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BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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1904.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health,

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D., EDIN.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,  
and Ex-President of the Midland Branch.



BILSTON :

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BILSTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Gentlemen,

*I beg to present to you the following Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District under your control, together with the vital Statistics for the year 1904; this being my Twentieth Annual Report.*

**Enteric Fever.**—Four cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever, in the same number of houses, were notified during the year, as compared with eleven in the year 1903, 12 in 1902, 18 in 1901 and 1900, and 71 in 1899. One of the cases was in the Ettingshall Ward, and 3 in the New Town Ward. In none were there any special causes discoverable; the disease was at no time epidemic, and no case proved fatal. The continued diminution of Enteric Fever is very gratifying, particularly so when we realise the number of privy middens, and the extent of soil contamination in and around many of the poorer dwellings that must occur under present conditions.

**Scarlet Fever.**—155 cases of Scarlet Fever, in 133 houses, were notified during the year, as compared with 244 in the previous year; 56 in the year 1902, 34 in 1901, 41 in 1900, 20 in 1899, and 91 in 1898.

11 cases, all being children under 5 years of age, terminated fatally.

32 were notified in January, 18 in February, 12 in March, 13 in April, 2 in May, 1 in June, 4 in July, 4 in August, 5 in September, 31 in October, 19 in November, and 14 in December.

51 came from the New Town Ward, 18 from the High Town Ward, 33 from the Town Hall Ward, 25 from Bradley, and 28 from Ettingshall.

54 of these cases were removed to the Fever Hospital, 21 from the New Town Ward, 6 from the High Town Ward, 11 from the Town Hall Ward, 8 from Bradley and 8 from Ettingshall.

It is not surprising that Scarlet Fever is difficult to stamp out in Bilston. In the first place isolation is impossible in most cases owing to lack of room and the impossibility of engaging a nurse. Then too, disinfection of the house is not easy as it is generally a crowded one, and for clothes and bedding no disinfecting apparatus as yet exists. Moreover, even on the part of Medical men, there is at times undue delay in notifying: in one instance at least this



happened through doubt as to whether the disease was Scarlet Fever ; but in another instance doubt does not seem to have been the cause for a medical certificate to keep the children away from School six weeks was given seven days before the case was notified.

It will be seen that the disease almost disappeared in the Summer months but that a sudden recrudescence occurred in October.

**Measles.**—Fourteen deaths, all in children under 5 years of age, were registered as due to Measles. One occurred in the month of March, 4 in April, 5 in May, and 4 in June. In the previous year there were 6 deaths from the same cause, 20 in the year 1902, 2 in 1901, and 35 in 1900. Of the 14 deaths, 4 were registered in the New Town Ward, 3 in the High Town Ward, 4 in the Town Hall Ward, and 3 in Bradley.

**Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.**—Five notifications were received during the year, 3 of Diphtheria in 3 houses, and 2 of Membranous Croup, one of the latter having a fatal ending. In the previous year 13 notifications with 6 deaths were received, 17 with 7 deaths in 1902, 13 in 1901 with 6 deaths, 11 in 1900 with 9 deaths.

I have in previous reports pointed out that bacteriological examination in supposed cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and Phthisis, can be obtained at the Birmingham University and results received by any Practitioner free of cost.

**Whooping Cough.**—Ten deaths, all in children under 5 years of age, were due to Whooping Cough. Of these 1 occurred in February, 2 in March, 3 in April, 2 in May, 1 in June, and 1 in August.

In the previous year there were 7 deaths, 5 in the year 1902, 27 in 1901, and 8 in 1900.

**Small Pox.**—On June 3rd a case of Small Pox was discovered in a lodging house in Stafford Street. The patient was a woman who the previous Monday had come from Dudley where she stated she had spent 2 or 3 nights at a lodging-house with her husband and little girl. With the Sanitary Inspector I visited the house at once and had her removed to the Small Pox Hospital. The bed, bedding, mattresses and clothing were destroyed ; the room was thoroughly disinfected and 3 persons in the house re-vaccinated; the other inmates absolutely refused to submit to re-vaccination. I also communicated with the Local Government Board, the County Medical Officer, and the Medical Officer of Dudley.

On August 22nd, another case was notified in Duke Street. The patient had a short time previously visited his daughter (whose husband and child were then suffering from Small Pox) at Chads-moor, near Cannock. He was the same day removed to the Small Pox Hospital at Rowley Regis ; the house, clothes and bed-clothes were thoroughly disinfected, and the other inmates of the house re-vaccinated.



It will be observed that both these cases were promptly removed in the Ambulance to the temporary Hospital at Rowley Regis. A permanent Hospital is now being erected by the Con-joint Board for South Staffs. on the Great Bridge Road.

