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BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1925,

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

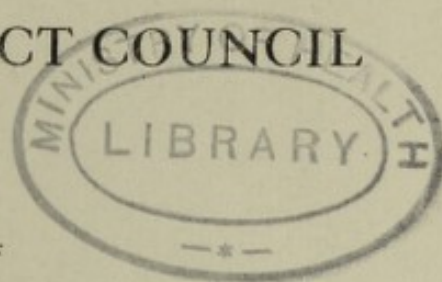
Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL).

William Woolley, Moseley Press, Orchard, Bilston.



BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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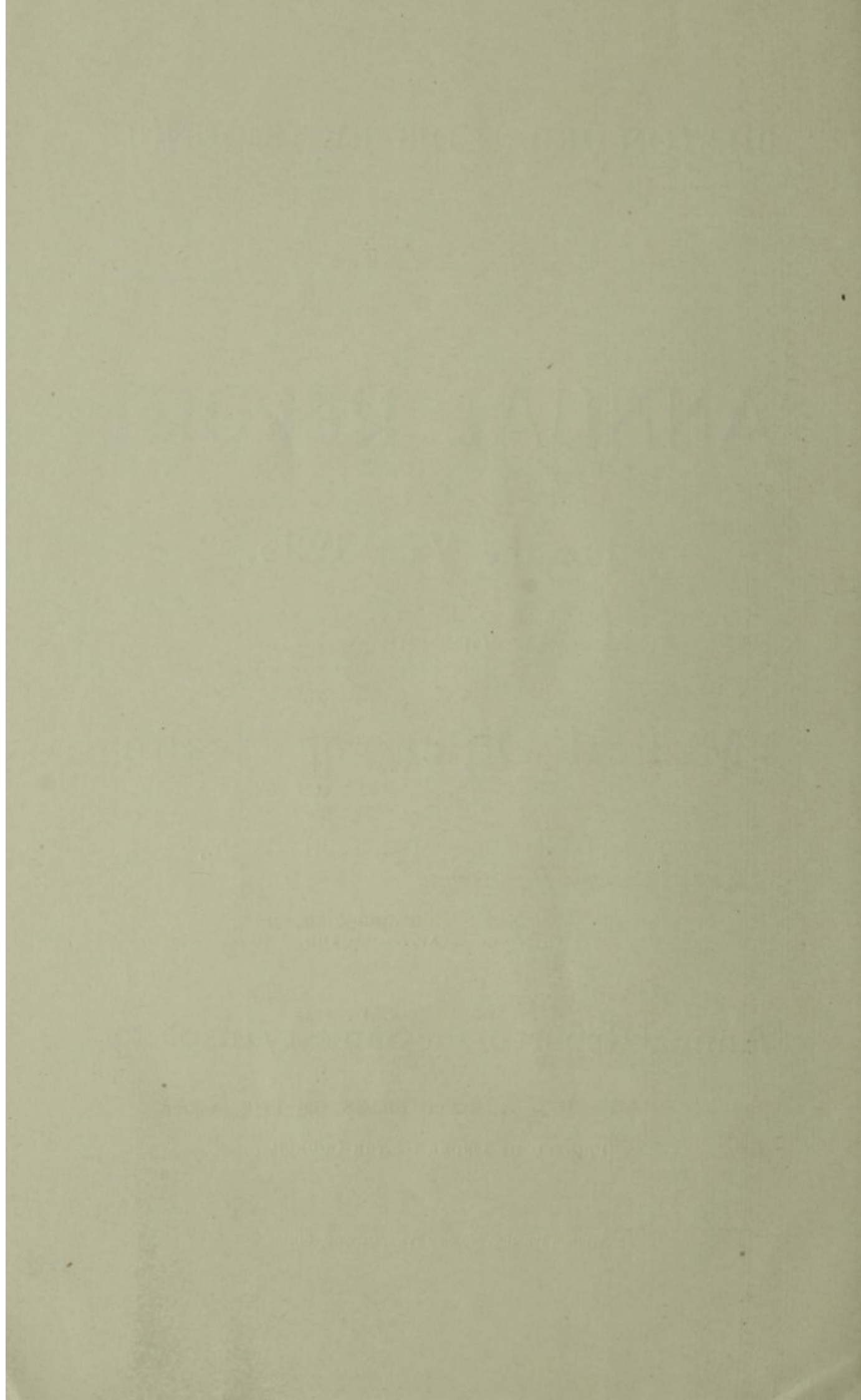
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ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the YEAR 1925.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district under your control for the year 1925. This report is prepared in accordance with the circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

It is a "survey report" and, in addition to the work of the year 1925, deals with the measure of progress made in the improvement in public health, and the extent and changes in the public health services of the area, during the past five years.

The subjects dealt with are mainly.

1. Natural and Social Conditions of the area.
2. General Provision of Health Services in the area.
3. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
4. Housing.
5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
6. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.
7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.

The area of the district is 1867 acres and the number of persons per acre (census 1921), 14.8.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| Bradley Ward. | 497 acres. | 9.1 persons. |
| Ettingshall Ward. | 456 " | 12.0 " |
| High Town Ward. | 117 " | 45.4 " |
| New Town Ward. | 286 " | 23.3 " |
| Town Hall Ward. | 511 " | 11.0 " |

The number of persons per acre to-day is 16 and is higher in proportion to the above figures for the Bradley and Town Hall Wards, owing to the fact that in these Wards a large number of houses have been erected by the Council.

Population.

The population at the census 1921 was 27,556. The estimated population for 1925 (figures supplied by the Registrar General), is 30,240. This figure is used throughout this report for all purposes of calculation.

Physical features and general character of the area.

Bilston is situate on rising ground at a height of 450 ft. above sea level, on the main Holyhead Road with Wolverhampton on the north three miles away and Birmingham on the south at a distance of ten miles. It 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 greater part of the remaining land is in its present condition unsuitable for building, owing to rises and depressions.

The District Council have done a great deal of work in improving sites by levelling, and the Green Lanes and Bradley Housing schemes have been developed on land which was formerly regarded as unsuitable for building purposes. Much land which could be levelled and utilised were funds available and assistance from an Exchequer grant would provide for further development in this direction. These sites, however, are of value as open spaces.

The town occupies a central position in the South Staffordshire coalfield, and is in a shallow syncline or trough having its axis N.W.-S.E. The old outcrop of the thick coal gives a fair indication of the structure, and 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 with, 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.

Inhabited houses.

The number of inhabited houses at the census 1921 was 5455, the estimated number at the end of 1925 is 6075—620 more.

Private families

The number of private families, or separate occupiers, at the census 1921 was 5,646, and the population in private families 27,151.

Rateable value.

The rateable value of the district is £103,280 and the sum represented by a penny rate £390.

Social Conditions.

The population is almost entirely working class in character, the general industries being iron and steel, galvanised iron, tin plate, boiler and hollow-ware manufactures.

The majority of the trades are heavy and laborious, but no occupations have any special deleterious influence on the general health.

The census figures (1921) of the working population shows the number of persons engaged in occupation to be 11,849, (8,788 males and 3,061 females). The details of the various occupations of persons employed are given in Table 1.

It will be seen that of the working population 5,822, or 48% are engaged in various branches of the metal trade. Details of the occupations under this heading (taken from the census returns for 1921) are given in Table. 2.

TABLE I.
Details of Occupation.

| Occupation. | Males | Fe- males | Total |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Metal Workers (not electro plate or precious metals) | 4567 | 1255 | 5822 |
| Commercial, finance, and insurance (excluding ; Clerks) | 426 | 376 | 802 |
| Clerks and Draftsmen (Not Civil Service or Local Authority) ; typists | 216 | 208 | 424 |
| Transport and Communication | 664 | 27 | 691 |
| Builders, bricklayers, stone and slate workers, Contractors | 457 | 2 | 459 |
| Workers in wood, furniture etc., | 234 | 26 | 260 |
| Warehouse men, store keepers and packers | 120 | 157 | 277 |
| Stationary engine drivers, dynamo and motor attendants | 256 | — | 256 |
| Mining and quarrying | 133 | — | 133 |
| Workers in the treatment of non-metalliferous mine and quarry products | 9 | 14 | 23 |
| Makers of bricks, pottery and earthenware | 25 | 17 | 42 |
| Workers in chemical processes, makers of paints etc. | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| Workers in precious metals and electro-plate | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Electrical apparatus makers and fitters | 69 | 39 | 108 |
| Textile workers and makers of textile goods and articles of dress | 68 | 114 | 182 |
| Makers of foods, drugs | 71 | 22 | 93 |
| Printers, book binders etc. | 20 | 12 | 32 |
| Painters and decorators | 77 | 5 | 82 |
| Gas, water and electricity undertakings | 32 | 2 | 34 |
| Public administration and defence | 79 | 21 | 100 |
| Professional occupation (excluding clerical staff) | 84 | 123 | 207 |
| Persons engaged in entertainment and sport | 22 | 9 | 31 |
| Persons engaged in personal service (excluding institutions, clubs etc.) | 157 | 575 | 732 |
| Other and undefined workers | 974 | 49 | 1023 |
| TOTAL | 8788 | 3061 | 11849 |

TABLE 2.
Details of Metal Workers.

| | Males | Fe- males | Total |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Employers, managers and foremen | 156 | 2 | 158 |
| Furnace men. | | | |
| Converters. | 3 | — | 3 |
| Skilled furnace men | 205 | — | 205 |
| Puddlers | 114 | — | 114 |
| Shinglers | 14 | — | 14 |
| Rollers | 124 | — | 124 |
| Foundry Workers. | | | |
| Moulders | 397 | 80 | 477 |
| Cupola men | 41 | — | 41 |
| Foundry labourers | 193 | 9 | 202 |
| Brass Foundry labourers | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Smiths and skilled forge workers | 249 | 10 | 259 |
| Machine Tool Makers | 214 | 257 | 471 |
| Fitters and Millwrights | | | |
| Erectors | 220 | 3 | 223 |
| Tool Setters | 114 | — | 114 |
| Millwrights | 25 | — | 25 |
| Erectors and Fitters Labourers | 43 | — | 43 |
| Annealers etc. | 20 | — | 20 |
| Art Metal Workers | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Boiler makers, platers | 66 | — | 66 |
| Brass finishers and turners | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Constructional engineers | 40 | — | 40 |
| Galvanisers | 49 | 14 | 63 |
| Grinders | 27 | 17 | 44 |
| Polishers, buffers and moppers | 30 | 48 | 78 |
| Japanners, enamellers and stovers | 42 | 136 | 178 |
| Mechanical engineers | 39 | 1 | 40 |
| Mechanics various | 62 | 3 | 65 |
| Oxy-acetylene or electric welders | 32 | 17 | 49 |
| Press workers and stampers | 160 | 266 | 426 |
| Riveters | 71 | 6 | 77 |
| Tin Smiths and Sheet Metal Workers | 199 | 14 | 213 |
| Tool Makers | 76 | 1 | 77 |
| Other Workers | 1522 | 361 | 1883 |
| TOTAL | 4567 | 1255 | 5822 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 786, (males 370, females 416), giving a birth rate of 26 per 1,000. The births were 17 and the birth rate .49 less than last year.

