guardianship Society at Brighton for the supervision of cases under guardianship at Eastbourne.

Several branches of the National Association of Parents of Mentally Handicapped Children are in existence in the county and do much to foster interest in the education of such children.

Voluntary Welfare Committees have been established in connection with the Occupation Centres at Halesowen, Stourport-on-Severn and Bromsgrove.

Staff Training

During the year a member of the occupation centre staff obtained her diploma as a Teacher of Mentally Handicapped Children after attendance at the full-time course established by the National Association of Mental Health in London. Two other members of the staff are attending a two-year course in Birmingham in order to qualify for their diplomas.

2. COMMUNITY WORK

Prevention, Care and After-Care

Mental defectives in the community [supervision, guardianship and licence] continue to be visited by the duly authorised officers and health visitors.

After-care in connection with mental health is carried out by the psychiatric social workers and duly authorised officers to a limited extent.

Lunacy, and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930

In 1957 there were 713 admissions to mental hospitals within the county, 81 being certified under the Lunacy Act, 631 being admitted as voluntary patients and 1 patient being admitted as a temporary patient under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930. Discharges numbered 630 whilst 93 deaths occurred at the hospitals.

The number of admissions to mental hospitals is again greater than in the preceding year [672] showing an increase in the number of voluntary patients and a decrease in the number of certified patients admitted. Increased use of Section 20 of Lunacy Act, 1890, was made, thereby avoiding certification whenever possible. 88.5% of admissions were on a voluntary basis.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38

Ascertainment of mental defectives continued through the usual channels. 69 new cases were reported during the year, all of whom were subject to be dealt with. Of this number, 47 were reported under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, and 22 through other sources. Of the newly ascertained cases 6 were admitted to hospitals under Order, and 63 cases were placed under statutory supervision. In addition, 25 "old" cases were admitted to hospitals, making a total for the year of 31 admissions to hospitals. At the end of the year 515 Worcestershire patients were patients of hospitals throughout the country. Patients on the waiting list for admission at the end of the year numbered 51, 16 of these being regarded as in urgent need of admission.

11 patients were discharged from Orders under the Mental Deficiency Acts and 6 deaths took place during the year.

The informal admission of patients to hospitals for temporary periods continues to take place and 14 patients were admitted for varying periods during the year.

Guardianship and Supervision

The number of patients under guardianship at the end of the year was 8. 3 of the cases are resident outside the county and are supervised by other authorities as agents of the County Council. One out-county case is resident in the county. All resident cases are visited by both medical and lay staff as required by statute or more often if the need arises. The number of patients under supervision at the end of the year was 725, of whom 545 were under statutory supervision and 180 under voluntary supervision. Cases under supervision continue to be reviewed and whenever possible suitable cases are removed from the list. 10 such cases were deleted during the year. 5 patients under supervision died during the year.

Training

At the end of the year 154 patients were being given training at the occupation centres established at Halesowen, Stourport-on-Severn, Bromsgrove, and at the voluntary centre run by the Malvern Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

Through the hard work of the Voluntary Welfare Committee established in connection with the Centre at Halesowen the children were again provided with a summer holiday.

Children at Stourport and Bromsgrove Centres were given daily outings by the respective Voluntary Welfare Committees.

Attendances at the three centres continue to increase, particularly at Halesowen.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Xmas Parties were held at all the centres.

Due to the expiration of the lease in respect of the premises at Halesowen other premises had to be found for housing the centre.

The Health Committee accordingly purchased suitable premises at Netherend, Cradley, and the existing centre at Halesowen will be transferred to the new premises early in 1958.

Endeavours are still continuing to find suitable premises in or around Worcester for the establishment of a centre to cater for the children living in the southern part of the county.

Child Guidance

The following has been supplied by Dr. J.J. Graham, medical director of the Child Guidance Service in Worcestershire:-

" The changes forecast in last year's report are now imminent; at the time of writing [February 1958] the Central Clinic at No. 1 Loves Grove, Worcester, which will serve both the City and the Southern part of the County and which will deal with the administration of the whole Child Guidance Service, is nearing the completion of its alterations. A second psychologist, Mrs. Helen Richardson, has been appointed and will take up her duties on the 1st May. It is hoped that two further Psychiatric Social Workers will be obtainable at the end of the academic year when newly qualified people are seeking posts. A clerical assistant and shorthand typist, both full-time, are about to be appointed.

The present staff look forward to the new premises and to the increase in their numbers with great satisfaction, hoping to be able to cope more adequately with the ever increasing volume of work.

National Assistance Act, 1948 Welfare Services

Report by Mr. R. A. McDonald, County Welfare Officer

Residential Accommodation

During the course of the year there has been an increase of 17 in the number of beds available for old people in the County Council's Homes making a total of 633.

At Laburnum House, Upton-upon-Severn, extra beds on the ground floor for male residents were provided in conjunction with increased day-room facilities.

Modernisation of the kitchen and centre wing at Heathlands, Pershore was completed during the year, resulting in additional beds becoming available early in 1958 together with two new dayrooms.

Approval was given by the County Council to the purchase of a site for an old people's home in the North of the County.

Applications for the Provision of Residential Accommodation

Statements are attached shewing:

- [1] the numbers and age groups of persons admitted to residential accommodation;
- [2] the numbers and age groups of persons NOT admitted and the reasons therefor;

[3] the numbers of applications for the provision of temporary accommodation and the manner in which they were dealt with and;

[4] an analysis for each County District.

