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BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

For the Year 1919,

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

T. Ridley Bailey, M.D., Edin., M. Ch.,

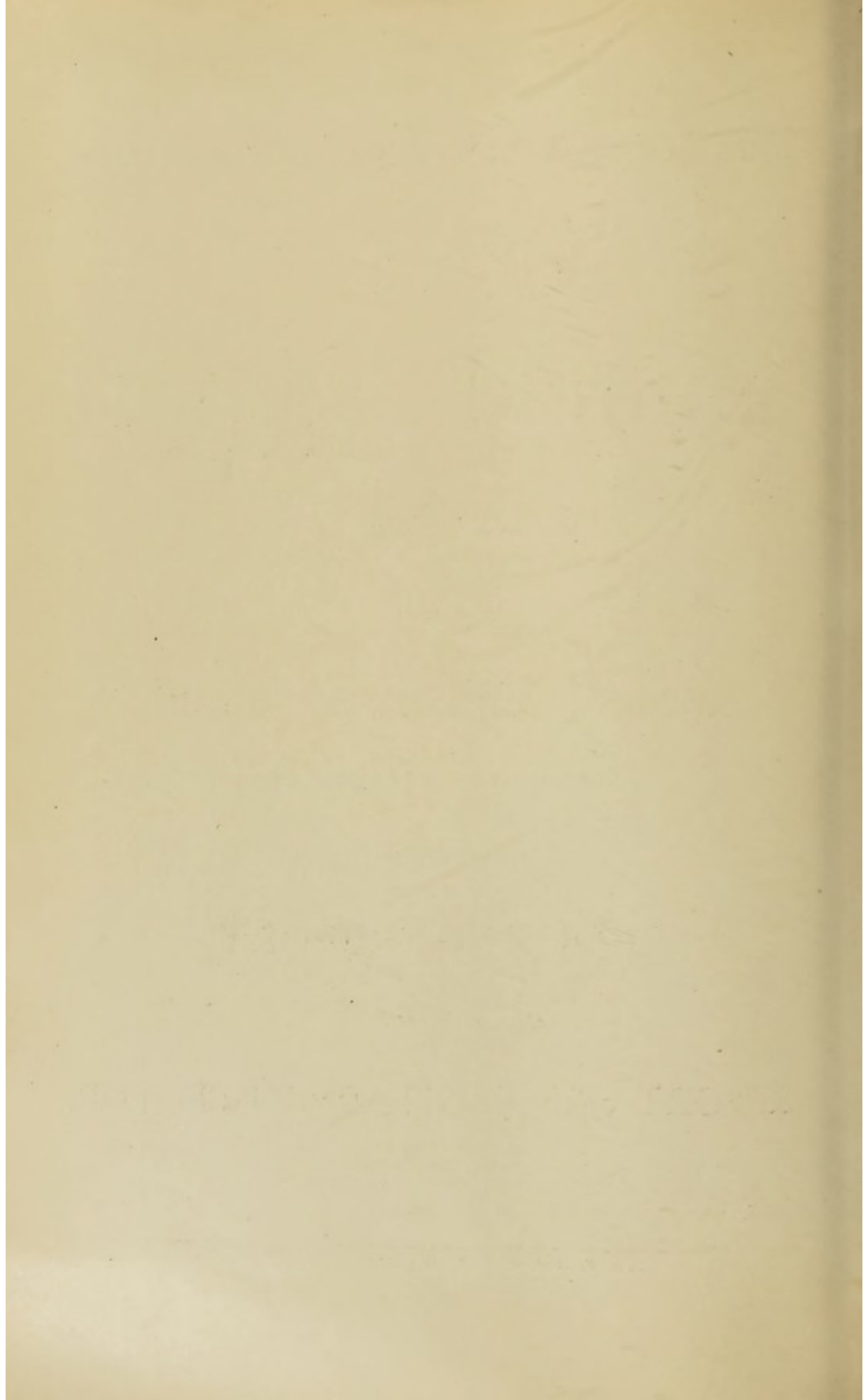
TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

HOUSING REPORT

AND THE ANNUAL

REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR.

(Printed by Order of the Council).



Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present my thirty-third Annual Report on the health of the population, the details of the various health services, and the sanitary condition of the district under your administration. The reports for the last five years had, owing to war conditions, to be considerably curtailed. This Report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health in January of this year, and is therefore much greater in detail than heretofore. It is one of the most important Reports presented to your Council.

POPULATION.

The population at the last Census was 25,681. Owing to the conditions of the past six years it is very difficult to properly calculate the population to-day. From figures supplied by the Food Office the nearest estimate is 27,500. Until the figures of the next Census are available this must be accepted as a fair estimate only.

The Registrar General submits two sets of figures for calculation of the vital statistics. For the birth rate 27,372 and for the death rate 26,276. The first figure includes all elements of the population contributing to the birth and marriage rate; whilst the second excludes all non-civilian males whether serving at home or abroad. These figures are used in estimating the rates in the following pages of this report.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Bilston, situate on rising ground at a height of about 450 feet above sea level, has an area of 1,867 acres; is bounded by the Borough of Wolverhampton, the Urban District of Coseley, the Borough of Wednesbury, and the Urban District of Willenhall. Approximately 50% of the area is occupied by streets and buildings, the remainder consisting chiefly of spoil banks. A great portion of this land is unsuitable for building purposes owing to rises and depressions, but is of great advantage as an open space.

The town occupies a central position in the South Staffordshire coal-field, and is in a shallow syncline or trough having its axis N.W.—S.E., which is roughly represented by the Great Western Railway from the mouth of the Horseley Fields tunnel to Wednesbury. The old outcrop of the thick coal gives a fair indication of the structure, and it runs from Claycroft due north to Priestfield, crossing the G.W. Railway at the Holyhead Rd. bridge, turning at right angles, passing by the cemetery, the Isolation Hospital and the Lunt on to Darlaston. The beds dip inwards towards the town at 5 degrees for a very short distance and then become horizontal, so that over the town area the beds are horizontal and the thick coal a very short distance below the street level. This seam is very characteristic of the South Staffordshire District, and is here developed in its most typical form, especially on the western side, where it consists of ten yards of solid coal, which, however, consists of a series of beds of different kinds of coal with

practically no partings in this district. In other districts, however, substantial partings develop. There are very few faults, the main one being the Lanesfield fault running, while in the district, N N.W.—E.S.E. North of this fault, the seam above the thick coal, viz., the brooch coal is not found, but south of this fault, the outcrop runs parallel and close to that of the thick coal. South of this fault the seams beneath the thick coal also run close to and parallel to that seam, namely, the Heathen, New Mine, Fireclay and Bottom Coals. They are also developed, but not so fully, north of the Lanesfield fault, but on the N.E. limb of the syncline, owing to the very gentle dip of the beds, the Heathen is a quarter of a mile and the New Mine two miles from the thick coal. Intermediate beds have had great commercial value, especially the gobbins, ironstone and the fireclay, but they are not worked now in this part of the district. A small amount of coal mining is still carried on, and the Bradley Lodge Colliery, at the lower end of Oxford Street has given considerable trouble during the year owing to subsidences, following on mining operations, with resultant destruction of houses.

The population is almost entirely working class in character, the chief industries being iron and steel, galvanised iron, tinplate, boiler and hollow-ware manufactures. Much has been done, and is still being done, to improve working conditions, but such trades, heavy and laborious, with constant emission of smoke and debris from the various factory stacks, the dirty condition of the streets due to heavy traffic, and the general standard of housing do not conduce to a high standard of cleanliness or living amongst the inhabitants.

The rateable value of the district is approximately £91,164. The general district rate is 6/- in the pound, the poor rate 7/4, and the water rate 7% plus 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % on the assessed value of the house. The amount spent in relief of the poor during the year ending December 31st, 1919, was £2,608 9s. 4d.

Annual Rainfall.—The following table, kindly supplied by the Surveyor, shows the rainfall for the year 1919.

