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BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

=====*Staff*

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

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

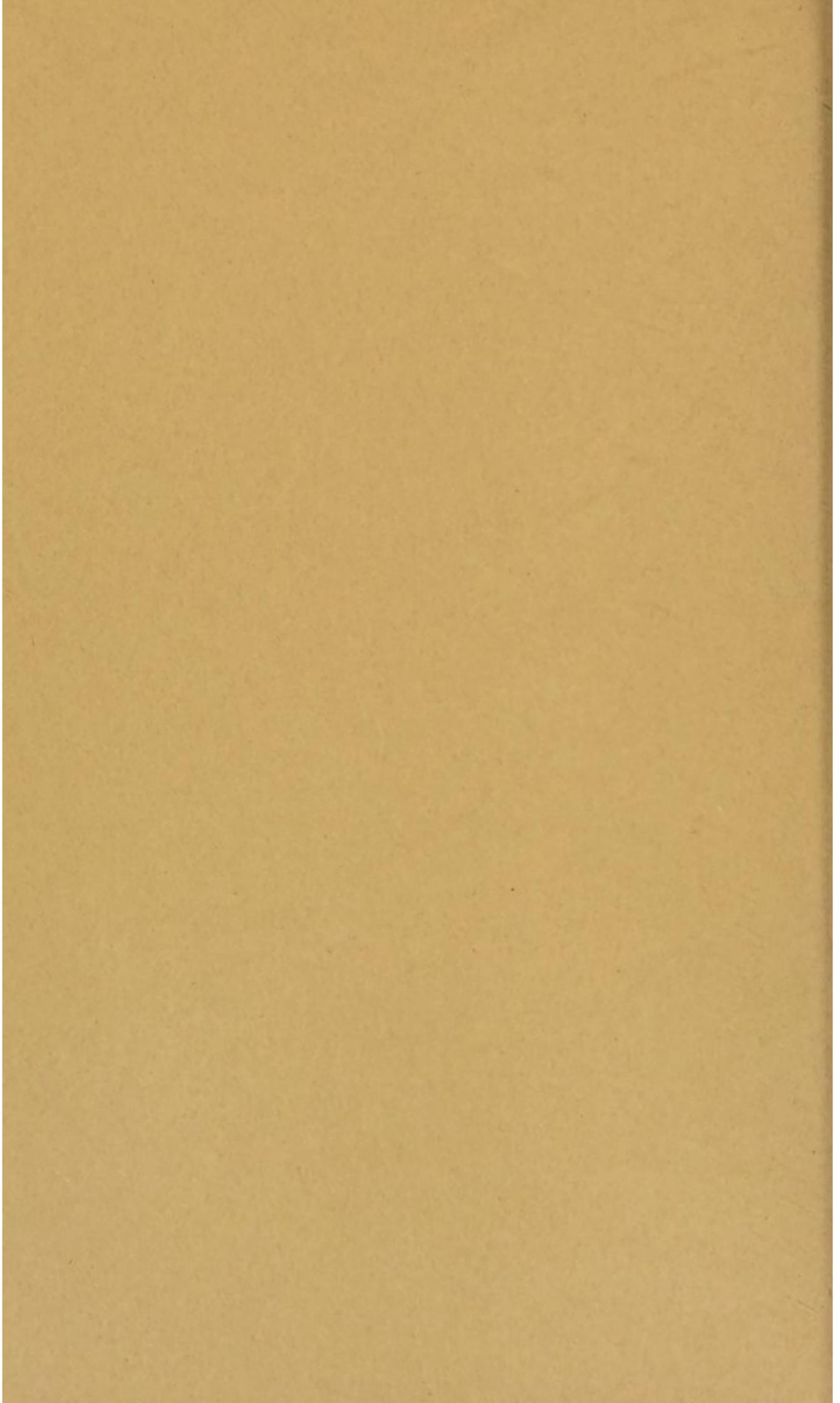
TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

HOUSING REPORT

AND THE ANNUAL

REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR.

(Printed by Order of the Council).



With Dr. T. Ridley Bailey's Compliments.



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Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present my thirty-fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the district under your administration. This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health in January of this year.

Population.

The population at last Census was 25,681. Owing to the conditions prevailing during and since the War it is difficult to correctly calculate the population to-day. The nearest estimate which can be given is 27,700. Until the figures for the Census are available this must be accepted as a fair estimate only.

Natural and Social Conditions.

These were fully discussed on page 3 of the Report for the year 1919.

Annual Rainfall.

The following table kindly supplied by the Surveyor shows the rainfall for the year 1920.

Month.	Total Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of days with .01 or more recorded.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
January ..	2.86	0.73	28	18
February ..	1.30	0.85	19	11
March ..	2.23	0.80	14	17
April ..	5.19	0.63	15	30
May ..	2.88	0.65	27	14
June ..	3.11	1.12	12	13
July ..	3.99	0.60	3	26
August ..	1.39	0.32	9	13
September ..	2.22	0.49	{ 14 17	14
October ..	4.16	1.15	15	13
November ..	.40	0.12	14	7
December ..	2.97	0.43	27	17

The total rainfall for the year was 32.70 inches, and the number of days on which .01 or more rain was recorded 193.

Vital Statistics.

The Registrar-General submits corrected returns of the Births and Deaths occurring in the district for 1920.