These statements shew, in relation to residential accommodation, a slight reduction in the number of persons admitted and a small increase in the number of persons considered but not admitted for the reasons given. A study of population statistics showed that in Worcestershire less than 2 % of persons over the age of 70 years are accommodated in the County Council's Homes. It certainly appears to reflect great credit upon relatives and the friendly neighbourliness which exists in the County and tends to suggest that much of the adverse criticisms of the younger relatives of old people is ill founded.

Reference to this criticism cannot be made without mention also being made of some of the difficulties with which younger relatives have, on occasion, to contend. Old people sometimes interfere with the management of their children's households and cause dissension between husband and wife. It must also be borne in mind that the members of the so-called younger generation are often themselves over 50 and, having only recently seen children married, then find themselves having to make arrangements for the care of their parents, many of whom find it difficult to adjust themselves to their new environment.

That so many old people do not find it necessary to seek admission to the Council Homes is also in no small measure due to the statutory and voluntary domiciliary social and health services, to the almshouse system and to the latter's modern counterpart, the local authorities' old people's housing schemes of which there are now over 1,000 housing units provided by the housing authorities in Worcestershire.

Considerable progress has been made in the County with the provision by housing authorities of grouped dwellings schemes where the old people are assisted when necessary by a Warden. The County Council makes a contribution towards the cost of these schemes.

Whilst no reduction in the number of applications for residential accommodation can be anticipated, there can be no doubt that the increasing use of the domiciliary services will prevent the rate of applications from rising as rapidly as might otherwise have been expected. Indeed much of the time of the District Welfare Officers is now spent on endeavouring to see that, where possible, the needs of the old people are met without recourse to admission to residential accommodation.

Entertainment of Residents

Those residents in the Council's homes who were able and willing to do so, took advantage of the usual arrangements for outings in the summer to the seaside and other resorts.

A successful feature at one home continues to be the week's annual holiday for which a number of the residents save their money. In 1957 they again visited Weston-super-Mare.

Film shows and other entertainments were provided throughout the year and thanks are due to a number of individuals and voluntary organisations for their services which are very much appreciated by the old people.

Registration and Inspection of Disabled and Old People's Homes

There are now 17 homes registered under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, five new homes having been registered in 1957.

Accommodation in registered homes in the County is provided for 172 persons.

Routine visits of inspection are made to these homes and I have pleasure in reporting upon the high standard of co-operation between the proprietors and the Welfare Division. My staff have occasionally been able to assist with the solution of problems arising when a resident in a private home has created difficulties and has been faced with the possibility of becoming homeless.

Admission of Chronic Sick Patients to Hospital

The Welfare Division continued to provide reports on the home conditions of persons awaiting admission to the chronic sick wards of Hospitals and 258 such reports were made during the year compared with 283 in 1956.

Old People's Clubs

These clubs continue to play a very important part in the Welfare of Old People. During the year two new clubs were formed, one at Malvern and another at Redditch.

The Redditch venture is an all-day club administered by the Women's Voluntary Services in premises let at a nominal rent by the Redditch Urban District Council. The County Council has made a grant towards the running expenses.

There are now two all-day clubs for old people in the County, and it is hoped that voluntary associations will be able to provide more clubs of this type in the County in the near future.

Special Houses for Old People - Warden's Service

I have previously reported upon the development of schemes by district Councils [and in one case by an almshouse trust] whereby, with financial assistance from the County Council, groups of dwellings occupied by old people are connected by bell to accommodation occupied by a Warden who is responsible for the well being of the old people.

Further progress with these schemes has been made and there were 215 dwellings in these schemes at the end of 1957, an increase of 88 during that year.

Schemes administered by the following bodies are now in operation:-

Borough Councils

Bewdley
Kidderminster
Oldbury
Stourbridge

Urban District Councils

Malvern
Stourport-on-Severn

Voluntary Organisation

Kyre Hospital Charity, Tenbury.

Meals on Wheels

A difficulty encountered in the daily lives of many old people arises from their inability to provide themselves with adequate mid-day meals, and any extension of the meals on wheels service is to be welcomed.

The two existing schemes in Worcestershire at Stourbridge and Redditch are administered by the Women's Voluntary Services who receive grant aid from the County Council. Towards the end of 1957, plans were well advanced for the commencement of a meals on wheels service in Kidderminster, also to be run by the Women's Voluntary Services.

Welfare of the Blind

At the 31st December, 1957, there were 725 blind persons on the County Register as compared with 724 at the end of 1956. The total of 725 was made up of 328 males and 397 females. The number over 40 years of age was 641 and the number under 16 years of age was 26 including 3 under 5 years of age. It is interesting to note that 56% of the total number of registered blind persons are over the age of 70 years.

There were 67 persons employed in various occupations and of these 18 were in sheltered workshops for the blind and 18 in the homeworkers scheme. The remaining 31 were employed in open industry.

The number of new registrations during the year was 86; the names of 102 persons were deleted from the register because of deaths [84]; transfers to other area [15] and de-registered where sight improved [3]. 17 registered blind persons moved to this County.

With regard to partially sighted persons, there were 82 persons registered under this category at the 31st December, 1957, comprising 42 men and 40 women, as compared with a total of 69 persons at the 31st December, 1956.

