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Contributors

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BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

❖ 1911. ❖

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

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

Past-President of the Midland Branch, and Representative Member on the Central Council, of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health; Ex-President of the Staffordshire Branch of the British Medical Association; School Medical Officer, &c., &c.

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

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present to you the Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District under your control, together with the Vital Statistics for the year 1911; this being my Twenty-Seventh Annual Report.

Enteric Fever.—Only one case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever was notified during the year, as compared with ten in the previous year; 10 in each of the years 1909, 1908, and 1907, and 15 in 1906. This case, which came from the Ettingshall Ward, was admitted to the Wolverhampton Hospital, and died there. It was associated with an old pail-privy, and notice to convert into water-closet was served on the owner.

Scarlet Fever—Fifty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever, in 47 houses, were notified during the year, compared with 49 in the previous year, 74 in 1909, 108 in 1908, and 160 in 1907; of these 5 proved fatal.

One case was notified in the month of February, 1 in April, 4 in May, 3 in June, 7 in July, 9 in August, 9 in September, 18 in October, 4 in November, and 1 in December. Eleven cases occurred in the New Town Ward, 9 in the High Town Ward, 12 in the Town Hall Ward, 3 in Bradley Ward, and 22 in the Ettingshall Ward. Fifty-three cases were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, of whom 4 died.

Scarlet Fever has in recent years increased enormously throughout the country, and is practically endemic in this and many other populous centres. Mistakes in diagnosis and delay in notification naturally add to its continuance and extension.

In the month of July, 3 scholars and 1 teacher at a certain school were notified as suffering from this disease, and on investigation it was discovered that an elder brother of one of the children (himself above school age) was "peeling," and had been

for some time. No medical man had been in attendance, as the youth had not appeared ill, and the children had continued to attend the school.

In September, notifications were received of 3 cases of Scarlet Fever in one family. On enquiry it was found that 1 girl was desquamating, or "peeling." She, it appeared, had suffered some five weeks previously, while at a seaside resort with her family, from sore throat, accompanied by a skin rash. She called upon a medical man there, who prescribed and told her to send for him if she got worse. She apparently felt better, completed her holiday without consulting him again, and returned home. She mixed freely with her family, visited the houses of friends until her brother and sister fell ill, then her condition was observed. Four days later another brother was found also to be "peeling," and it was then admitted that he, too, had suffered from sore throat and skin rash at the same time as his sister. This boy, on his return, had been in regular attendance at one of the elementary schools; all 4 were removed to the Hospital.

It is impossible to trace the full results of this experience. Many cases may have occurred among the visitors to the seaside resort, developed after return to their respective homes, and created much mystery as to their origin.

Measles.—Measles prevailed for some weeks in the summer in an adjoining district, and several cases appeared here in August; others rapidly followed, and many proved fatal. Forty-nine deaths were registered, 43 being under 5 years of age, and 6 between 5 and 15. One death was registered in August, 9 in October, 21 in November, and 18 in December.

Most of the Infant Schools were affected in turn, and the epidemic still continues in parts of the district. Children from known infected houses have not been allowed to attend school, and two Infant Departments, viz., Fraser Street and Holy Trinity, were closed for the four days in December immediately preceding the Christmas holidays, so as to make a continuous closure of 3 weeks. All schools were cleansed and thoroughly disinfected during the vacation.

It is impossible to state the number of children affected, as Measles is not a notifiable disease, and the mortality rate was, particularly in very young infants, undoubtedly very heavy. The infectious nature of the disease before the rash appears is a potent influence in its rapid and extensive diffusion. In a great proportion of instances no medical man is called until the last moment, when a fatal termination is feared, and no attempt whatever is made to isolate the patient, or even to keep him in bed. In many cases the indifference of the parents, even in the face of skilled

advice, is such as to be almost criminal. Frequently I have seen mothers, with babies in their arms, and accompanied by other children, visiting at their neighbours' houses when infected, and the latter playing with the little patients! In one court, to my own personal knowledge, three houses were thus deliberately infected, and in each a young child died.

Every endeavour has been made to check and lessen the epidemic. The distribution of suitable leaflets was considered, but previous experience has shown that they are so much waste paper; and it was also felt that the closure of schools to any extent, in a district like this, would prove of doubtful advantage.

Whooping Cough.—Two deaths, both in children under 2 years of age, were registered from Whooping Cough; 1 in May, and 1 in July. In the previous year 2 deaths were registered, 14 in the year 1909, 17 in 1908, and 23 in 1907.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Sixteen notifications, referring to 13 cases of Diphtheria and 3 of Membranous Croup, were received during the year, as compared with 7 in the previous year, 13 in 1909, and 18 in 1908. In only 6 was bacteriological examination obtained, and of these, 4 gave a positive result, and 2 negative. It is to be regretted that this is not done in every instance, as, in accordance with the provision made by the County Council, no charge is made to the Medical Practitioners or the patients.

Eleven cases were admitted to the Wolverhampton General Hospital under the arrangements made with the Council, and 1 of these died.

The free supply of Anti-toxin for suitable cases is still available, but was only procured in 5 cases. By the courtesy of the Superintendent of Police, it is kept at the Police Station, which of course is always open—day and night.

Diarrhœa.—Sixty-one deaths from Diarrhœa and allied conditions, 53 in children under 5 years of age, 33 being infants under 1 year, and 8 in persons over 5 years of age, were registered during the year, as compared with 25 in the previous year, 24 in the year 1909, 29 in 1908, 28 in 1907, and 42 in 1906. This is equal to a rate of 2·4 per thousand of population.

The following table gives the total of these deaths in each month of the past five years, distinguishing those of infants under 1 year, of children between 1 and 5 years, and those above 5 years. It will be noticed that no less than 47 deaths occurred in the months of August and September.

	1907.				1908.				1909.				1910.				1911.			
	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and upwards.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and upwards.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and upwards.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and upwards.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and upwards.	Total.
January ...	1			1	2	1		3	1			1								
February ...		2		2													1	1		1
March ...																	1			1
April ...																				
May ...													1	1		2				
June ...	1			1	2			2	1			1	4		4	2	2	1	1	4
July ...	1	1		2	2	1		3	3			3	1		1	1	1	1	1	3
August ...	4			4	5			5	2	4		6	2	2	1	5	15	9	3	27
September ...	4	1		5	1	4		5	2	2		4	3	1	4	12	7	1	20	
October ...	9			9	4	1		5	2	2		4	2	5	7	2				3
November ...	1			1	4	1		5	4	1		5	2		2					
December...	1		2	3	1			1									1	1		2
	22	4	2	28	21	8		29	15	9		24	14	10	1	25	33	20	8	61
Rate pr 1000				1·1				1·1				·95				9·9				2·4

The prolonged and extraordinary heat of last summer is responsible for this exceptional mortality from Diarrhœa in young children. It will be noted that three-fourths of the deaths in the whole year from this cause occurred in the months of August and September, and that four-fifths occurred in young children under 5 years of age, and the majority of these were in infants under 1 year.

This is a constant rule that in hot dry weather Diarrhœal diseases increase rapidly, and the fatality falls chiefly upon infants. It is now well-known that Infantile Diarrhœa is largely the result of certain meteorological conditions, associated with a recognised state of the soil. These conditions are—a loose porous soil, charged with organic matter, with a certain degree of moisture and a suitable temperature. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that the soil underneath and around dwellings should be kept free from impurities, by having sewage matter carried away as quickly as possible, and so prevented from soaking into it; emanations from the soil shut off by layers of concrete and proper damp courses, and ample ventilation in and about, and underneath houses.

Other causes at work, particularly in a district like this, are improper and imperfect feeding, want of proper care and cleanliness, especially in the person of the child and the vessels used for the storage and preparation of the food, &c. The mother should, when possible, in every instance nurse her own child, and in other cases cow's milk—modified it may be—should be given for the first eight or nine months of life.

Erysipelas.—Twenty-four cases of Erysipelas, of which 1 ended fatally, were notified during the year, as compared with 17 in the previous year, 15 in 1909, 16 in 1907, and 22 in 1906.

Puerperal Fever.—Three cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year, compared with 2 in the previous year, and 1 in 1909. All 3 died, 2 before December 31st, and 1 after.

Zymotic Diseases.—One hundred and nineteen deaths, 40 being in infants under 1 year of age, and 63 in children between 1 and 5 years, were attributed to the seven principal Zymotic diseases, equal to a rate of 4.1 per thousand, as compared with 32 in the previous year, 91 in 1909, 55 in 1908, and 74 in 1907.