The figure given by him for calculating the Birth and Death rate is 27,323, and this figure is used in estimating the rates in this Report.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 935, 482 males and 453 females. This gives a birth rate of 34·22 per 1,000. The births are 230 in excess of last year. Thirty, or 3·3% of the total births were illegitimate.

The births in each Ward were as follows :—

TABLE I.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Town Hall ...	92	80	172
High Town ...	78	79	157
New Town ..	125	130	255
Ettingshall ..	96	81	177
Bradley ...	91	83	174
	482	453	935

The births for this and the 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.
1920	482	453	935
1919	354	350	704
1918	329	352	681
1917	332	328	660
1916	404	340	744
1915	388	416	804

Deaths.

During the year 379 deaths were registered in the district, 3 of these belonged to other areas. The deaths in the district comprised 189 males and 187 females. In addition, 92 deaths of residents (52 males and 40 females) occurred in other areas. The total deaths registered for Bilston were 468, 241 males and 227 females, giving a death rate of 17·13 per 1,000. The deaths and death rate are respectively 28 and '42 in excess of last year.

The ages at which the deaths occurred were :—

Under one year of age	...	116
One to two years	...	52
Five to fifteen years	...	22
Fifteen to twenty-five years	...	19
Twenty-five to sixty-five	...	149
Sixty-five and upwards	...	110

The details of the various deaths are as follows :

TABLE III.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Total
Enteric Fever			
Small Pox			
Measles	3	10	13
Scarlet Fever	1		1
Whooping Cough	9	9	18
Diphtheria and Croup		1	1
Influenza	11	6	17
Erysipelas		1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	8	24
Tuberculous meningitis	1		1
Other Tuberculous diseases	4	3	7
Cancer, malignant disease	11	14	25
Rheumatic Fever		1	1
Meningitis	1	1	2
Organic heart disease	13	9	22
Bronchitis	28	24	52
Pneumonia (all forms)	47	36	83
Other respiratory diseases	4	3	7
Diarrhoea &c (under 2 years)	5	4	9
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	2	3	5
Cirrhosis of liver		1	1
Alcoholism		1	1
Nephritis and Bright's disease	6	4	10
Puerperal Fever		1	1
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever		4	4
Congenital debility &c	23	19	42
Violence apart from Suicide	7	4	11
Suicide	1	1	2
Other defined diseases	47	58	105
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	1	2
Total Deaths	241	227	468

TABLE IV.

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

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920. *The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.*

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2	
96 Great Towns, inc'g London (Census Pop'tions ex'g 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7	
148 Smaller Town (Census Populations 20,000—50,000).	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5	
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2	
Bilston	34.22	17.13	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.03	0.65	0.03	0.61	0.41	9.6	124	19.7	93.4	5.8	0.6	

Influenza and Fever.

Seventeen deaths were directly attributed to Influenza during the year. In a report recently issued by the Ministry of Health on the world-wide Epidemic in 1918 and 1919, it is stated that more victims died from this disease than fell during the whole of the, Great War. The death roll in England and Wales alone, totalled no less than 151,466; and, in addition, many lives, most of them young and active, have been permanently undermined. The consequent loss to the health and vitality of the community, and its productive powers, cannot be computed in terms of statistics and constitute a grave social problem.

The practice of preventive methods is therefore urgent. The infection of Influenza and its allies, appears to be conveyed by the secretions, in coughing, sneezing and very loud talking. These are transmitted through the air in the form of fine spray to the channels of reception, usually the surfaces of the mouth, nose and throat. Dust, unclean hands and infected material may also convey infection.

Obviously the closer the bodily contact the easier the transmission, hence overcrowding in public or private buildings, trains, factories, etc., is dangerous, and thorough ventilation, abundance of fresh air and nourishing food are all important, with warmth and rest in bed, for it is the complications of Influenza that destroy and disable life.

It is of interest to add here that at the moment the death-rate from fever is the lowest in the history of England and the lowest of any country in the world. The five principal fevers—typhus, typhoid, cholera, small-pox and scarlet fever—are now almost completely under control, and the first four are on the point of extinction. The death-rate for diphtheria, which used to be one in two, or one in three, has fallen since 1896, when anti-toxin was introduced, to 4 per cent. The only fever which has increased in prevalence is influenza, taking into account the great epidemic of 1918-19.

The number of deaths for each Ward is shown in Table V, and the deaths and death rate for this and the last 5 years in Table VI.

TABLE V.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Town Hall	51	39	70
High Town	30	34	64
New Town	45	46	91
Ettingshall	35	38	73
Bradley	48	0	78
Out of District	52	40	92
	241	227	468

TABLE VI.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1920	241	227	468	17.13
1919	246	194	440	16.74
1918	280	243	532	22.62
1917	249	192	441	17.83
1916	228	221	449	18.24
1915	274	235	509	20.18

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 116 deaths of infants under one year of age were registered. This shows the number of infant deaths to have been 24.6%, or nearly one quarter of the total deaths at all ages. Seven of these infants, or 6% of the deaths, were illegitimate children.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births was 124 as compared with 148 last year. The rates for the years 1914 to 1920 will be found in Table 9.