Month.	Total	Greatest fall		No. of days with .01 or more.
	Rainfall	in 24 hours.		
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
January	2.81	0.43	3	24
February	2.28	0.70	16	8
March	4.98	0.88	19	18
April	1.78	0.36	15	14
May	1.09	0.55	6	8
June	1.26	0.35	12	13
July	3.33	1.97	19	12
August	3.29	0.52	25	13
September	2.03	0.35	4	15
October	2.96	1.04	23	10
November	1.62	0.52	20	17
December	3.76	0.85	22	22

The total rainfall for the year was 31.19 inches and the number of days on which .01 or more rain was recorded 174.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 704, 354 males and 350 females, giving a birth rate of 25·7 per 1,000; of these 33 or 4·8% were illegitimate.

The numbers born in each Ward were as follows.

TABLE I.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Town Hall ...	63	65	128
High Town ...	67	57	124
New Town ...	97	102	199
Ettingshall ...	57	73	130
Bradley ...	70	53	123
	354	350	704

The births for this and the last five years are shown in the Table below. The birth rate for the same period is shown in Table 9.

TABLE II

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1919	354	350	704
1918	329	352	681
1917	332	328	660
1916	404	340	744
1915	388	416	804
1914	428	435	863

Deaths.—During the year 362 deaths were registered as occurring in the district, 201 males and 161 females, of these 9 belonged to other areas. In addition 87 deaths of residents, 53 males and 34 females, occurred in other districts. The total deaths registered for Bilston was 440, 246 males and 194 females, giving a death rate of 16·74 per 1,000.

The ages at which the deaths occurred were as follows :—

Under one year of age	...	104
One to two years	...	20
Two to five years	...	25
Five to fifteen years	...	24
Fifteen to twenty five	...	10
Twenty five to forty five	...	59
Forty five to sixty five	...	91
Sixty five years and upwards	...	107

The details of the various deaths are as follows :—

TABLE III.

	Males	Females
Measles	8	4
Diphtheria and Croup		1
Influenza	18	15
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	12
Tuberculous Meningitis		1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	13	16
Meningitis	1	
Organic Heart Disease	19	11
Bronchitis	23	18
Pneumonia (all forms)	42	30
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	4	12
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver		1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	7	3
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever...		3
Congenital Debility, &c.	27	16
Violence, apart from Suicide	1	5
Suicide	2	1
Other Defined Diseases	55	39
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	2
Total deaths	246	194

TABLE IV.

(This Table is inserted for the purpose of comparison).

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purpose of this Table).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3			
London	18.3	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2			
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000).	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8			
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000-50,000).	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5			
Filston	23.7	16.74	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.23	22.7	18.6	96.5	3.35	0.15			

The number of deaths for each Ward is shown below :—

TABLE V

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Town Hall	31	33	64
High Town	46	24	70
New Town	45	40	85
Ettingshall	42	35	77
Bradley	29	28	57
Out of District	53	34	87
	246	194	440

The deaths, and death rate, for this and the last five years are as follows :—

TABLE VI.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1919	246	194	440	16.74
1918	280	243	523	22.62
1917	249	192	441	17.83
1916	228	221	449	18.24
1915	274	235	509	20.18
1914	245	217	462	17.59

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year 1914 deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving a rate of 148 per 1,000 births.

The following table shows the deaths of children under one year of age in each ward, and table 8 the causes of death and the age periods at which they occurred.

TABLE VII.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Town Hall	10	8	18
High Town	16	3	19
New Town	12	14	26
Ettingshall	10	9	19
Bradley	4	10	14
Out of District	5	3	8
	57	47	104

TABLE VIII.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total deaths under 1 year.								
		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.
Measles	3								3
Enteritis	13					2	5	3	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	1						1		
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1					1			
Premature birth	28	19	6	1		2			
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	14	8	1		1	4			
Convulsions	2	1				1			
Gastritis	3					1	1		1
Bronchitis	10		1			3	3		
Pneumonia	18						5	8	5
Suffocation	1	1							
Other causes	10			2				3	5
TOTAL	104	29	8	3	1	14	15	17	17

This shows the number of deaths during the first month of life to be 41, 29 of which occurred during the first week, 8 during the second, 3 during the third, and 1 during the fourth.

For purposes of comparison the following Table, showing the birth rate and infantile mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales and this district, is submitted.

TABLE IX.

	Birth Rate per 1,000.		Infantile Mortality.	
	England.	Bilston.	England.	Bilston.
1913	24.1	33.97	108	155
1914	23.8	32.1	105	142
1915	21.9	31.87	110	154
1916	20.9	27.66	91	134
1917	17.8	23.94	96	145
1918	17.7	26.28	97	115
1919	18.5	25.7	89	148

The average yearly birth rate for the whole of England and Wales for the years 1900—1918 was 25, and the average infantile mortality rate 119.8. For Bilston 33.3 and 160.8. It will be seen that the birth rate for Bilston for this period is 8.3 and the mortality rate 42 above the average.

Water Supply.—The water is derived from deep Artesian wells at the Bratch, being pumped from the wells there to the reservoir at Goldthorn Hill, thence to the town by gravitation. The supply is constant and of excellent quality. Its only fault being its high degree of hardness, the greater portion of which is of a temporary character.

The only houses not supplied with town water are a group of isolated cottages between Millfields Road and Hall Park Street, and cottages on the mounds on the east side of the town. In this district too there are a large and varying number of caravans. Both these supplies are from springs. Samples taken in each case show the water to be free from pollution. The following certificate has been kindly furnished by the County Analyst (Mr. W. T. Jones, of Wolverhampton).

Copy.—Sample of water ex tap in basement of Town Hall.

		Grains per gallon.
Total Solid Matter dried @ 212° F.	...	30.52
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	0.0015
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0030
Nitric Nitrogen	...	0.60
Combined Chlorine	...	1.82
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours @ 80° F.	...	0.006
Colour through 2 feet	...	very pale bluish tinge
Appearance	clear	
Hardness before boiling	...	15.68°
Hardness after boiling	...	6.20°
Temporary hardness	...	9.48°
Bacteriological Examination		Organisms per C.C.
On gelatine @ 20°C.	...	38
On agar-agar @ 37°C.	...	2
“ “ “ 37°C. acidified and phenolized	...	1

The water is still organically excellent and of the usual quality.

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

October 11th, 1919.

Rivers and Streams.—There are only two small streams in this area, both liable to pollution from factories and also subject to regular inspection by the County Authority.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The greater portion of the town is sewered with the exception of houses at Moxley and Cross Street, Bradley. These require immediate attention. The sewerage of the former place was sanctioned by the Local Government Board in 1912, but owing to mining subsidence, and later to war conditions, the work was postponed. This area contains 97 houses and is on the main Birmingham Road, 47 of the houses drain into cesspools, or on to the fields at the rear, and the remaining 50 by open channels to the main roads. The channels in all cases are defective and the general condition so bad as to demand prompt remedy.

The Cross Street area contains 22 houses. These are drained by open channels to the street gutter. In addition there are a large number of houses in the neighbouring district of Coseley draining into the same street. Further, a large number of houses on Parkfield Road and the adjoining streets drain to the street channel. This gives a length of open drainage of approximately 700 yards in close proximity to the Bilston area. An agreement for sewerage exists with the Coseley Council, and this condition therefore should be dealt with without delay.

Approximately 40 houses within reach of the sewers are not connected. This work has been postponed owing to war conditions but is now being dealt with. The drainage of many houses is defective or insufficient. The Sanitary Inspector's Reports for the years 1913—1914 show that 350 new drains were laid during that period, but little in this direction has been done since. The work is now to be proceeded with as rapidly as the present staff will allow.

The Sewage Disposal Works at the Lunt continue to give satisfaction.