The difficulty of dealing in Parliament with the whole subject of vaccination and re-vaccination seems to be almost insuperable, but the time has surely arrived when at least power should be given to prevent the spread of this loathsome disease by tramps wandering from one town to another. All will admit that for the public good immediate re-vaccination should be compulsory in persons of this class who are known to have been subjected to the risk of contagion, and further that it should be possible to retain them until all danger of the further development of the disease is at an end.

**Diarrhœa.**—Thirty-nine deaths from Diarrhœa, 33 being in children under 5 years of age, were reported during the year as compared with 33 in the previous year, 24 in the year 1902, 58 in 1901, 30 in 1900, and 60 in 1899. The following gives the number of deaths below and above 5 years of age, and the mortality rate per 1000, for the past ten years —

<i>Deaths from Diarrhœa</i> ...	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895
Children under 5 years ...	33	32	23	56	29	58	59	63	26	38
Above 5 years . ...	6	1	1	2	1	2	2	6	3	4
Rate per 1000 ...	1·6	1·3	·99	2·4	1·2	2·5	2·5	2·9	1·2	1·7

**Erysipelas.**—Thirty-seven cases, with one death—in a child under 5 years of age—were notified during the year, as compared with 41 in the previous year, 39 in the year 1902, 49 in 1901, and 45 in 1900.

**Influenza.**—Seven deaths, 2 being in children under 5 years of age, were attributed to Influenza, as compared with 12 in the previous year, 9 in the year 1902, 2 in 1901, and 16 in 1900.

**Puerperal Fever.**—One case of Puerperal Fever was notified, it did not prove fatal. Under the “Midwives Act, 1902,” which came into operation on April 1st, last, certain rules have been framed by the Central Midwives’ Board, and it is the duty of the Local Supervising Authority to see that these rules are observed. It is important therefore to note that one Rule, No. 5, reads as follows :—“Whenever a Midwife has been in attendance upon a patient suffering from Puerperal Fever, or from any other illness supposed to be infectious, she must disinfect herself and all her instruments and other appliances, to the satisfaction of the Local Sanitary Authority and must have her clothing thoroughly disinfected before going to another labour. Unless otherwise directed by the local Supervising Authority, all washable clothing should be boiled and other clothing should be sent to be stoved (by the local Sanitary Authority), and then exposed freely to the open air for several days.”



The need of an efficient steam disinfecting apparatus, which has constantly been pointed out by me, is therefore greater than ever. Absolute and complete disinfection is of extreme importance as the disease is very easily conveyed and the patients concerned are most susceptible. But notwithstanding this the rule referred to is at present a dead letter here.

**Zymotic Diseases**—Seventy-five Deaths, 66 being in children under 5 years of age, were attributed to the seven principal Zymotic diseases as compared with 63 in the two previous years, 99 in the year 1901, 90 in 1900, 91 in 1899, 119 in 1898, and 99 in 1897.

The subjoined Table shows the number of deaths from each of these causes for the past year and the previous 10 years, and gives the rate per 1000 of the population :—

Deaths from	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	Average 1894-03	1904
Scarlet Fever ...	8	1	10	8	6	1	4	2	5	8	5.3	11
Small Pox ...	1	1									.2	
Measles ...		51	7	11	19		35	2	20	6	15.1	14
Whooping Cough ...	12	3	17	6	6	9	8	27	5	7	10	10
Enteric Fever ...	1	8	7	1	22	15	4	4	2	3	6.7	
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup }	8	12	11	4	5	6	9	6	7	6	7.4	1
Diarrhoea ...	10	42	29	69	61	60	30	58	24	33	41.6	39
	40	118	81	99	119	91	90	99	63	63	86.1	75
Rate per thousand...	1.7	5.02	3.4	4.02	5.06	3.8	3.6	4.1	2.6	2.6	3.59	3.09

**Vaccination.**—The returns of the Vaccination Officer are given for the ten years 1894-1903, and for the first half of the year 1904.

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	Half Year to June 30 1904
Births Registered ...	926	955	864	963	934	959	892	878	939	895	453
Successfully Vaccinated	731	670	613	633	688	829	769	760	838	801	408
Insusceptible ...	4	6	4	3	1	11	7	3	3	1	
Died Unvaccinated...	114	133	118	167	143	94	96	91	70	77	32
Postponed ...	10	29	12	8	5	1	1		5		1
Removed from District	34	53	29	26	10	10	6	10	13	4	5
Certificates of Con- scientious Objectors }				5	12	8	6	14	10	12	7
Unaccounted for ...	33	64	88	121	75	6	7				
	926	955	864	963	934	959	892	878	939	895	453

### *Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1888.*

During the year 205 certificates (referring to 204 cases) under this Act were received, as compared with 316 in the previous year; viz., 156 (referring to 155 cases) of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, 3 of Diphtheria, 2 of Membranous

Croup, 37 of Erysipelas, and 2 of Small Pox. In the year 1902 there were 124 notifications, 115 in 1901, 116 in 1900, 139 in 1899, and 227 in 1898.