The Worcestershire Association for the Blind, together with its branch committees and the Stourbridge Institution for the Blind, have continued with their very fine work and tribute is again due to the voluntary workers connected with these organisations.

Registration of Blind Persons

Incidence of Blindness

During 1957, the number of Forms B.D.8 completed in respect of persons, other than school children, was 102. Of these 86 were certified blind, 7 partially sighted, and 9 not eligible for inclusion on either Register. In 26 cases domiciliary visits were made by the consultant ophthalmologists and 4 re-examinations were carried out.

Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially-Sighted Persons

[i] Number of cases registered during year in respect of which para. 7 [c] of Forms B.D.8 recommends	Cause of Disability							
	Cataract		Glaucoma		Retrolental Fibroplasia		Others	
	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S
[a] No treatment	8	2	4	-	-	-	44	2
[b] Surgical	16	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Medical	-	-	4	-	-	-	8	3
Optical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
[ii] Number of cases at [i][b] above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

In view of their age and general condition many persons either refused or were considered unsuitable to undergo operative treatment for cataract.

Deaf and other Handicapped Persons

The Worcestershire and Herefordshire Association for Work amongst the Deaf continued as the County Council's agents and at the end of the year there were 159 deaf and 844 hard of hearing persons in the register.

Lip reading classes, social and recreational activities, together with the individual case work undertaken by the Reverend and Mrs. L. Crellin form the basis of the Association's work.

Trelawney, the home at Malvern administered by the Association, plays a vital role in the County so far as the provision of residential accommodation for the deaf is concerned.

The number of persons registered as handicapped [apart from the blind, partially sighted, deaf and hard of hearing] as at 31st December, 1957, was 388 consisting of 206 males and 182 females. This is an increase of 44 [25 males and 19 females] over the number registered at the end of 1956.

Assistance and advice is given to these handicapped persons as and when the need arises. In addition, such voluntary organisations as the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship, Spastic Associations, the British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Services undertake a great deal of work in the interests of these handicapped persons.

The part-time craft instructress, reference to whose appointment was made in my last report, has continued to give a number of handicapped persons a new interest in life, and the benefits obtained by these persons has fully justified the appointment. The British Red Cross Society is also assisting in the work. 13 spastics regularly attended a handicraft centre run by the Midland Spastic Association at Harborne, Birmingham.

In an effort to assist with the sale of goods made by handicapped persons, and at the same time to give publicity to what is being done by the severely handicapped, a shop window at the County Welfare Offices was used to display some of these items and during November and December sales were made to the value of £40.

Social Clubs have a very important contribution to make to the rehabilitation of handicapped persons and I am therefore pleased to report the opening during the year of a further club. There are now three Clubs run by the British Red Cross Society and three by Women's Voluntary Services. With the co-operation of the Corporations of Birmingham and Worcester some handicapped persons living close to the borders of these Authorities were accepted as members of clubs run by organisations in Worcester and Birmingham.

The opportunity of a holiday is something which many handicapped persons have for long missed. The Women's Services have for the past few years organised a holiday for such persons at Woodlarks, Farnham, Surrey, and in 1957 the British Red Cross Society also took a party there. In addition, a number of handicapped persons enjoyed a holiday at the Society's holiday camp in Yorkshire.

It is sometimes the case that a handicapped person in need of care and attention not available to him/her at home and arrangements are then made for admission to homes where the needs arising from their particular handicap are adequately met.

At the end of 1957, there were 15 handicapped persons [other than blind] accommodated in voluntary homes by arrangement with the County Council.

in
For those who are able to remain in their own homes the County Council's Officers are able to assist with advice regarding the provision of various gadgets and how to obtain wheelchairs or mechanically propelled vehicles through the Ministry of Health.

Hungarian Refugees

I referred in my last report to the opening at very short notice of an ex-R.A.F. Camp at Comberton Hostel, Pershore, as a hostel for refugees. In all, 522 refugees were received into the hostel from the time it was opened until it was closed at the end of June, 1957. Most of the refugees passing through the camp went as emigrants to Canada, and some were absorbed in industry and commerce in various parts of the United Kingdom.

Civil Defence - Welfare Section

Personnel

At the end of 1956 there were 1,018 enrolled and 307 auxiliary members, a total of 1,325. The figures at the end of 1957 were 1,070 enrolled and 283 auxiliary members making a total of 1,353, an overall increase of 28.

Recruiting Campaign

The recruiting activities carried out during the year were intensified during the Civil Defence Week and demonstrations of rest centre work and emergency feeding were given.

Exercises

Full scale exercises were held in Bromsgrove and Rubery and welfare teams set up rest centre and emergency feeding centres to cater for volunteers participating in the exercises.

A series of weekly exercises was also staged at the Old Brine Baths, Droitwich, and welfare teams from various parts of the County took part.

Jubilee Jamboree - Boy Scouts' Association

At the request of the Boy Scouts' Association, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food undertook to feed the advance party of scouts assembling in Sutton Park on the 27th July for the World Scout Jubilee Jamboree. Local Authorities in the Midland Region were asked by the Ministry to treat this as an emergency feeding exercise and a member of my staff and a team of 10 volunteers assisted in this task.

There was a repeat exercise on the 27th August when the camp closed down and some volunteers from Worcestershire assisted.

of Training/Volunteers

During the year 10 classes in Evacuation and Care of the Homeless, 4 classes in Emergency Feeding and 1 class in First Aid and Home Nursing were completed.