Closet Accommodation.—The number of privies at present in the district is 1185, and the number of water closets 2928. Further details will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector. The number of water closets in 1908, when the new sewers were laid, was estimated to be 600. The Sanitary Inspector's reports for the years 1913-1915 show that 1078 water closets were fixed, and 980 privies abolished during that period. This work also had to be held up during the war period and the present prohibitive cost prevented the work being carried on during 1919. The Council have not adopted Sec. 39 of P.H.A.A.A., 1907, and is now considering the question of part payment towards the cost of conversion. Every effort to rid the town of privies, the dangers of which to the public health cannot be over emphasised, should be made; and even part payment of the cost now will in the end prove to be true economy and of the highest value to the community.

The provision of one water closet for each house should be compulsory. There are at present 350 blocks of property having use of water closets in common and considerable difficulty is experienced in keeping these in order. It is usually impossible to fix the blame upon the offending occupier.

Scavenging.—This work is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Surveyor. Frequent complaints are received and the present arrangements cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Much of the difficulty is due to the varying types of receptacle, i.e., ashbins, ashpits, privy middens, privy vaults, and pail privies, which are in use. Covered tank carts are used for the collection from the vault and pail privies. The pails are not cleansed after emptying. The remainder of the collection is by means of a large motor lorry. The contents are frequently emptied on to the footpath and the bins placed in the street to await the arrival of the lorry. The result often is that these accumulations are disturbed by children and dogs and scattered broadcast by the wind. This objectionable practice has been reported on in previous years and should be discontinued. No blame attaches to the Surveyor, but the system should be altered and new methods devised.

The number of houses drained to cesspools is approximately 150, and these are emptied by, or on behalf of, the owner.

The number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles, as shown by the reports of the Sanitary Inspector for the last six years, is 320, and the number of ashbins provided to replace those which had become dilapidated 334.

Materials being urgently needed for the manufacture of munitions

few bins were replaced during the later years of the war. To remedy this an inspection of the district was commenced at the end of 1919, and considerable improvement will, it is hoped, be made during the current year.

Sanitary Inspection of District.—A statement of the number of premises visited, defects and nuisances discovered and action taken will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector which is attached to this report.

Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

The premises affected are as follows—Common Lodging Houses 5, Cowsheds 5, Milkshops 39, Slaughterhouses 15, and offensive trades, 23.

The Council have adopted the following Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Bye-laws for the regulation of offensive trades.

Bye-laws with respect to common lodging houses.

Bye-laws with respect to slaughter-houses.

Regulations with respect to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops.

Bye-laws for the prevention of nuisances arising from Snow, Filth, Dust, Ashes and Rubbish, and the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health.

Regulations for preventing Waste, Undue Consumption, Misuse or Contamination of the Water Supply.

Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings.

Bye-laws with respect to the Bilston Cemetery.

Bye-laws with respect to Markets and Fairs.

The Council should adopt the Bye-laws controlling the occupation of tents and vans. This was recommended in the report for the year 1914. There is a group of 10 vans in a yard at Coseley Street, and a group of tents and vans varying from 35 to 50 on the mounds in the neighbourhood of Stowheath. The dwellings are occupied by persons of the gipsy class who, except for brief intervals in the fruit picking season, spend their time hawking home-made articles in this and neighbouring districts. The vans in Coseley Street have a supply of town water and sanitary accommodation consisting of pail privies. The dwellings at Stowheath are without sanitary accommodation or water supply.

Other Conditions requiring notice.—In November complaints were received of the prevalence of rats at various food shops in the centre of the town and at the Market. Rats were also prevalent at the Sewage Works and there was no doubt that they were gaining access to the infested premises from the town sewers. In December the Sanitary Inspector, following instructions from the Council, had poison provided in various parts of the town. Virus was laid at all premises known to be infested and in the sewer manholes in the centre of the town. A large amount of bait was taken but the results, so far as known, were unsatisfactory, and it is proposed to carry out a more vigorous campaign in the early part of 1920.

The need for united action by all local authorities is urgent. In addition to the enormous financial loss caused by rats the menace to health is well known, and the probability of conveying disease is most serious.

Schools.—The sanitary condition of the schools is fairly satisfactory, but more attention should be given by the caretakers to the regular cleansing of the schools and particularly to daily flushing and cleansing of the sanitary conveniences. There is a lamentable evidence of gross indifference in these matters, and neither the Education Committee nor the School Managers seem to exercise proper supervision in this direction, nor to realise their responsibility, to the children and the public. It is futile to preach cleanly habits to the scholars when instances of dirt and filth are allowed to exist in their presence without attempt at correction. The head teachers should be given more direct control over the caretakers and should receive the support of the School Managers in dealing with deliberate and repeated instances of neglect. Only in this way can proper discipline be maintained and thorough cleanliness continually secured.

Milk Supply.—The average weekly amount of milk sold, as shown by figures supplied by the Executive Officer is 4,376 gals. Of this approximately 900 is produced locally, and 3,476 gallons received from farms outside, chiefly in Shropshire. Approximately 450 gallons is sterilized milk. The average consumption is only 18 pints per head per day, largely due no doubt to the high cost of milk. The amount consumed is far less than is desirable. A large amount of tinned condensed milk is used, the low sugar ration probably accounting for this to a large extent.

Milk contains all the nutritive constituents required by the body, i.e., proteins, fats, and carbohydrates in a form which can be readily assimilated. In addition fresh milk contains special growth producing substances known as vitamins. The importance of milk to all classes of the community, and more especially to infants and young children cannot be over estimated.

The best food for the young is the milk of the mother. Other milk, whilst possessing similar chemical composition, gives less satisfactory results as regards health and power of resistance to disease.

Sweetened condensed milk contains a large amount of sugar, of different type to that present in fresh milk; has a high proportion of carbohydrates as compared with other food elements, and its general use for the feeding of infants under ordinary conditions should not be encouraged. When breast feeding is impossible full cream condensed milk may be used for short periods. It has the advantage of being produced under hygienic conditions, the disadvantage being that in its preparation certain vitamins are destroyed.

The conditions under which ordinary milk is prepared and sold in this district compares favourably with other areas. Milk is so readily contaminated that the greatest possible care is necessary to keep it in clean sweet vessels and in well ventilated places.

The need for a pure and wholesome supply of milk is of vital importance, and only by scrupulous cleanliness and care at every stage of its production and distribution can this be maintained.

The existing powers under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders proved to be largely ineffective, hence the passing of the Milkshop and Dairies Act of 1914. This Act was suspended until after the war. It is

hoped that the new regulations which will no doubt be issued when the Act again becomes operative will lead to considerable improvement.

Milk (Mothers and Children's Order) 1918.—The Council decided to take action under the above Order in necessitous cases, but owing to the general high wages earned in the area, it has been necessary to provide milk at a reduced price in a few instances only.

Other Foods.—The work of food inspection is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, who holds the Certificate for Meat and Food Inspection. There is no public Abattoir in the area, and the arrangements now existing are described in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act—The County Council is responsible for this work and the following details for the year have been kindly furnished to me by the County Analyst, Mr. Van Tromp.

Samples taken in the Urban District Council of Bilston, year ending December 31st, 1919—

Nature of Article.	Number.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Remarks.
Milk	64	52	12	See a. b. c.
Arrowroot	1	1		
Coffee	1	1		
Lard	1	1		
Mustard	1	1		
Pepper	1	1		
	—	—	—	
	69	57	12	

- (a) One case against retailer. Fined £: 10s. and costs, and one case against wholesaler fined £5 and costs.
 (b) Four cases against retailers dismissed on Warranty. Five cases against wholesalers, fined £15 and costs.
 (c) One vendor cautioned.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

The following are details of the infectious diseases notified during the year:—

Measles—The number of cases notified was 526 as compared with 35 last year and an average of 384 for the last four years, 201 cases were notified by the parents and schools, and 265 by Medical Practitioners. All cases were visited by the Health Visitor and suitable advice given. There were 12 deaths. The children were excluded from school in accordance with the Memorandum of the Board of Education.

Scarlet Fever.—25 cases were notified as compared with 45 last year and an average of 36 for the last seven years. These cases occurred in 21 houses, 22 were removed to hospital and 3 isolated at home. There were no return cases.