The following Table shews the number of notifications of each disease received in each month of the year, and also the totals for this and the previous ten years. :—

	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Total
January ... ..	32			1	3		36
February ... ..	18						18
March ... ..	12				2		14
April ... ..	13			1	1		15
May ... ..	2			1	5		8
June ... ..	1				2	1	4
July ... ..	4	1		1	2		8
August ... ..	4	1			4	1	10
September ... ..	6	1			6		13
October ... ..	31				5		36
November ... ..	19	1	1		5		26
December ... ..	14			1	2		17
1904 ... ..	156	4	1	5	37	2	205
1903 ... ..	244	11	7	13	41		316
1902 ... ..	56	12		17	39		124
1901 ... ..	34	18	1	13	49		115
1900 ... ..	41	18	1	11	45		116
1899 ... ..	20	71	1	11	36		139
1898 ... ..	91	92	2	8	34		227
1897 ... ..	112	9		6	19		146
1896 ... ..	118	31		23	13		185
1895 ... ..	48	30		11	17	3	109
1894 ... ..	94	14	2	9	19	32	170

Notifications received from each of the five wards of the township in each month of the year :—

	NEW TOWN WARD.	HIGH TOWN WARD.	TOWN HALL WARD.	BRADLEY WARD.	ETTINGSHALL WARD.
January ... ..	7	4	2	16	3
February ... ..	5	4	3	2	4
March ... ..	3	1	2	3	3
April ... ..	4	3	4	2	
May ... ..			1	1	
June ... ..					1
July ... ..	2	1	1		
August ... ..	1		2		1
September ... ..			3		3
October ... ..	12	2	9		7
November ... ..	7	3	6		3
December ... ..	10				4
	51	18	33	25	29



## *Infectious Diseases Hospital.*

On the last day of 1903 there were 16 patients suffering from Scarlet Fever in the iron building, and during the year 54 more cases from 44 houses were received. Of these 1 died, and the average number of days' sojourn of the cases admitted was 51.

The resources of the Hospital were taxed to the fullest when there was most urgent need for the removal of some other cases from houses with no proper means of isolation which unfortunately no doubt led to still further increase of the disease.

The need for a new and better Isolation Hospital has long been recognised and two schemes have at different times been before your Council. The one suggested by the County Medical Officer for a large combined area where the Hospital would be large enough to require a resident Medical Officer somewhat on the plan now adopted for Small Pox, and the formation of a Conjoint Board for South Staffordshire. The other was one drawn up in 1899 by my Colleagues, the Medical Officers of Health for Willenhall and Darlaston, in association with myself for the formation of a Hospital District (consisting of the two towns mentioned and Bilston) under the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893, and the erection of a Hospital somewhere conveniently near to the main road from Shepwell Green, Willenhall, and the old Turnpike-gate House, Bilston. Neither of these schemes commended itself to your Council, and therefore nothing remained but to look out a suitable site and erect one for Bilston alone. I am pleased to be able to report that a good site, and convenient of access, has been secured in Mountford lane, and a contract entered into for the erection: the work is now in progress. It will be an Iron and Timber Framed Structure, containing 2 Wards, 1 for 10 beds, and 1 for 14 beds, and a third (probationary and Inspection Ward) that would if necessary serve as a day room, for Convalescents; in addition to Nurses' Rooms, Kitchens, Bath Rooms, etc. It will be supplied with water from the Council Mains, and Electric Light will be installed from the Mains of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution Ltd.

**Disinfecting Apparatus**—The need for this in connection with the disease Puerperal Fever and the provisions of the Midwives Act has already been noted, but it will be absolutely indispensable when the new Hospital is completed. Fortunately the site of this is ample enough to allow for the erection of an up-to-date Disinfecter which would be to its special advantage and could be so adapted as to serve for general use.

**Meteorology**.—The total Rainfall for the year ending 31st December, 1904, was 20·6 inches, as against 35·05 in. for the year ending 31st December, 1903, or 14·45 inches less in 1904 than in 1903. This 14·45 inches means 1459 tons, or 326895 gallons less on every acre in 1904 than in 1903.



## RAINFALL OF 1904 AND 1903.

		Inches in		Inches in
		1904		1903
January	...	2'37	...	2'28
February	...	3'37	...	1'61
March	...	1'47	..	4'93
April	...	1'19	...	1'78
May	...	2'29	...	2'4
June	...	'36	..	1'67
July	...	1'93	...	1'6
August	...	2'2	...	5'47
September	...	1'96	...	3'66
October	...	'48	...	5'94
November	...	1'39	...	2'02
December	...	1'59	...	1'69
Totals	...	20'6		35'05

**Sewerage and Refuse Disposal**—The proposed new Scheme of Sewerage has advanced to such a stage that tenders have been advertised for on the plans and specifications of Mr. Baldwin Latham, and it is hoped that before long a water-carriage system will be introduced. With this the provision of a Refuse-destructor is desirable. It is estimated that at present 230 tons per week, or about 12000 tons per annum, of material in Bilston require to be dealt with and the question therefore is becoming more urgent every day, both because of the insanitary practice of tipping and of the increasing difficulty of procuring land for the purpose. Your Surveyor has specially investigated this subject and has inspected destructors in various towns. His report presented to you deserves careful consideration. Of course in estimating the expenditure the cost of the up-keep must not be over-looked.