The subjoined table shows the number of deaths from each of these causes (from which it will be seen that all but 7 were due to Measles and Diarrhœa) for the past year, and the previous 10 years, and gives the rates per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Scarlet Fever ...	2	5	8	11		1	8	3	5	2	5
Small Pox ...											
Measles ...	2	20	6	14	1	18	27	5	46	2	49
Whooping Cough ...	27	5	7	10	2	23	7	17	14	2	2
Enteric Fever ...	4	2	3		3	5	1	3		1	1
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup }	6	7	6	1	1	3	3	3	2		1
Diarrhœa ...	64	32	41	59	41	41	28	29	24	25	61
Totals ...	105	71	71	95	48	91	74	60	91	32	119
Rate per thousand...	4.3	2.9	2.7	3.9	1.9	3.7	3.02	2.4	3.6	1.2	4.1

Vaccination.—The returns of the Vaccination Officer are given for 10 years, 1901--1910, and the first half of 1911.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	Half Year to June 30 1911.
Births Registered ...	878	939	895	899	937	899	934	879	831	830	441
Successfully Vaccinat'd	760	838	801	816	825	784	814	703	621	560	290
Insusceptible ...	3	3	1	1		1	2	2	2		
Died Unvaccinated...	91	70	77	56	91	91	92	87	51	52	21
Postponed ...		5		1	4	1	3	6	6	1	
Removed from District	10	13	4	4	1	7	4	6	8	5	8
Certificates of Con- scientious Objectors }	14	10	12	11	12	15	15	74	143	200	118
Unaccounted for ...					4		4	1		1	4
	878	939	895	899	937	899	934	879	831	820	441

The increase in the so-called "conscientious objections" continues to an alarming degree, and is bound to reap a disastrous harvest of victims ready for Small-pox, when next this loathsome disease appears in the country.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—The compulsory notification of inflammation of the eyes of infants newly born—that is of infants under 2 weeks old at the onset of the disease—was decided upon, on my recommendation, and in accordance with the resolution passed unanimously by the representatives of the South Staffordshire Sanitary Authorities, at the conference held in Wolverhampton, on November 4th, 1910, and came into operation on September 16th, 1911. No arrangement has been made for medical treatment or nursing of any case. Three cases were notified before December 31st.

Acute Poliomyelitis and Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—In December, the Clerk forwarded to me a memorandum from the Local Government Board, suggesting the desirability of making these special diseases notifiable in this district, and asking for my observations. The following is a copy of my report thereon :

"The former disease, better known under the name of "Infantile Paralysis," has long been recognised as one generally, though not invariably, affecting children. The muscles of the limbs are more especially affected, and it is now admitted that the disease can be transmitted from one person to another, though its infectivity is very erratic.

"Cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, or "Spotted Fever," have occurred at different times in this country, several having appeared in recent years, and no less than 63 were reported in one outbreak in Swansea, in 1908. It is believed to be less uncommon than many have thought, and is sometimes most difficult to distinguish from certain other diseases. Its mode of spread is not yet fully known, and direct personal contact cannot be ignored.

"These two diseases, owing to possible confusion between them, should be considered together, and it would be advisable to add them both to the schedule of diseases compulsorily notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, at least for a commencing period of two or three years, in order that early notification of their presence could be secured, and prompt steps taken to prevent their spread."

The Council decided, after discussion, to make both diseases (subject to the consent of the Local Government Board) notifiable for a period of two years.

Infectious Diseases (Notification Act), 1888.—During the year 104 certificates were received under this Act (in addition to 32 of Pulmonary Phthisis) and including 3 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, as compared with 84 in the previous year, 117 in 1909, 131 in 1908, and 226 in 1907.

They included 57 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Enteric Fever, 13 of Diphtheria, and 3 of Membranous Croup, 3 of Puerperal Fever, 24 of Erysipelas, and three of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following table shows the number of notifications of each disease received in each month of the year, and also the totals for this and the previous 10 years.

			Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Total
January	...	...					1	2		3
February	...	...		1			1	1		3
March	...	...					4			4
April	...	...		1			2	2		5
May	...	...		4				3		7
June	...	...		3				2		5
July	...	...		7			1			8
August	...	...		9			2			11
September	...	...		9		1	1	4		15
October	...	...	2	18	1	1	1	1		24
November	...	...		4			1	7		12
December	...	...	1	1		1	2	2		7
1911	...	...	3	57	1	3	16	24		104
1910	...	...		48	10	2	7	17		84
1909	...	...		74	7	1	13	22		117
1908	...	...		108	10		18	15		151
1907	...	...		180	10	4	16	16		226
1906	...	...		107	15	3	10	22		157
1905	...	...		50	12		5	30		97
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

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.	TOTAL
January	1	1			1	3
February			2		1	3
March					4	4
April			1	1	3	5
May		1	1	2	3	7
June		1	1		3	5
July	2	2	2		1	7
August	1	2	2	1	5	11
September	2	3	4	3	3	15
October	7	2	1	3	11	24
November	3	2	3	3	1	12
December		2	2	2	1	7
	16	16	19	15	37	104

Infectious Diseases Hospital—At the end of 1910 five patients remained in the Hospital, and 53 were received during the year, 15 of whom were under 5 years of age. Fifty-one were discharged cured after an average period of detention of 49 days, 4 died, leaving 3 in at the end of the year.

From July 7th, 1906, when the present Hospital was opened, to the end of 1911, 413 patients were admitted, (an average of 75 per annum) and only 14, or 3·3 per cent., died. The staff is very small, too small for the size of the Hospital and the number of patients treated, and its members have always shown much self-sacrifice, and have ever been ready willingly to meet extra demands upon their service.

A discharging block and an observation ward require to be added, as well as additional accommodation for the Staff, which should be increased. The Laundry, also, is much too small for its purpose. The County Medical Officer of Health has made an official inspection under the powers given in the Housing and Town Planning Act, but as yet no report has been received.

Disinfecting Apparatus—The disinfecter (high pressure steam) has again been of great service, and has been put into use on 105 separate occasions during the year; 70 beds and 1,436 articles of clothing or bedding having been disinfected.

By the kind assistance of the Surveyor I am enabled to furnish the following particulars with regard to Meteorology, Sewage Disposal, and Water Supply.

Meteorology—The total rainfall for the year ending December 31st, 1911, was 20·82 inches (153 rainy days), as compared with 29·54 inches in the previous year, 25·99 in 1909, 27·67 in 1908, and 28·81 in 1907.

The monthly returns of the rainfall during 1911, recorded by the gauge at the Council's Sewage Works at the Lunt, are given in the following table, together with the averages for the past 10 years.

Month.	Total Rainfall for the month in inches.		No. of days on which rain fell.		Greatest fall in 1 day.
	1911.	Av'ge for 10 years.	1911	Av'ge for 10 years.	1911.
January	·77	1·60	11	14	·30
February	1·59	1·69	14	15	·29
March	1·68	2·08	18	16	·47
April	·95	1·73	8	14	·28
May	·67	2·17	8	15	·36
June	2·06	2·14	12	12	·73
July	·27	1·87	4	10	·14
August	1·94	3·41	9	16	·68
September	1·53	1·77	9	12	·31
October	1·79	3·15	17	19	·26
November	2·43	2·24	18	15	·41
December	5·14	2·65	25	18	·78
Total	20·82	26·50	153	176	

The rainfall for the year, although not the smallest since the records were started in 1902, (1904 total fall 20·60) presents some interesting features.

Practically a quarter of the total rain fell in December. Absolute droughts occurred from June 1st to June 15th (15 days), and from July 3rd to July 18th (15 days), all dates inclusive.

There was a partial drought (mean fall not exceeding ·01 per day) from March 18th to April 24th (37 days), from May 4th to June 16th (44 days), and again from July 1st to August 1st (32 days), all dates inclusive.

The maximum rain recorded was in 1903	...	35·05 inches.
„ minimum „ „ „ „ 1904	...	20·60 „

The Sewage Disposal Works.—The results obtained at the works throughout the year have been very satisfactory, and the County Medical Officer of Health in his last report writes, “the new works at Bilston and Wednesbury continue to yield satisfactory results.”

Below is a copy of Mr. E. W. T. Jones's latest analysis. The samples were taken at intervals of 6 hours, and then mixed in order to represent a fair average. The weather had been dry for 8 days prior to taking the samples.

17th July, 1911.

CERTIFICATE to Bilston Urban District Council.

SAMPLE OF “Tank and also Filter Effluent, taken at 6 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., and midnight, sample mixed, submitted by Mr. Turner on the 12th instant.”

		TANK.	FILTER.
		(Parts per 100,000)	
Total Solid Matter dried at 212° F.	...	174·0	177·0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	3·174	0·465
Albuminoid	...	0·207	0·224
Nitric	...	0·0	2·0
Combined Chlorine	...	55·0	56·0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	..	1·391	0·119
Appearance	...	slightly turbid	clear
Suspended Matter	...	5·20	none
Smell	...	slight	none
Incubation Test	...		satisfactory
Percentage of purification on Albuminoid Nitrogen	..		88·4
„ „ „ „ Oxygen absorbed	...		91·5

I consider these effluents quite satisfactory.