Diphtheria.—The number of cases notified was 12 as compared with 4 last year and an average of 11 for the last seven years. The cases occurred in 10 houses, 9 were removed to the Wolverhampton General Hospital, and 3 isolated at home. One case proved fatal.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Local Police Station and are immediately available for any Medical Practitioner who applies.

Puerperal Fever.—One case notified as compared with 1 case last year and an average of .35 for the last 7 years.

Erysipelas.—Two cases notified as compared with 2 last year and an average of 7.5 for the last 7 years.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—10 cases were notified during the year as compared with 3 last year and an average of 4.8 for the last 7 years. Details of these cases will be found in the report of the health visitor.

Small-Pox.—There were no cases of Small-pox during the year nor for many preceding years. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health. Isolation of possible cases is provided for under the scheme of the South Staffordshire Con-joint Board.

Pneumonia.—This is the first year that notification of this disease was required, 50 cases were reported; 72 deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) were registered.

Malaria.—Eight cases were notified. These were visited by the Inspector and found to be recurring cases in men discharged from the army. Most of them were not severe in character.

The following Table shows the infectious cases notified during the year

TABLE X.

	TOTAL	TOWN HALL WARD.	HIGH TOWN WARD.	NEW TOWN WARD.	ETTINGSHALL WARD.	BRADLEY WARD.
Measles	270	35	23	93	66	53
Scarlet Fever	25	7	4	1	11	2
Diphtheria	12	6	3	2	1	
Puerperal Fever	1			1		
Erysipelas	2		1	1		
Ophthalmia	10	1	1	6	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	49	5	9	18	6	11
Tuberculosis (other forms)...	9	2	1	4	1	1
Pneumonia	50	8	13	15	3	11
Malaria	8	2		2	1	3
	436	66	55	143	90	82

For the purpose of comparison the following table is submitted:—

TABLE XI.

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (other forms)	Pneumonia	Malaria	Enteric Fever
1919	526	25	12	1	2	10	45	9	50	8	
1918	35	45	4	1	2	3	42	4			
1917	700	29	12	1	3	2	52	11			1
1916	276	36	14	1	4	2	66	13			2
1915		46	9		21	3	67	14			1
1914		44	16	2	7	3	57	13			7
1913		28	10		14	11	75	25			2
Average for 7 years ...	*384	36	11	.86	7.5	4.8	58	12.8			1.8

* 4 years only

Tuberculosis.—All cases notified are visited by the Health Visitor who gives suitable advice and reports the details of her investigations to the County Authority. Sanitary defects in the home are reported to the Sanitary Inspector and as far as possible defects in the home conditions are remedied. The environment of many of the cases is deplorable and until further houses are available general improvement cannot be expected.

During the year 64 notifications, affecting 54 cases, were received. Of these 37 were primary notifications and 27 secondary from Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions, and Sanatoria. Of the cases notified 45 were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 9 from other forms. The average number of cases notified for the last 7 years is 70.

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) during the year was 35, giving a death rate of 1.3 per 1,000 of the population. The following table shows the age, sex, and parts of body affected.

Localisation of Disease.	Under 1 year.		1 & under 2 years.		2 & under 5 years.		5 & under 15 years.		15 & under 25 years.		25 & under 45 years.		45 & under 65 years.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lungs ...					2	2	5	6	1	7	11	9	1	1
Glands ...							1							1
Bones & Joints ...												1		1
Abdominal ...							1	2						
Brain ...		1												
Skin ...														1
Total ...		1			2	2	7	8	1	7	11	10	2	3

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT, 1919.

The following is the report of the Health Visitor (Miss K. E. Silverides), on her general work, and also on the work of the Infant Welfare Centre:—

The number of births registered for the year is 704. Of these 650 were visited. The visits are made as soon as possible after the Doctor or Midwife has finished. The mother is advised on the care and feeding of her baby and on the necessity of daily baths and proper clothing. Fortunately most babies are naturally fed at least for the first month. Stress is laid upon the advantages of this form of feeding, and the mothers are encouraged to continue it. At the first visit special enquiries are made as to the home conditions. There is a great amount of over-crowding and the mothers are told of its physical and moral disadvantages, and also of the value of fresh air and cleanliness in the home and its surroundings. Sanitary defects are notified to the Inspector, 224 defects being notified during the year.

Re-visits.—1497 re-visits have been paid during the year to infants under one year of age. All cases are re-visited to inquire into the progress of the baby, to note any change made in its diet, and to give advice on the same. The unsatisfactory cases are given special attention by frequent re-visits. There is a great tendency, either wholly or partly, to artificially feed

the infants after the first three months. Where possible the mother is persuaded to naturally feed her baby longer, but if this cannot be done she is guided in her choice of a suitable food. While fresh milk is the best artificial food for an infant, owing to the lack of keeping accommodation in so many of the houses, it cannot be recommended. It is impossible, through lack of time, to give these infants all the attention they need as it is only by frequent and systematic visiting that good results can be obtained.

89 visits have been paid to children between the ages of 1 to 5 years; also when visiting the baby the Health Visitor is often asked for advice on the care of the older children.

Comforters.—Most of the children are given a dummy and though the mothers are repeatedly told of its dangers very few of them can be persuaded to give the use of it up.

Cots.—There are very few babies in this district who sleep in a cot, and in some cases not only the last baby, but the previous baby, sleeps with its parents. Lack of accommodation is often responsible for this, but in some cases it is due to the indifference or ignorance of the parents.

There have been 10 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year. In all cases both eyes were affected. Five of these cases attended the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, and one case (with its mother) was an in-patient for a fortnight. Five cases were slight and were attended at home by the family doctor. One infant died when 22 days old. In one case the District Nurse was called in to carry out the instructions from the Hospital, and in another case, owing to the absence of the district nurse, the Health Visitor visited the home several times a day for a fortnight. The sight of one child only is permanently injured and this injury is confined to the right eye though both eyes were affected.

There has been one case of Puerperal Fever notified during the year. This was the case of an unmarried mother who was confined in the Workhouse Infirmary. She recovered and came home and is now at work.

Number of visits paid to other infectious diseases :—

Measles	...	497
Tuberculosis	...	161
Mumps	...	99
Chicken Pox	...	2

There was an epidemic of Measles during the early months of the year, and visits were paid to all reported cases. Advice, and, where necessary, practical instruction, was given to mothers on the care of the patient and the prevention of the spread of the disease. Several of the mothers wait for the visit of the Health Visitor before calling in a doctor but on her advice will send for him.

During the year 161 visits have been made to Tuberculosis cases, 43 being new cases. The over-crowding prevalent in the district, and the lack of suitable accommodation for shelters, retard the work of prevention of the spread of this disease.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every Monday afternoon from 2

o'clock to 4 o'clock. The mothers bring their babies for advice. At the end of the year there were 385 names on the register, 150 being new members during the year. The number of attendances during the year was 2,057, giving an average weekly attendance of 44.8. A percentage of 88.9 of the mothers made 20 or more attendances, one mother making 43 attendances. Several of the mothers only attend once, while others come only when the babies are not well, and when asked why they have not been say: "Baby was allright so I did not think it necessary to come."

The babies are weighed and each mother is given advice. Special attention is paid to the feeding of the infants, as this is the most important factor in the well being of the children. The mothers are impressed with the advantage of natural feeding, and where the mothers have followed the Doctor's advice in this matter the babies have developed into fine healthy children. When the babies are artificially fed advice is given on the best foods, and, as these can be obtained at the Centre at the time the advice is given, it ensures the babies having the best kind of food.

The Sewing Class is held on Thursday afternoons from 2.30 to 4 o'clock. There were 22 names on the register at the end of the year. Some of the members are expectant mothers, and they are preparing their clothes on the methods taught at the class. Having the materials and patterns at the class is very instructive to the mothers as they see the garments cut out and are shown how to make them. The mothers either take work from home or do some for sale at the Centre. A short talk is given by the Health Visitor on health subjects, specially relating to children and the home.