The number of illegitimate births was 20 (males 7, and females 13) or 2.5% of the total births.

Table 3 shows the details of births in each ward and Table 4 the births and birth rates for the past five years.

TABLE III.

| | Males. | Females | Total. |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Town Hall | 80 | 75 | 155 |
| High Town | 60 | 62 | 122 |
| New Town | 85 | 115 | 200 |
| Ettingshall | 60 | 77 | 137 |
| Bradley | 79 | 81 | 160 |
| Out of District | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Total | 370 | 416 | 786 |

TABLE IV.

| | Males. | Females | Total | BirthRate per 1000 |
|------|--------|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1925 | 370 | 416 | 786 | 26.00 |
| 1924 | 410 | 393 | 803 | 26.49 |
| 1923 | 432 | 393 | 825 | 28.02 |
| 1922 | 408 | 382 | 790 | 27.54 |
| 1921 | 470 | 469 | 939 | 33.35 |

Deaths.

The total registered deaths for the district for the year was 495 (261 males, 234 females), giving a rate of 16.4 per 1,000. The deaths are 113, and the death rate 3.8 more than last year.

Of the deaths 355, (176 males and 179 females), occurred in the district, the remaining 140 (85 males, 55 females), died outside the area, 61 in the Wolverhampton General Hospital, 67 in the Union Infirmary and 12 at other places, Table 5 shows the number of deaths in each ward, Table 6 the deaths and death rates, for the last five years; and Table 7 the ages at which death occurred.

TABLE V.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Town Hall | 39 | 34 | 73 |
| High Town | 37 | 33 | 70 |
| New Town | 34 | 37 | 71 |
| Ettingshall | 34 | 46 | 80 |
| Bradley | 32 | 29 | 61 |
| Out of District | 85 | 55 | 140 |
| TOTAL | 261 | 234 | 495 |

TABLE VI.

| | Males | Females | Total. | Rate. |
|------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
| 1925 | 261 | 234 | 495 | 16.4 |
| 1924 | 197 | 185 | 382 | 12.26 |
| 1923 | 217 | 186 | 403 | 13.68 |
| 1922 | 221 | 184 | 405 | 14.12 |
| 1921 | 220 | 173 | 393 | 13.96 |

TABLE VII.

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Under 1 year | 93 |
| 1 to 2 years. | 43 |
| 2 to 5 " | 32 |
| 5 to 15 " | 12 |
| 15 to 25 " | 23 |
| 25 to 45 " | 57 |
| 45 to 65 " | 99 |
| 65 to 80 " | 117 |
| 80 years and upwards | 19 |
| TOTAL | 495 |

136 or 27.5% of the total deaths occurred in children under two years of age and 136 or 27.5% of the deaths in persons over 65 years of age.

Causes of death.

Details of the various causes of death are shown in Table 8. Table 9 (given for the purpose of comparison), shows the birth rate, death rate and analysis of mortality for England and Wales, certain County Boroughs, smaller towns, London and Bilston.

The deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 164 or 33% of the total deaths. The deaths from Tuberculosis were 25 or a rate of .82 per 1,000 of the population, from Bronchitis, 52 or 1.7 per 1,000 and from Pneumonia 83 or 2.7 per 1,000.

The details of the various deaths are as follows :—

TABLE VIII.

| Causes of Death. | Males. | Females | Total. |
|---|--------|---------|--------|
| Enteric Fever | | | |
| Small Pox | | | |
| Measles | 13 | 6 | 19 |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Diphtheria | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Influenza | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| Encephalitis lethargica | | | |
| Meningococcal meningitis | | | |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 14 | 11 | 25 |
| Other Tuberculous diseases | 3 | — | 3 |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 23 | 14 | 37 |
| Rheumatic Fever | | | |
| Diabetes | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cerebral haemorrhage, &c. | 17 | 15 | 32 |
| Heart disease | 14 | 18 | 32 |
| Arterio-sclerosis | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 24 | 28 | 52 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 46 | 37 | 83 |
| Other respiratory diseases | — | 4 | 4 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Diarrhoea, &c (under 2 years) | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| Appendicitis & Typhlitis | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cirrhosis of liver | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Acute and chronic nephritis | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Puerperal sepsis | | | |
| Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition | — | 3 | 3 |
| Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth | 15 | 15 | 30 |
| Suicide | 2 | — | 2 |
| Other deaths from violence | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Other defined diseases | 38 | 54 | 92 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | — | — | — |
| TOTAL DEATHS | 261 | 234 | 495 |

TABLE IX.

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

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rate refers to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

| | BIRTH RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION. | ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 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 two years) | Total deaths under one year | Causes of Death Certified by Medical Practitioners. | Inquest Cases. | Uncertified Causes of Death. |
| England and Wales | 18.3 | 12.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.13 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.07 | 0.32 | 0.47 | 8.4 | 75 | 92.1 | 6.9 | 1.0 |
| 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London | 18.8 | 12.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.03 | 0.18 | 0.09 | 0.30 | 0.43 | 10.8 | 79 | 92.1 | 7.3 | 0.6 |
| 157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations ; 20,000—50,000.) | 18.3 | 11.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.02 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.31 | 0.38 | 7.6 | 74 | 93.0 | 5.9 | 1.1 |
| London | 18.0 | 11.7 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.19 | 0.11 | 0.23 | 0.46 | 10.6 | 67 | 91.1 | 8.9 | 0.0 |
| Bilston | 26.0 | 16.4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.62 | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 0.46 | 0.49 | 17.8 | 117 | 92.6 | 7.4 | 0.0 |

Infantile Mortality.

The number of children dying during the first year of life was 93 (males 46 females 47), or 18.7% of the total deaths. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 117 per 1,000 births. The number of illegitimate children dying under one year of age was 7 (males 3 and females 4) or 7.5% of the infant deaths.

The number of infants dying during the first month of life was 26 and between the first and twelfth month 67. The number dying under one week was 16, one to two weeks 1, two to three weeks 5, three to four weeks 4; one to three months 12, three to six months 20, six to nine months 13 and nine to twelve months 22.

The infantile mortality rate is higher than last year. Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 33 or 35.5% of the deaths.

Table.10. shows the deaths of infants under one year of age, the causes of death and ages at which they occurred, Table 11 the wards in which they occurred, and Table 12 (inserted for the purpose of comparison), the birth rate and infantile mortality rate for England and Wales and this district for the last 10 years—both much higher here than in the country generally.

TABLE X.

| CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR. | 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. |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Measles | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 4 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Diarrhoea | — | | | | | | | | |
| Enteritis | 12 | | | | | 1 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| Other Tubercular Diseases | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Congenital Malformation | 5 | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | | | |
| Premature birth | 15 | 11 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus | 13 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Syphilis | | | | | | | | | |
| Rickets | | | | | | | | | |
| Gastritis | | | | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis | 6 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| Pneumonia | 27 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 14 |
| Suffocation, overlaying | | | | | | | | | |
| Convulsions | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Other Defined Diseases | 6 | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | | |
| TOTAL | 93 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 20 | 13 | 22 |

TABLE XI.

| | Males | Females | Total. |
|----------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Town Hall Ward | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| High Town " | 8 | 12 | 20 |
| New Town " | 16 | 11 | 27 |
| Ettingshall " | 6 | 10 | 16 |
| Bradley " | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| TOTAL | 46 | 47 | 93 |

TABLE XII.

| England and Wales. | | | Bilston. | |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Year | Birth Rate. | Infant Mortality Rate. | Birth Rate. | Infant Mortality Rate. |
| 1925 | 18.3 | 75 | 26.00 | 117 |
| 1924 | 18.8 | 75 | 26.49 | 97 |
| 1923 | 19.7 | 69 | 28.02 | 103 |
| 1922 | 20.4 | 77 | 27.54 | 97 |
| 1921 | 22.4 | 83 | 33.35 | 100 |
| 1920 | 25.5 | 80 | 34.22 | 124 |
| 1919 | 18.5 | 89 | 25.7 | 148 |
| 1918 | 17.7 | 97 | 26.28 | 115 |
| 1917 | 17.8 | 96 | 23.94 | 145 |
| 1916 | 20.9 | 91 | 27.66 | 134 |

Poor Law Relief.

Bilston is a constituent part of the area controlled by the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians and the amount of money spent by them on Poor Law Relief in the assistance of cases in this district during the year under review was, ordinary out relief £7348-0-7d. and on relief to unemployed persons £1380-14-10d.

Hospital and gratuities Medical Relief.

The institutions where inhabitants of this district chiefly receive treatment are the Wolverhampton & Staffordshire General Hospital, the Wolverhampton and District Hospital for Women and the Wolverhampton and District Eye Infirmary. The following details of the number of cases from Bilston have been kindly supplied to me by the secretaries of these Institutions.