**Insanitary Dwellings**—During the year 212 houses have been cleansed, 88 repaired and made rain-proof, 24 provided with spouting, and 5 cases of overcrowding abated. Further, 94 ash-pits were roofed over, and 35 below the level of the ground were filled up to 3 inches above it and paved; 15 defective yards were paved, 68 privies repaired and cemented, and 3 cess-pools abolished.

The number of Plans approved for new buildings was 88, of which 74 were dwelling houses, 10 of the warehouse class, 3 stables, and 1 the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital.

The supervision of dwellings during construction has been carefully done and it is now the Surveyor's practice to subject all drains in connection with new buildings to the water test before a certificate is granted.



A very important addition from a sanitary point of view was made to the Bye-Laws in respect to new buildings, to the effect that a house should not be let or occupied till the drainage is completed and a certificate that it is fit for habitation has been received from the authorised officer of the Council.

I have made special inspection of several streets in the different Wards, including Stone Street, Stafford Street, Pinfold Street, Market Street, Bristol Street, Pipe's Meadow, Bissell Street, Bow Street, Bridge Street, Gozzard Street, etc., and the Inspector has issued the necessary notices on the owners for the removal and prevention of various nuisances. Many of the old and condemned houses cannot be made habitable without the expenditure of more money than they are worth, and they should be demolished and the sites cleared to avoid further evils. Great improvements have been effected in Stone Street, and Homer's Fold. In the former all pebbles have been removed, a blue-brick foot-way and channel formed and the whole put into a satisfactory sanitary condition. In Homer's Fold the pebbles were taken up, the road macadamised, crushed and channelled, and adopted by your Council. In future, therefore, the scavenging and repairs will be carried on by you.

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**—The 19 Cowsheds, and 24 Dairies and Milkshops have been regularly inspected and notices given when required to remedy any defect. In most cowsheds very little attention is paid to light and ventilation and to cleanliness, and there is rarely adequate cubic space. The essentials of a good dairy are (*a*) healthy, properly fed and housed cows, (*b*) cleanliness throughout and neither addition to nor subtraction from the milk, (*c*) prompt and complete cooling of the milk, as for instance, by allowing it to flow over cylinders containing cold water and ice. This to reduce the temperature *quickly* so as to prevent the development of germs, (*d*) the delivery of the milk under strict hygienic conditions in sealed bottles or cans. Until some such system as this is universal there will always be danger of contamination through the milk supply, the milk itself will not be so good and nutritious as it should be and the dangers to health, especially of infants and young children, cannot be estimated.

**Lodging Houses and Slaughter Houses.**—The Lodging-houses, 4 in number, are in a clean and satisfactory condition; verbal notices only were required for lime-washing, etc. There are 20 licensed Slaughter-houses, none of these is up-to-date, but they are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

**Factories, Workshops and Bake-houses.**—There are 108 Workshops—an increase of 7 on the previous year—on the Register, including 28 bake-houses. All have been visited by the Inspector and myself. There was no case of over-crowding or of wet floors and the arrangements generally as to ventilation and cleanliness were satisfactory. One under-ground bake-house is in



existence ; on visiting it several alterations were found necessary. These were at once carried out by the proprietor and a certificate has now been issued. The lists of out-workers have been duly sent in by the employers, there are only 15 names and of these 2 only reside within our area. The Captain of the Fire Brigade has been specially appointed to inspect factories in regard to provision in case of fire.

**Vital Statistics**—The population of the district at the last census (in 1901) was 24,034, 12,026 males and 12,008 females ; and the area is 1867 acres. The population to the middle of the year 1904 is estimated at 24,250, giving an average of 13 persons to the acre. At the census were recorded 5050 tenements, including 3372 tenements of less than 5 rooms. Of these 10 were tenements of 1 room, 533 of 2 rooms, 1214 of 3 rooms, and 1615 of 4 rooms.

**Births.**—Eight hundred and ninety-nine births, 465 males, and 434 females, were registered during the year, being an increase of 4 on the previous year, and giving a birth-rate of 37·07 per thousand. The following gives the number of births, male and female, for the past 3 years :—

	—1904.—			—1903.—			—1902.—		
	Males.	F'ales.	Total	Males.	F'ales.	Total.	Males.	F'ales.	Total
First Quarter	127	112	239	99	107	206	129	131	260
Second „	118	96	214	126	124	250	107	124	231
Third „	120	131	251	111	110	221	100	117	217
Fourth „	100	95	195	108	110	218	106	120	226
	465	434	899	444	451	895	442	492	934

Table showing the number of Births and Birth Rates for the decade 1894—1903.