(Signed) E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.

It was found advisable to re-level the surface and the distribution pipes on three filters, and the remainder will require attention this year. It would appear that the original filling had settled in places, and so the distribution became very uneven.

The quantities of Lime, R.V.O., and Alluminoferrie used during the past three years, and also the number of Sludge Tanks emptied, are given here.

		Lime	Oil	Alluminoferrie	Tanks emptied
1909	...	354 tons	3,566 galls	5 tons	238
1910	...	290 „	2,748 „	6 „	163
1911	...	280 „	2,640 „	7 „	160

The Lime consumption for 1911 averaged 15.34 cwts. per day.

These figures show that heavy Lime consumption means, in addition to the extra cost of the Lime, increased quantities of sludge to pump, and consequently heavier fuel accounts. The 160 Tanks of Sludge emptied is equivalent to about 25,600 cubic yards of liquid sludge, or $4\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons (4,330,000). In the drying areas this sludge reduces its bulk to about one-seventh.

A most satisfactory feature in connection with these works is that the only apparent result of the increase in the water carriage system is an improvement in the effluent.

When the works were first put into full operation early in 1908, the number of W.C's and W.W.C's was about 600, whilst since that time there has been an increase of about 1,000.

The Sewers.—Sewer flushing has been carried out at regular intervals by means of the vans and automatic tanks, and 274,000 gallons of water have been used.

The Storm Overflow Manhole in Queen Street has been reconstructed with the object of obviating some of the flooding on the Oxford Street cellars. The result is not yet entirely satisfactory, and I propose to lower the sill somewhat.

A New Storm Sewer has been constructed for a length of 62 yards, instead of an open ditch on Ward's land, near Hall Park Brewery, Messrs. Ward's Trustees contributing one-third of the cost.

A considerable number of the old sewers have been traced and indicated with levels on the Ordnance Sheets.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply is constant, and continues to be most satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The total amount of water pumped during the year was 290 millions, an increase over the previous year of 15 millions.

The Trade Consumption shews an increase, being $81\frac{3}{4}$ millions against 74 millions last year, increase of $7\frac{3}{4}$ millions. About $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions of this increase is due to the Schools and Public Houses having been on meter for the full period.

The following figures shew that the increase is chiefly in Bilston, whilst Coseley shewing a small increase has not come up to the 1908 total.

		BILSTON		COSELEY
1908	...	45,849,000	...	14,282,000
1909	...	50,639,000	...	13,049,000
1910	...	59,782,000	...	13,672,000
1911	...	66,879,000	...	14,128,000

The gradual reduction in the water taken by Messrs. Tupper's since 1908, which terminated in the closing of the works, has been a serious loss to the undertaking, as the following figures will shew.

Messrs. Tupper's Total Consumption :—

1908	...	6,086,000
1909	...	4,108,000
1910	...	2,342,000
1911	...	893,000

The greater part of this loss is on the Coseley side.

The consumption for Council purposes shews an increase over last of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, accounted for by the hot dry summer, which greatly increased the amounts required for Street Watering and Baths.

The Domestic Consumption, which includes all unmetered supplies and waste, shews an increase of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, which is equivalent to an increase of '38 gallons per head per day, making the total average domestic consumption 15'71 gallons per head per day.

Excrement Disposal.—During the year 313 water closets were substituted for 138 vault privies, 155 midden privies, and 49 pans or pails. 403 houses have been provided with water closet accommodation ; 65 ashpits were abolished and 100 further ashbins introduced. At the end of the year there were still in use 1090 privy middens, 1122 vault privies, and 805 pans.

The substitution of water closets for these abominations is being hastened as much as is possible without the Council giving financial assistance to the owners, and great advantage will follow. The provision of a Refuse Destructor is still a necessity.

The Council, having decided to take over the work of Scavenging and the removal of house refuse, applied to the Local Government Board for permission to obtain loans for the erection of a Depôt and the purchase of the necessary plant. An enquiry

was held on November 3rd by Dr. Brightmore, one of the Board's Inspectors, and the necessary authority, was subsequently obtained. Plans and specifications have since been prepared by the Surveyor, tenders received, &c., and the arrangements are now well in hand for the work to commence in June next.

New Streets and Buildings.—The following private streets have been taken over by the Council: Myrtle Street, Holcroft Street, Lewis Street, and part of Ashley Street. New Tarmac footways have been laid in several streets, and tar-spraying, which was recommended some years ago, was, I am glad to be able to report, introduced during the year. A total area of 19,860 square yards were sprayed at a cost of less than a penny per yard, and towards this the Road Board made a grant of £63. The spraying, undoubtedly, decreased the nuisance from dust considerably, and an application has been made to the Road Board for a further grant towards the cost of work during next summer, and a Tar Spraying Machine has been ordered by the Surveyor.

The following buildings and drainage plans (68 in number) have been deposited in the Surveyor's office, and approved by the committee.

- 9 plans for 21 new houses, including 20 water closets
- 46 „ of drainage of 154 houses, including 130 water closets
- 1 „ addition to house
- 7 „ additions and alterations to works
- 5 „ miscellaneous

Thirty-five new dwelling houses have been completed during the year, and certified by the Surveyor as fit for human habitation; these were executed under his supervision and in accordance with the bye-laws.

Workshops, Bakehouses, Dairies, &c.—These have all been regularly visited during the year, together with the lodging-houses, slaughter-houses, market, &c.—particulars will be found in the statement of the Inspector attached to this Report.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.—Application was made to the Local Government Board to issue the necessary order, or orders, for putting into force certain sections of this Act, enumerated in my Report for last year, and after certain enquiries and correspondence the Board has agreed substantially to issue the order which it is expected will soon be in force.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.—This Act marks the beginning of a new era in the housing of the people, and recognises, for the first time in this country, that there can be no satisfactory housing—at least for the poorer community—without

sufficient preliminary street and town planning. By this Act it is now made possible for the people, through their representatives, to have a voice in the method in which towns and districts shall be laid out, and be developed and housed in the real sense of the term.

Notwithstanding this, it must be recognised that the abolition of existing slums will require much time, for while new areas can be dealt with at once, those already built over can only be dealt with gradually. Bilston is not, and never can be, a modern town, and the difficulties in the way of real progress in the matter of proper housing are almost insuperable. Many depend upon economic causes, for the people in many instances have not the means to pay even moderate rents for small self-contained houses, and if displaced from the dwellings they now occupy (on the ground of insufficiency or over-crowding) they would be driven to join other families, and so increase the evils we are anxious to remove. These people occupy largely the older and poorer houses, which, on hygienic grounds, ought to be closed, and yet to close them would only add enormously to the difficulties of a very difficult position. Many, it must regretfully be admitted, make no attempt at cleanliness in themselves, their children, or their houses, and have no real sense of decency. They would soon make even a new house filthy and unfit for habitation.

In April, the Sanitary Inspector was, upon my recommendation and in accordance with the views of the Local Government Board, appointed by the Council as the person authorised to make inspections, under my supervision, under sub-section 1 of section 17 of the Act, and of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, of the Local Government Board. The work of inspection is proceeding, and a permanent record of the condition and sanitary arrangements of the dwellings has been commenced. Reports have been presented to the Council recommending the closure of certain houses for human habitation, many of which will require to be subsequently demolished—the details will be found in the Inspector's statement appended to this Report. It will suffice here to state that during the year

14	houses	have	been	closed	by	the	owners	voluntarily	
55	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	after	notice
14	"	"	"	demolished					
10	"	are	in	process	of	demolition			
307	"	have	been	repaired					

Last year I expressed particular gratification that, owing to the generosity of a well-known local family, a Public Park has been presented to the town for all time. The first half of the park was formally opened by Lady Hickman on June 17th, and the work of laying-out the remainder has since been continued. The total area available for the people is just over 12 acres, and I earnestly hope that a portion of the addition will be set apart for the particular benefit of the children—by the formation of a play-ground, the erection of suitable and safe swings, and the laying out of sand beds for their special use.

In my Annual Report for the year 1902, I said "it is to be regretted that we have no open space or recreation ground where the children can play games and the older people assemble, instead of spending all their spare time in the streets." This regret can never be repeated—for the Hickman Park will prove an inestimable and permanent boon to the inhabitants. It contains a shelter and fountain provided by the Coronation Committee.

Medical Inspection of Elementary Schools and Scholars.

The Medical Inspection of children in the elementary schools has been carried out by me as School Medical Officer, and the value of the work is apparent. The amelioration of the various defects discovered is becoming urgent, for it is surely a waste of time and money merely to make a record of them, and recent indications point to early assistance by grants from the imperial exchequer to those authorities who carry out the work thoroughly, and to the satisfaction of the Board of Education.