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 ..	6	10	16
High Town ..	12	7	19
New Town ..	19	17	36
Ettingshall ..	10	7	17
Bradley ..	15	7	22
Out of District..	3	3	6
	65	51	116

TABLE VIII.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total deaths under 1 year.	Age Periods							
		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						1	2	
Whooping Cough	10			1		3	3	3	
Diarrhœa	1						1		
Enteritis	7			1	1	2	1	1	
Other Tubercular Diseases	1							1	
Congenital Malformation	1	1							
Premature birth	15	9	3	3					
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	25	15		2	3	3	1	1	
Injury at birth	1	1							
Syphilis	4					3	1		
Convulsions	2				1			1	
Gastritis	4			2		1	1		
Bronchitis	15		2	1	1	3	5	3	
Pneumonia	22					5		7	
Suffocation	1	1						10	
Other causes	4	2			1	1			
TOTAL ...	116	29	5	10	7	21	9	14	21

This shows the number of deaths during the first month of life to be 51, 29 of which occurred during the first week, 5 during the second, 10 during the third, and 7 during the fourth.

For purpose 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 & Wales.	Bilston.	England & Wales.	Bilston.
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
1920	25.4	34.22	75	124

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. It has a 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 is the certificate of the County Analyst (Mr. W. T. Jones, of Wolverhampton.)

Copy—Water Analysis.

April 20th, 1920.

	Grains per gallon.
Total Solid Matter dried @ 212° F.	31.36
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0023
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0021
Nitric Nitrogen	0.60
Combined Chlorine	1.82
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours @ 80° F.	0.008
Colour through 2 feet	very pale bluish-green tinge
Appearance	clear
Hardness before boiling	15.48°
Hardness after boiling	6.40°
Temporay hardness	9.08°
Bacteriological Examination	Organisms per C.C.
On gelatine @ 20°C.	137
On agar-agar @ 37°C.	13
“ “ “ 37°C. acidified and phenolized	0

The water is organically excellent and of the usual quality.

Rivers and Streams.

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

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council has its own Sewage Works at the Lunt. These appear to give satisfaction and the Surveyor reports that the effluent is good.

The greater portion of the town is sewered, with the exception of houses at Moxley and Cross Street, Bradley. A scheme for draining the Cross Street area is now in preparation and it is hoped this will be completed during the present year. The conditions of the Moxley area were fully described in last year's Report, and should receive prompt attention.

The nuisance from the absence of proper drainage in the adjacent district of Coseley was discussed last year. No steps to remedy this appear to have been taken. There is an arrangement between the Bilston and Coseley Councils for sewerage, and the matter requires immediate attention.

Much of the house drainage in the district is defective and a systematic test of private drains is desirable; but the present staff will not allow of this.

Closest Accommodation.

The number of water closets in the district is 2,988, and the number of privies 1,205. Many of the latter are in a dilapidated condition. The danger to the public health of this kind of convenience cannot be over-emphasised and speedy abolition is of vital importance.

During the war period the work of conversion was held up and in June, 1920, the Council decided to apply to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow the sum of £1,950 for the conversion of 300 privies (being part of the scheme to complete 1,200 privies at the rate of 300 per annum) in order to enable the Council to pay part cost towards the expenses of conversion. In March of this year, however, the Council decided to postpone this work. The payment of part of the cost must lead, eventually, to economy in scavenging, with great advantage to the health of the community.

The Council have not adopted Section 39 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907. In the past it has been customary, when carrying out conversions, to ask for the same number of water closets as privies abolished. In future the provision of one water closet for each house should be compulsory. To-day there are 350 blocks of property using water closets in common. In a large number of cases these are not kept in proper order, and considerable difficulty is found when trying to determine who is responsible.

Scavenging.

This work is carried out by direct labour, and was under the control of the Surveyor. In September, 1920, the Council appointed a Cleansing Superintendent, who has sole charge of the collection of house refuse, and reports direct to the Council, to whom alone he is responsible. The privies are emptied during the night and early morning, covered tank carts being used for the pails and vaults, and carts for the privy-middens—the remainder of the collection being carried out by a large motor lorry. The contents of the pails and vaults are passed directly to the sewer through a screened opening at the depot, the further refuse being deposited at tips in various parts of the town.

The objectionable practice of emptying the contents of ash-pits on the street surface and placing bins in the streets to await the arrival of the motor lorry, still continues. This has been frequently reported upon. The accumulated contents of the bins are disturbed by children and dogs, and scattered by the wind, and other methods are necessary. The motor lorry should be provided with a cover for use when loaded, to prevent its contents being blown into the streets during its passage to the tips.

The work of street scavenging is under the control of the Surveyor. Much more frequent watering of the streets is necessary and an earlier treatment with tar-spraying. The nuisance from clouds of dust and dirt, and the consequent danger to health, is greater than ever.

Cess Pools.

Approximately 150 houses are drained to cess-pools. These are emptied by or on behalf of, the owners.

Ash Bins.

The approximate number of ash-bins in the district is 1,750. The work of substituting ash-bins for fixed receptacles will proceed with the work of conversion of sanitary conveniences.

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 6, Milkshops 38, Slaughterhouses 17, and Offensive trades 34.

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 & 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.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring notice.

In the early part of the year a great effort was made, in conjunction with the County Council, for the destruction of rats. The sewage works and sewers were treated with poison, and bait laid at all known infested premises. During the year the Rat official of the County Council has made periodical visits and put down poison bait at various premises. This combined action led to improvement.