Wolverhampton & Staffordshire General Hospital.

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Accidents. | 640. |
| In-patients. | 305. |
| Out-patients. | 1186. |

Wolverhampton & District Eye Infirmary.

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| In-patients. | 65. |
| Out-patients. | 1180. |

Wolverhampton & District Women's Hospital.

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| In-patients. | 27. |
| Out-patients. | 57. |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Area. Hospitals provided or subsidized by Local Authority or by County Council.

1. **Tuberculosis.** Cases from this district are treated at Hospitals under the control of the Con-Joint Tuberculosis Board. For females,-Groundslow Sanatorium (early cases), Yarnfield Sanatorium (advanced cases), Males.-Prestwood Sanatorium (early cases), Edge View, (advanced cases), Children, The Limes, Himley.
2. **Maternity.** There are no special arrangements for treatment of these cases. The Wolverhampton Guardians have indicated their willingness to accept suitable cases at the Poor Law Infirmary, New Cross.
3. **Children.** There is no special hospital for children.
4. **Fever.** The Council has its own Hospital for treatment of cases of scarlet fever.
5. **Small Pox.** Bilston is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Con-Joint Small Pox Hospital. Cases in this district would be removed to the Con-Joint Small Pox Hospital, Moxley, Bilston.
6. **Other infectious disease.** Cases of infectious disease, other than scarlet fever and small pox, are treated at the Wolverhampton & South Staffordshire General Hospital on an agreed scale of payment by the District Council. This applies chiefly to diphtheria.

Hospitals available for the district.

The hospitals available for the district are the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital, The Women's Hospital and the Eye Infirmary at Wolverhampton and the Poor Law Infirmary, New Cross, Wolverhampton. The first three institutions are supported by voluntary contributions.

Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and Homeless children.

There are no special arrangements for cases of this kind in this district.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a). **For infectious cases.** The Council have their own horse drawn ambulance for this purpose.
- (b). **Non-infectious and accident cases.** The Council do not provide any conveyance for this purpose ; but several works in the district have their own vehicles for conveying accident cases to hospital. An ambulance for non-infectious cases has now been provided by voluntary subscriptions, it is used by the inhabitants of this district and part of the neighbouring area of Coseley. A payment is made for its use.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The Child Welfare Centre is situated at 23, Wellington Road, Bilston. It is a consultation Centre under the control of the Medical Officer of Health and is open on one half day per week. The staff, in addition to the Medical Officer of Health, consists of the Health Visitor, the two District Nurses from the Nursing Association, and one female clerk.

Day Nurseries. There are no day nurseries.

School Clinics. The School Clinic is situated at 23, Wellington Road, Bilston in the same building as the Infant Welfare Centre. It is under the control of the School Medical Officer who is also the Medical Officer of Health. The Clinic is open from 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. on each week day other than Saturday, on which day it is open from 9 to 10 a.m. The Staff consists of one School Nurse and a part time female clerk, whose duties are divided between the District Council and the Education Committee.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries. There is no treatment centre in this area. Tuberculosis patients from the district attend the Dispensary in Wolverhampton or Wednesbury, provided by the Con-Joint Tuberculosis Board.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Disease. These cases are treated at Centres at Wolverhampton and Walsall under arrangements made by the County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The details of Public Health Staff employed by this Authority together with their qualifications are as follows :—

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Medical Officer of Health (part time.) (Contribution of portion of salary from Exchequer grants). | M.D.Edin., M.Ch. |
|---|------------------|

| | |
|--|--|
| Sanitary Inspector. (Contribution of portion of salary from Exchequer grants). | Inspector of Nuisances certificate. Meat and Food Certificate First class honours plumbing and house sanitation. Advanced certificate for Hygiene, Physiology, Building Construction, Plumbing and Chemistry. |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| Health Visitor. (Contribution of portion of salary from Exchequer grants). | Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses. Maternity and Child and Welfare. Inspector of Nuisances. Certificate. |
|--|--|

(Two Females Clerks.
(The time of the junior is divided
between the Education Committee and
the Council.)

Professional Nursing in the home.

No special arrangements for professional nursing in the home are made by the County Council or the Local Sanitary Authority. The existing arrangements are as follows :—

(a). **General.**

The Nursing Association for this district is the Bilston and Bradley Nursing Association, a branch of the Queen Victoria Nursing Association. The Association is financed by voluntary contributions and employs two nurses who are available for general nursing. An annual grant of £15-15-0. is made by the Council to the Association in recognition of the attendance of the nurses at the Infant Welfare Centre weekly.

(b). **Infectious disease.**

No arrangements exist for home nursing in cases of infectious disease.

Midwives.

The Council do not employ or subsidise Midwives. The number of midwives practising in the district is 15, all of whom are under the control of the County Council which is the supervising authority for the district.

Chemical Work.

Any chemical analysis required would be carried out by Mr. W. T. Jones, Wolverhampton (the Analyst for the County.) No work of this nature has been required by the Health Department during the last five years.

Legislation in Force.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to Public Health in force in the District.

Bilston Commissioners' Water Act, 1893.

Bilston Improvement Act, 1896.

Public Health Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act (certain sections) 1907

Private Streets Works' Acts, 1892.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

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.

ByeLaws for the prevention of nuisance arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes and rubbish, and of the keeping of animals on the 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 Cemetary.

Bye-Laws with respect to markets and fairs.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Bilston Council acquired its own water supply by Act of Parliament in 1893 and the works at the Bratch, Wombourn, were opened in 1896. The water is derived from deep wells sunk in the upper and lower red sand stone formation. It is pumped from the Bratch to the reservoir at Goldthorn Hill and thence to the town by gravitation. The supply is constant and of excellent quality. It has a high degree of hardness and the water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

The following is a copy of the certificate by the County Analyst (Mr. W. T. Jones).

Water Analysis.

Sample of water taken from tap in basement of Town Hall at 9-30 a.m. on 17th November, 1925 and received same day.

| | Grains per gallon. |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Solid Matter dried at 212° F. | 25.2 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia. | 0.0 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | 0.0014 |
| Nitric Nitrogen | 0.49 |
| Chlorine | 1.47 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F. | 0.003 |
| Appearance | Clear |
| Colour thro' 2 feet | practically colourless |
| Hardness before boiling | 18.64° |
| Hardness after boiling | 6.50° |
| Temporary hardness | 12.14° |

Bacteriological Examination.

Organisms per C.C.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| On gelatin at 20° C. | 1 |
| On agar-agar at 37° C. | 0 |
| On agar-agar acidified and phenolised | 0 |

This sample shows close agreement chemically with that taken last April. Bacteriologically it is even purer, being practically sterile.

The only houses in the area not supplied with Town water are three groups of cottages, (17 in all), situate on mounds. In all three, water for these dwellings is obtained from springs which have been analysed and found to be pure.

In approximately 80% of the dwellings the water is laid on direct to the houses. In the remainder, water is obtained from stand pipes fixed in common yards.

During the last five years the water works at the Bratch have been efficiently maintained. A further bore hole has been sunk to a depth of 640 feet and this has greatly improved the available supply. A new 12 inch trunk main has been laid from the service reservoir to the town for the purpose of giving a better supply to the higher parts of the district and to provide an additional main instead of having to rely on a single service pipe. At the present time a new pumping station, complete with up-to-date pumping apparatus, the provision of a pumping main and the construction of a new service reservoir are in hand.

Rivers and streams.

There are only two small streams in this area. These are subject to regular inspection by the County Authorities and the Tame Basin Joint Committee.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The greater portion of the town is sewered. The Cross Street area, containing approximately 50 houses, has not yet been dealt with but is receiving attention. In addition to these, several houses in various parts of an adjoining district drain into open channels in the street. Those in the Cross Street area, can be dealt with when the sewer is laid; but most of the others are in such isolated positions, as to make it impracticable.

In many cases the drainage of the older properties is defective and these are dealt with as circumstances permit.

The reports of the Sanitary Inspector show that during the past five years 158 premises have been connected to the sewer, 253 new drains have been constructed, and 221 repaired.

The sewage disposal works at the Lunt have been extended and improved. Two storm water tanks, two detritus tanks and a mechanical screen have been constructed and other general improvements made. The works continue to give satisfaction.

Closet Accommodation.

The approximate number of water closets in the area is 4434 and the number of the conservancy type 400. The presence of privies is due to the fact that they are attached to houses which are not sewered, or to property so dilapidated as to require demolition when conditions permit.

During 1924 a scheme of conversion was carried out for the area, 885 privies were abolished and 885 water closets substituted. Since 1913, 2,090 water closets have been provided in place of privies.

Scavenging.

The collection and disposal of house refuse and the cleansing of privies is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Cleansing Superintendent. He has sole charge and reports direct to the Council.

Ashbins and ashpits are emptied during the day time and the contents deposited on tips. There is a weekly collection of contents of ashbins, and ashpits are cleared every six weeks.

Privies are emptied in the early morning between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. The contents of pails and vaults are emptied direct into the sewer at the depot ; and the contents of privy middens on the Lunt tip.

There are four tips in the district, these are situate away from buildings.

The need for destruction of refuse by cremation has been emphasised in previous reports and, in 1914, the then Surveyor submitted, on my suggestion, a scheme, and instructions were given for the erection of a destructor. Owing to the war this was not proceeded with.

The Council have recently decided to instal an incinerator for dealing with trade refuse. This will be of considerable value. Unfortunately domestic refuse must still be deposited on tips.

Much waste land in the district requires levelling and the method of tipping is not satisfactory. This tipping leads to nuisances from rats, from flies and offensive smells ; and from debris and paper often scattered by the wind. Many complaints are received of such nuisances.

Further, refuse is also placed on the various tips by persons other than employees of the Council. It is the duty of the Authority to take all precautions in dealing with tips and the suggestion of the Ministry of Health should be carried out, that is, refuse should be deposited in shallow layers and each layer promptly covered with earth or other suitable material, and arrangements made for preventing paper and debris being blown from the place of deposit.