A refresher course in emergency feeding was given to the Oldbury Industrial Civil Defence Unit and the Industrial Civil Defence Unit from the R.A.F. Maintenance Unit, Hartlebury, attended the Civil Defence Headquarters, Merton House, for welfare training in rest centre work and emergency feeding.

Earmarking of Premises

The survey of accommodation available in schools which have been earmarked for emergency use has continued.

Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence

Thanks are again due to the Women's Voluntary Services for the valuable help rendered in the carrying out of Civil Defence Welfare Training.

I would like to pay tribute to Mr. H. Parkes, Chairman of the Health Committee, Mr. J.G. Parker, Chairman and the members of the Welfare Sub-Committee and to the Chairman and members of the Visiting Committees of the Council's homes for old people for the interest they have shewn and to thank them for the help they have given in the development and administration of the Welfare Services.

My thanks are also due to the head office and district staff, home teachers of the blind and wardens, matrons and other staff for their loyalty and co-operation throughout the year under review.

APPENDIX

(A) APPLICATIONS FOR PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1957

PERSONS ADMITTED TO RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION	AGE GROUPS									
	18-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	TOTAL
1. Aged and infirm - living alone who in the opinion of their doctor were in need of more care and attention than was or could be made available to them in their own homes.	-	-	-	-	-	12 (16)	18 (20)	19 (21)	3 (3)	52 (60)
2. Aged and infirm - living with friends or relatives unable to continue to care for them.	-	-	-	-	-	8 (12)	27 (31)	37 (40)	1 (1)	73 (84)
3. Aged - homeless (includes persons in hospital who were admitted after the possibility of their returning to their previous residence had been explored, and persons of 'no fixed abode').	-	-	-	-	-	18 (16)	33 (37)	20 (23)	1 (1)	72 (77)
4. Physically handicapped (non-aged)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1	3 (3)	6 (6)	3 (3)	-	-	-	15 (13)
5. Mentally handicapped (non-aged).	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	2 (2)
6. Short stay cases temporarily unable to remain with friends or relatives because of illness or holidays.	-	- (1)	-	- (1)	- (1)	- (5)	2 (2)	15 (15)	6 (3)	23 (28)
TOTALS	1	1 (2)	1	4 (5)	7 (8)	41 (52)	80 (90)	91 (99)	11 (8)	237 (264)

In addition to the above 78(97) persons were re-admitted to residential accommodation/and 46(49) persons were transferred from one home to another in order to be nearer friends or relatives or to provide accommodation more suited to their needs.

PERSONS NOT ADMITTED TO RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION	AGE GROUPS									
	18-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	TOTAL
1. Not considered eligible	-	-	-	-	4 (5)	4 (5)	6 (7)	5 (6)	-	19 (23)
2. Need met by the provision of Home Help.	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	7 (9)	3 (7)	1 (1)	12 (19)
3. Too ill for residential accommodation and arrangements made for their admission to Regional Hospital Board accommodation.	-	-	1 (1)	1 (2)	2 (4)	6 (6)	13 (23)	19 (19)	5	46 (55)
4. Application withdrawn	-	1	-	-	2 (4)	5 (6)	11 (13)	20 (22)	3 (2)	42 (47)
5. Alternative arrangements made by applicant	-	-	-	-	4	8 (3)	10 (8)	10 (7)	3 (1)	35 (19)
6. Applicant assisted in finding alternative accommodation	-	-	-	-	-	4 (5)	4 (4)	1 (2)	-	9 (11)
7. Persons visited and no application made	-	-	-	1	4 (3)	20 (18)	33 (25)	23 (20)	2	83 (66)
TOTALS	-	1	1 (1)	2 (2)	16 (17)	48 (44)	84 (89)	81 (83)	14 (4)	246 (240)

NOTE: Figures in brackets are for the year ended 31st December 1956 and are shown for comparison.

(B) AFFILIATIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1957

A D M I T T E D	No. of Family Units
Reason for Application	
1. Evicted owing to Rent Arrears from Council Houses	1 (2)
2. Evicted on grounds of nuisance from private houses	- (1)
3. Evicted from service tenancy after dismissal from employment	2 (2)
4. Evicted from furnished rooms	2 (2)
5. Evicted by relatives/friends	2 (2)
6. Unauthorized sub-tenancy	2 (3)
7. Homeless, accommodated overnight and discharged before proper investigation made	5 (3)
8. Others	- (1)
TOTAL	14 (16)

- returned to England from abroad, having previously relinquished council house tenancy.

The fourteen families accommodated comprised 14 women and 34 children compared with 16 families consisting of 1 man, 16 women and 55 children during the year ended 31st December 1956. The analysis for 1956 is shown in brackets.

NOT ADMITTED		No. of Family Units
Reason:		
1.	Not considered eligible	7 (12)
2.	Applications withdrawn	10 (10)
3.	Assisted in finding alternative accommodation	8 (10)
4.	Referred to the Children's Officer	4 (-)
TOTAL		29 (32)

Applications were received from 29 family units comprising 19 men, 29 women and 74 children for the provision of temporary accommodation but were not admitted compared with 32 family units comprising 19 men, 32 women and 55 children during the year ended 31st December 1956.