Complaints however are still received, and the Council have decided systematically to treat the sewers and sewage works with poison. The menace from rats, both financially and to the public health, is great, and it is hoped that more success will follow these further efforts.

Sanitary Conditions of Schools.

A full report, giving the sanitary condition of the schools in the Council's area, has been presented to the Education Committee, and need not be repeated in detail here. The chief defects are want of cleanliness in many schools, and the defective state of the playgrounds. Cloakrooms are not heated, and no arrangements are made for drying children's clothes and boots, and no baths are provided. The caretakers generally have given more attention to the cleansing of sanitary conveniences, but there is still room for improvement in several schools. Much more attention should be given to washing school floors. This appears to take place at infrequent or rare intervals. Many caretakers sweep up floors without moving the furniture, with the result that dirt accumulates beneath the iron fittings of the desks, and the dust deposited on the upper surfaces of the light fittings show that these are rarely cleansed.

The need of abundance of light cannot be over emphasised and the windows, therefore, should be cleaned much more frequently in all cases.

Milk Supply.

Approximately one-fifth of the milk sold in Bilston is produced in the district, the remainder being imported, chiefly from Shropshire.

The conditions under which milk is prepared and sold in this district are similar to those in other areas. No action was taken during 1920 with regard to Tubercular milk.

The Council retain the services of a Veterinary Surgeon, who pays periodical visits to the cow-sheds and inspects the animals. His report for the year ending March 31st, 1921, is as follows :—

“ There are 6 cowsheds in your district, and the average number of dairy cattle on the premises is 129, which are regularly inspected and re-inspected, and during the year over 600 inspections have been made. The general health and conditions of the dairy stock has been very satisfactory and compares favourably with cattle in other districts in which I am Inspector.

Cases of disease which are dangerous to the public milk supply have been few and I attribute this fact to the constant inspection of animals and premises,—elimination of undesirable animals— isolation of sick cattle and proper attention to the feeding and housing of the animals at the various seasons of the year.

The whole-hearted co-operation on the part of the cowkeepers in the carrying out of the various suggestions of the Milk and Dairies Order is an important factor in producing a pure supply of milk, and amply justifies the measures taken by your Council in the interest of the public health.”

Milk (Mothers and Children's Order), 1918.

The Council decided to take action under the above Order in necessitous cases. Owing, however, to the high wages generally earned in the area, only a few cases were recorded.

Other Foods.

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

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The County Council are responsible for this work and the following details for this area during the year have been kindly furnished by the County Analyst (Mr. Van Tromp).

Samples taken in Bilston for the year ending December, 1920.

MILKS.

54 (6 adulterations in shortage of fat).

CAMPHORATED OIL

2 (all genuine).

Five milk vendors were cautioned, and proceedings taken against the remaining one, the fines and costs amounting to £4 11s. 6d.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

The following are details of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever—31 cases were notified as compared with 25 last year, and an average of 36·5 for the last seven years. These cases occurred in 26 houses, 27 were removed to hospital, and 4 isolated at home. There were no return cases.

Diphtheria—The number of cases notified was 8, as compared with 12 last year, and an average of 10·7 for the last seven years. The cases occurred in 7 houses; 5 were removed to the Wolverhampton General Hospital and 2 isolated at home.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the 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 1 for the last 7 years. This case recovered.

Erysipelas—Twelve cases notified as compared with 2 last year, and an average of 7·3 for the last 7 years.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Three cases were notified during the year as compared with 10 last year and an average of 3·7 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—Forty-six cases notified during the year as compared with 50 last year. 83 deaths from Pneumonia (all forms)

were registered as compared with 72 last year. It is obvious therefore that many cases were not notified, as they should have been by practitioners.

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.
Scarlet Fever ...	31	6	1	11	9	4
Diphtheria ...	8	6		1	1	
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1				2
Erysipelas ...	12	4	2	3	1	
Ophthalmia ...	3	1	1		1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	84	14	8	45	5	12
Tuberculosis (other forms)	3		2			1
Pneumonia ...	46	9	5	16	10	6
Malaria ...	1			1		
Euteric Fever ...						
	189	41	19	77	27	25

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

TABLE XI.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup.	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (other forms)	Pneumonia	Malaria	Enteric Fever
1920 ...	31	8	1	12	3	84	3	46	1	
1919 ...	25	12	1	2	10	45	9	50	8	
1918 ...	45	4	1	2	3	42	4			
1917 ...	29	12	1	3	2	52	11			1
1916 ...	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
Average for 7 years ...	36.5	10.7	1	7.3	3.7	59	9.5			1.5

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 these defects are remedied. The environment in many cases is deplorable and, until further houses are available, general improvement cannot be expected.

During the year 84 notifications, affecting 54 cases, were received. Of these 34 were primary notifications and 50 secondary from Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions and Sanatoria. Of

the cases notified, 51 were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 from other forms. The average number of cases notified for the last 7 years is Pulmonary 59 and other forms 9.5.

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) during the year was 32 (Pulmonary 24, other forms 8) giving a death rate of 1.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The estimated number of Tuberculosis patients at present residing in the district is 144 Pulmonary and 22 Non-Pulmonary.

Health Visitors Report, 1920.