Ash Accommodation.

The approximate number of ashpits in the district at the end of 1925 was 900 and the number of ashbins 2900.

During the last five years 123 ashpits have been abolished and ashbins supplied in their place.

In January of this year a scheme was formulated for the abolition of all ashpits and the provision of bins. It is intended that this shall be accomplished during 1926.

Sanitary inspection of the area.

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

Smoke abatement.

No readings of atmospheric impurity are taken. In an industrial area, such as this, it is obvious that a considerable amount of atmospheric pollution exists.

No definite action has been taken during the year, lack of staff prevents anything of a practical and efficient character being attempted.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.

The premises affected are :—

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----|
| Common Lodging Houses | ..... | 6 |
| Cowsheds | ..... | 6 |
| Milkshops | ..... | 27 |
| Offensive trades..... | ..... | 25 |
| Slaughter houses | ..... | 13 |

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the district. This is not a hop or fruit growing area and no regulations under these heads are necessary.

Other Sanitary conditions requiring notice.

A large area of land at Stowheath, and some yards in the Coseley Street Area, have been used by travelling caravans for many years. In some instances the van dwellers became permanent occupiers and at the end of 1924 a number of "shacks" were erected at Stowheath by persons who were evicted from houses in neighbouring districts. No proper water supply or sanitary accommodation was provided and the condition of many of the so called dwellings was deplorable.

Action was commenced early in 1925 and notices served on all van and shack dwellers. The majority of the occupiers left the district. It was necessary however, for legal proceedings to be taken in 16 cases. Orders of the Court were obtained and the areas have now been cleared.

The total number of dwellings removed was 52, (34 vans and 18 shacks). These were occupied by 167 persons.

Schools.

There are ten schools in the district (with 20 departments) all of which are provided with town water and have sanitary accommodation on the water carriage system. The average number of scholars on the register for 1925 was 5458. A report on the sanitary accommodation of all schools is printed in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer. A copy of this report is sent to each Councillor.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.

The estimated number of houses at the end of 1925 was 6075, of these 5139 are working class houses as follows :—

1. Single storey cottages, containing two to four rooms and let at weekly rentals of 4/6 to 6/9. 200
2. An old interment war camp consisting of army huts, adapted by the Council to make provision for families who were de-housed during mining operations let at weekly rentals of 2/3—4/6. 27
3. Wooden dwellings, erected by the Council, containing living room, scullery and three bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 8/6. 36
4. Houses with one room on the ground floor and one bed-room. Let at weekly rentals of 3/- and 3/10. 200
5. Houses with one room on the ground floor and two bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 3/10 to 4/6. 958
6. Houses with one room on the ground floor and three bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 3/6 to 5/6. 81.

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| 7. | Houses built by the Council with living room, scullery and three bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 9/4 to 11/10. | 446. |
| 8. | Houses built by the Council with two living rooms, scullery and three bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 12/8 to 14/6. | 156. |
| 9. | Houses with two rooms on the ground floor and two bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 5/3 to 6/9. | 2054 |
| 10. | Houses with two rooms on the ground floor and three bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 8/3 to 10/6. | 904 |
| 11. | Houses with two rooms on the ground floor and four bedrooms. Let at weekly rentals of 10/- to 11/-. | 77. |

In groups 3, 7 and 8 (638 houses) the scullery forms part of the dwelling, and a water closet is provided for each house. Baths are provided in 602 of these houses. Conditions vary in the remaining groups (4501 houses). In many cases the wash-houses and sanitary conveniences are away from the dwelling and are used by several occupiers.

With the present staff, systematic house to house inspection is impossible. The details given above are based on the inspections made during the survey in 1919, and the rents quoted are calculated on the allowable increases since that date. The figures may be subject to revision but can be regarded as a reliable estimate of present conditions.

Extent of shortage of houses.

It is difficult to give an exact estimate of the housing shortage. The number of houses at the census 1911 was 5281, the population 25681 and the persons per house 4.86; the number of houses at the census 1921 was 5508, the population 27,556 and the persons per house 5.00. The number of houses at the end of 1925 is estimated as already stated at 6075, the population 30,240, and the persons per house 4.97.

Overcrowding existed in 1911, the number of persons per house is .11 greater than at that time, the increase in the number of dwellings since 1911 has been insufficient to provide for the natural increase in the population and has made no allowance for overcrowding.

There was acute housing shortage in 1921 and the population has increased by 2684 since that time. Allowing for 4.5 persons per house, the number required for the additional population alone, without any provision for the existing overcrowding, is 590. The actual increase in the number of houses is only 567.

The census returns show the number of persons living under overcrowded conditions to be 4602. Presuming that overcrowding would be abated by the provision of accommodation for half of these people, and this is doubtful, the number of houses yet required would be, approximately, 500.

The Housing Agent states that there are to day 376 applications from Bilston residents for houses.

In the Housing Survey of 1919 it was stated that there were 772 houses which could not be made in all respects fit for habitation and that 404 back to back houses should be converted into through houses. These figures were based on the standard required by the Manual issued by the Ministry of Health.

The acute shortage makes it imperative that a lower standard must be accepted. The back to back houses are not situate in rows but mixed with other dwellings, and the conversion into through houses must be postponed. Even with a lower standard of fitness there are approximately 400 houses to be demolished as soon as conditions permit.

The number of houses required for the natural increase of population and overcrowding is, approximately, 550 and 400 more are necessary to replace unfit dwellings, a total of 950.

Measures taken, or contemplated, to meet shortage.

The Council have schemes in hand for the erection of 230 houses, and 70 houses are being built under contract purchase schemes. Building operations are proceeding rapidly. At the time of writing this report some of the houses are actually occupied and approximately 200 will be completed during 1926. It is probable also that 30 houses not subject to special conditions, may be built during the same period.

Table B. kindly supplied by the Council Architect, shows that since 1919, 724 houses have been built, 663 of which have been erected by the District Council.

The Council are to be congratulated on this result but, even still, the schemes, now in hand, when completed, will make no provision for the abatement of overcrowding or the replacing of insanitary dwellings when demolished.

One real difficulty is that the people in most urgent need of houses are unable to pay even the minimum rents and thus an extremely serious economic situation is produced.

Changes in population.

No important changes in the character of the population during the period under review have taken place and none are anticipated.

Overcrowding.

While overcrowding is very serious it is impossible to give details of its extent. The best available figures for the area are those given in the census returns for 1921. These show the number of rooms per dwelling to be 4.25, the families per house 1.04.

On the basis of England and Wales standard, the deficiency of rooms was 3133, or—12%. This is common to other districts in the neighbourhood as shown by the following details taken from the census returns :—

Coseley—14.1%. Sedgley—14%. Darlaston—11.7%. Willenhall—7.2% Wednesbury—6.8% and Tipton—14.6%.

The number of persons living more than two persons per room, i.e., the census basis of overcrowding, was 4602 or 16.9% of the total private family population.

The figures for neighbouring districts were as follows :—

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Coseley | 18.5%. |
| Darlaston | 12.9%. |
| Willenhall | 12.1%. |
| Heath Town | 9.0%. |
| Wednesfield | 8.9%. |
| Wednesbury | 13.0%. |
| Tipton | 19.4%. |
| Sedgley | 20.4%. |

The census basis of calculating overcrowding i.e., two persons to one room, does not represent the real condition as no account is taken of the cubic contents of sleeping rooms nor of the age and sex of the persons occupying them.

The census gives the number of houses occupied by more than one family as 191 or 3% of the total dwellings. In many instances married sons or daughters, living at home with their parents, would be returned as one family, and this makes the figure given, less than the actual number. It is estimated that approximately 440 of the houses in this district, or 8%, are occupied by more than one family.

Causes.

The causes of overcrowding are shortage of dwellings and economic conditions. Details show that the houses are not sufficient in number for the present population. Further, if the necessary houses could be built, the high rental prevents occupation by the class of persons by whom they are most needed.

The greatest amount of overcrowding exists in houses with rentals from 3/6 to 6/6 per week. Owing to continued trade depression many tenants cannot pay even these low rentals. This means that many tenants are compelled to share their dwellings with outsiders. Young couples desiring to marry are unable to obtain houses and, therefore, when married reside in the home of one or other of their parents.

Measures taken for dealing with, and principal cause of overcrowding during 1925.

Detailed inspections for the purpose of discovering overcrowding have not been made and only those cases, found during the course of ordinary visiting, or as the result of complaint, are therefore dealt with and some of these, even though deplorable, were impossible to remedy.

During the year 59 notices to abate overcrowding were served, yet only 14 were complied with. Legal action was not instituted for Orders of Abatement by the Court, under these conditions, could not be expected.

Fitness of Houses.

General standard of housing in the area.

The nature of the property varies largely according to type and age. Many of the houses are old and cannot be raised to the desired standard. There are approximately 400 which require demolition and must eventually be demolished, of these 120 are quite unfit and, but for the shortage, immediate application for their closure would be made.

The standard generally is similar to other industrial areas of corresponding character and, with the exception of the property referred to above, is good.

Character of defects in unfit houses.

The defects found are those usually associated with old dwellings. Dampness, due to absense of damp course, decayed brickwork and defective joints; defective roofs and spouting. Rooms small, with insufficient light and ventilation; windows too small, often defective and not able to be opened, and houses without through air current. Decayed plaster on walls and ceilings and broken floors. Unhygienic arrangements, or none at all, for storing food, lack of proper facilities for personal and domestic cleanliness and sanitary accommodation used in common.

How far defects are due to owners, or acts of waste or neglect by tenants.

The defects in these houses could have been prevented long ago by proper and continued care on the part of owners and tenants; but the chief dilapidation is usually due to the advanced age of the property.

Wilful damage by tenants in the area is rare, though their habits and actions frequently leave much room for improvement.

Carelessness and negligence in the use of sanitary conveniences and drains, in the cleanliness of yards and out-buildings, and in the disposal of domestic refuse are common. Many minor repairs in houses could be remedied by the tenant with little effort and would then save considerable expense to the owner.