Year.	Males.	Females	Total.	Av'ge per 1000 of Population.
1894	474	445	919	39·1
1895	485	472	957	40·7
1896	459	408	867	37·02
1897	502	445	947	40·2
1898	490	445	935	39·7
1899	489	465	954	40·5
1900	440	452	892	36·4
1901	456	425	881	36·5
1902	442	492	934	38·7
1903	444	451	895	36·9
Yearly Average 1894-03	468·1	450	918·1	38·57
1904	465	434	899	37·07

For purposes of comparison the birth rate of the whole Country and of the Staffordshire Urban and Rural Districts for the same years (1894-1903, are added, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and of the large towns of England :—

Districts.		1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Staffs.	Combined Urban & Rural	34.3	35.1	34.2	33.5	34	33.4	32.8	32.8	34	32.5
	Urban ... ..	35.4	36.2	35.4	34.8	35	34.5	33.9	34.1	35	33.4
	Rural ... ..	31.6	32	31.2	30.3	31.1	30.3	29.8	29.5	31.3	30.1
England & Wales ... ..		29.6	30.3	29.7	29.7	29.4	29.3	28.9	28.5	28.6	28.4
Large Towns in England ...		30.6	31.2	31.2	30.6	30.2	30.1	29.4	29.5	30	29.7
Bilston ... ..		39.1	40.7	37	40.2	39.7	36.4	36.5	38.8	38.7	36.9

The birth rate throughout the Country has been decreasing slowly and continuously since 1876 and is even more pronounced when calculated in relation to the number of women capable of bearing children. People live longer and have fewer children than they did, but it must be remembered that this is not confined to our Country; it applies to most others, and to some in a far greater degree.

**Deaths.**—During the year 460 deaths were registered from all causes, 250 males and 210 females, being an increase of 32 as compared with last year, and giving a death rate of 18.9 per 1000 of the population. The average yearly number of deaths for the decade 1894-1903 was 505.8, and for the last half of that period 476.

Table giving the number of deaths in each quarter of the year, classified according to age and sex :—

	Males.	Females	Total at all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
1904.									
First Quarter	60	53	113	41	17	2	3	26	24
Second „	73	47	120	49	30	1	3	25	12
Third „	62	62	124	66	8	2	2	24	22
Fourth „	55	48	103	42	9	2	0	34	16
	250	210	460	198	64	7	8	109	74



TABLE OF DEATHS classified according to Diseases, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

Years.	Age.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not spasmodic)	Whooping Cough.	Cont'd. Fevers				Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Heart Disease	Inquests.	Uncertified.	Influenza.	All Other Diseases.	Totals at Ages Stated.	Total at all Ages.	Death-rate per thousand.	
		Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.																										
1895	Under 5	1	46	1		11	3					38								51		9	4	4	210	378	634	26.9	
	5 upwds.		5			1		8				4								19	64	12	18	1	9	115	256		
1896	Under 5		7	9	4	7	17					26		2						2	56		5	3		110	250	460	19.5
	5 upwds.			1				5				3			1					19	53	11	12	1	3	100	210		
1897	Under 5		10	7	1	2	6					63								11	48		9	12	2	132	304	582	24.7
	5 upwds.		1	1	1		3	1				6		1						16	81	25	19	3	7	116	278		
1898	Under 5		19	6	1	1	5					59		1						7	50		8	3	1	151	314	549	23.3
	5 upwds.		2	2	1	1	1	20				2					1			15	49	19	15	1	5	102	235		
1899	Under 5			1		3	8	2				58									47		12	1		115	247	469	19.9
	5 upwds.				2	1	1	13				2								19	55	13	21	3	4	88	222		
1900	Under 5		34	2	1	5	8					29			1					2	67	2	15	1	152	319	557	22.7	
	5 upwds.		1	2	2	1		4				1		1			1			17	55	24	13	1	15	99	238		
1901	Under 5		2		3	2	26					56								3	45			6	2	135	281	499	20.7
	5 upwds.			2		1	1	3				2		2						28	52	19				6	218		
1902	Under 5		29	4	4	2	5					23								2	40		9		2	104	217	427	17.71
	5 upwds.			1	1			2				1								33	46	26	6		7	87	210		
1903	Under 5		6	4	1	3	7					32								6	46	1	9		3	85	203	428	17.6
	5 upwds.			4	1	1		3				1		2			1			24	40	29	26		9	84	225		
1904	Under 5		14	11		1	10					33			1					7	58		7		2	118	262	460	18.9
	5 upwds.											6								17	42	29	15	5	84	198			



For purposes of comparison the death rate of the whole Country and of the Staffordshire Urban and Rural Districts for the past 10 years are given, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and of the large towns in England :—