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

“The number of births registered for the year is 935. Of these 893 were visited. The first visits are made as early as possible so that help and advice is given just after the midwife has left and the mother is taking up her household duties again. At first a large number of the infants are naturally fed and out of the above number seven hundred and ninety were so fed, forty-nine were given natural and artificial food, fifty were given artificial food only and four were having some form of solid food with natural feeding when first visited. The number of artificially fed infants increases as the babies get older, especially after the third month. After advice has been given to the Mother on the feeding, clothing, cleanliness and health of the baby, enquiries are made re the accommodation of the home and sanitary defects are reported; 156 defects being notified during the year.

RE-VISITS—1,583 re-visits were paid during the year. Cases are re-visited and enquires made into the progress of the infants and the food being given to them. Advice is given on the change of food necessary as the children get older. Artificially fed babies require more attention than those naturally fed. In suitable cases fresh cows milk is recommended for these infants, as this is the best artificial food, but owing to the lack of suitable keeping accommodation in the homes, it is often impossible to recommend it; especially during the summer months, or with a careless mother, therefore, one of the dried milks has to be advised.

290 visits were made to children between one to five years of age. These older children often suffer during the second and third years of their lives through the ignorance of their parents, who give them unsuitable food and very rarely give them sufficient milk and milk foods. Advice is given on the feeding of these children. This has been followed with good results in several cases.

COMFORTERS—The majority of the children are given a dummy, if not during the first fortnight, it is given later, and it is practically impossible to persuade the mothers to give them up.

Cots—Very few of the mothers put their babies into a cot, although they are repeatedly advised to do so and told how inexpensively they can be made.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS—Eighteen visits have been made. This is very important work, but cannot be carried out efficiently owing to lack of time.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—There have only been three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year. Two cases were attended at home by the Family Doctor and the other case was an out patient at the Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary. The disease was cured in each case without apparent injury to the sight.

PUERPERAL FEVER—There was one case of Puerperal Fever during the year, the patient was nursed at the Wolverhampton General Hospital. She recovered and is now quite well.

Number of visits to other infectious diseases:—

Measles	...	251
Tuberculosis	...	212
Diphtheria	...	1

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every Monday afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock. The mothers bring their babies and sometimes the toddlers, for advice. At the end of the year there were 485 names on the register, 197 being new ones. The number of attendances during the year was 2,476, giving an average weekly attendance of 51.6. Some of the mothers only come once or twice, others come occasionally, while others attend regularly. Unfortunately the mothers often cease to attend when their children are between one and two years of age.

The babies are weighed and each mother is given advice, special care and thought being given to delicate infants. Care is given to the feeding of the infants, this being a most important factor in their well-being. The Doctor's advice on this and on minor ailments is appreciated by the mothers and followed with benefit to the children.

The Sewing Class is held on Thursday afternoons, from 2-30 to 4 o'clock. There were 29 names on the register at the end of the year. Some of the mothers, who, as their babies get older, cease to attend at the Monday Sessions, have come back to the sewing class as expectant mothers for advice on the preparation of the clothes for the coming baby. Other expectant mothers are brought by old members; also the instructions given to mothers for making garments at home are being passed on to neighbours, so the influence of the class is not confined to the members who attend."

Welfare Centre.

With regard to the proposed new Centre, the Council have received provisional consent from the Ministry of Health to purchase and alter Holyhead House for the purposes of a Joint Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic. When the necessary alterations are made it is hoped to increase the work of the Centre, for which a second Health Visitor and a Clerk will be necessary. A scheme for this purpose will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Education Committee will also forward a scheme to the Board of Education to provide treatment of school children suffering from minor ailments; decay of teeth, defective vision, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and, if possible, X-ray treatment of ringworm.

In this connection the County Council should seriously consider the desirability of arranging for at least one more Midwife to reside and practice in this district. Now that nearly all obstetric cases are attended by Midwives (and not by Doctors) there is more work than can be fairly and properly dealt with by the Midwives in the area. Cases have frequently been brought to my notice by poor women, who have been refused first by one Midwife and then by another, and, in some cases, the fees asked have been far beyond the means of the people concerned.

Hospital Accommodation.

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 on an agreed scale of payment.

The number of cases admitted to the Bilston Hospital during 1920 was 27, 16 males and 11 females. The age of the youngest was $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and of the oldest $13\frac{1}{2}$ years. The average period of detention was 53 days, and the number of cases remaining in on December 31st, 1920, was 6.

The Disinfector (High pressure Steam) has been used on 32 occasions, and 235 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 :—

8 suspected cases of Diphtheria		
Result—Positive	...	3
Negative	...	5
4 suspected cases of Tuberculosis		
Result—Positive	...	1
Negative	...	3

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

Bilston Commissioners Water Act, 1893.

Bilston Improvements Act, 1896.

Public Health Act, 1890.

Public Health Act Amended Act (certain sections) 1907.

Private Streets Works Act, 1892

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

HOUSING REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920.

The Ministry of Health again require a special report on the housing conditions of the district. A full detailed report of the general housing conditions, the extent of shortage of houses, the measures taken and contemplated to meet the shortage, the fitness of existing houses and overcrowding were given in last year's report (pages 21-24) and need not be repeated here. The statistics required for the year ending 31st, December 1920, are furnished at the end of this report.