General action as regards unfit houses.

During the year detailed inspections and records have been made of 56 houses by the Sanitary Inspector who is the officer appointed for this purpose under the Housing Regulations. One hundred and eighty eight houses were also inspected for structural or other defects. In all cases action was taken under the Public Health Acts. Intimation Notices have been served in each instance, and 7 formal notices were found necessary.

During the year defects have been remedied at 214 houses. All improvements asked for have not been obtained; but the results generally are satisfactory.

Action has not been taken under the Housing Acts.

Difficulties in remedying unfitness.

These have already been explained but more might perhaps have been done with an increased staff.

To obtain Closing Orders under present circumstances would aggravate the evil. Action has not been taken under Section 3 of the Housing Act. Many houses could not possibly be made fit except by complete reconstruction.

Some owners of small property cannot afford to do even necessary repairs, the rent is frequently greatly in arrears and the large sums of money expended for drainage and improvement in connection with the conversion scheme of 1924 add to their burden. They are only able to carry out repairs gradually.

Water supply and closet accommodation and refuse disposal.

All houses except 17 are supplied with town water. Approximately 500 houses have sanitary accommodation of the conservancy type. The houses not provided with proper drainage number about 400. About one third of these houses have ashpits and the remainder ashbins.

Details of these matters will be found on pages 44 and 45.

Unhealthy areas.

There are no areas in the district which can reasonably be classed under this heading, the bad property being intermixed with good or situate in small isolated blocks with open surroundings.

Byelaws relating to houses, let in lodgings and to tents, vans, sheds etc.,

The byelaws relating to buildings have been revised and are at present, I understand, awaiting the sanction of the Ministry of Health. As previously stated, many houses are occupied by more than one family but few dwellings would come under the heading of houses, let in lodgings, and byelaws in this connection appear necessary.

Tents, vans etc.

Today only a few caravans remain in the district. These are situate in enclosed yards supplied with the necessary sanitary accommodation and water supply. Under present conditions all caravans cannot be abolished and byelaws relating to these and to tents and sheds should be considered by the Council.

Inspection and supervision of food.

Food inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who holds the qualifying certificate for this work.

Milk Supply.

Bilston is not a milk producing area. The greater part of the milk is obtained from Shropshire and agricultural districts in Staffordshire.

Six cowsheds are in use, three are old and need reconstruction. The regulations issued under the Dairy Cowsheds and Milk Shops Orders are observed in the area.

Mr. J. E. Cartwright, Veterinary Surgeon, of Wolverhampton, is the appointed officer for the inspection of milking cows. His report for the year 1925 is given below.

"I beg to present my Annual Report upon the health and condition of dairy cattle in your Council's area for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

There are six dairy farms and the average number of cows is 84 which have frequently been inspected and re-inspected and the total number of visits during the year 1372.

There have been no udder cases but several minor affections consequent upon calousing and climatic conditions all of which have been isolated and satisfactorily treated. The general health and condition of stock compares favourably with any previous year and owners continue to endeavour to render every assistance possible to prevent the milk from being contaminated by local or general ailments and your Council may rely upon all reasonable means being taken to keep the milk supply up to a good standard of purity".

The number of registered retail milk dealers in the area is 32. Milk, inclusive of that delivered in sealed receptacles, is sold from 27 premises. These premises are subject to inspection and no cause for complaint during the year has arisen.

The conditions under which the milk is produced and sold compare favourably with similar areas ; but much room for improvement remains.

A large quantity of sterilized milk, mostly from outside areas, is retailed in the district. One factory in Bilston deals with sterilized milk, has modern equipment, and is maintained in an efficient manner.

Action taken as to tuberculosis milk and tuberculosis cattle.

No cases under this heading have been discovered during the year.

No applications for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk have been received and it has not been necessary to take action against any retailer.

No bacteriological examinations of graded or other milk have been made during the year.

The storage and protection of milk in dwellings is often primitive in character and leads to serious contamination.

Meat.

The Sanitary Inspector is the officer appointed to receive notice of slaughter under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations. Details of his inspections and of the amount of diseased meat destroyed will be found in the report appended herewith. Unsound meat is destroyed at the Council incinerator.

No arrangements exist for the marking of meat. For this purpose the appointment of a whole time assistant Inspector would be required.

Administration of Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No meat is sold from vehicles or stalls in the open, other than the stalls in the covered market. The butchers and grocers shops are kept clean and in conformity with the Regulations. In some of the smaller shops meat has been sold with other goods such as lamp oil and the conditions were not satisfactory. Considerable improvement now obtains in this respect and the sale of lamp oil in such circumstances is prohibited.

Closed glass fronts are provided in only a few instances. Meat is not allowed to project beyond the front of the shop but several tradesmen have taken advantage of Circular 604 and still retain the open window. The risk of serious contamination to meat openly exposed to street dust and debris is obvious and should not be allowed. Before long the public will probably refuse to purchase food so exposed and it is desirable that an agreed interpretation of the Regulations should be uniformly adopted.

Slaughterhouses.

There is no public slaughter house in this area. Details of the private slaughterhouses are as follows :—

| | 1920 | January 1925. | December 1925. |
|-------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| Registered. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Licensed. | 3 | 3 | 3 |

The registered slaughterhouses are kept in a clean condition and free from nuisance but in no case do they reach the desired standard.

Other foods.

The inspection of food is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector.

The sanitary condition of bakehouses is on the whole satisfactory, but many structural alterations are necessary. During the last five years three old bakehouses have been demolished and new ones built in their place. The amount of manufactured food, other than that prepared in bakehouses, is small.

Much improvement is necessary for the storage and sale of food stuffs, as also in some instances in the cleanliness of the vendors and the condition of the premises. This applies particularly to bread, confectionery, groceries and similar articles. All these should be protected from dust and contamination by flies and bread should always be delivered covered by wax paper.

Vegetables and fruit should not be place on ground outside premises if only to prevent defilement by dogs and contamination from other sources.

Fish, in particular, should be exposed as little as possible and protected from flies. On occasions I have seen hundreds of flies swarming over the fish and the vendor calmly looking on.

Food poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported in the quinquennial period under review.

Sale of food and drugs.

The County Council are responsible for the taking of samples in this district. The following details have been kindly supplied by the Inspector for South Staffordshire, (Mr. S. R. Gibson).

| Article. | Samples taken | Genuine | Adulterated |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Milk | 31 | 30 | 1 |
| Butter | 5 | 5 | — |
| Lard | 1 | 1 | — |
| Pepper | 2 | 2 | — |
| Ground Ginger | 1 | 1 | — |
| Flour | 2 | 2 | — |
| TOTAL | 42 | 41 | 1 |

One prosecution (Milk 20% deficient in cream).
Defendant fined £1 and £3 : 3 : 6d. costs.

Prevalence of and control over infectious diseases.

The total number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases notified since 1920 is 1349, giving a yearly average of 269.8 cases. Small Pox 1.4, Scarlet Fever 68.6, Diphtheria or Membranous Croup 23.2, Puerperal Fever .4, Erysipelas 6.2, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 5.6, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 40.8, Enteric Fever .8, Pneumonia 112.8, Malaria .2, Encephalitis Lethargica 2.6.

Details of the cases notified during each year are given in Table 13.

Table 14 shows the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year; the number of cases admitted to hospital; and the total deaths. Table 15 shows the details for each ward; Table 16 an analysis of the total cases and Table 17 of the total deaths under age groups. Table 18 (inserted for the purpose of comparison) shows the case rate per 1,000 as compared with England and Wales, for 1925.

TABLE XIII.

| | Small Pox. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. and Membranous Croup. | Puerperal Fever. | Erysipelas. | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Tuberculosis (other forms) | Pneumonia. | Malaria | Enteric Fever. | Encephalitis Lethargica. |
|----------------|------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1921 | — | 16 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 34 | 5 | 54 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1922 | 5 | 167 | 4 | — | 3 | 8 | 26 | 18 | 113 | — | — | — |
| 1923 | 2 | 52 | 11 | — | 6 | 6 | 41 | 4 | 73 | — | — | — |
| 1924 | — | 55 | 37 | — | 4 | 5 | 28 | 6 | 167 | — | 2 | 10 |
| 1925 | — | 53 | 53 | 1 | 14 | 6 | 75 | 2 | 157 | — | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 7 | 343 | 116 | 2 | 31 | 29 | 204 | 35 | 564 | 1 | 4 | 13 |
| AVERAGE | 1.4 | 68.6 | 23.2 | .4 | 6.2 | 5.6 | 40.8 | 7.0 | 112.8 | .2 | .8 | 2.6 |

TABLE XIV.

| | Total Cases | Cases admitted to Hos- pital. | Total Deaths. |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|------------------|
| Small Pox | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 53 | 43 | — |
| Diphtheria | 53 | 29 | 5 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | — | — |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia* | 157 | — | 83 |
| Erysipelas | 14 | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 6 | — | — |
| Encephalitis lethargica | 1 | — | — |
| | 286 | 63 | 88 |

*The department has no knowledge of cases of Pneumonia removed to the hospital or other institution. The patients being sent on the instruction of the medical practitioner attending.

TABLE XV.

| | Total. | Town Hall Ward. | High Town Ward. | New Town Ward. | Ettingshall Ward. | Bradley Ward. |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Small Pox | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 53 | 12 | 7 | 16 | 12 | 6 |
| Diphtheria | 53 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 8 |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 14 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | — |
| Ophthalmia | 6 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 75 | 25 | 9 | 16 | 13 | 12 |
| Tuberculosis (other forms) | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 157 | 33 | 10 | 46 | 43 | 25 |
| Malaria | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total | 363 | 92 | 36 | 94 | 83 | 58 |

TABLE XVI.

| | Under 1 year. | 2-1 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 and over. |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Small Pox | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 25 | 11 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 8 | | | |
| Enteric | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Pneumonia | 29 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 6 | 22 | 7 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Puerperal | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | 37 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 21 | 50 | 20 | 27 | 38 | 12 | 27 | 9 |

TABLE XVII.

| DISEASE. | Under 1 year. | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 and upwards. |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Small Pox | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Enteric | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia | 27 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 28 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 8 |

TABLE XVIII.

| Disease. | Cases notified in Bilston | Rate per 1000 of the population. | Case rate per 1,000 living in England & Wales |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Small-Pox | — | — | 0.14 |
| Scarlet Fever | 53 | 1.75 | 2.36 |
| Diphtheria | 53 | 1.75 | 1.23 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 0.03 | 0.07 |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | 0.03 | 0.06 |
| Erysipelas | 14 | 0.46 | 0.39 |

Pneumonia, Malaria etc.