ANALYSIS BY DISTRICTS FOR 1957

DISTRICT	APPLICATIONS			PERSONS OR FAMILIES ADMITTED			PERSONS OR FAMILIES NOT ADMITTED		
	[a]	[b]	Total	[a]	[b]	Total	[a]	[b]	Total
Bewley Borough	5	1	6	1	-	1	4	1	5
Bromsgrove Urban	29	1	30	15	-	15	14	1	15
Bromsgrove Rural	26	1	27	17	-	17	9	1	10
Droitwich Borough	13	-	13	3	-	3	10	-	10
" Rural	19	5	24	9	2	11	10	3	13
Evesham Borough	13	-	13	7	-	7	6	-	6
" Rural	32	1	33	13	-	13	19	1	20
Halesowen Borough	21	2	23	14	-	14	7	2	9
Kidderminster Borough	41	6	47	25	3	28	16	3	19
" Rural	12	5	17	6	3	9	6	2	8
Malvern Urban	57	5	62	18	2	20	39	3	42
Wartley Rural	16	3	19	5	-	5	11	3	14
Oldbury Borough	29	1	30	14	-	14	15	1	16
Pershore Rural	38	1	39	17	-	17	21	1	22
Redditch Urban	16	1	17	6	-	6	10	1	11
Stourbridge Borough	33	2	35	16	1	17	17	1	18
Stourport Urban	5	1	6	3	-	3	2	1	3
Tenbury Rural	5	1	6	4	1	5	1	-	1
Upton Rural	33	2	35	12	-	12	21	2	23
Districts not in County	11	1	12	11	1	12	-	-	-
No Fixed Abode	29	3	32	21	1	22	8	2	10
	483	43	526	237	14	251	246	29	275

[a] Aged and/or infirm persons

[b] Homeless Families

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The whole of Worcestershire is what is known as a "Specified Area" in which all milk sold by retail must be "specially designated" milk [that is "Pasteurised" "Sterilised" or "Tuberculin Tested Milk"]. There are other descriptions used e.g. Channel Islands, T.T. Pasteurised, but they must all conform to one or other of the three basic designations. The Minister of Agriculture has issued one certificate of dispensation authorising the sale of undesignated milk by retail.

The work of enforcement is carried on continuously. From time to time cases are brought to light of milk producers who are continuing to sell undesignated milk by retail. In practice it is often very difficult to find these cases and I think the only thing will be for the Committee to prosecute.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Walter Scott, the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, reports that his Ministry are well pleased with the progress which is being made in the irradiation of tuberculosis in the herds of Worcestershire. Stage II, namely, the intention to declare an eradication area, is in sight. This means that the owners of herds not having had their herds tested voluntarily and free of cost under Stage I will have their cattle tested compulsorily. Compensation will be paid but they will not qualify for any subsequent bonus.

The latest figures in the County are that there are 1,304 attested herds, containing 59,000 cattle. According to Ministry returns there are some 104,000 cattle in the County so that some 74% are now attested.

It is scarcely 20 years ago when the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in dairy cattle was generally accepted as about 40%. There is every reason to hope that, if the same progress can be maintained, in three years time bovine tuberculosis will, for all practical purposes, be a thing of the past and as I said last year when the scheme was first announced, it might well be that our main anxiety in the future will be protecting the cow from human sources of infection rather than protecting the human from the rapidly disappearing sources of infection from the cow and her milk.

At the end of the year there were 1,310 registered dairy farms in the County. Of these 718 or approximately 55.0% held Tuberculin Tested licences. The percentage of tuberculin tested milk is somewhat higher [80%] due to the fact that the tuberculin tested herds are usually much larger than the undesignated herds.

Brucellosis

All samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, for biological examination for infection with tuberculosis are also subjected to the test for infection with the organism of brucella abortus.

Just over 8% of the samples are reported as showing evidence of infection. All cases where the milk is known to be consumed without subsequent heat treatment are closely investigated, and appropriate action taken.

The Milk [Special Designation] [Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk] Regulations 1949 - 1954

At the end of 1957 there were fourteen pasteurisers licences and one steriliser's licence in force. Two of the pasteurising licences and the remaining steriliser's licence were not renewed for the forthcoming year.

In one case the business was sold, the new owners processing the pasteurised and sterilised milk elsewhere, merely using the Dairy as a Depot, whilst in the other case, a large collecting creamery, the Regulations could not be compiled with because it was impossible to conform with the all important condition that the pasteurised milk shall be put into the containers in which it is to be delivered to the consumer at the premises at which it is pasteurised.

At eleven of the licensed dairies the method adopted for pasteurising the milk is by the holder process and the other two employ the high temperature short time [H.T.S.T.] process.

The holder process requires that the milk shall be retained at a temperature of not less than 145°F and not more than 150°F for at least thirty minutes and immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 50°F whilst the H.T.S.T. process requires that the milk shall be retained at a temperature of not less than 161°F for at least fifteen seconds and similarly cooled.

Systematic visits are paid to all dairies and the indicating and recording thermometers checked against a specially tested and certified thermometer, and the operating records examined. All sample failures are specially investigated. Experience shows that both systems of pasteurising will give satisfactory results, but the H.T.S.T. system is more suited to dairies handling larger quantities of milk.

The Committee authorised that legal proceedings should be taken against a firm of dairymen for breaches of their pasteuriser's licence relating to samples of pasteurised milk having failed to pass the phosphatase test. The Magistrates found in favour of the Defendants on a point of law and dismissed the case. As this decision was of such considerable importance to all authorities in a similar position, rendered all the more vital since it concerned the failure of milk samples to pass the phosphatase test, the County Council instructed that there should be an appeal to the High Court after taking Counsel's opinion. The High Court appeal was successful and the case was ordered to be remitted to the Magistrates Court with instructions to convict.