This report of the Health Visitor not only shows the value of her work, both generally and at the Centre, but indicates the need for further developments. The Ministry of Health has for some time been asking for an extension of this work, pointing out the need for a second Health Visitor. It is hoped that in the near future this appointment will be made so that, in addition to ordinary Health visiting and attendance at the Centre, it will be possible to keep under more constant supervision infants for a longer period and also to give more adequate attention to cases of Measles, Ophthalmia, etc. The engagement of the present school nurse, by resolution of the Education Committee, is to terminate three months after the signing of Peace, and this, with, it is hoped, in accordance with the suggestion of the Board of Education, the engagement of two school nurses, will lead to active co-ordination of work between the School Medical Service and the Public Health Department.

It is to be regretted that the tenancy of the present Centre is to be terminated shortly. The Centre was fitted up at considerable expense and is very suitable for the purpose. The chief drawback is that it is frequently most indifferently heated, a state of things that should not be allowed in an Infant Centre.

It will be difficult under existing conditions to find another available building where the work of the Centre and that of the School Clinic can be combined in a satisfactory manner.

Hospital accommodation available for Infectious Diseases.

The Council have their own Hospital for the admission of Scarlet

Fever. Cases of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever are removed to the Wolverhampton General Hospital, by arrangement on an agreed scale of payment.

The number of cases admitted to the Bilston Hospital during the year was 22, males 7, Females 15. The age of the youngest patient was $2\frac{1}{2}$ years and of the elder 15 years. The average period of detention was 53 days and the number of cases remaining in on December 31st, 1919, 6. The Disinfectant (high pressure steam) has been used on 24 occasions and 244 articles disinfected.

Arrangements for Bacteriological Work.

The Staffordshire County Council have an arrangement with the Authorities of the Birmingham University for free Bacteriological Examination of the secretions in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and Tuberculosis. The following have been sent during the year :

9 suspected cases of Diphtheria		
Result—Positive	...	3
Negative	...	6
11 suspected case of Tuberculosis		
Result—Positive	...	1
Negative	...	10

Local Acts and General Adoptive Acts in force in the District.

Bilston Commissioners Water Act, 1893.

Bilston Improvement Act, 1896.

Public Health Act, 1890.

Public Health Act Amendment Act (certain sections) 1907.

Private Streets Works Act, 1852.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1850.

HOUSING REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1919.

The Ministry of Health require that a special report dealing with the Housing conditions shall be submitted, and this, the first Report on Housing conditions is prepared in accordance with their memorandum issued in January last.

General Housing Conditions.—The number of houses in the district is 5414, 4517 of which are working class dwellings, consisting of :—

1. 201 single storey cottages, containing 2 to 4 rooms, and let at weekly rentals of 3/- to 4/6.
2. 215 houses with 1 room on ground floor and 1 room on upper floor, and let at weekly rents of 2/- to 2/6.
3. 985 houses with one room on the ground floor and 2 bedrooms let at rentals of 2/6 to 3/- weekly.
4. 81 houses with 1 room on the ground floor and 3 bedrooms, let at weekly rentals of 2/3 to 3/6.
5. 2054 houses with 2 rooms on the ground floor and 2 bedrooms, let at 3/6 to 4/6 weekly.
6. 904 houses with 2 rooms on the ground floor and 3 bedrooms, with weekly rentals of 5/9 to 6/9.
7. 77 houses with 2 rooms on the ground floor and 4 bedrooms, let at 7/- weekly.

Staff Engaged on Housing Work.—The staff engaged on the work of inspection consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector who is the Officer appointed under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. His duties are to make detailed inspections, keep all records, issue and follow up notices. The following is his report to the Medical Officer of Health.

Extent of Shortage of Houses.—The number of houses with 2 rooms on the ground floor is 2,054, approximately 15% of these rooms cannot be correctly described as living rooms, the second room in many cases being too small for the occupation of the tenants and being used as a scullery or place for storing lumber. The number of houses with more than one bedroom is 4,101 but approximately 3% of these cannot be used as bedrooms, owing to various defects as lack of sufficient light, ventilation, etc. The number of working class houses without private sculleries is 2,592.

These figures are taken from the housing survey carried out in September last and may be subject to some amendment. A complete detailed inspection of the district is necessary and the local authority are required by section 17 of the 1909 Act to make a continuous survey. The number of houses inspected during the years 1913 to 1919 was 1,716, but this work cannot be done to the satisfaction of the Ministry until additional assistance is provided.

No new houses were built during 1919, but the erection of 38 was commenced by the District Council in December last. The total number of houses erected during the years 1910-1919 was 123; 24 annually for the years 1910-1914, 3 during the years 1915-1918, and none in 1919.

The estimated population in October 1919 was 27,500, and enquiries from the principal firms in the district indicate that a general increase in the number of persons employed is expected. Large numbers of employees working in the district are compelled, owing to house shortage, to reside in neighbouring areas.

The number of persons per house at the 1911 census was 4.86, at this time there were 220 void houses. Adopting the factor of 4.5 persons per house, the number of dwellings now required is 6,011. The number of occupied houses, at present, is 5,414 showing a deficiency of 697. In addition there are 796 houses which for various reasons must eventually be demolished and 404 back to back houses which should be made into through houses. The demolition of the former and the conversion of the latter would mean a reduction of 998 or a total shortage of 1,695 houses.

In July last, a Colliery firm commenced to work for coal at the lower end of the town, in close proximity to a number of houses. Their actions soon had effect on the property in the vicinity of the workings, when the owners of the affected houses sold them to the Colliery proprietors, who gave the tenants notice to quit and worked under the dwellings without any regard to the safety of the occupiers. Several families obtained rooms with other persons, thus adding to the existing over-crowding, whilst the remainder continued to live under conditions of extreme danger. Finally the Council were compelled to support the houses to prevent them from collapsing and eventually accommodation for 26 families was found at the old internment camp in the district. Fortunately none of the occupants were killed; but the action of this firm has already reduced the number of houses by 22 and at the present time 18 houses are seriously affected by their operations.

Measures taken and contemplated to meet the shortage of houses.

The Council at their Meeting on October 23rd last, adopted two schemes for the erection of 1695 houses as follows:—

233	houses with living room, scullery, and 2 bedrooms.
900	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ 3 “
400	“ “ “ parlour, living room, scullery and 3 bedrooms.
100	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ 4 “
62	wooden dwellings.

Total 1695

The first scheme is scheduled for completion by June, 1921, 38 houses by March, 1920; 100 by December 1920; 400 by March, 1921; and 334 by June, 1921.

The Council has purchased 144 acres of land for building purposes, but owing to the difference in contour approximately half of this is unsuitable for building purposes. The land purchased is only sufficient for the erection of the houses outlined in the first scheme. For the completion of the second the acquisition of land in neighbouring districts may be necessary.

During 1919 temporary accommodation was provided for 26 families by converting the huts, formerly used as an internment camp, into dwellings. The erection of 38 houses was commenced on the Hall Park Street site in December, 1919, arrangements have also been made for the erection of 24 concrete houses on the Bunker's Hill site and 125 concrete houses on the

Bradley site. Thirty-six wooden buildings (converted army huts) are being erected at Chapel Street and Lord Street. Negotiations are also in progress for the erection of 400 houses on the Green Lanes site.

General standard of Housing in the District.—The general standard of housing is low, a great proportion of the property being old and many houses ready for demolition. The housing survey carried out in October shows the number of houses beyond repair to be 770. Detailed inspection of these may prove that some are, as a temporary measure, capable of repair. There are 550 houses seriously defective but which can be thoroughly repaired, and about the same number which, whilst not in bad condition, require immediate repair.