Some idea of the gigantic importance of this work in its entirety, and the enormous advantages that will follow to the nation when it is in full and continued operation, may be gathered when we remember that according to a white paper, issued by the Board of Education, the total number of children on the admission registers of public elementary schools in England and Wales on Oct. 1st, 1909, was 6,090,357, which on the corresponding date of 1910 had fallen to 6,084,314. The figures for 1909 comprised 2,843,196 boys in England and 227,881 in Wales (including Monmouth), while the girls numbered 2,795,859 and 223,421 respectively. In England the greatest number of girls were aged between nine and ten, these numbering 306,723, whilst in Wales (and Monmouth) the majority, 25,629, were aged between five and six. The greatest number of boys in English schools, 321,356, were aged from six to seven, and in case of Wales (and Monmouthshire) the figure was 16,174.

The total number of boys and girls in the public elementary schools of England on October 1st, 1910, respectively were

2,837,970 and 2,791,910, and in the case of Wales (including Monmouth) they were 229,471 and 224,963. In England the ages of the majority of the boys, 310,067, were between seven and eight, and in Wales they numbered 25,961. The greatest number of girls in English schools were also between seven and eight, these numbering 312,138. In Wales (and Monmouth) the majority, 25,542, were aged from six to seven. In England and Wales only eight boys and fifteen girls were seventeen years old and over.

Vital Statistics.—The population of the district at the census of 1911 was 25,681, being an increase of 1,647 over the census of 1901. The area is 1867 acres, and the rateable value about £83,000. The length of roads in the district is 22.986 miles, by 5.210 main roads, 14.363 other roads, and 3.413 private streets.

The population for 1910 was taken at 25,000, and for the middle of 1911 at 25,200—this, in the absence of any definite method of calculation, proved a fair estimate. The general district rate is ~~4s. 8d.~~ ^{4/11}, and the poor rate ~~2s. 8d.~~ ^{5/4} in the pound.

Births.—825 births, 417 males and 408 females, were registered during the year, being a decrease of 5 on the previous year, and giving a birth-rate of 32.5 per thousand. The following gives the number of births, male and female, for the past 3 years.

	1911.			1910.			1909.		
	Males.	F'ales.	Total.	Males.	F'ales.	Total.	Males.	F'ales.	Total
First Quarter	111	118	229	116	101	217	107	102	209
Second „	99	113	212	113	113	226	106	105	211
Third „	110	76	186	92	93	185	96	84	180
Fourth „	97	101	198	102	100	202	109	117	226
	417	408	825	423	407	830	418	408	826

Table showing the number of Births and Birth Rates for the decade 1901—1910.

Year.	Males.	Females	Total	Av'ge per 1000 of Population.
1901	456	425	881	36.5
1902	442	492	934	38.7
1903	444	451	895	36.9
1904	465	434	899	37.07
1905	456	481	937	38.5
1906	446	433	899	36.8
1907	453	481	934	38.1
1908	446	436	882	35.2
1909	418	408	826	32.7
1910	423	407	830	32.1
Yearly Average 1901-10	444	444	890	32.6
1911	417	408	825	32.5

For the purpose of comparison, the birth-rate of the whole country and of Staffordshire Urban and Rural Districts, for the same years, 1901—1910 are added, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and of the large towns in England.

Districts.		1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Staffs.	Combined Urban & Rural	32·8	34	32·5	32·5	31·0	30·9	29·7	30·3	28·3	27·7
	Urban	34·1	35	33·4	33·7	32·0	31·9	30·9	31·4	29·0	28·7
	Rural	29·5	31·3	30·1	28·4	27·1	27·2	25·7	26·7	26·2	25·1
England & Wales ..		28·5	28·6	28·4	27·9	27·2	27·0	26·3	26·5	25·0	24·8
Large Towns in England ..		29·5	30	29·7	29·1	28·2	27·9	27·0	26·9	25·7	25·0
Bilston		38·8	38·7	36·9	37·07	36·8	38·1	35·2	32·7	32·1	32·5

It will be noticed that the birth-rate continues to decline, in agreement with general experience throughout the country, and is of grave significance.

Deaths.—During the year 410 deaths in the district were registered from all causes, 214 males and 196 females, being an increase of 78 upon the previous year, and giving a death-rate of 15·9 per thousand of the population. The average yearly number of deaths in the district for the decade 1901—1910 was 435, and for the last half of that period 422. In addition 43 deaths of residents occurred in the Workhouse, 27 in the Hospital, and 5 in the Asylum. Six persons who died here belonged to other districts (to which the deaths have been transferred), thus raising the net deaths belonging to this district to 479, and the rate to 18·6 per thousand.

With the exception of the preceeding year the death-rate is the lowest recorded, and this notwithstanding the exceptional mortality in infants and young children from Diarrhœa and Measles.

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

1911.			Total	Under	1 and	5 and	15 and	25 and	65 and
	Males	F'ales.	at all	1	under	under	under	under	up-
First Quarter	47	39	86	24	2	2	2	34	22
	32	32	64	16	6	2	1	22	17
	58	62	120	43	24	6	4	24	19
	77	63	140	21	52	8	4	32	23
	214	196	410	104	84	18	11	112	81

Table of Deaths classified according to disease, distinguishing deaths of children under 5 years of age, for the past 10 years.

YEARS.	AGE.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not 'spasmodic')	Whooping Cough.	Cont'd. Fevers				Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Diseases of Alimentary Organs.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pycemia.	Puerperal Fever.	Phtisis.	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.																									
1902	Under 5		20	4	4	2	5				23				2				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			
1905	Under 5		1			1	2				7	30							4	54	1	4			113	217	429	17.5
	5 upwds.								3		2	3						16	53	21	19		2	93	212			
1906	Under 5		15	1	3		23				21	16							7	58	1	6			112	263	490	20.0
	5 upwds.		3						5		2	2			1			28	45	17	20		6	98	227			
1907	Under 5		26	2	1		6				26								7	45		5		1	111	230	455	18.5
	5 upwds.		1	6	2		1				2				1		2	18	44	21	17		4	106	225			
1908	Under 5		5	2	3		15				29				1				4	56	1				103	219	408	16.3
	5 upwds.								2									12	66	10			4	94	187			
1909	Under 5		46	4	2	1	13				24				2				1	43		6		1	67	210	427	16.9
	5 upwds.						1											15	47	20	14		6	113	217			
1910	Under 5		2	2			2				24								2	16	1	5			83	137	332	13.1
	5 upwds.								1		1							18	47	18	15		5	89	195			
1911	Under 5		43	4			2				53								9	27	1			1	48	188	410	18.6
	5 upwds.		6	1							8				1			21	44	7	9		8	117	222			

For the purposes of comparison, the death-rate of the whole county, and of 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.		1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Staffs.	General	17	15·8	15·3	16·4	15·4	15·2	14·7	14·6	15·3	12·6
	Urban	17·6	16·3	15·8	17·2	15·9	15·8	15·2	15·0	15·8	12·8
	Rural	15·4	14·4	13·5	14·4	13·5	13·0	12·9	13·1	13·5	12·4
	England and Wales ...	16·9	16·3	15·4	16·2	15·2	15·4	15·0	14·7	14·5	13·4
Large towns in England ...		17·7	17·4	16·3	27·1	15·7	15·9	15·4	14·9	14·7	13·4
Bilston		20·7	21·7	17·6	18·9	20	18·5	16·3	16·9	15·7	15·9

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

Year	Males.	F'ales.	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 up- wards
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
1904	250	210	460	198	64	7	8	109	74
1905	217	212	429	172	45	7	16	105	84
1906	233	257	490	161	102	17	19	115	76
1907	232	223	455	163	67	14	11	116	84
1908	214	194	408	145	74	8	9	97	75
1909	225	202	427	118	92	13	13	111	80
1910	176	156	332	98	39	14	13	97	71
Yearly Average 1901-1910.	227	208	435	153	70	12	14	108	76
1911.	215	195	410	104	84	18	11	112	81

Uncertified Deaths.—No death occurred not certified by a Medical Practitioner or the Coroner, and this has been our fortunate experience now for nine consecutive years.

Diseases of the Respiratory System.—87 deaths were registered as due to diseases of the respiratory system, 17 being in infants under 1 year, and 12 in children above 1 and under 5 years of age. In the previous year 63 deaths from these causes were registered, 90 in the year 1909, 123 in 1908, 93 in 1907, and 103 in 1906. 13 occurred in the first month of the year, and 11 in the last.

Tuberculosis or Consumption.—30 deaths, 2 being in children under 5 years of age, were attributed to pulmonary consumption; and 10 more cases, 5 of which were in children under 5 years of age, to other tuberculous diseases.

The notifications received were 32 in number, 17 under the Tuberculosis Regulations of the Local Government Board, 1908, and 15 under the Tuberculosis (Hospital) Regulations, 1911.