The following table shows the number of pasteurised milk samples collected by the County Council during 1957. It also shows the results of samples in respect of processing plants licensed by other food and drugs authorities, but supplying milk to Worcestershire schools and institutions.

Place of Collection		No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test	
			PASS	FAIL	PASS	FAIL
SCHOOLS	A	19	19	-	19	-
	B	160	160	-	160	-
	C	179	179	-	179	-
CHILDREN'S HOMES	A	8	8	-	8	-
	B	14	14	-	14	-
	C	22	22	-	22	-
HOSPITALS	A	12	12	-	12	-
	B	29	29	-	29	-
	C	41	41	-	41	-
DAIRIES	A	309	306	3	309	-
	B	-	-	-	-	-
	C	309	306	3	309	-
TOTALS	A	348	345	3	348	-
	B	203	203	-	203	-
	C	551	548	3	551	-

- A. Milk processed at plants licensed by Worcestershire County Council, and delivered direct to the consumer by the licence holders.
- B. Milk processed at plants licensed by the Worcestershire County Council, but delivered to consumer by distributors [also includes milk produced at plants licensed by other Authorities].
- C. Total.

The above table shows that three samples failed the statutory test out of a total of 548, or 0.5% which is extremely satisfactory.

Milk in Schools Scheme

The following table shows the grade of milk supplied to schools under the scheme.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of schools Supplied</u>
Pasteurised	348
Tuberculin Tested	15
Undesignated	Nil

A Census taken in October 1957 showed that 47,597 children out of 59,514 present were taking milk, a percentage of 79.8

In addition 62 non-maintained schools [included in scheme as from 1st September 1956] with 6,103 out of 6,519 [93.6%] participating.

36 samples of raw Tuberculin Tested Milk were collected at schools. All were satisfactory for keeping quality [i.e. cleanliness]. 25 samples were submitted for biological test and all were negative for tuberculosis.

Sterilised Milk

There are now no milk sterilising plants in the County. There were two plants but both have ceased operating. 19 samples were collected during the year, all of which passed the statutory test.

Biological Sampling

The County Council are charged with the duty of enforcing the provision of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 relating to the prohibition of the sale of milk infected with bovine tuberculosis, and milk from cows suffering from certain other diseases.

The following table shows the number of biological samples collected by the County Council during the last five years.

Biological Sampling

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of samples collected</u>	<u>No. Negative</u>	<u>No. Positive</u>	<u>Test Uncompleted</u>
1953	559	551	8	-
1954	563	551	12	-
1955	482	474	8	-
1956	522	518	4	-
1957	484	472	4	8

Cleanliness of Milk Bottles

It has been thought desirable to continue the random examination of washed bottles from dairies notwithstanding the absence of a legal standard of what constitutes a clean bottle.

Cleanliness of milk bottles used for Pasteurised Milk

The following table summarises the results of sample bottles collected during the year ended 31st December 1957.

Total	Sterile	No. of colonies developing on Agar at 37° C in two days				Bacillus Coli present
		Less than 100	100- 600	600- 2000	Over 2000	
261	74	103	34	14	36	12

The following is the standard adopted by the Public Health Laboratory Service for judging the cleanliness of washed bottles:-

Not more than 600 colonies per pint bottle	Satisfactory
Over 600 and less than 2000	Fairly Satisfactory
Over 2000	Unsatisfactory.

Water and Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes

The severe restriction of capital expenditure on schemes for water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal continue; nevertheless, during the year the following schemes, amounting to £404,073, were submitted from local authorities under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, and were carefully considered by the Public Health Sub-Committee.

Under these Acts annual contributions are made to a local authority for [a] providing a supply, or improving an existing supply, of water to a rural locality, and [b] making provision for the sewerage or the disposal of the sewage, of a rural locality. There is a provision in the Acts which says that a grant for sewerage shall only be paid if the Minister of Housing and Local Government is satisfied that the need for sewerage is because of the District Council having provided, or increased the supply of piped water.

The Minister has notified his intention of not making grants towards the cost of several sewerage and sewage disposal schemes on the grounds that the schemes did not satisfy the proviso of Section 1[1] of the Acts, referred to above, whilst in a number of water schemes no grant has been made in view of the smallness of the burden to be imposed upon the rates.

The Worcestershire Branch of the Rural District Council's Association felt so strongly that they passed the following resolution:-

- "1. That this Branch views with serious concern the apparent change of policy on the part of the Minister of Housing and Local Government regarding eligibility of sewerage schemes for grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts 1944/55.

"2. That whilst recognising the discretion conferred on the Minister in the matter, in the opinion of this Branch the narrow construction now being placed upon the proviso to section 1[1] of the 1944 Act is contrary to the spirit of the Act and militates against its declared object, viz., to facilitate the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal in rural districts.

"3. That the Executive Council of the Rural District Council's Association be urged to make strong representations to the Minister of Housing and Local Government on this subject in the hope that a more liberal view will be taken than has hitherto been displayed concerning eligibility for grants towards schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal in rural districts."