The general character of the defects found are those usually associated with old property. Defective brickwork and joints perished, ground above floor level and lack of damp courses; the roof timbers sunk and decaying, the slates or tiles perished, loose or broken, and the flashings defective; the spouting choked, defective, or absent; the general woodwork decayed, window cords broken and frames and panes loose; ceilings cracked and dirty; quarry floors sunk and cracked, and wooden floors defective and with open joints. Insufficient or improper food store and lack of facilities for storing coal, in many cases this is stored in the living room underneath the stairs. Rooms too small and without proper light or ventilation. Yard paving sunk and defective, insufficient and defective drainage, and leaky privy middens.

During the war period it was impossible to obtain much improvement and only those repairs which would obviate damp and dirty conditions were insisted upon. These were dealt with by means of Intimation Notices under the Public Health Acts. During 1919, 254 houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts, Intimation Notices requesting owners to carry out the necessary repairs were served in all cases but the result has been most unsatisfactory.

The difficulties experienced in the execution of repairs are shortage of labour and lack of means on the part of the owners, due to the high cost of materials and the provisions of the Rent Restriction Acts. There is a large amount of unemployment but a lack of skilled labour, many men formerly employed in the building trade have been killed, and others who entered factories during the war have retained those occupations. The erection of new dwellings is absorbing many more, in fact sufficient men cannot be found to carry out this work at a rate which is deridable. There is no justification for the excessive prices being charged for all building materials, but local authorities and owners are powerless in the hands of the various trusts and combines controlling these articles.

The Rent Restriction Acts were necessary measures, but for them owners would, during the abnormal shortage, have been able to demand prohibitive rents. Since the passing of the 1915 Act the cost of repairs, insurance and management has steadily increased, and owners should receive some consideration. Sympathy cannot be extended to those who specialise in slum property and spend little or nothing on repairs; but there are in this district many owners who own a small amount of property and are without sufficient means to carry out even necessary repairs. The

present Rent Restriction Acts allow an increase of 6% on the cost of structural repairs and an advance of 10% six months after the termination of the war. The latter increase cannot be demanded if the Local Authority certify that the house is not in all respects fit for habitation. Ten per cent. increase on a house let at 5/- weekly would amount to 26/- a year, about the cost of papering one room. Until owners are allowed to increase the rents it is impossible to obtain any marked improvement, a greater advance than ten per cent. should be conceded, but should not be granted until a certificate of fitness is issued by the Local Authority.

Unhealthy Areas.—There are no unhealthy areas needing an improvement scheme to remedy them, much slum property has been cleared in the past, the houses in most cases are open and the poor property is intermixed with good.

Conditions regarding water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal will be found on pages 9, 10 & 11.

General.—The new dwellings required for this district allowing for the demolition of unfit houses in 1,695, and the Council have schemes in hand or under consideration for the erection of this number. The period which must elapse before these are ready for occupation depends upon the amount of labour available, the provision of the necessary materials and the finding of the money to finance the scheme.

Previous details show the vital need for the speedy erection of new dwellings. Owing to shortage of labour the 38 houses commenced in December last, will not be completed until June of this year. Before the war there were approximately 840,000 men engaged in the building trade, 64,000 of these have been killed and many thousands have failed to return to the trade due to disablement or through having taken up other occupations. Sir Kingsley Wood recently estimated the deficiency at 200,000 and stated that there was sufficient building to keep 1,000,000 men employed for ten years. Section 5 of "The Housing Additional Powers Act" gives the Local Authority power to prohibit the construction of works or buildings which are of less importance than the erection of dwelling houses.

Every effort to secure economy and despatch should be made by using all suitable materials and available labour. Two schemes, shortly to be commenced, do this: The houses to be erected on the Bradley site will be constructed of concrete blocks, the aggregate of which is obtained from the site, and the houses on the Bunkers Hill site are to be built of concrete blocks made in the district. The erection of a further number of concrete houses might be considered as suitable aggregates are obtained in the district. A large number of concrete dwellings have been erected during the war and there should be many men available who have experience in this direction.

Even when the necessary funds are available and with the adoption of every economy in construction, considerable time must elapse before dwellings can be erected in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the natural increase of the population. The problem requiring the earnest consideration of the Council is: The method to be adopted to bring those which do not comply with a reasonable standard to something approaching that standard and to render those houses—which, but for the present shortage should be demolished—more fitting for those who are compelled to

inhabit them. The new houses when erected will be beyond the means of those whom they are primarily meant to benefit.

Local authorities are required by the Ministry of Health to submit definite proposals for dealing with unfit houses and unhealthy areas within their districts before July 31st, 1920.

The correct procedure would be to ignore those houses which cannot be made fit, concentrate on the repair of those that can, as soon as the new houses are completed offer alternative accommodation to the tenants of the first class and then close and demolish the house. The period which must elapse before the new houses are built and the inability of many tenants of the poorer class to pay the high rents of the new houses renders this course impracticable for the present.

Until alternative accommodation is provided the Council cannot exercise their powers in closing and demolishing houses, and a lower standard of fitness must be adopted in those houses which are for various reasons incapable of being made in all respects fit for habitation.

The following action is suggested :—

1. Where the houses are capable of being rendered fit without re-construction their repair should be required under Sec. 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919. When the owner fails to carry out the necessary repairs the Council should undertake the work themselves and recover the cost from the owner.

2. In cases where the houses cannot be rendered fit without re-construction such repairs as will obviate damp and dirty conditions should be dealt with by notice under the Public Health Acts.

The local authority can assist owners by lending money for carrying out repairs, but this can only be done when the work amounts to re-construction, enlargement or improvement, and not for ordinary maintenance repairs.

Standard of fitness in houses.—The following minimum standard of fitness should be adopted.

1. The floors should be sound and free from serious defects; broken and sunk quarry floors cannot be properly cleansed and the dirt which accumulates beneath wood floors is a menace to health.
2. The internal plaster should be sound and free from defects and the walls and ceilings clean.
3. All rooms should be efficiently lighted and ventilated and the windows and door frames in good repair.
4. Each house should have an efficient food store and a place for storing coal away from the living room.
5. The house should be free from dampness, the roofs water tight, the premises efficiently spouted and the brickwork sound and properly pointed.
6. There should be adequate water supply, washing accommodation and sanitary conveniences. In old property it will not always be possible to insist on separate accommodation for each house.

Many of the tenants occupying the houses of lower rentals are dirty and careless, and efforts to improve their conditions are rendered ineffective

by their actions ; but in many cases they have been compelled to live for years in surroundings which have failed to give them any encouragement.

Owners who have carried out repairs should receive some protection. On completion of the work of repair a notice could be served upon the tenant pointing out his responsibilities, and by constant re-inspections a considerable improvement could be made ; but this is of course impossible with the present staff.

FRED BARNETT.

The following are the detailed statistics required by the Ministry of Health for the year 1919.

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation. | |
| | (a) By Householders | Nil |
| 2. | Action under Section 17 of the Housing Acts of 1909. | |
| | (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of this section | Nil |
| | (b) Number of dwelling houses which were considered to be unfit | Nil |
| | (c) Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders | Nil |
| 3. | Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919. | |
| | (a) Number of orders for repairs issued | Nil |
| | (b) No of dwelling houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| | (c) Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed by owner | Nil |
| 4. | Closing Orders. | |
| | (a) Number of representations made to the Local Authority | Nil |
| | (b) Number of Closing Orders made | Nil |
| | (c) Number of Dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined | Nil |
| 5. | Demolition Orders. | |
| | (a) Number of Demolition Orders made | Nil |
| | (b) Number of houses demolished | Nil |
| 6. | Number of houses demolished voluntarily | Nil |
| 7. | Obstructive Buildings. | |
| | (a) Number of representations made | Nil |
| | (b) Number of buildings demolished | Nil |
| | (c) Number of representations still under consideration | Nil |
| 8. | Staff engaged in Housing work with duties of each Officer. | |
| | One Chief Architect, fully employed upon the design and supervision of State aided Housing Scheme. | |

One Junior Architect, fully employed as assistant to above (appointment vacant at present).

One Clerk of Works fully employed and supervising the erection of houses and hutments.

Two Engineering Assistants, part time, employed in surveying, levelling, contouring, etc., and preparing lay-outs.