The number of notifications under the Regulations of January 1919 received since that date is, Pneumonia 661, Malaria 10, (8 of which occurred in 1919, 1 in 1920 and 1 in 1921,) Dysentry and Trench Fever none.

No arrangements are made by the Council for nursing cases of pneumonia and no action beyond the recording of the notification is taken.

Domiciliary nursing is excellently carried out by the District Nurses working under the Local Branch of the Queen Victoria Nursing Association and many patients have greatly benefitted from their care and attention.

Return cases of Scarlet Fever.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during the last five years.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

During the last five years 13 cases of encephalitis lethargica have been notified. 1 in 1925, ten in 1924 and two in 1921. The deaths for this period numbered 5, 2 in 1921 and 3 in 1924.

Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin

A supply of antitoxon is kept at the Police Station and is available for the use of medical practitioners on application at any time, day or night.

Arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens.

The arrangements made by the Staffordshire County Council for pathological and bacteriological examinations were greatly extended during last year. A large number of tests are now done in the County Laboratory free of charge, concerning cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Enteric Fever, also examinations of the blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid, together with milk and water and various food organisms in cases of food poisoning.

The following 386 examinations were made for this area during 1925.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Suspected cases of Diphtheria. | 330 |
| Positive. | 57 |
| Negative. | 273 |
| Suspected cases of Tuberculosis. | 55 |
| Positive. | 6 |
| Negative. | 49 |
| Suspected cases of Enteric Fever. | 1 |
| Positive. | 1 |
| Negative. | — |

Schick and Dick Tests.

No information is available as to the use of either of these tests in the area.

Vaccination and Exemptions.

The following return for Bilston for the three years, 1922 to 1924, has kindly been furnished by the Vaccination Officer.

| | Number of births Registered. | Successfully Vaccinated. | Conscientious Declarations received. |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1922. | 767 | 323 | 396 |
| 1923. | 811 | 556 | 187 |
| 1924. | 777 | 465 | 245 |

The value of vaccination and re-vaccination in the prevention and diminution of Small Pox is generally admitted and it is appalling to learn that in the three years referred to above, with 2355 births, no less than 828 parents applied for and received certificates of exemption.

In the year 1922, the exemptions were 396 (more than half of the registered births), while in 1923 the number had fallen to 187. It is significant to note that in November 1922 there was an epidemic of Small Pox in this district with the usual sequel of a rush for vaccination and re-vaccination, and a large decrease in the applications for exemption.

During the period of the epidemic the local Magistrates decided that all persons desiring exemption on conscientious grounds, should appear in the Police Court and make on oath the necessary declaration. Since then this practice, unfortunately, has not been insisted on and some Justices sign these forms at their residence or place of business. There is, therefore, in such cases apparently no real judicial procedure and material is thus being continually provided for a serious menace to the community.

Within my own knowledge Magistrates have signed these forms of exemption actually in cases where "requests" for vaccination had previously been signed by the parent of the child and thus the so called "conscientious objection" was endorsed by them. A little cross-examination would have saved them from such a faux pas.

No primary vaccinations of re-vaccinations have been prepared by the Medical Officer of Health under the Small Pox Regulations 1917.

Non notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Notification of suspected cases of Measles, Chickenpox and Mumps received by Head Teachers are sent to the School Medical Officer who is also the Medical Officer of Health. These cases are visited by the School Nurse, and exclusion notes where necessary are sent from the office.

Mortality and Influenza.

The number of deaths certified as influenza during the last five years is 90 ; 14 or a rate of 0.45 per 1,000, in 1925, 29 or 0.95 in 1924 ; 6 or 0.2 in 1923 ; 25, or 0.85 in 1922 ; and 16 or 0.56 in 1921.

Cancer.

In 1923, in accordance with the desire of the Ministry of Health, a leaflet was issued by me pointing out the importance of the early recognition and treatment of cancer and urging persons whenever there is the slightest cause of suspicion to promptly seek professional advice.

Disinfection of premises and articles.

The premises disinfected during the year numbered 138 and the articles treated in the steam disinfectors at the hospital 546.

Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases admitted to the hospital during the year was 47, (15 males and 32 females).

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|----|
| The number of cases remaining in on December 31st. 1924 was | | | | | 9 |
| " | " | " | " | admitted during 1925. | 47 |
| " | " | " | " | discharged " " | 51 |
| " | " | " | " | remaining in on Dec. 31st. 1925. | 5 |

The age of the eldest patient was 22 and of the youngest 2 years. The shortest period of detention was 43 days, the longest 85 days, and the average 52 days.

A new ambulance is necessary and preferably a motor ambulance. The one in use is old and out of date.

Tuberculosis.

The number of notifications received during the year was 77. 75 of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Details of the ages at which death occurred are given in Table 19.

The total deaths from this disease during the year were 28, 25 of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of deaths certified as tuberculosis during 1925 which had not been previously notified numbered 10, (8 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) or 40% of the total deaths.

TABLE XIX.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Pul-monary. | | Non Pul-monary. | | Pul-monry. | | Non Pul-monary. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 and upwards | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 5 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10 | 2 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | — | 6 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 20 | 7 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| 25 | 12 | 8 | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| 35 | 12 | 10 | — | — | 2 | 5 | — | — |
| 45 | 6 | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| 55 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 65 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 42 | 33 | 2 | — | 14 | 11 | 3 | — |

No instances of refusal to notify or of wilful neglect in notifying was known during the year.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been necessary in regard to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925 Section 62.

This section requires the removal in certain cases to hospital of persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and no action has been necessary.

Tuberculosis schemes.

The Staffordshire County Council are the administrative authority for the area and for this purpose centres for treatment exist at Wolverhampton, Wednesbury and Walsall

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Inspection of Midwives.

The County Council are the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts and the midwives are subject to inspection by their officers

Expectant Mothers.

No special arrangements exist for attending the health of expectant mothers but cases coming to the knowledge of the Health Visitor receive advice from her.

Nursing mothers, and infants up to one year of age are under the oversight of the Health Visitor but it is impossible for her to give continued visitation of all children between the ages of one and five.

The Child Welfare Centre is open one half day per week. This is a consultative centre only, and is under the control of the Medical Officer of Health who attends at each session.

There are no Treatment Centres. In March 1925 the Guardians offered to receive maternity cases for treatment in the Infirmary, and to obtain contributions to the cost according to the circumstances of the persons concerned other than those requiring Poor Law Relief. The Infirmary is adequately equipped and staffed and is an Institution recognised by the Central Midwives Board.

There were only three cases of maternal deaths during the year. Special investigations are not made in these cases nor in cases of still births.

No special methods for dealing with unmarried mothers or illegitimate children, or with children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their parents exist. Cases of the latter description fall to the care of the guardians of the poor in Wolverhampton.

No arrangements exist for the gratuitous supply of food or milk by the Council nor are there any facilities for orthopaedic treatment in the area.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer. The Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic are in the same building, and there is complete co-ordination between the two services.

The Annual Report of the Health Visitor (Miss. K. E. Silversides) is given below.

The number of births registered for the year was 786 and of these 693 were visited.

The first visit is made after the Doctor or midwife has ceased to attend, and advice and help is given to the mother at the time she is taking up her household duties. The Health Visitor enquires into the care and feeding of the baby, and has a talk with the mother on its clothing, management and need of cleanliness and fresh air, also she gives the mother advice on her own health and encourages her to naturally feed her baby. Most of the mothers are pleased to see the Health Visitor, and some of them thank her for her visit and advice.

The result of the first visits show the feeding to be as follows :—

| Breast | Breast and Artificial | Artificial | Breast and Solid Food. | Total. |
|--------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|--------|
| 598 | 39 | 53 | 3 | 693 |

This gives a percentage of 86.3 cases of natural feeding and 13.7 of artificial feeding.

The dangers, morally and physically, of overcrowding are pointed out, and sanitary defects are reported to the Sanitary Inspector, 58 defects being thus notified during the year.

Re-visits. During the year, 944 re-visits were paid to infants under one year. At these visits enquiries are made into the progress, care and feeding of the baby, and advice is given, especially on changes of food necessary during the later months of its first year. Those cases needing special supervision are visited as often as possible.

397 visits were made to children between one and five years of ages. This is very important work, but unfortunately, owing to lack of time, the visiting cannot be done systematically.

Comforters. During her first visits the Health Visitor found that 262 of the babies were given a dummy. Very few of the mothers can be persuaded to cease using a comforter.

Cots. When first visited 57 of the babies were sleeping in a cot, the other 636 were sleeping with their mothers and sometimes an older child was sleeping in the same bed. The mother was told of the necessity of a cot for baby and a separate bed for the older child.

Expectant Mothers. Seventeen visits were paid to expectant mothers, and advice given in each case.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were six cases of Ophthalmia during the year. Four were treated at home by the family Doctor, and two received treatment at the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton. In one of these cases the mother went into the Eye Infirmary with her baby. All were cured without apparent injury to the sight.