<u>District</u>	<u>Nature of Scheme</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Droitwich Rural District	Water supply scheme for Westwood and Hampton Lovett.	£10,477	Observations given in support. Grants made by Ministry of Agriculture and owners.
"	"		
"	Amended sewerage scheme for Summerfield.	£17,800	Supported. Suggested more frequent revision of terms for sewage treatment.
"	"		
"	Extension of water mains in Hartlebury	£3,711	Supported.
"	"		
"	Water supply scheme for Himbleton.	£10,656	Not supported.
"	"		
"	Water supply scheme for Hindlip.	£3,300	Scheme supported.
"	"		
"	Water supply scheme for Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe.	£12,879	Scheme supported.
Evesham Rural District	Sewering of Bretforton Road, Badsey.	£10,280	Further information asked for.
"	"		
"	Sewerage scheme for Council Houses, Ashton under Hill.	£2,707	Not supported.
"	"		
"	Regional Sewerage scheme for Badsey and districts.	£180,360	Scheme supported in principle.
"	"		
"	Sewerage scheme for Harvington.	£18,730	Doubts as to fitness of certain old sewers.
"	"		
"	Three extensions to Northern Parishes Water scheme; Badgers Hill, Stone Pits, Inkberrow, Church Lench extension.	£5,894 £1,300 £935 £200	Supported. Supported. Supported. Supported.

<u>District</u>	<u>Nature of Scheme</u>	<u>Estimated cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Evesham Rural District	Abbots Lench Water Main Atch Lench Water Main Inkberrow, Knighton Abbots Morton Stockwood, Inkberrow.	£1,560 £1,028 £2,800 £2,180 £754	Not supported Grants should be forthcoming from Ministry of Agriculture and/or contributions from owners obtained.
Kidderminster Rural District	Water main extension Honeybrook, Kidderminster foreign.	£1,176	Supported.
" "	Additional water main at Harvington.	£3,329	Supported.
" "	Water main from Brockencote to Cakebole.	£3,800	Supported.
" "	Main extensions Plough Lane, Rock.	£1,098	Supported.
Pershore Rural District	Sewage Scheme for Bishampton	£23,000	Supported.
" "	Water main extension to Strensham.	£12,520	Supported.
Tenbury Rural District	Sewage Scheme for Tenbury proper.	£42,000	Supported in principle.
" "	Water scheme for Highwood, Eastham.	£2,850	Supported.
Upton upon Severn Rural District	Water main extension to Birtsmorton and Castlemorton.	£19,790	Supported.
" "	Sewer extension Colletts Green, Powick	£8,959	Supported.

Local Inquiries

The following Inquiries or informal investigations into sewage and water schemes were held during the year by Engineering Inspectors of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:

<u>District</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Estimated cost of Scheme</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Martley Rural District	Astley sewerage and sewage disposal scheme	£26,580	31.1.57	Part approved.
Pershore Rural District	Little Comberton sewage scheme	£19,500	17.5.57.	-

<u>District</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Estimated cost of Scheme</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Pershore Rural District	Lower Moor, sewage scheme	£27,500	17. 5. 57.	-
" "	Bishampton sewage scheme	£23,000	1.10. 57.	-
Evesham Rural District	Sewage scheme for Bretforton	£41,862	15. 5. 57.	Not approved.
Droitwich Rural District	Southern Parishes Water Scheme.	£53,990	25. 6. 57.	Approved.

Re-Grouping of Water Undertaking

The re-grouping of water undertakings in the County would appear to be slowly emerging. The long period occupied in discussion is perfectly understandable. It is not easy to give up an undertaking which has been developed from scratch and which is supplying water at a reasonable cost; nevertheless, the ever-growing demand for water makes it imperative that the problem should be looked at from a much wider field than hitherto. Three areas would appear to be emerging in the County as follows:-

[1] North West Worcestershire

Five authorities - Bewdley Borough, Stourport Urban District Council, Martley and Tenbury Rural District Councils, and Stourbridge Water Board - seem to be in favour of forming a joint board, whilst Kidderminster Rural District Council seem to be opposed to the idea, and Kidderminster Borough Council have not yet decided on their policy. Some of the seven authorities have retained financial advisers.

[2] South Worcestershire

Malvern Urban District Council, Pershore and Upton upon Severn Rural District Councils, would appear to be in favour of setting up a joint water board, comprising these authorities, plus Worcester City.

[3] East Worcestershire

Evesham Borough, Evesham Rural District and some other Councils not in Worcestershire have been discussing the question of re-grouping, with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company.

The parts of the County served by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, i.e. Halesowen, Oldbury, the parish of Hunnington and part of the parish of Romsley, and by Birmingham, i.e., the three parishes in Bromsgrove Rural District, namely, Cofton Hackett, Frankley and Wythall, will presumably stay as they are.

Several orders were made during the year under the Water Act several of which were of special interest, viz.,

The South Staffordshire Water [Hagley Pumping Station] Order 1956.

The order empowered the Company to construct a pumping station at Hagley. The quantity of water to be pumped in any period of twelve months shall not exceed 730 million gallons or more than 3 million gallons on any day and not more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons on more than 60 days in any period of 12 months. Section 14[1] of the Water Act 1945. Conservation of Water.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government issued a licence to the West Midlands Gas Board to sink a bore hole to a depth of 300' at the Gas Works, Pitts Lane, Kidderminster. The Gas Board were required not to extract from the bore hole more than 240,000 gallons of water in any one day of 24 hours.