District.		1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Staffs.	General ... ..	16.2	18.5	17.2	17.8	17.7	17.2	18.7	17	15.8	15.2
	Urban ... ..	16.5	19.1	18	18.6	18.4	17.8	19.3	17.6	16.3	15.8
	Rural ... ..	15.4	16.9	15.2	15.7	15.5	15.4	16.8	15.4	14.4	13.5
	England and Wales ...	16.6	18.7	17.1	17.4	17.6	18.3	18.3	16.9	16.3	15.4
Large towns in England ...		18	20.5	19.2	19.1	18.3	20.2	19.5	17.7	17.4	16.3
Bilston ... ..		19.2	26.9	19.5	24.7	23.3	19.9	22.7	20.7	17.7	17.6

As with births there has been a steady decrease in deaths throughout the Country and this has continued since 1854 when the death rate was 23.5; in 1903 it was 15.4. The latter year, however, was particularly exceptional owing largely to climatic conditions. In it there were the fewest births and deaths on record.

Table of deaths during the past decade, classified according to age and sex.

Year	Males.	Females.	Total at all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1894	239	214	453	161	61	21	16	99	95
1895	327	307	634	215	163	22	15	96	123
1896	244	216	460	157	93	18	17	112	63
1897	308	274	582	214	90	13	21	154	90
1898	276	273	549	214	100	17	23	124	71
1899	263	206	469	181	66	14	11	122	75
1900	294	263	557	198	121	14	18	110	96
1901	270	229	499	195	86	14	20	108	76
1902	229	198	427	142	75	17	18	117	58
1903	229	199	428	141	62	14	22	106	83
Yearly Average 1894-1903.	267.9	237.9	505.8	181.8	91.7	16.4	18.1	114.8	83
1904.	250	210	460	198	64	7	8	109	74

(For the years previous to 1896 the figures given are "under 60 years" and "above 60 years," instead of under and above "65 years.")

**Diseases of the Respiratory System.**—One hundred deaths were registered as due to diseases of the Respiratory System, 58 being in children under 5 years of age. There were 86 in the two previous years, 99 in 1901, and 122 in 1900. Eight occurred in the Month of January, 5 in February, 18 in March, 13 in April, 14 in May, 13 in June, 4 in July, 2 in August, 5 in September, 7 in October, 1 in November, and 10 in December.



**Tuberculosis or Consumption.**—24 deaths, all but 7 being in people over 5 years of age, were attributed to Tubercular Disease or Consumption, 17 being ascribed to that form affecting the Lungs (Phthisis Pulmonalis). There were 30 deaths in the previous year, 41 in 1902, and 31 in 1901.

The following table shews at a glance the number of deaths due to this disease since 1888, distinguishing those of children under 5 years of age:—

DEATHS FROM PHTHISIS.				
Year.	Under 5 years.	5 and upwards.	Total.	Rate per 1000.
1888		21	21	·89
1889	1	23	24	1·02
1890	2	14	16	·68
1891	4	29	33	1·4
1892	1	14	15	·63
1893	1	15	16	·68
1894		17	17	·72
1895		19	19	·808
1896	2	19	21	·89
1897	11	16	27	1·1
1898	7	15	22	·93
1899		19	19	·79
1900	2	17	19	·79
1901	3	28	31	1·2
1902	6	35	41	1·7
1903	6	24	30	1·2
1904	7	17	24	·98

That Consumption is still the greatest scourge of the race is easily shown by the figures below, the significance of which cannot be over-estimated. The death rate per million in the year 1903, of the following deadly diseases was:—

Consumption	...	1205	Pneumonia	...	1124
Bronchitis	...	1112	Cancer	...	872
Heart Disease	...	823	Diarrhœa	...	542
Bright's Disease	...	283	Measles	...	274
Influenza	...	189	Diphtheria	..	182
Scarlet Fever	...	125	Enteric Fever	...	100

The mortality from Consumption, great as it still is, is steadily decreasing—it is now only three-fifths of the rate of 25 years ago—while that from cancer is increasing.

**Inquests**—Twenty-two enquiries, 7 being in children under 5 years of age, were made by H.M. Coroner during the year, as compared with 35 in the previous year. In the year 1902 there were 15, 28 in 1901 and in 1900, and 32 in 1899.

**Uncertified Deaths**—For the fourth year in succession it is gratifying to note that no death occurred which was not certified either by a medical man or the coroner.

**Infantile Mortality.**—One hundred and ninety eight children died in the first year of life, as compared with 141 in the previous year, 152 in the year 1902, 195 in 1901, 198 in 1900, and 181 in 1899; being equal to an Infantile Mortality of 220·2 per 1000 registered births.

The following Table gives the figures for the 10 years 1894-1903 for Bilston, for the Urban Districts of Staffordshire and the large towns of England :—

Deaths in children under 1 year per 1000 registered births :—

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	Mean Rate.
Bilston ..	175	224	181	226	228	189	21	221	152	157	197·4
Urban Districts in Staffordshire ..	163	181	171	187	181	179	176	171	147	147	170·3
Large Towns in England ..	152	182	161	177	178	181	172	168	145	145	166·1

The lowest rate recorded for England and Wales was in 1881 when it was 130 per 1000 births.