In the campaign against Tuberculosis the year 1911 will always stand out with special distinction, for three events destined to have far reaching results, and which indeed will, in all probability, make in a comparatively short period of time, this a rare disease.

The Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911, compel all Medical Practitioners to notify every case occurring in his public or private practice to the Medical Officer of Health for the district, and the effect upon the work of the Public Health Department will, directly or indirectly, be practically doubled. The existence of every case will thus be known as soon as the diagnosis is made, and the conditions under which it exists, or has developed, the need for advice, description of premises, &c., recognised.

The Finance Act of last year set apart no less than 1½ million pounds for providing "or making grants in aid to Sanatoria and other institutions for the treatment of Tuberculosis, or such other diseases as the Local Government Board, with the approval of the Treasury, may appoint"; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed a strong and influential committee to investigate and report upon this disease, and the various methods of dealing with it.

The National Insurance Act has met, and still meets, with much keen criticism on many points, but all agree in commending the provisions relating to Tuberculosis. The Act provides the sum of 1s. 4d. per year for every insured person, and the Local Authorities concerned must see that this money (which of course is in addition to the million and a half sterling in the Finance Act) is used to the best advantage in treating, preventing, and eventually stamping out this scourge. The Sanatorium benefit, like the sickness and disablement benefit of insured persons not members of approved societies, will be administered by the Local Insurance Committees, under regulations to be made by the Commissioners, and may include treatment in Sanatoria or other institutions. The arrangements may be made with persons or with local authorities (other than Poor Law Guardians), and the latter are definitely empowered to provide treatment for insured persons resident within or without their area. This treatment will no doubt include nursing and general care of the patients, necessary medical attendance (including appointment of officers for the purpose if so authorised by the Local Government Board), the provision of outdoor shelters, the further use of health visitors, preventive propaganda, &c., the arrangements to be subject to the approval of the Insurance Commissioners. The Institutions and the treatment outside (*e.g.*, the foundation of Tuberculin Dispensaries or

Clinics, which are of great value) must be such as meet with the approval of the Local Government Board.

Under the Act Bilston will have a "District Committee," with a "District Medical Committee," which must be consulted on general questions affecting the administration of medical benefits, when these and other points will no doubt be considered. The death-rate from Consumption among the members of Friendly Societies is reported to be 19 per thousand members; and it is estimated that in England alone there will be practically ten million insured persons.

The County Medical Officer has recently suggested the use of the Con-joint Small Pox Hospital at Moorcroft (which fortunately has not yet been required for its original purpose) for the treatment of Phthisical patients for a short period, say for 6 weeks, in order to "educate" them in hygienic conditions, healthy habits, to teach them the absolute necessity of light, rest, and fresh air, and the "open window." Such patients on their return home should be kept under supervision, be provided with suitable shelters, proper nursing and attendance. Bilston has agreed to join the scheme, and to pay for the use of six beds when occupied by Bilston residents. Power should be given to compulsorily remove incurable cases from insanitary surroundings to the Sanatorium, or other places provided for them, as is done with other infectious diseases; this, because they constitute a grave danger to the community, and especially to the other inmates of the dwelling, and also for their own sake.

The Principal of the Royal Veterinary, Professor Sir John McFadyean, has estimated that 20 per cent. of the adult cows in England are tuberculous and the Royal Commissioners, on the subject in their report, insist that milk from tuberculous cows is responsible for tuberculous diseases, other than the pulmonary form. It would seem, therefore, that one of the first things to be done is to stamp out this disease in cattle, set up a proper system of dairy inspection with a thorough supervision of the milk supply. It has been stated that every human being is predisposed to tuberculosis, and that if infection occurs in the first year of life the disease will appear sooner or later, with a fatal termination in the great majority of cases, and that if infection occurs after the first year of life it usually remains quiescent.

Infantile Mortality.—109 children died, (104 in the district and 5 outside, but belonging to it) in the first year of life, as compared with 98 in the previous year, 118 in the year 1909, 145 in 1908, and 168 in 1907; this gives an infantile mortality for the past year of 130·5 per thousand registered births.

Table giving the births, deaths, infantile deaths, &c., for each of the five Wards of the town for the past year, (the population of each Ward cannot be added as the details of the census are not yet available).

	Area (in Acres)	Popula- tion. Census 1911.	Births	Deaths	Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Deaths from Diarrhœa	Deaths from Pulmonary Tubercu- losis	No. of No- tifications of Enteric Fever.
Whole Town ...	1867	25681	825	410	104	62	21	1
New Town Ward	289	Details	216	126	28	29	7	
High Town Ward	115	not	149	80	25	11	5	
Town Hall Ward	520	yet	146	74	13	6	4	
Bradley Ward ...	499	known	162	55	19	8	2	
Ettingshall Ward	444		152	75	19	8	3	1

Reference to Table IV shows that of the 109 children who died under one year of age, 32 died in the first month of existence, and 20 in the first week. No less than 13 died from premature birth, and 14 more from congenital defect; these, therefore, never had a chance. 24 illegitimate children were born during the year, of whom 5 died—a large and significant proportion.

While the general death-rate throughout the country has been steadily declining during the past two generations, there has been no corresponding diminution in the mortality of infants under one year. As a rule the greater the density of population, especially when associated with industrial conditions, the greater the mortality.

The causes of infantile mortality have been fully discussed in previous reports, and are now generally recognised as largely social and associated with the question of "a living wage." The real causes are chiefly centred in two factors—the nature of the food of the child, and the income of the parents, and therefore the diet and nutrition of the mother. If the mother is healthy, well-fed, and comfortably housed, and can, and does, nourish her own offspring, the chance of the infant in the first year of life is increased 3 or 4 times. Nothing can take the place of the mother's milk—neither "babies' homes," nor municipal depots, nor sterilized milk—and it would indeed be wiser and more economical to feed the child through the mother. In some Continental cities, such as Brussels, Paris, and Ghent, this is done. In Paris, a "Nursing Mothers' Restaurant" has been founded, the only claim for admission to which is the carrying of a child. To assist and

strengthen nursing mothers, to educate the poorer classes in the wisest means of spending their money, and to co-ordinate all charitable efforts would prove to be a general gain, and is becoming a national necessity.

In this connection it is not too much to expect that the maternity benefits of the Insurance Act will help mothers to give their infants a better start in life. The further hope of the country must be in the girls of the present and the next generations—they should be trained in the schools in cookery—in that kind of cookery they will need in their future homes.—in domestic economy, and in the proper methods of rearing and feeding infants, and their management generally. For instance, such lessons should teach them the importance of cleanliness in everything—that the larder should be clean and well-ventilated; flies prevented from touching any kind of food; that feeding bottles should be boat-shaped, have no tubes, and be always clean; that food should be given in definite quantities and at stated hours; that teats or “dummies” are abominations, (biting a bone ring may be allowed); that fresh air is essential, and suitable easy-fitting clothes important.

The following is the report of the Health Visitor, Miss Weller. “During the year 1,657 official visits have been made to the homes; of these, 753 were primary and 904 were further visits. 713 infants were at that early stage being naturally fed, 24 hand-fed, and 16 partially hand-fed. The importance of regular feeding, bathing, and proper clothing for the infants, was emphasised; and also the necessity for the mothers to have suitable diet. Weakly babies and cases of suspected neglect were kept under supervision. At the second, or further visits, advice was given as to weaning, suitable foods, and need for exercising care during the teething of the infants. In 32 cases the children were still-born. There has been a prevalence of infant diarrhœa during the past summer, often due to carelessness in not protecting food from flies; and also owing to the use of “dummy teats,” which are always condemned.”

As previously stated Bilston is not, and never can be, a modern town, and we shall always suffer for the short sightedness and false economy, and want of sanitary knowledge shown by an earlier generation. It is therefore neither fair nor reasonable to compare it with districts of more recent growth; yet on the whole, progress during the past year—even if slow—has been satisfactory. During the year 410 deaths were registered, while the average yearly number in the decade was 435. 104 infants under 1 year died, being 49 less than the average of the previous ten years. The zymotic death-rate was heavy, largely due to the exceptionally hot summer causing much diarrhœa among children.

The National Insurance Act, 1911, provides for the appointment of Insurance Committees in Counties and County Boroughs, and gives them—and other bodies—among other powers, authority (clause 63) to allege, if they think fit, excessive sickness in any district to be due to bad housing, insanitary conditions, or to neglect on the part of sanitary authorities, and to apply to the Secretary of State or to the Local Government Board for an enquiry. The person holding such enquiry, if satisfied of this, will have power, under certain conditions, to apportion blame and to penalise local authorities or owners of property for neglect, and to award costs. Apart from the possible contamination of public water supplies, and as a result, the appearance of an epidemic of enteric fever, it seems to me, with our present knowledge, practically impossible for such a thing to be scientifically determined; and further, no method is known to me by which the standard of "average of expectation of sickness" in any locality can yet be reasonably fixed. Further, the decision of "the competent person" is final!