Overcrowding.—The question of overcrowding has been dealt with on many previous occasions. The conditions have gradually become worse and over-crowding now exists to an alarming degree. From information supplied by the Food Office in September last, it was ascertained that 498, or approximately 9%, of the houses had more than two occupants per room. In addition 715 houses, or approximately 13% were occupied by members of more than one family. The basis of two occupiers per room is not complete evidence of over-crowding. To arrive at the correct figures full account of each sleeping room and the number, age and sex of the occupants must be considered. This, with the present staff is impossible, but should be immediately carried out during housing inspection. The details when completed will show some appalling cases. During the restricted survey 48 cases from 8 streets gave an average of 8.86 persons per house and instances of adolescents and adults of both sexes occupying the same bedroom, are unfortunately numerous.

This over-crowding is due to the natural increase of the population and the fact that few new houses have been erected for the last ten years. Newly married people are unable to obtain dwellings and consequently are compelled to take rooms, or reside at the home of one of the parents. No permanent improvement is possible until more houses sufficient to meet the demand are erected. Eleven notices to discontinue over-crowding were served during the year, only one of which was complied with. The impossibility of finding alternative accommodation in the remaining cases prevented legal proceedings being taken.

Staff.—The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, the Inspector of Nuisances, one Health Visitor, and one Woman Clerk who also acts as Clerk to the Maternity Centre. The Inspector of Nuisances is also appointed Housing Inspector, Inspector of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Workshops, Canal Boats and Common Lodging Houses.

The Staff is now inadequate, having regard to the increased, and increasing, demands of the Ministry of Health for further extensions and developments in the public health service. As already demonstrated in this report, the greatest evils are due to the existence of gross over-crowding, much uncleanness in the homes and surroundings of the people, and the number of dirty tenants. The abolition of these—apart from the provision of more houses—can only be secured by constant and tactful visitation on the part of well trained and judicious Inspectors and Health Visitors. The fact that a visit is certain from an official who definitely and firmly insists on the removal of dirt and other nuisances and points out the real value of cleanliness in the person as well as in the home, fresh air and sanitary surroundings, must have an influence for good that grows, slowly it may be, but still grows and is bound to bear fruit in better conditions and in providing greater happiness in the whole family.

For this purpose constant inspection and visitation is essential and this is impossible under present conditons. The Inspector, with all the goodwill in the world, cannot deal thoroughly with the ordinary work of his office, let alone a constant supervision that is not merely demanded but is absolutely necessary. For this reason, therefore, a second Inspector, well trained and carefully selected, should be appointed at the earliest moment to assist with the Housing and the general work. Further clerical help, too, will be necessary, as the work is developed and further notices, etc., are required.

Yours faithfully,

T. RIDLEY BAILEY.

Bilston,

April 8th, 1920.

Annual Report to the Medical Officer of Health of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1919.

Sir,

Herewith I present the Report on the Sanitary Inspection of the district for the year 1919; this being my Seventh Annual Report.

Complaints.—During the year 241 complaints relating to sanitary defects or nuisances were received and dealt with.

Routine Inspection.—Details of the number of visits made will be found in Table I.

Notices served during the year.—The number of Notices issued was 889, Intimation 853 and Statutory 36; of the latter 31 were complied with and the remainder receiving attention at the close of the year. Of the notices served 413, or approximately 50%, were completed during 1919, many sent during the later months cannot be dealt with until the beginning of 1920. Legal proceedings were taken in two cases of non-compliance with Statutory Notice; in each instance an Order was made and the work completed.

Defects for which notices were served numbered 2311, and the premises affected 1,800. Details are given in Table II.

Improvements made during the year.—Improvements made in compliance with notices served numbered 1192, and the premises improved 990. Full particulars will be found in Table III. The high cost of materials and shortage of labour deter improvements which are obviously necessary. Owners are compelled to bear their share in the increased cost of all commodities and many are without means to carry out repairs to their property. This does not apply to all, and many who executed no repairs during the war could now expend the money saved during that period to the mutual advantage of themselves and their tenants. The remedying of defects injurious to health have, as far as possible, been insisted upon. Cases are numerous in which orders have been given to builders to execute repairs and where the latter state they are unable to obtain sufficient labour.

The work in connection with the issue of notices has largely increased, in pre-war days few visits for re inspection were needed, but to-day constant visits have to be made and numerous letters and interviews are necessary.

The Council are considering the part payment of cost for the provision of water closets, and in view of this the abolition of privies and substitution of water closets, though urgent, has not been enforced. Many houses have defective or insufficient drainage, but this can best be dealt with as the new sanitary conveniences are fixed.

Housing Inspection.—During the year 254 houses were inspected under the Housing Acts and Intimation Notices sent to owners requiring them to remedy defects. Further details re housing conditions will be found

in the report to the Medical Officer of Health. Defects found during inspection are shown in Table IV, the percentage of defects is high and is due to the fact that the houses inspected were all of poor type.

Sanitary Conveniences and Ash Accommodation.—The number of water closets fixed during my first three years service with you was 1071, and for the last 4 years 35, or a total of 1106. These have replaced 1016 privies, and in addition to considerable sanitary improvement have substantially reduced the amount of refuse to be collected. I estimate that approximately 1,200 water closets have yet to be fixed.

Details of the sanitary conveniences in the district are as follows :

WATER CLOSETS.			
Outdoor flush closets	...	...	2,555
Indoor flush closets	...	...	154
Waste water closets	...	...	209
Trough closets	...	...	10
		Total	2,928
PRIVIES.			
Pail privies	...	...	309
Privy middens	...	...	478
Privy vaults	...	...	398
		Total	1,185

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences, other than water closets, in the various wards.

	Privy Middens.	Privy Vaults.	Pail Privies.	Total.
Town Hall	121	39	49	209
New Town	54	65	67	186
High Town	57	119	59	235
Ettingshall	144	79	88	311
Bradley	102	96	46	244
TOTAL.	478	398	309	1185

Approximately 350 of the houses cannot be dealt with owing to the absence of a sewer in the vicinity.

The district contains 1,177 open ash-pits exclusive of privy middens, and the approximate number of ashbins is 1,500. During the war period it was impossible to obtain new bins, many existing ones were reduced to a state of dilapidation and others ceased to exist. An inspection of the district was made at the end of the year, notices to provide new bins served where required, and considerable improvement is anticipated during 1920. The

provision of ashbins throughout the district, with a weekly collection is of vital importance.

Factory and Workshops' Act.—The number of workshops on the register at the close of the year was 74 and the number of bakehouses 19. During the year 11 complaints relating to sanitary defects in factories and 3 in workshops were received from the Inspector of Factories. These were visited and the defects remedied in 15 cases, the remainder are now being dealt with.

The number of visits made to workshops was 125 and the number to bakehouses 94.

The structural condition of several bakehouses leaves much to be desired and will receive further attention.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops' Order.—The number of milkshops in the district is 39 and cowsheds 6. The number of visits made to milkshops was 115 and to cowsheds 41. The general conditions are clean but far from the ideal standard which must be aimed at.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are five lodging houses in the district, four of which are old property, but the premises generally are kept clean and in a fair sanitary condition. They have been visited on 101 occasions.

Offensive Trades.—The number of premises registered for the carrying on of offensive trades is 23, 20 of which are fried fish shops. They have been visited on 72 occasions during the year.

Canal Boats Acts & Regulations.—During the year 38 visits have been made for the purpose of inspection, but on 7 occasions only were boats met with, three of these were in a satisfactory condition but the remaining four were found to be over-crowded. These infringements were dealt with by means of complaint notes and no legal proceedings were necessary.

Meat and Food Inspection.—The local butchers obtain their meat from the wholesale association and no slaughtering of beast or sheep takes place in the district. Four pork butchers slaughter a limited number of pigs, and these slaughter-houses are visited on killing days. The food shops and market receive constant attention.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.—Enquiries in connection with infectious disease have been made on 45 occasions and 70 premises disinfected.