TABLE giving the births, deaths, rate of infantile mortality, &c., for each of the five Wards in the town.

	Area (in Acres)	Popula- tion. Census 1901.	Births	Deaths	Deaths of Infants per 1000 Births.	Deaths from Diarrhœa.	Deaths from Tubercu- losis.	No. of No- tifications of Enteric Fever.
Whole Town ...	1867	24034	899	460	220·2	39	24	4
New Town Ward	289	5548	224	113	258·9	13	3	3
High Town Ward	115	5207	175	92	211·4	6	5	
Town Hall Ward	520	5003	184	94	190·2	7	7	
Bradley Ward ...	499	4221	159	83	182·3	7	4	
Ettingshall Ward	444	4055	157	78	248·4	6	5	1

On the whole the progress during the year has been satisfactory though much remains to be done. Better houses for the poor are much needed and many "slums" should be abolished if economic conditions would allow. A new School on an open site is to be erected at Stonefield for the education of 1200 children. The plans are designed on modern lines and every accommodation will be provided to allow abundance of air, light and floor-space. It is peculiarly gratifying to find that there is to be also an open space to serve as a recreation ground: this has so often been advocated.



The Committee on Physical Degeneration in its report issued after the collection of most valuable information on the subject, recommended that a physical census should be taken beginning with children in schools and young persons in factories, and gradually extending to the population at large. Over-crowding with its attendant evils of uncleanness, foul air and bad sanitation stands out pre-eminently in the opinion of the Committee as prejudicial to the health of the people. For every one who lived in a town in 1851 three do so now. Town slums must go and people should be tempted back to the land and country-life should be made more attractive and country homes more comfortable. All these needs and the conclusions their consideration justifies have been frequently pointed out in my previous reports.

The Health Office accommodation is insufficient and insanitary; the office measures  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft., less 6 ft. by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ft. for the fire-place. This is the only room available for myself, the Inspector and the Night Soil Foreman. Further, the latter interviews the Night Soil Contractor and meets his men in it daily to give directions for the work, and disinfectants are also stored in it. The time has surely come when a better recognition of the importance of the Sanitary Department and its work is deserved.

Appended are the Tables required by the Local Government Board and the Staffordshire County Council, together with the Sanitary Inspector's Statement, which gives a summary of the work done in his department during the year. In many cases statutory notices were not served as a verbal one was found to be sufficient.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D., EDIN.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Bilston,*

*March 6th, 1905.*



TABLE I.

## FOR WHOLE DISTRICT OF BILSTON.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in District.			
				DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number	Rate per 1000	Number	Rate per 1000 Births regist'd	Number	Rate per 1000
1894	23,500	919	38·8	161	175	453	19·1
1895	23,500	957	40·3	215	224	634	26·7
1896	23,500	867	36·4	157	181	460	19·3
1897	23,500	947	39·6	214	226	582	24·3
1898	23,500	935	39·09	214	228	549	22·9
1899	23,500	954	39·7	181	189	469	19·5
1900	23,500	892	37·1	198	221	557	23·1
1901	24,034	881	36·5	198	221	499	20·7
1902	24,100	934	38·7	142	152	427	17·7
1903	24,200	895	36·9	141	157·5	428	17·6
Averages for years 1894-1903	23683·4	918·1	38·3	182·1	197·4	505·8	21·09
1904	24,250	899	37·07	198	220·2	460	18·9

Area of District in acres—1867.  
(exclusive of area covered by water).

Total population at all ages—24034.  
(At Census of 1901).

Number of inhabited houses—5092.

Average number of persons per house—4·71.

*In recording the facts under the various headings, attention has been paid to the notes on the Tables.*

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, MD.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



TABLE II. VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1904.

Names of Localities.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				NEW TOWN WARD.				HIGH TOWN WARD.				TOWN HALL WARD.				BRADLEY WARD.				ETTINGSHALL WARD.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.				Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.				Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
1894	..	23,500	919	453	161					Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.				Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
1895	...	23,500	957	634	215					Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.				Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
1896	...	23,500	867	460	157					Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.				Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
1897	...	23,500	947	582	214					Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.				Population estimated to middle of each year.				Births registered.				Deaths at all Ages.				Deaths under 1 year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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1901	...	24,034	881	499	198	5,548				220				143				54				5,207				115				119				48				5,003				175				83				34				4,221				173				77				27				4,055				162				77				32																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
1902	...	24,100	934	427	142	5,564				227				119				39				5,222				186				78				28				5,017				190				76				21				4,233				163				94				28				4,064				168				60				26																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
1903	...	24,200	895	428	141	5,584				218				105				39				5,246				200				93				29				5,040				165				85				28				4,240				156				58				23				4,090				156				87				22																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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TABLE III. TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total cases notified in each locality					No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality					
	At all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	5 to 15 Years	15 to 25 Years	25 to 65 Years	65 years & upwards	New Town Ward	High Town Ward	Town Hall Ward	Bradley Ward	Ettingshall Ward	New Town Ward	High Town Ward	Town Hall Ward	Bradley Ward	Ettingshall Ward
Small-pox ...	2					2				2					2		
Diphtheria ...	3		2			1			1	1		1					
Membranous Croup ...	2		2							1		1					
Erysipelas ...	37		1	4	11	19	2	7	7	8	10	5					
Scarlet Fever ...	155	5	59	79	10	2		51	18	33	25	28	21	6	11	8	8
Enteric Fever ...	4					4		3		1							
Puerperal Fever ...	1					1				1							
Totals ...	204	5	64	83	21	29	2	61	26	47	35	35	21	6	13	8	8