This provision, while it may increase general interest in public health, will bear heavily upon the older and poorer districts, with low rateable value, stationary population, and limited financial means. Friction is likely to follow any attempt to put it into operation, and the anxieties and difficulties of Medical Officers of Health will be enormously added to.

The tendency of legislation in recent years has been, not merely to largely increase the actual work of the Medical Officer of Health, but also to add greatly to his responsibilities in many directions, without providing for any commensurate remuneration. This is generally admitted, particularly by members of local authorities and others who have special knowledge.

For the last 15 years my salary as Medical Officer of Health has been £100 a year, or, as half is refunded under the regulations of the Local Government Board, *£50 only from the town*; yet during that period many Acts of Parliament and orders of the L.G.B. have come into operation, all adding greatly to the duties of the officer. Among others.

The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1900 and 1903.

The Public Health Act's Amendment Act, 1907

The Notification of Birth Act, 1907, (including the direction and supervision of the work of the Health Visitor).

The Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order.

The Notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The Tuberculosis Orders of 1908 and 1911; and, above all,

The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

In addition, the order of the Local Government Board making the Notification of Tuberculosis universal, and specially subject to the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, came into force on

New Year's Day. The Board, it was shewn, have also on recent occasions indicated their views that increased remuneration was justly due for these extra duties, and were prepared to assent thereto, and thus allow the *half of any increase to be returned annually to the ratepayers.*

Further, the salary as Medical Attendant at the Fever Hospital was fixed, *19 years ago*, by the then Board of Commissioners, when the old Hospital, consisted of two small cottages containing only 14 beds, and when the yearly number of patients in the previous 5 years averaged 48, at £50 per annum, *to include the supply of all medicines.*

In 1905 a new Hospital on another site was erected, with 26 beds, and the number of patients increased to an average per year of no less than 72 for the 5 years following its opening. The usual period of detention for each case is over 7 weeks; and in 1907 no fewer than 124 were admitted. The cost of medicines, too, has in this period enormously increased with other general charges.

These facts, with regard to both offices, were placed in writing by me before the Council, in December, in an application for an increase of salary. This was postponed for a month for consideration; and a list of salaries paid in similar areas, showing that Bilston paid less than the average, even in neighbouring districts of Staffordshire (such as Sedgley, Coseley, Willenhall and Stafford) was also furnished; together with other towns where advances had recently been granted for the increased work. In January, after further discussion in committee, the question was again postponed for a final decision at the Council meeting to be held on the 28th inst.*

Appended are the Tables required by the Local Government Board, the Home Office, and the County Council; together with a statement by the Sanitary Inspector, giving details of his work since his appointment a year ago, particularly with regard to the Housing and Town Planning Act. During the greater part of the year we have had the help of an Assistant Inspector of Nuisances, who has done a good deal of useful work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

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

Medical Officer of Health.

Bilston,

March 16th, 1910.

*At the Meeting of the Council on this date the proposal to grant even a small increase was refused.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT OF BILSTON
DURING 1911 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in District				Deaths of Non- residents registered in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.				Num- ber.	Rate 1,000
		Number	Rate per 1000	Number	Rate per 1000 Births regist'd	Number	Rate per 1000				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1906	24,300	899	36.8	161	170	490	20.0		80	570	23.3
1907	24,400	934	38.1	163	179	455	18.5		59	514	20.9
1908	24,500	882	35.28	145	167	408	16.3		57	465	18.6
1909	25,000	826	32.7	118	142	427	16.9		64	491	19.4
1910	25,200	830	32.1	98	118	332	13.1		66	398	15.7
1911	25,681	825	32.5	109	130.5	410	15.9	6	75	479	18.6

Rates in columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres—1,876.

Total population at all ages—25,681.

(Exclusive of Area covered by water).

(At Census of 1911).

Number of inhabited houses— } Details
Average number of persons per house— } not yet
furnished

Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—South Staffs. Conjoint Board Small Pox Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:—

- (1) Wolverhampton General Hospital.
- (2) Union Infirmary.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

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

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE II. VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1911 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				NEW TOWN WARD.				HIGH TOWN WARD.				TOWN HALL WARD.				BRADLEY WARD.				ETTINGSHALL WARD.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
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
1904	24,250	899	460	198	5,594	224	113	56	5,256	175	92	39	5,050	184	94	34	4,240	159	83	29	4,110	157	78	40
1905	24,300	937	429	172	5,615	241	124	52	5,271	189	78	33	5,060	190	90	42	4,240	151	69	24	4,141	165	68	21
1906	24,400	899	490	161	5,660	228	162	60	5,301	186	95	29	5,070	152	93	27	4,240	160	76	25	4,129	173	64	20
1907	24,500	934	455	163	5,690	219	131	53	5,326	185	85	27	5,090	176	96	26	4,255	155	69	27	4,139	199	74	30
1908	25,000	882	408	145	5,840	202	120	36	5,476	162	71	21	5,190	186	63	21	4,255	163	88	34	4,239	169	66	33
1909	25,200	826	427	118	5,905	222	126	35	5,541	153	74	21	5,235	150	69	16	4,255	143	77	20	4,264	158	81	27
1910	25,200	830	332	98		224	106	35		147	61	16		149	53	13		149	52	17		161	60	17
1911	25,681	825	410	104		213	126	28		152	82	25		146	72	13		145	55	19		169	75	19

The population of each Ward cannot be given as the details of the Census (1911) have not yet been received.

Table III. Table of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year 1911.

Table II. Table of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year 1911.																			
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases notified in each locality					No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality					Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	5 to 15 Years	15 to 25 Years	25 to 45 Years	45 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
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	16		5	4	2	4	1			3	1	1	11						11
Erysipelas ...	24			4	3	11	5	1	2	4	5	9	4						
Scarlet Fever ...	57		12	35	9	1			11	9	12	3	22						53
Enteric Fever ...	1			1									1						1
Puerperal Fever ...	3					3			2		1								
Phthisis { Under Tuberculo- sis Regula- tions, 1908. Under Tuberculo- sis Regula- tions, 1911.	17			1	1	8	7		6	1	3	3	4						
	15			4	3	5	3		5	3	5	2							
Ophthalmia Neon- atorum ...	3	3							1			2							
Totals ...	136	3	17	49	18	32	16	1	27	20	27	20	42						65

Isolation Hospital, Mountford Lane. Total available beds, 24. No. of diseases that can be concurrently treated, 1.

Table IV. Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

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 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	New Town Ward.	High Town Ward.	Town Hall Ward.	Bradley Ward.	Ettingshall Ward.
Enteric Fever	1				1									
Measles	49	7	16	20	6									
Scarlet Fever	5			4	1									
Whooping Cough	2		2											
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	1			1										
Epidemic Influenza	10			1			2	5	2					
Erysipelas	1							1						
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)...	30			2		4	14	10						
Tuberculous Meningitis	6	2		2	2									
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4		1		2			1						
Cancer, malignant disease... ..	17				1		2	9	5					
Bronchitis	41	10	5		1		2	9	14					
Broncho-Pneumonia	9	3	2	2	1		1							
Pneumonia (all other forms)	27	4	2	1	2	2	6	6	4					
Other diseases of Respirators organs	10						3	4	3					
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	61	33	14	6			3	2	3					
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1					1								
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver) ...	2						1		1					
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	12			1			2	6	3					
Puerperal Fever	3					1	2							
Other accidents & diseases of Preg- nancy and Parturition	4					1	3							
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature birth ..	41	41												
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	10		1	1			5	3						
Other Defined Diseases	130	9	6	2	5	2	8	31	67					
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	2							1	1					
Totals	479	109	49	43	22	11	54	88	103					

TABLE V.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.

Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1. Common Infectious Diseases.										
Measles							1	2	4	7
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
2. Diarrhoeal Diseases.										
Diarrhoea, not tuberculous, all forms						5	5	4	6	20
Enteritis, Muco-ent's., Gastro-ent's.						2	4	4	3	13
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh										
3. Tuberculous Diseases										
Tuberculous Meningitis							2			2
Tuberculous Peritonitis :)										
Tabes Mesenterica (.. .. .										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
4. Wasting Diseases.										
Premature birth	10	1	1	1	13					13
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	7	3	2	2	14	5	1	6	2	28
Congenital defects										
Injury at Birth										
Want of Breast Milk										
5. Other Causes.										
Erysipelas										
Syphilis	1	1			2	1				3
Rickets										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)								1	1	2
Convulsions	1				1	1	2			4
Bronchitis	1		1		2	3	2		3	10
Laryngitis										
Pneumonia							2		5	7
Suffocation, overlying										
Other causes										
	20	4	4	4	32	17	19	17	24	109

Nett Births in the year 1911

legitimate	813
illegitimate	24

Nett Deaths in the year 1911

legitimate infants	104
illegitimate infants	5

TABLE VI.—URBAN DISTRICT OF BILSTON. PHTHISIS: SANATORIUM AND HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Classes for which accommodation is provided.	<p>By whom provided.</p> <p>Where situated.</p> <p>Total number of beds.</p> <p>How are patients selected.</p> <p>Are patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer.</p> <p>What charge, if any, is made for the use of beds.</p> <p>Do the Sanitary Authority use (1) Their Isolation Hospital, or (2) Their Smallpox Hospital for cases of Phthisis.</p> <p>Do the Sanitary Authority reserve beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium? If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium?</p> <p>Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable Open-air Shelters or Tents?</p>
(a) Early Cases	<p>No accommodation has as yet been provided for Phthisis.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Conjoint Smallpox Hospital should be used for 'educational' purposes.</p> <p>Bilston has agreed to join in the scheme and to pay for six beds if occupied.</p>
(b) Intermediate Cases	
(c) Advanced Cases	

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary? } No.
If so, give particulars

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.
March 16th, 1912.

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

1.—INSPECTION

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	25	1	None
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	249	10	None
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	10		
Total ...	284	11	None

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>				None
Want of cleanliness	15	15		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances..	27	27		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101)	None			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (s. 97 to 100)	7	7		
	50	50		

3.—HOME WORK.

Class.	Number.	
<i>List of Outworkers:—</i>	Number of	
	Lists.	Outworkers
		Residing in our District
Lists received	7	24
Addresses of outworkers {	forwarded to other Authorities	5
	received from " "	1
Inspections of outworkers' premises	21	

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Class.	Number.
Workshops on the Register at the end of 1911.	
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake-houses, viz. :—	
Dressmakers and Milliners	39
Carpenters and Cabinet Makers	18
Bootmakers and Repairers	26
Bakers and Confectioners	28
Miscellaneous	51
Total number of workshops on Register	162

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
<i>Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5):—</i>	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	3
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	3
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—	1
Certificates granted during the year	None.
In use at end of the year	1

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D.,

March 16th, 1912.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

General Sanitary Work.—3717 visits, inspections or re-inspections have been made, including house to house inspection, the investigation of complaints and inspections during the time work was in progress.

Notices served.—The number of Preliminary Notices served on owners or occupiers to abate nuisances was 614. It was found necessary to report non-compliance of these preliminary notices in 108 instances, and as a result 108 Statutory Notices were served; of these latter, 87 have been complied with and 21 are still on the books. The majority of these, however, are in hand, and will be completed shortly. Two summonses for non-compliance with Statutory Notices were issued, and the results, with the results of other legal proceedings, will be found tabulated at the end of this Report.

Complaints.—156 complaints were received and attended to during the year.

Drainage.—30 houses, previously undrained, have been drained and connected to the public sewer. The smoke test was applied to the drainage and plumber work of 7 houses, and the several defects discovered made good. The surface channels of 264 houses have been abolished and covered drains provided. 253 gullies and 198 inspection chambers were fixed in connection with the new drains. 37 choked drains have been opened and cleansed and the drainage of 25 houses, which was defective, has been taken up and relaid.

Privy and Water Closet Accommodation.—Satisfactory progress has been made in connection with the substitution of water closets for foul and insanitary privies. It is now becoming generally acknowledged that the privy is an abomination which should not be tolerated in towns. It is hoped that the year 1912 will see a still greater number of the privies abolished, particularly from the centre of the town. It is not possible to emphasise too strongly the evils connected with these places, and the harm caused by their position in the more crowded parts of the town, forming as they do, ideal breeding places for the fly pests. During the year under review, 403 houses have been provided with water closet accommodation.

- 138 Vault privies have been abolished
- 155 Midden privies have been abolished
- 49 Pan privies have been abolished
- 67 Ashpits have been abolished
- 313 Water closets have been provided
- 111 Dry ashpits have been provided
- 65 Ashbins have been provided

Yards. Sanitary Conveniences used in common.—The condition of yards common to several houses is a matter which requires a great deal of attention. A number of them are unpaved and contain holes forming lodgments for foul liquids. In yards common to a number of houses, the whole surface should be covered with asphalt or some other impervious material. The surface paving of the yards attached to 59 houses has been repaired and improved.

A special effort is being made to ensure that tenants having the use of common water closets should use them in a legitimate manner, and keep them properly cleansed. Posters setting out the provisions of Section 21 of the Public Health Acts' (Amendment) Act, 1890, are provided for pasting on the doors of water closets common to two or more houses, and in cases where fouling has taken place, notices have been served on the tenants responsible.

Housing Inspection.—In April of this year the Council appointed me as Officer to make Inspections, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, under Sub-Section 1 of Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and of the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910, of the Local Government Board. The work of Inspection is being proceeded with, and a permanent record of the conditions and Sanitary Appliances of the houses has been commenced. Reports have been presented to the Council from time to time recommending the closure of certain houses unfit for habitation as follows :

NEW TOWN WARD.

Premises Reported on.	Whether Closing Order issued.	Result.
*Back of No. 5, Chapel Street.	Yes.	Closed.
1, 2, 3 & 4, Noakes' Buildings, Temple Street	Yes.	Closed.
22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 & 34, Free Street	Yes.	Closed.
1, 2 & 3, Court 26, Temple St.	Yes.	Closed.
1 & 2, Court 8, Temple Street.	Yes.	Still Occupied
1, back of 54, Temple Street	Yes.	Closed.
1 & 2, back of 109, Temple St.		Closed and plans and specifications have been presented to put them into habitable condition.

HIGH TOWN WARD.

Premises Reported on.	Whether Closing Order issued.	Result.
21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 & 41, Court 15, Wolverhampton Street	Yes.	Plans and specifications are being prepared to put certain of them into habitable condition and demolish the remainder.
14, Coseley Street	Yes.	Put into habitable condition.
2 & 4, Hospital Street	Yes.	Closed.

ETTINGSHALL WARD

1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 & 15, Ward's Buildings, Wolver- hampton Street	Yes.	Demolished.
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TOWN HALL WARD.

Old Hall Farm, Willenball Rd.	Yes.	Closed.
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BRADLEY WARD.

*73, Salop Street	Yes.	Closed.
75, Salop Street	Yes.	Put into partial repair.
*2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12, Pitt's Buildings, Salop Street	Yes.	Closed.
1, 3, 5, 7, 9, Exchange Build- ings, Salop Street	Yes.	Closed.

The properties marked with a * are under consideration for demolition.

In addition to the above, 14 insanitary houses have been demolished, 79 houses have had repairs done to the plastering and brickwork, 67 houses have been cleansed and limewashed, the roofs of 59 houses have been made watertight, new spouting has been provided, or existing spouting cleansed or repaired in 102 houses.

Overcrowding.—Overcrowding Notices were served on the tenants of 14 houses, and the numbers reduced. Considerable difficulty is met with in dealing with this matter, as a large number of the houses in town are only suitable for very small families.

Public and Private Urinals.—Much cause for complaint has been found to exist in connection with the conveniences attached to the public houses, more particularly with those which are accessible to the public. A special report on this matter was presented to the Council in the month of June, and steps are being taken to abolish a number of these which are in unsuitable situations. The public urinals are cleaned daily.

Slaughterhouses and Meat and Food Inspection.—There are now 24 slaughterhouses on the Register, none of which are subject to annual licence. Eight of these are no longer used as slaughterhouses, and before being used for this purpose again much structural alteration will be required to make them in any way satisfactory.

596 visits have been made to slaughterhouses, and a considerable quantity of meat has been inspected. 15 carcasses of beef were wholly or partially affected with tuberculosis. One whole carcass was destroyed, and in the remaining cases (the disease being localised in character) only the parts affected were dealt with. 1 carcass of pork was found to be affected with tuberculosis and destroyed; 1 carcass of mutton which had been suffocated was also destroyed.

The approximate quantity of meat destroyed was as follows :

Beef diseased or unsound	...	2432 lbs.
Pork ,, ,, ,,	...	114 lbs.
Mutton ,, ,, ,,	...	280 lbs.

The Butchers' Stalls in the Market are regularly inspected. In two cases it was found necessary to institute proceedings for exposing for sale diseased or unsound meat, the results of which will be found tabulated at the end of this report. The meat sold at many of the stalls in the market is of a very poor quality indeed, so much so, that in addition to the proceedings mentioned I have found it necessary to warn the stallholders on several occasions. The various shops at which fish, poultry, rabbits, and fruit are sold have been kept under supervision, particularly during the summer months.