Puerperal Fever. There was one case of Puerperal Fever during the year. The patient was nursed in the Union Infirmary, Wolverhampton. She recovered and is now quite well.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Number of other cases visited :— | | |
| Tuberculosis cases | Primary visits | 50 |
| | Secondary „ | 491 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 541 |
| Miscellaneous visits | | 93 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | Total | 634 |
| | | <hr/> |

The Child Welfare Centre is open every Monday from 2 to 4 o'clock. The infants and children are brought for advice. There were 417 names on the books at the end of the year, 154 being new ones. The number of attendances during the year was 2,188, giving an average weekly attendance of 46.5. The highest attendance was 59, and the lowest was 32. Many of the mothers come regularly while others come occasionally. Of the mothers attending one came 40 times and 31 came 20 times or more.

All the babies and toddlers attending the Centre are weighed. They are seen by the Doctor at the first visit, and again from time to time. Special cases are seen by the Doctor more frequently. The mothers appreciate the help and advice of the Doctor and will ask to see him when they are not satisfied with the progress of their babies.

Some of our Bradley babies are taken to the Daisy Bank (Coseley) Centre. This is nearer and more convenient for the mothers.

Nineteen cases of umbilical hernia were dealt with during the year; thirteen being new cases this year. Five were still attending at the end of the year, two ceased to attend, one went to Hospital, one left the district, and the others were remedied.

The sewing class is held on Thursday afternoons from 2.30 to 4 o'clock. There were 14 names on the register at the end of the year. We have had an average weekly attendance of eight mothers and six children. The mothers bring work with them and get advice on the making of clothing for their children.

The Health Visitor gives a health talk each week, and there is a monthly question day, when the mothers ask questions, or the Nurse will sometimes ask the questions to see if the mothers have understood and remembered what she has told them.

Puerperal Fever.

Only one case of puerperal fever was notified during the year; the patient was removed to the Union Infirmary and recovered.

Epidemic Diarrhoea.

This disease is not notifiable and cases come to our knowledge only from the death returns. The number of deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis during the year was fourteen or a rate of 17.8 per thousand births.

Poliomyelitis.

No notifications of this disease during the year were received.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

These diseases are not notifiable, but school teachers are required to inform the School Medical Officer of any cases coming to their knowledge and cases thus notified are visited by the School Nurse. Cases under five years of age are therefore not reported.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Six cases were notified during the year, four of these were treated at home by the medical attendant and the remaining two at the Eye Infirmary. Table 20 given below shows details of these cases.

TABLE XX.

| OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM | Cases. | | | Vision unim- paired | Vision impaired | Total Blind | Deaths |
|--------------------------|----------|------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| | Notified | Treated. | | | | | |
| | | At Home | In Hospital | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | — | — | — |

Last year I deemed it my duty to congratulate the members of the Council on the great progress that had been made, in various directions, in connection with the public health of the district. In addition to the developments in Housing, the improvement of the roads, the completion of the conversion scheme and the extension of the Sewage Disposal Works, there has also been a great diminution in the death rate. Unfortunately, however, the continued excessive infantile mortality remains the chief blot in our history and still calls for renewed and persistent efforts to secure its reduction. The state of overcrowding, too, must be remedied before any satisfaction, or pride in our work, is really justified.

The necessary tables, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector, are appended.

Yours faithfully,

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D. Edin.
Medical Officer of Health.

May 7th. 1926.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Herewith is presented the report on the Sanitary Inspection of the district for the year 1925, this being my thirteenth Annual Report.

Complaints.

During the year 455 complaints relating to nuisances or sanitary defects have been received and dealt with

Routine Inspections.

The total number of inspections of all kinds was 5381. Details of these are given in Table A.

Sanitary Defects.

The sanitary defects or nuisances for which notices were issued numbered 2433 and the premises affected 1309. Particulars will be found in Table B.

Sanitary Improvements.

The defects remedied, or nuisances abated, numbered 2257 and the premises affected 1187. Particulars will be found in Table C. Some of the details given in this table relate to notices served towards the end of the year 1924.

Notices.

During the year 798 informal notices and 81 Statutory Notices were issued. The number of Statutory Notices complied with during the year was 76 and informal notices 553. Many of the notices were not issued until the end of the year and, therefore, were not complied with at the close of 1925.

Proceedings were taken against 16 persons for failing to comply with notices issued under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

These cases were in respect of van and shack dwellings. Justices Orders were obtained in each instance and the dwellings were removed from the district. Six owners failed to comply with Statutory Notices served under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875, the work was done by the Council and the cost recovered. Details of the Statutory Notices are as follows :—

| | Issued | Complied | | Justices Orders | Not Complied |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | By Council | By Owner | | |
| Section 94 Public Health Act, 1875 | 55 | — | 50 | 16 | 5 |
| Section 36 Public Health Act, 1875 | 26 | 6 | 20 | — | — |

Housing Inspections.

Detailed inspections under the Housing Regulations were made in 56 cases and 188 houses were inspected for structural or general defects. Other duties prevent systematic housing inspection ; but during the year defects have been remedied and improvements made at 218 houses.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The number of water closets in the area is approximately 4434, 4267 of these are provided with flushing cisterns, 159 are waste water closets and 8 trough closets. The number of sanitary conveniences of the conservancy type is 400.

At approximately 2,000 houses the water closets are used by the occupiers of more than one dwelling.

The Council employ a man to remove stoppages from drains and water closets and during the year he has cleared obstructions from 776 drains and 362 water closets. In addition it has been necessary to serve notices for 57 stopped drains and 42 choked water closets, many drains and water closets have also been attended to by the owners of which the office has no record. During the year notices have been served upon owners in respect of 40 broken water closet pedestals.

At least 90% of the stoppages and damage to water closet fittings are due to neglect or misuse on the part of the occupiers. It is difficult to take action in these cases owing to the number of persons using, and having access to the various sanitary conveniences, and it is regrettable that persons fail to exercise proper care or to realise the importance in such matters.

Ash accommodation.

The approximate number of ashpits in the district is 900 and the number of ashbins 2,900. During the year 27 ashpits have been demolished and ashbins provided and 259 new ashbins have been provided in place of dilapidated ones.

A scheme for the abolition of all ashpits and the substitution of bins was commenced in January 1926. The progress has been satisfactory and it is hoped that during the present year all ashpits will be abolished.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk shops.

There are 6 cowsheds in the district and they have been visited on 33 occasions during the year. Generally they are kept in a cleanly condition but three of the buildings are old and in need of reconstruction. The number of milk shops is 27, they have been visited on 122 occasions and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Factories and Workshops Act.

The number of visits made to workshops was 96 and to bakehouses 42. The number of bakehouses in the area is 14, 5 of which are factory bakehouses. Three of the bakehouses are old and in need of reconstruction.

Three complaints were received from H. M. Inspector of Factories during the year, two relating to factories and one to a workshop. The defects complained of were remedied in each case. The number of workshops on the register at the close of the year was 56, as follows :—

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|----|
| Bakehouses ..... | ..... | 9 |
| Boot repairers ..... | ..... | 4 |
| Painters and Decorators ..... | ..... | 5 |
| Dress makers. .... | ..... | 3 |
| Cabinet makers. .... | ..... | 3 |
| Milliners. .... | ..... | 7 |
| Tailors. .... | ..... | 3 |
| Wheelwrights. .... | ..... | 4 |
| Sheet Metal Workers. .... | ..... | 4 |
| Miscellaneous. .... | ..... | 14 |

The number of outworkers premises in the district is two.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are six common lodging houses in the area. They have been visited on 63 occasions. The premises generally are kept in conformity with the byelaws but four of the buildings are old and the desired standard cannot be maintained.

Canal Boats Acts and Regulations.

During the year 35 visits were made to the canal for the purpose of boat inspection, the number of boats inspected was 25 but no defects were found on any of the boats examined.

Meat and Food Inspection.

During the year 1349 visits have been made to slaughter houses for the purpose of meat inspection, and the market has been visited on each occasion when open. The total amount of food stuff destroyed under my supervision during the year was 3 tons. 19 cwt. 28 lbs. details of which are given in the following table.

| Food Stuff. | Reason for destruction. | Tons. | Cwts. | Lbs. |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 1 beasts carcase | Tuberculosis | | 3 | 13 |
| Forequarters of beef | " | | 1 | 8 |
| Beasts organs | " | | 12 | 52 |
| 8 pigs carcasses | " | | 11 | 60 |
| 128 Pigs heads | " | | 15 | 13 |
| 288 Pigs frys | " | | 20 | 41 |
| Meat | Unsound or diseased | | 2 | 61 |
| Organs (various) | Diseased | | 10 | 54 |
| 4 Calves | Unsound | | 1 | 8 |
| Fish | " | | 1 | 12 |
| Tinned Milk | " | | | 42 |
| Potatoes | " | | 10 | — |
| | Total Weight | 3 | 19 | 28 |

The number of visits paid to meat shops was 749. In 31 instances meat shops were not in a clean condition, in 29 the meat was improperly stored and in 22 lamp oil was sold from the same room as the meat. These matters were all remedied during the year.

Infectious disease and disinfection.

Enquiries have been made in connection with infectious diseases on 108 occasions and 138 houses have been disinfected.