General Conditions.—A large arrear of sanitary work existed on my appointment, the war years have caused a further set back and much remains to be done. There is a large amount of atmospheric pollution from the various factory chimneys, excessive smoke is due to imperfect combustion and much improvement could be effected if sufficient time could be devoted to the work of smoke observation. Pure air is as important as pure water and the need for work in this direction is obvious.

The conditions under which many of the inhabitants are compelled to live are detrimental to healthy conditions or a high standard of living. Unfortunately improvements are often nullified by those they are intended to benefit, who by their neglect render the sanitary conveniences useless and by

wilful damage or dirty habits reduce their dwellings to a state of dilapidation. Stoppages in drains are primarily due to carelessness and during the year 1117 water closets and 472 drains are known to have been choked. The number of notices served upon occupiers to abate nuisances was 121. Many tenants live under conditions which give them little or no encouragement to be clean and the bad landlord is responsible, to a great extent, for the dirty tenant. The number of this class of occupant in this district is high; the legal power to deal with them small; but considerable improvement could be obtained if sufficient staff were available to carry out systematic inspections and re-inspections. The teaching of elementary hygiene and the necessity for cleanliness would do much to improve matters and raise the general standard of living.

The need for scrupulous cleanliness in all directions cannot be over emphasised and in the endeavour to improve sanitary conditions this vital matter is apt to be overlooked. Dirt in the home forms a breeding place for fleas, and unclean persons and clothing favour the presence of pedicule. The dangers of either need not be detailed. Efforts on the part of the Council or their officials are of no avail, unless thorough cleanliness, which is the basis of sanitation, is observed by all in every direction.

Accumulations of dirt and organic matter, in addition to giving off offensive odours and being scattered broadcast by the wind, form a breeding place for flies who in turn contaminate the food we eat. Food infection gives rise to many complaints which need not be enumerated: but the importance of handling, storing, and especially exposing for sale the various food stuffs, is not realised by those engaged in the trade.

Meat killed at the Government slaughter-house in an adjoining district is conveyed, uncovered or partly covered, in open vehicles to its destination, where it is deposited in open windows or shops to receive a further deposit of dust and dirt with their accompanying evils. Fish and fruit are exposed to a great extent on open windows or the footway during sale and sufficient care is not taken in the handling of milk. After purchase food is subject to further contamination in the home either through lack of facilities for storing or want of care on the part of the householder.

When the increasing duties and the prevailing economic conditions are considered the general improvements for the year under review are satisfactory and considerable advance is hoped for during the present and future years.

TABLE I.
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected	...	...	254	Inspections of meat and food	...	842
Visits <i>re</i> complaints	...	...	260	Visits to Common Lodging Houses	...	101
Inspections	...	...	958	Visits to Workshops	...	125
Re-inspections	...	...	1451	Visits to Bakehouses	...	94
Visits to work in progress	...	...	122	Visits to Milk Shops	...	115
Visits to yards, courts	...	...	1277	Visits to Cowsheds	...	41
Visits to stables	...	...	52	Visits to offensive trades	...	72
Visits <i>re</i> fowl	...	...	56	Infectious cases visited	...	45
Visits <i>re</i> pig keeping	...	...	68	Houses disinfected	...	70
Drains tested	...	...	14	Canal Boats inspected	...	7
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	387	Visits to canal	...	39
				TOTAL	...	6,438

TABLE II.
SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND DURING THE YEAR.

Wood floors defective	22
Quarry floors defective	9
Walls, brickwork defective	15
Walls, plaster defective	59
Walls in dirty condition	89
Ceilings, plaster defective	33
Ceilings in a dirty condition	71
General woodwork defective	3
Windows frames defective	13
Stairs defective	1
Cellars flooded	28
Floor surface dirty	10
Bedding dirty	3
House Overcrowded	11
The house being in a damp condition	235
The roof of house being defective	152
Eaves gutters or spouting defective	53
" " choked	85
" " missing	59
Brickwork defective	22
" requiring pointing	10
Chimneys defective	14
Brickwork of wash-house defective	32
Roof of	31
Floor of	23
Sink defective	19
The paving of the yard being defective	8
Yard improperly paved	9
Yard surface dirty	18
The premises being insufficiently drained	9
" not connected to sewer	7
The drainage being defective	5
Yard gully defective	6
Inspection chamber defective	8
" " covers broken	16
Drain improperly ventilated	4
" " trapped	25
" " choked	111
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	4
Foul defective pail privy	15
" p ivy midden	55
" vault privy	21
Roofs of closet apartment defective	33
Walls of	31
W. C. pedestal defective	33
W. C. seat broken or missing	6
W. C. without proper flush	94
W. C. choked	115
W. C. pedestal in dirty condition	30
Premises without proper ash accommodation	249
Ash bin dilapidated	208
Fowls, ducks, etc., so kept as to be a nuisance	6
Offensive accumulations	45
Miscellaneous	29
TOTAL DEFECTS	2,311
TOTAL PREMISES AFFECTED	1,800

TABLE III.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES SERVED.			
Wood floors repaired	12	New sink provided	4
Quarry floors repaired	4	Yard paving repaired	8
Walls, brickwork repaired	6	.. paved	1
.. plaster repaired	21	Yard surface cleansed	14
.. cleansed	34	New Drains constructed	6
Ceilings, plaster repaired	11	Premises connected to sewer	2
.. cleansed	29	Drainage repaired	6
Woodwork repaired	3	Gullies fixed	18
Windows repaired	1	Chambers constructed	12
Window frames, etc., repaired	4	Chamber covers repaired	16
Staircase walls cleansed	1	Drain, ventilation shaft fixed	6
Stairs repaired	1	.. intercepting trap fixed	8
Cellars cleansed	20	.. stoppage removed	114
.. accumulation removed	13	Water Closets fixed	6
Floor surface cleansed	11	Pail privy abolished	3
Bedding cleansed	8	Foul vaults abolished	1
Overcrowding abated	1	Roofs of closet apartment repaired	15
Roof of house repaired	68	Walls	17
Roof stripped, re-slatted or re-tiled	28	Water Closet pedestal provided... ..	30
Eaves gutters or spouting repaired	23	Flush provided to W.C.	43
.. .. unstopped	63	Water Closets stoppages removed	154
.. .. provided	52	.. pedestal cleansed	51
Brickwork repaired	3	Ash bins provided	125
.. pointed	2	Ash-pits repaired	3
Chimneys repaired	4	Fowls, etc., nuisance abated	3
Wash-house, brickwork repaired	11	Pigs, nuisance abated	4
.. roof repaired	11	Offensive accumulations removed	56
.. floor repaired	7	Miscellaneous*	12
TOTAL PREMISES IMPROVED		1,192	
TOTAL PREMISES AFFECTED		980	

TABLE IV.

The following Table shows the defects found during Housing inspection.

Wood floors defective	68	27%	House without through ventilation		
Quarry floors	124	52%	(ground floor)	70	28%
Walls, brickwork defective	48	19%	(upper floor)	67	27%
.. plaster defective	176	69%	Cellars in dirty condition	32	12%
.. in a dirty condition	201	79%	Cellar steps defective	15	6%
Ceilings, plaster defective	172	68%	No food store... ..	22	8%
.. in a dirty condition	186	72%	Food store improper	156	61%
Woodwork, skirting, door frames, etc., defective	87	34%	.. dirty	21	8%
Windows fixed	80	33%	Overcrowding	74	29%
Window frames, etc. defective	105	41%	House in a damp condition	216	85%
Staircase, plaster defective	99	39%	Roof defective	213	85%
.. walls dirty	129	52%	Eaves gutters or R.W.P. defective	56	22%
.. stairs defective	86	34%	.. .. choked	42	18%
			.. .. missing	85	34%
			Brickwork defective	94	37%
			.. requires pointing	135	53%

Yours obediently,

FRED BARNETT,

A. R. SAN. I., M. S. I. A.

Bilston, April 3rd, 1920.

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