The shops in which fried fish is sold are regularly inspected. When the Public Health Act, 1907, becomes operative in this district, it would be well for the Council to consider the advisability of declaring, according to the powers given under Section 51 of that Act, the business of a "fish fryer" as an offensive trade, under Section 112 of the Public Health Act, 1875. If this is done, and Byelaws were adopted, the work of supervising this common article of diet among the poor would be greatly facilitated.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 48 names on the Register carrying on the trade of Cowkeepers, Dairy-men, or Purveyors of Milk; 13 being cowkeepers and 35 purveyors of milk. Two cowkeepers have given up business during the year, and have been removed from the Register.

Some of the cowsheds in the district are very good indeed, but the remainder leave a great deal to be desired. It seems nearly impossible for some of the cowkeepers to be made to understand that *dirty* milk is far worse than *no* milk, and that clean cows and clean sheds are an absolute necessity for the production of clean

milk. It was necessary, on several occasions, to draw attention to Clause 5 of Regulation 17, relating to the cleanliness of the teats of the cows and the hands of the milkers; in several instances it was found that the cowsheds were overcrowded, and notices were served on the keepers calling attention to this. One notice was served calling attention to a drain opening in a cowshed; six notices were served calling attention to defective floors and walls in cowsheds, and 24 notices were served calling attention to the necessity for limewashing.

It is not possible to emphasise too strongly the importance of purity and scrupulous cleanliness in all things appertaining to the milk supply, and in this connection I am persuaded it would be of considerable advantage to the purity of the milk supply if the Urban Council could make arrangements for a qualified Veterinary Surgeon to make a quarterly examination of the condition of the milch cows in the district.

The milkshops have been regularly visited. It is a matter of deep concern that nearly all the shops registered as milkshops are in reality general shops, in which nearly every commodity required in a household is procurable. One shop even went so far as to include fried fish among the other goods sold, but this department of the business has now been closed. It has been quite common for lamp oil to be sold in conjunction with milk, but I have been able in most instances to prevail on the shopkeepers to make other arrangements for their oil; I have also induced the general practice of covering the milk-bowls with muslin. The time has surely arrived when legislation should step in and insist that all milk-sellers should be licensed annually, and that milk should only be sold in conjunction with dairy produce.

Offensive Trades.—There is one offensive trade carried on within the district—that of Tallow Melter. Everything possible is done to prevent any nuisance, and the premises are situate right on the outskirts of the district—a considerable distance from any dwelling house.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.—74 cases of Infectious Disease were visited and reported upon. 53 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the District Isolation Hospital, and 11 cases of Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever were removed to the General Hospital, Wolverhampton. 68 rooms were fumigated after removal or convalescence, and during the Easter and Christmas Holidays all the public Elementary Schools were thoroughly sprayed with a liquid disinfectant, under my supervision.

CANAL BOATS INSPECTION.

The following is the report of the work done under the Canal Boats Acts 1877 and 1884, and of the Regulations made thereunder during the year 1911.

During the year 49 Boats were inspected. Of these 42 Boats were found to be in a satisfactory condition, but on the remaining 7 were found 9 infringements of the Acts and Regulations.

On the 49 Boats inspected during the year there were 54 men, 47 women, and 54 children.

The Boats generally were found to be kept clean and in good condition. In no case has it been necessary to take legal proceedings.

On all occasions when inspecting Canal Boats, I have received every assistance from the Masters, and in no case has admission been refused.

TABLE VIII.

INSPECTIONS.				
Number of Boats Inspected	...	...	...	49
Number of Boats Conforming to the Acts	...	...	...	42
Number of Boats with one or more Infringements...				7
INFRINGEMENTS WITH REGARD TO:—				
Registration	...	...	...	1
Notification of change of Master	...	...	...	None
Absence of Certificate	...	...	...	3
Certificate not identifying owner with boat	...	...	...	None
Marking	...	...	...	None
Overcrowding	...	...	...	2
Separation of Sexes	...	...	...	None
Females over 12 improperly occupying	...	...	...	None
Cleanliness	...	...	...	1
Ventilation	...	...	...	None
Painting	...	...	...	1
Leaky Cabins	...	...	...	None
Removal of Bilge water	...	...	...	None
Without Pumps	...	...	...	None
Refusal of admittance to Inspector	...	...	...	None
No proper water vessel	...	...	...	1
Without double bulkhead (with offensive cargo)	...	...	...	None
Notification of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	None
Total Infringements met with	...	...	...	9
Total Infringements remedied	...	...	...	7

Common Lodging Houses.—There are 4 Common Lodging Houses on the Register, all of which are regularly inspected. During the year the foul privies attached to two of them have been abolished, and water closets substituted in place thereof. Other sanitary improvements have been effected under notice from this department.

Bakehouses.—The bakehouses are regularly visited; white-washing is carried out systematically in accordance with Statutory obligations of the occupiers. It was, however, necessary on several occasions where the work was in arrear to serve notices pointing this out. One notice was received from H. M. Inspector of Factories relating to the dirty condition of the ceiling of an underground bakehouse, and this received immediate attention.

WALTER G. F. KINGSTON,

*Assoc. Roy. San. Inst., Member San.
Ins. Assoc., Member Incor. San.
Assoc., Scot.*

January 31st, 1912.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TABLE IX.—SANITARY INSPECTOR'S SUMMARY.

Miscellaneous inspections, including common yards and houses inspected after complaints	3717
Visits to Slaughter-houses	596
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	321
Visits to Butchers' Shops	1394
Visits to Fishmongers', etc., Shops	695
Visits to Bakehouses, etc.	166
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	40
Visits to Fat Melting Works, etc.	6
Visits to Market	132
Number of Canal Boats inspected	49
Cases of Infectious Diseases investigated	74
Re-inspections	61
Inspections of Tents, Vans, etc.	33
Sundry Visits	948
Total	8232
Number of Preliminary Notices served	614
„ „ Statutory Notices served	108
„ „ Legal Proceedings taken	4
„ „ Letters written to Owners re nuisances	300
„ „ Notices served under Canal Boats Acts	4
„ „ Rooms disinfected	68
„ „ Reports sent to Schools re Infectious disease	56
„ „ Drains tested	7

NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Filthy Houses cleaned and limewashed	67
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork, or woodwork have been executed	79
Flooded cellars drained or filled in	1
Houses without sufficient means of ventilation, means of ventilation provided	6
Defective roofs made watertight	59
Houses without eave spouting, choked or defective spouting; new spouting provided or existing, cleaned and repaired ..	102
Damp external walls; brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material	16
Dangerous chimneys repaired	25
Houses overcrowded—numbers reduced	14
Houses unfit for habitation demolished	22
Houses unfit for habitation closed	41
Surface of paving in yards provided or repaired	59
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in and repaired, or suitable covers provided	2
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks ..	86
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired ..	87
Absence of, or insufficient drainage; premises drained or connected to sewer	30
Surface channels abolished, and stoneware drains provided ..	246
Defective drainage relaid or repaired	25
Number of Manhole inspection chambers provided	198
Additional gullies fixed	253
Choked drains opened and cleansed	37
Foul cesspools cleansed or abolished	6
Middens abolished	155
Vault Privies abolished	138
Par Privies abolished	49
Dry ashpits abolished and dustbins substituted	67
Water closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies ..	313
Additional ashbins provided	65
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits	111
Choked water closets opened and cleaned	17
Defective water closets, connections made good	11
Foul and insanitary water closets abolished and wash-down closets substituted	2
Nuisances from keeping of Swine abated	9
Nuisances from keeping of Dogs abated	1
Nuisances from keeping of Fowls and Poultry abated	14
Manure pits provided or repaired	4
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	2
Filthy approaches to privies cleansed by occupiers	26
Foul urinals cleansed or removed	10
New urinals provided to refreshment houses	4
Foul accumulations removed	3
Cowsheds cleaned and limewashed	24
Cowshed floors cleaned and repaired	6
Drain openings removed from Cowsheds	2
Improper storage of milk	4
Offal tins with tight fitting covers provided for Slaughter-houses ..	2
Slaughter-house floors taken up and relaid	1
Slaughter-house walls limewashed	39

RESULT OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint.	Act under which Proceedings were taken.	Result.
Stall 29, Market House	Exposing for Sale unsound meat	Public Health Act 1875. (Section 116).	Defendant fined £2. & costs £2 2s. 4d. Total—£4 2s. 4d.
Stall 29, Market House	Exposing for Sale diseased meat	Public Health Act 1875. (Section 116).	Defendant fined £5, & costs £2 13s. 6d. Total—£7 13s. 6d.
26, 28 & 30, Will'hall Rd.	Defective yard paving and wash-house floor; defective quarry sink without waste pipe, defective drainage.	Public Health Act 1875. (Section 94).	Summons withdrawn on Defendant undertaking to do the work in 28 days, and to pay costs 4s. 6d.
73, Dudley St.	Foul slab sink. Foul open drainage.	Public Health Act 1875. (Section 94).	Defendant ordered to do the work within 28 days, and to pay costs 11s. 6d.