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 the report of the Housing Inspector on his work during the year :—

“ During 1920, one hundred and fifty-six houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Twenty-three of the houses inspected were owned by a colliery firm and damaged by the working of their mines. This firm commenced working for coal in 1919 in close proximity to a number of dwellings. They purchased properties, either before or after damage had occurred, and then proceeded to work under the dwellings. During the latter part of 1919 and the early part of 1920, ninety-one houses were damaged by their operations, thirty-seven of these subsequently being demolished. As a result forty-five families (one hundred and eighty-two persons) were dehousing. The Council were compelled to obtain the use of an old internment camp and build sixteen wooden houses to provide for the safety and temporary comfort of these people.

Appeals to the Coal Control Department were of no avail, notwithstanding the added shortage of houses, and the increased suffering therefrom.

Detailed inspection of four houses, which were first damaged in December, 1920, were made, and proceedings taken against the firm under Section 6 of the Housing Additional Powers Act, 1919. The houses had been partly demolished, and two were so dangerous that the tenants were promptly removed to other dwellings for safety. The Stipendiary Magistrate, however, held that this Section did not apply. Since commencing operations in 1919 this firm have demolished more houses than the Council have erected. At present, by their continued operations, more dwellings in other portions of the district are being damaged, but there seems to be no remedy. A similar condition of affairs is said to exist in other mining areas, and it was understood that the object of Section 6 of the Housing Additional Powers Act was to safeguard dwellings in such cases. It is to be regretted that the Ministry of Health cannot devise some measure of protection.

Of the houses inspected, twenty-three belonged to this firm, 8 were dangerous and unfit for human habitation at the time of inspection; the remaining fifteen were capable of being made fit, and notice, under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning Act, was served upon them. They continued mining operations and reduced four of these fifteen to a most dangerous state. The owners eventually repaired the remaining eleven houses.

The remaining 133 houses, situated in various parts of the district, were all in need of repair, some of them being incapable of being made, in all respects, fit for human habitation. The houses consisted of 20 blocks of property belonging to various owners. Informal notices, requiring the owners to carry out repairs, were served in each case; but the result has been most unsatisfactory. Sixteen houses have been put in good condition, 46 have been partly repaired; in 82 houses no work of repair has been commenced and 12 houses have been demolished. Many of the houses inspected during 1919 have not yet been dealt with.

The excessive cost of materials and labour prevents the work of repair from being properly completed. Many owners cannot afford to do even the necessary work, others, taking advantage of the present shortage, postpone the improvements. Action should be taken under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning Act 1919, but I am unable to give the time required for the preparation of specifications and the obtaining of estimates.

During the year 23 notices under Section 28 have been issued with the following results :—

Houses repaired	10
Work of repair in progress	9
Houses demolished	4

Unhealthy Areas.

No complaints have been received, or representation made, with regard to unhealthy areas under parts 1 and 2 of the Housing Act, 1890.

The closing and demolition of insanitary dwellings, though in some cases of extreme urgency, cannot be proceeded with until sufficient houses are erected to meet the present condition of overcrowding—these, in some instances, being simply appalling.

General.

The number of working class houses erected by the Council during 1920 was 17 (9 Class A, and 8 Class B) in addition to 31 wooden houses built from Army huts.

A table, kindly supplied by the Housing Director, showing the housing progress, and giving the number of houses completed, and also those in various stages of erection at the end of March of this year (1921) together with the number provided for in the various schemes, is appended.

Sanitary Administration—Staff.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, one Health Visitor and one female clerk, who also acts as clerk to the Welfare Centre. Having regard to the increased, and increasing, demands of Parliament and of the Ministry of Health as has already been stated, it is obvious that the Staff is inadequate. An Assistant Inspector, a second Health Visitor, and more clerical assistance constitute the minimum needs.

Yours faithfully,

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D.

Bilston,

April 28th, 1920.

Annal Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1920.

Herewith I present the report on the sanitary inspection for the district for the year 1920; this being my eighth annual report.

Complaints.

During the year 377 complaints relating to nuisances or sanitary defects were received and dealt with.

Routine Inspection.

The total inspections of all kinds made during the year was 5,371. Details of these will be found in Table I.

Notices Served.

The number of notices served during 1920 was 746. Intimation 620. Statutory 103, and, under Section 28 of the Housing Act 23. The whole of the Statutory Notices and 403 of the Intimation notices were complied with during the year. Details of the notices under Section 28 are given in the Housing Report. Legal proceedings were necessary in one case of non-compliance with a Statutory Notice.

The defects, for which notices were served, numbered 2,348 and the premises affected 1,243. Details are given in Table II.

Improvements.

The number of notices complied with during the year was 754 or 174 in excess of those served. Many notices sent in 1919 were not completed until 1920, and a number served towards the end of 1920 will not be dealt with until 1921. Improvements made in 1920 numbered 1,922 and the premises affected 1,372. Particulars will be found in Table III.

When requiring repairs, one would wish that the work could be carried out so as to make the houses fit in all respects, and thus prevent the owner from receiving further notices for the same property; but the excessive cost of labour and material prevent this, and one has to be content with partial improvements.

A great deal of the property is old and beyond thorough repair and in these cases owners are asked to carry out such work as will remedy the worst defects and render the houses free from excessive dampness. Many houses require at least five year's rental to put them in thorough repair, owners object and many have not the means to do this. The best method of dealing with this class

of property would be to take action under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning Act and for the Council to carry out the work in cases of non-compliance ; but lack of staff prohibits this.