The Committee were somewhat concerned about the granting of this licence in an area where there were already numerous boreholes, and the matter was raised with the Ministry.

Towards the end of the year the County Council were considering the Birmingham Corporation Bill of 1957. Clause 56 of this Bill seeks to amend Section 62 of the Birmingham Corporation Water Act of 1892 which gave local authorities within fifteen miles of the Elan Aqueduct the right to take supplies of water at concessional rates. As there seemed a possibility that this old-standing statutory right might be affected, careful study was given to the position which was still under consideration at the end of the year.

Bromsgrove Rural District were statutory water undertakers in the Belbroughton Parish of their district. During the year Orders were made transferring the parish to the Stourbridge and District Water Board and part to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company.

The Herefordshire Water Board Draft Order

This order sets up a joint Board for Herefordshire. Formal objection was made to the Order on the grounds that it left the position of Malvern Urban District uncertain in relation to the areas of Herefordshire comprised within the statutory limits of supply of Malvern.

HOUSING

The following two tables show the number of new houses built by the various local authorities and houses built by private builders, in each area of the County during the past 12 years, actually from 1st April 1945 to the end of 1957. For comparison I have shown the results expressed per 1,000 of population.

The second Table shows the progress made in the five years unfit housing programme. This shows that practically all the authorities are behind in their schedules notwithstanding that emphasis on housing by local authorities at the present time is almost entirely on the rehousing of families from unfit houses.

Construction of New Houses up to 31st December 1957

[From 1st April, 1945]

DISTRICTS	Population Mid. 1958.	By Local Authorities (in tenders approved but not yet started)	By Local Authorities and Housing Associations		By Private Builders		Houses Built per 1,000 population	
			Under Construction	Completed since 1. 4. 45.	Under Construction	Completed since 1. 4. 45.	By Local Authorities	All sources
<u>Boroughs</u>								
Bewdley	4,920	5	26	248	5	68	56.7	71.5
Droitwich	6,850	-	-	466	27	304	68.0	116.3
Evesham	12,330	-	23	639	22	221	53.6	73.3
Halesowen	42,950	30	87	1,637	73	1,771	40.8	83.7
Kidderminster	39,320	202	27	1,865	65	699	53.2	72.4
Oldbury	54,770	42	34	1,562	46	586	29.9	41.4
Stourbridge	39,130	-	200	2,007	126	759	56.4	79.0
<u>Urban Districts</u>								
Bromsgrove	30,910	-	83	1,407	66	1,229	48.2	81.1
Malvern	24,880	-	17	1,354	30	400	55.1	72.3
Redditch	32,220	-	104	1,911	85	1,007	62.5	99.5
Stourport on Severn	11,020	72	-	779	26	272	77.2	104.2
<u>Rural Districts</u>								
Bromsgrove	32,600	-	47	587	153	1,772	19.4	78.8
Droitwich	13,580	0	60	356	27	220	30.6	48.8
Evesham	16,730	12	21	682	31	350	42.7	65.5
Kidderminster	12,560	-	2	676	12	250	53.9	74.8
Marley	11,800	-	-	304	34	313	25.7	55.1
Pershore	16,440	14	231	739	18	330	59.8	81.0
Tenbury	5,360	-	-	143	6	32	26.6	33.7
Upton upon Severn	14,830	10	-	441	26	204	30.4	45.9

HOUSING STATISTICS - WORCESTERSHIRE

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

District	Houses to be demolished - Action in First Five Years			Estimated No. of Unfit Houses	Percentage of Unfits.	Action Taken		Percentage of Total Unfits dealt with in Col. 6, 7, and 8.
	Individual Unfit Houses	Houses in Clearance Areas	Total			Included in Clearance Orders Confirmed 1.1.55. to 31.3.58.	Deposited or Closed 1.1.55 to 31.12.57 In Clearance Areas	Elsewhere
BOROUGH								
Bewdley	31	77	108	108	7.0	-	-	5
Droitwich	55	-	55	55	2.8	-	-	17
Evesham	62	42	104	104	2.9	-	-	38
Halesowen	133	314	447	677	5.2	96	-	39
Kidderminster	124	276	400	400	3.4	95	-	52
Oldbury	150	200	350	1,166	7.5	150	55	94
Stourbridge	58	258	316	316	2.5	-	24	63
URBAN DISTRICTS								
Bromsgrove	103	398	501	504	6.2	41	-	41
Malvern	129	-	129	129	1.9	-	-	52
Redditch	19	210	229	229	2.4	99	29	45
Stourport	97	13	110	110	3.6	8	-	23
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Bromsgrove	140	-	140	140	1.6	-	-	41
Droitwich	90	-	90	366	10.7	-	-	10
Evesham	9	-	9	9	0.1	-	-	8
Kidderminster	93	-	93	94	2.7	-	-	51
Marley	110	-	110	220	6.1	-	-	34
Pershore	100	68	168	335	6.8	-	-	98
Tenbury	67	33	100	137	8.2	-	-	5
Upton-upon-Severn	130	17	147	147	3.4	11	2	28

* These are percentages of houses in five year programme; not total of unfit houses.

* These are percentages of persons in five age brackets, not total of entire group.

Age Group	17-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	86-90	91-95	96-100
Male	17.0	15.0	14.0	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0
Female	16.0	14.0	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Male	15.0	14.0	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Female	14.0	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	7.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950

U.S. Census Bureau, 1950