*Isolation Hospital—Yes (New one in course of erection.)*

TABLE IV. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1904.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to local- ities, whether occurring in or be- yond the District.				
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	New Town Ward.	High Town Ward.	Town Hall Ward.	Bradley Ward.	Ettingshall Ward
Measles ...	14	4	10					4	3	4	3	
Scarlet Fever ...	11		11					3	1	2	4	1
Whooping-cough ...	10	7	3					3	1	1	3	2
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	1		1							1		
Epidemic Influenza ...	7	1	1		1	2	2	1	4	1		1
Diarrhœa ...	39	28	5	1	1	1	3	13	6	7	7	6
Enteritis ...	20	18				2		3	5	7	4	1
Erysipelas ...	1	1								1		
Other septic diseases ...	1					1				1		
Phthisis ...	18			2		15	1	4	4	4	2	4
Other tubercular diseases ...	7	4	3						1	3	2	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	10					7	3	1	1	5	2	1
Bronchitis ...	78	34	15			13	16	19	14	19	14	12
Pneumonia ...	22	6	3		2	11		7	2	2	3	8
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver) ...	6					4	2	1	3			2
Venereal diseases ...	1	1								1		
Premature birth ...	11	11							5	1	1	4
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	4					4			1	3		
Heart Disease ...	29				1	20	8	6	5	6	8	4
Suicides ...	2						2	1			1	
Inquests ...	20	7	1	2		6	4	6	4	2	3	5
All other causes ...	148	76	11	2	3	23	33	41	32	23	26	26
All causes ...	460	198	64	7	8	109	74	113	92	94	83	78

TABLE V. SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1904, IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BILSTON.

		Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling- Houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions, Houses clean- sed	212	8	218
	Structural Defects, Spouting 24			
	House Roofs 88, Ashpits			
	Roofed 94	206		206
	Overcrowding	5		5
	Unfit for Habitation	10		
	Lodging houses	38		
	Dairies and Milkshops	60		
	Cowsheds	64		
	Bakehouses	77		
	Slaughter-houses	85		
	Canal Boats	45		
	Ashpits & Privies, 11,033, 9,942	20,975		
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	13		13
Water Closets				
House Drain'ge	Defective Traps			
	No disconnection			
	Other Faults, obstructed drains	23		
	Water Supply plentiful supply of tap			
	Pigsties	4		4
	Animals improperly kept	8		8
	Offensive Trades			
	Smoke Nuisances			
	Other Nuisances, yards paved 15			
	cesspools covered 3, ashpits paved 35, privies repaired 68	121		
Totals		21,946	8	454

Seizures of unwholesome Food	..	..	..
Sample of Food taken for Analysis	..	..	..
"    "    found Adulterated	..	..	..
Sample of Water taken for Analysis	..	..	..
"    "    condemned as unfit for use	..	..	..

### Precautions against Infectious Diseases.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed, (Small Pox)	1
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	Yes
Schools	"
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	"
Convictions	ditto
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	"
Convictions	ditto

NOTE.—When an Inspection or Notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

*Signed*—WILLIAM H. WELLS.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

January 24th, 1905.



TABLE VI. FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

## I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Workshops (Including Working Laundries ... ..)	196		
Workplaces .. ..	7		
Homeworker's Premises ... ..	2		
Total ...	205		

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	3	3		
Overcrowding ... ..	None			
Want of drainage of floors ...	None			
Other nuisances, drain in bakehouse	1	1		
Sanitary accommodations (not separate for sexes) ... ..	2	2		
Total ...	6	6		

## 3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.						Number.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S.5).						Notified by H.M. Inspector
Certificates granted in 1904						1
In use at the end of 1904						1
Homework :—						1
<i>Lists of Outworkers :</i>						Number of
						Lists. Outworkers
Lists received						Residing in our District
						6 2
Addresses of outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities						3
Workshops on the Register at the end of 1904 { received from other Authorities						None
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake-houses, viz. :—						
Dressmakers						26
Joiners						9
Boot repairers						12
Millinery						5
Bakehouses						28
Others						28
Total number of workshops on Register						108