FRED BARNETT,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE A.
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Visits re complaints | | | | | | |
| Inspections | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1026 |
| Re-inspections | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1060 |
| Visits to work in progress | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 177 |
| Drains tested | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 99 |
| Slaughterhouses | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1349 |
| Visits to meat shops | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 749 |
| Infectious cases visited | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 108 |
| Houses disinfected | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 138 |
| Visits to milk shops | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 222 |
| Visits to cowsheds | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 33 |
| Visits to Offensive Trades | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 111 |
| Visits to Work Shops | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 96 |
| Visits to Bake Houses | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 42 |
| Visits to Common Lodging Houses | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 63 |
| Visits to Canal | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| Canal boats inspected | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18 |
| Houses inspected | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 53 |
| Total inspections | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5381 |

TABLE B.
SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND DURING THE YEAR.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Wood floors defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 47 |
| Quarry floors defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| Walls, brickwork defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23 |
| Walls, plaster defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 59 |
| Walls in a dirty condition | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 64 |
| Ceilings, plaster defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 66 |
| Ceilings in a dirty condition | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 49 |
| General woodwork defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 |
| Window frames, etc., defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 54 |
| Staircase, plaster defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| Staircase, walls dirty | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Staircase, stairs defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 19 |
| Cellar in dirty condition | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| Cellar steps defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Cellar flooded | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 25 |
| Food store—none | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Food store—improper | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Food store—dirty | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| Floors—surfaces dirty | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| Bedding dirty | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20 |
| Overcrowding | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 59 |
| House in damp condition | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 285 |
| Roof defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 208 |
| Eaves' gutters or R.W.P. defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 83 |
| Eaves' gutters or R.W.P. choked | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 46 |
| Eaves' gutters or R.W.P. missing | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 41 |
| Brickwork defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 48 |
| Brickwork requires pointing | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Verges defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| House without damp course | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |

TABLE B. (Continued)

| | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Chimneys defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 26 |
| Wash-house, brickwork defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 45 |
| Wash-house roof defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 36 |
| Wash-house floors defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Wash-house dilapidated | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| Wash copper defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| Sink defective or improper | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 |
| Yard paving defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 12 |
| Yard improperly paved | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 |
| Yard surface dirty | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18 |
| Premises improperly drained | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Premises not connected to sewer | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |
| Drainage defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 65 |
| Yard gulleys defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 32 |
| Chambers defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Chamber cover broken | .... | .... | .... | .... | 13 |
| Drain improperly ventilated | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Drain improperly trapped | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| Drain choked | .... | .... | .... | .... | 57 |
| Sanitary accommodation insufficient | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 |
| Foul defective privy | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Foul defective vault | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| Roofs of closets defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 24 |
| Walls of closet defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Floors of closet apartment defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| Water closet pedestal defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 40 |
| Water closet seat broken or missing | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Water Closet without proper flush | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| Water Closet choked | .... | .... | .... | .... | 42 |
| Pedestal in a dirty condition | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 |
| Ash accommodation insufficient | .... | .... | .... | .... | 104 |
| Ashpits defective | .... | .... | .... | .... | 31 |
| Ash bins dilapidated | .... | .... | .... | .... | 129 |
| Fowls, ducks etc., so kept as to be a nuisance | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| Pigs so kept as to be a nuisance | .... | .... | .... | .... | 16 |
| Offensive accumulations | .... | .... | .... | .... | 71 |
| Offensive Trades (premises dirty or other defects) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 39 |
| Meat shops dirty | .... | .... | .... | .... | 31 |
| Meat improperly stored | .... | .... | .... | .... | 29 |
| Lamp oil in shop | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Caravans | .... | .... | .... | .... | 52 |
| Miscellaneous | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| TOTAL DEFECTS | | | | | 2433 |
| TOTAL PREMISES AFFECTED | | | | | 1309 |

TABLE C.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|----|
| Wood floors repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | 29 |
| Quarry floors repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Walls, brickwork repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | 33 |
| Walls, plaster repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | 73 |
| Walls cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | 63 |
| Ceilings, plaster repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | 74 |
| Ceilings cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | 58 |
| General woodwork repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | 30 |
| Windows made to open | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 |

TABLE C. (Continued)

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Windows repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 39 |
| Staircase, plaster repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20 |
| Staircase, walls cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 21 |
| Staircase, stairs repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |
| Cellar cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| Accumulation removed from cellar | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 25 |
| Floor surfaces cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| Bedding cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20 |
| Overcrowding abated | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Roof repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 226 |
| Roof stripped and reslated or tiled | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 33 |
| Eaves' gutters or R.W.P. repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 113 |
| Eaves' gutters or R.W.P. unstopped | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 38 |
| Eaves' gutters or R.W.P. provided | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 26 |
| Brickwork repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 56 |
| Brickwork pointed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| Verges re-pointed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 |
| Chimneys repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Wash-house, brickwork repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 38 |
| Wash-house, roof repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 31 |
| Wash-house floors repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Wash copper repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| New sink provided | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| Yard paving repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |
| Yard paved | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |
| Yard surface cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 30 |
| New drain constructed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23 |
| Premises connected to sewer | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Drainage repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 53 |
| Yard gulleys fixed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 66 |
| Chambers constructed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23 |
| Chambers cover repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 |
| Ventilating shaft fixed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 |
| Intercepting trap fixed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| Stoppages removed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 52 |
| Water closets fixed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 25 |
| Privy midden abolished | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Roofs of closets repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 19 |
| Walls of closets repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Floors of Closet apartments repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| New closet apartment built | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |
| New Water closet pedestal provided | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| W.C. pedestal repaired | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| New Seat provided | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Proper Flush provided to water closet | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 |
| W.C. Stoppages removed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 42 |
| Water closet pedestal cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 |
| Ashbin provided | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 259 |
| Ashpit demolished | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 27 |
| Fowls, ducks etc. nuisance abated | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Pigs, nuisance abated | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Offensive accumulations removed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 69 |
| Miscellaneous | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| Caravans removed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 52 |
| Meat shops cleansed | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 31 |
| Meat improperly stored | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 29 |
| Lamp oil removed from shop | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Offensive trade premises cleansed or other defects remedied | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 39 |
| TOTAL IMPROVEMENTS | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2257 |
| TOTAL PREMISES AFFECTED | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1187 |

TABLE D.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

| | |
|--|----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) | 34 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : | |
| (i) By the Local Authority | 14 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | 16 |

1.—Unfit dwelling houses.**Inspection.**

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) | 244 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | 56 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 244 |

2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. | 214 |
|--|-----|

3. Action under Statutory Powers.*A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | Nil. |
| (a) By Owners. | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. | Nil. |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|------|------|------|
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. | | | Nil. |
|-----|---|------|------|------|

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

| | | | |
|-----|---|------|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | .... | 244 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) | By Owners. | .... | 7 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners. | .... | Nil. |

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|------|------|------|
| (1) | 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. |

BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESS OF HOUSE CONSTRUCTION FROM JANUARY 1st, 1919 TO DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

| Year. | By Bilston U.D.C. Under Assisted Housing Schemes. | | | | By Private Enterprise. | | | | | | | Com- bined Yearly Totals. | | |
|--|---|--------|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | 1919 Act. | | 1924 Act Houses | Total | Unassisted. | | | Assisted. | | | | | | |
| | Army Huts | Houses | | | Wood Huts | Houses | Con- versions | Licensed Premises | Attached to Shops | 1919 Act | Subsidy only | | Subsidy & Loan | Loan only | Total |
| | 1919 | 27 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | — | — |
| 1920 | 30 | 17 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 49 |
| 1921 | 6 | 173 | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 182 |
| 1922 | — | 333 | — | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 10 | 343 |
| 1923 | — | 63 | — | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 8 | 71 |
| 1924 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 9 | 6 | 1 | 18 | 18 |
| 1925 | — | — | 14 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 15 | 1 | — | 20 | 34 |
| TOTAL. Council Houses. | | | | 63 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 26 | 7 | 1 | 61 | |
| TOTAL. Private Enterprise. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMBINED TOTAL FOR SEVEN YEARS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Houses closed or demolished during the same period | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Actual nett increased number of dwellings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 724 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 63 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 661 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of Houses in hand on Jan. 1st 1926, Council Schemes | 104 |
| Private Enterprise | 14 |

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Total | 118 |
|-------|-----|

W. G. LOFTHOUSE, A.R.I.B.A., Architect.

TABLE F.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the
Urban District of Bilston.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection
with FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of
Nuisances.

| Premises. (1) | Number of | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Inspections (2) | Written Notices. (3) | Occupiers prosecuted (4) |
| Factories | 2 | 2 | — |
| (Including Factory Laundries) | | | |
| Workshops | 138 | 4 | — |
| (Including Workshop Laundries) | | | |
| Workplaces | | | |
| (Other than Outworkers' premises) | | | |
| Total | 140 | 3 | — |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES.

| Particulars. (1) | Number of Defects. | | | Num- ber of offences in res- pect to which Prose- cutions were in- stituted. (5) |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | Found. (2) | Re- medied (3) | Referred to H.M. Ins- pector (4) | |
| <i>Nuisance under the Public Health Acts</i> | | | | |
| Want of cleanliness | 2 | 2 | | |
| Want of ventilation | — | — | | |
| Overcrowding | — | — | | |
| Want of drainage of floors | — | — | | |
| Other nuisances | 1 | 1 | | |
| Sanitary accommodation— | | | | |
| insufficient | 1 | 1 | | |
| unsuitable or defective | 2 | 2 | | |
| not separate for sexes | | | | |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i> | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse s. 101) | | | | |
| Other offences | | | | |
| (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921. | | | | |
| Total | 6 | 6 | — | — |

Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Work-
shop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

| NATURE OF WORK. | Instances. | Notices served. | Prosecutions. |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Wearing Apparel— | | | |
| Making &c. | | | |
| Cleaning and washing | | | |
| Household linen | | | |
| Lace, lace curtains and nets | | | |
| Curtains and furniture hangings | | | |
| Furniture and upholstery | | | |
| Electro-plate | | | |
| File making | | | |
| Brass and brass articles | | | |
| Fur pulling | | | |
| Cables and chains | | | |
| Anchors and Grapnels | | | |
| Cart gear | | | |
| Locks, latches and keys | | | |
| Umbrellas, &c. | | | |
| Artificial flowers | | | |
| Nets, other than wire nets | | | |
| Tents | | | |
| Sacks | | | |
| Racquet and tennis balls | | | |
| Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags | | | |
| Brush making | | | |
| Pea picking | | | |
| Feather sorting | | | |
| Carding, &c., of buttons, &c., | | | |
| Stuffed toys | | | |
| Basket making | | | |
| Chocolates and sweetmeats | | | |
| Cosaques, Christmas crackers, | | | |
| Christmas stockings, &c. | | | |
| Textile weaving | | | |
| TOTAL | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, Medical Officer of Health.

May 7th, 1926.