Housing Inspection.

The number of houses inspected and recorded under The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation was 156.

Sanitary Conveniences and Ash Accommodation.

Full details of the type and number of sanitary conveniences in use in the district were given in last year's report. Many of the privies have been built in recent years, in accordance with the Bye-laws of the district, and are difficult to deal with on the grounds of insufficiency ; others are very dilapidated ; but, as the question of part payment towards the cost of conversion is being considered by the Council, this work has not been proceeded with during the year. The number of water closets fixed during 1920 was 19. I estimate that 1,200 water closets have to be provided before the whole of the privies can be abolished.

The estimated number of open ashpits, exclusive of privy-middens, is 1,100 and the number of ashbins 1,750. During the latter part of 1919 and 1920, efforts have been made to replace all dilapidated bins with new ones and 293 new ashbins have been provided.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

There are 6 cowsheds and 38 milkshops in the district. The number of visits paid to cowsheds was 44 and to milkshops 63. The general conditions are clean, but there is need for considerable improvement.

Factory and Workshop Act.

The number of workshops on the Register at the end of the year was 68, and the number of bakehouses 18. Eleven complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, 7 relating to factories and 4 to workshops. These were visited and the defects remedied in 8 cases, the remainder were receiving attention at the close of the year. The number of visits paid to workshops was 109 and to bakehouses 61. Fifteen sanitary notices were served for various defects.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are 5 lodging houses. These are kept in conformity with the Bye-laws ; but 4 of the houses are old and it is difficult to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in these cases. They have been visited on 121 occasions and 14 notices served upon the owners or occupiers.

Offensive Trades.

The number of premises registered for the carrying on of offensive trades is 34, 32 of which are fried fish shops. These premises have been visited on 56 occasions.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The market has been visited on every occasion when open, and general supervision paid to all food shops. The beef butchers obtain the greater part of their meat from wholesalers and only a small number of cattle and sheep are killed in the district ; but most of the pork sold in the town is killed here. The slaughter-houses have been visited as regularly as circumstances permitted. The number of slaughterhouses is 15 registered and 2 licensed. The following table is required by the Ministry of Health.

	1914.	In Dec. 1920.	In Jan. 1920.
Registered Slaughterhouses	16	15	15
Licensed Slaughterhouses	2	2	2
	—	—	—
	18	17	17

The weight of food destroyed under my direction, as being unfit for sale, during 1920, was 19 cwt ; comprising 702 rabbits, 169 lbs of butter, 6 cwt of sugar, 40 tins of condensed milk and 42 lbs of mutton.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Enquiries have been made in connection with infectious disease on 40 occasions and 65 premises disinfected.

Canal Boats' Act and Regulations.

During the year 55 visits have been made to the canal for the purpose of inspection ; but on eleven occasions only were boats met with. No defects were found on the boats inspected.

General.

It is regretted that greater improvement in housing repairs and the work of conversion cannot be shown. This is due to prevailing economic conditions and not to lack of effort on my part. The duties have increased out of all proportion to the improvements made ; in pre-war days the greater number of repairs were completed by the owner on receipt of the first notice and few visits of re-inspection were needed ; but to-day numerous reminders and re-visits are necessary.

The general standard of cleanliness of many tenants is low. Many compelled to live under overcrowded conditions, in houses with broken floors and defective woodwork, where the sanitary convenience is a common privy midden, and the tap and scullery used

by several families, have little inducement to keep clean ; but even where conditions are good many tenants fail to realise their responsibilities or the dangers to health caused by their neglect.

The common yard is the cause of a great deal of these unsatisfactory conditions. During the year the man employed for this work by the Council has opened 307 drains and 1,069 water-closets, and in addition to this 132 drains and 185 water-closets are known to have been choked. The greater part of these stoppages are due to ignorance or neglect on the part of the tenants. The legal power to deal with this class of occupier is small ; but great improvements could be effected if there was sufficient staff to deal with, and follow up, these cases.

FRED. BARNETT. A.R.San.I.

TABLE I.
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	156
Visits <i>re</i> complaints	...	...	...	...	385
Inspections	..	...	...	...	1538
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1238
Visits to work in progress	...	..	...	...	162
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	46
Visits to yards and courts	...	..	...	...	657
Visits <i>re</i> pig keeping	...	...	...	..	31
Visits <i>re</i> fowl, etc.	...	...	...	...	43
Visits to stables	...	...	...	...	35
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	455
Visits to canal	...	..	...	...	55
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	11
Infectious cases visited	...	...	...	...	40
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	65
Workshops inspected	...	...	...	...	109
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	61
Cowsheds inspected	..	..	...	...	44
Milk Shops inspected	...	...	...	...	63
Offensive Trades inspected	...	...	...	...	56
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	121
					<hr/>
			Total Inspections	...	5371
					<hr/>

TABLE II. (Continued).

W. C. without proper flush	...	...	...	...	...	19
W. C. choked	...	...	...	...	...	185
W. C. pedestal in dirty condition	...	...	...	...	...	10
Premises without proper ash accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	83
Ashbins defective or ashpits dilapidated	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fowls, ducks, etc., so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	19
Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance	..	...	...	...	..	4
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	60
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	49
TOTAL DEFECTS						2,348
TOTAL PREMISES AFFECTED						1,243

TABLE III.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES SERVED.

Wood floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Quarry floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Walls, brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
" plaster repaired	..	...	...	...	...	33
" cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	43
Ceilings, plaster repaired	...	...	..	...	...	32
" cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	43
General Woodwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	13
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Staircase plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Staircase walls cleansed	...	..	...	...	...	3
Staircase stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cellar steps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
" accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	...	43
Food store provided	...	...	...	..	...	5
Floor surface cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bedding cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	23
Roofs of house repaired	...	...	...	...	...	127
Roof stripped, re-slatted or re-tiled	...	...	...	...	...	12
Eaves gutters or spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	47
" " unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	73
" " provided	...	...	...	...	...	25
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	41
" pointed	...	...	...	...	..	45
Verges re-pointed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	22
Wash-house, brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
" root repaired	..	...	..	...	...	22
" floor repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
New sink provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
" paved	...	...	...	...	...	5
Yard surface cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	22
New Drains constructed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Premises connected to sewer	...	...	...	..	...	10
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Yard Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	29
Chambers constructed	...	..	...	...	...	19
Chamber covers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19

Drain, ventilation shaft fixed	...	...	...	..	...	6
" intercepting trap fixed	...	...	...	...	...	7
" stoppage removed	..	...	...	...	...	136
Water Closets fixed	...	...	...	...	...	19
Pail privy abolished	...	...	...	...	...	4
Privy vaults abolished	...	...	...	...	...	9
Roofs of closet apartment repaired	...	..	...	...	...	42
Walls	"	"	"	"	...	39
Water Closet pedestal provided	...	...	...	...	...	24
" " seat provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Flush provided to W.C.	...	...	...	..	...	29
Water Closet stoppages removed	...	...	...	...	...	183
" pedestal cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	48
Ash bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	293
Ash-pits improved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fows, ducks, etc., nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pigs, nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	64
Miscellaneous	...	..	...	...	...	40
TOTAL IMPROVEMENTS						1,922
TOTAL PREMISES AFFECTED						1,372

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9	6	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	170	9	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...			
Total ...	179	15	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Healths Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	5	3		
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	2		
Not separate for sexes	1	1		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops' Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	4	4		
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total ...	15	12		

The 3 Notices not complied with were receiving attention at the close of the year.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworker's Lists.					
	Sending twice in a year.			Sending once in a year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Con-tractors.	Work-men.		Con-tractors.	Work-men.
Wearing Apparel--making, etc. ...	6	3	18	—	—	—
Total ..	6	3	18	—	—	—

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (S. 131) at the end of the year.

Class.	Number.
Boot repairing	16
Dressmaking	9
Millinery	5
Tailoring	5
Builders and Decorators	10
Bakehouses	18
Miscellaneous	23
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	86

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	—
<i>Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901)</i>	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	11
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	11
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year... .. .	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied (Informal Notices)	133
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	46
(Partial Repairs).	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909,

(a) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act, of 1890:—

(1) Name of Area	Nil
(2) Acreage	Nil
(3) Number of working-class houses in area	Nil
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced	Nil

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 Nil

- 5.—Staff engaged on housing work with briefly duties of each Officer.
- Housing Director, part time general supervising and preparing of schemes.
 - Chief Architect, full-time preparing of schemes.
 - Junior " " " "
 - Engineering Assistant, part-time as required.

REPORT ON HOUSING PROGRESS.

SCHEMES.	No. of Houses possible.		Contracts let for.		Commenced.		Up to Damp Course.		1st Floor Joists laid.		Wall Plate.		Roof Timbers fixed.		Slated or Tiled.		Plastered.		Completed.		Occupied.	
	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.
Hall Park Street	38	14	24	14	24	14	24	14	24	14	24	14	24	14	24	14	24	11	24	8	20	8
Green Lanes	500	300	54	16	44	12	42	4	30	2	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bunker's Hill	24	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Bradley Houses	200	100	70	6	64	6	34	32	30	30	22	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Bradley Bungalows	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	10	10	10
Total in hand	776	442	139	166	36	149	32	117	18	103	16	101	16	77	16	53	11	38	8	33	8	8
Chapel Street Bungalows	22	22																			22	22
Ettingshall P.O.W.	27	27																			27	27
Totals	825	491																			82	8

Total Number of Families Accommodated ... 90

NOTE.—Houses completed includes all buildings fit for occupation subject to finishing of minor details afterwards

INDEX.

Adoptive Acts	...	...	...	...	17
Bacteriological Work	...	...	...	...	16
Births	...	...	...	...	2
Bye-laws	.	...	...	...	10
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	8
Drains and Sewerage	...	...	...	...	8
Deaths	...	...	...	...	2
Health Visitor's Report	...	...	...	...	14
Hospital Accommodation	...	...	...	...	16
Housing Report	...	...	...	...	17
Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	...	16
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	6
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	12
Milk Supply	...	...	..	...	11
Natural and Social Conditions		...	...	...	1
Population	...	...	...	...	1
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Inspector's Report		...	...	...	20
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	9
Schools	...	...	...	...	10
Staff	...	...	...	...	19
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	13
Water Supply	..	...	...	...	7