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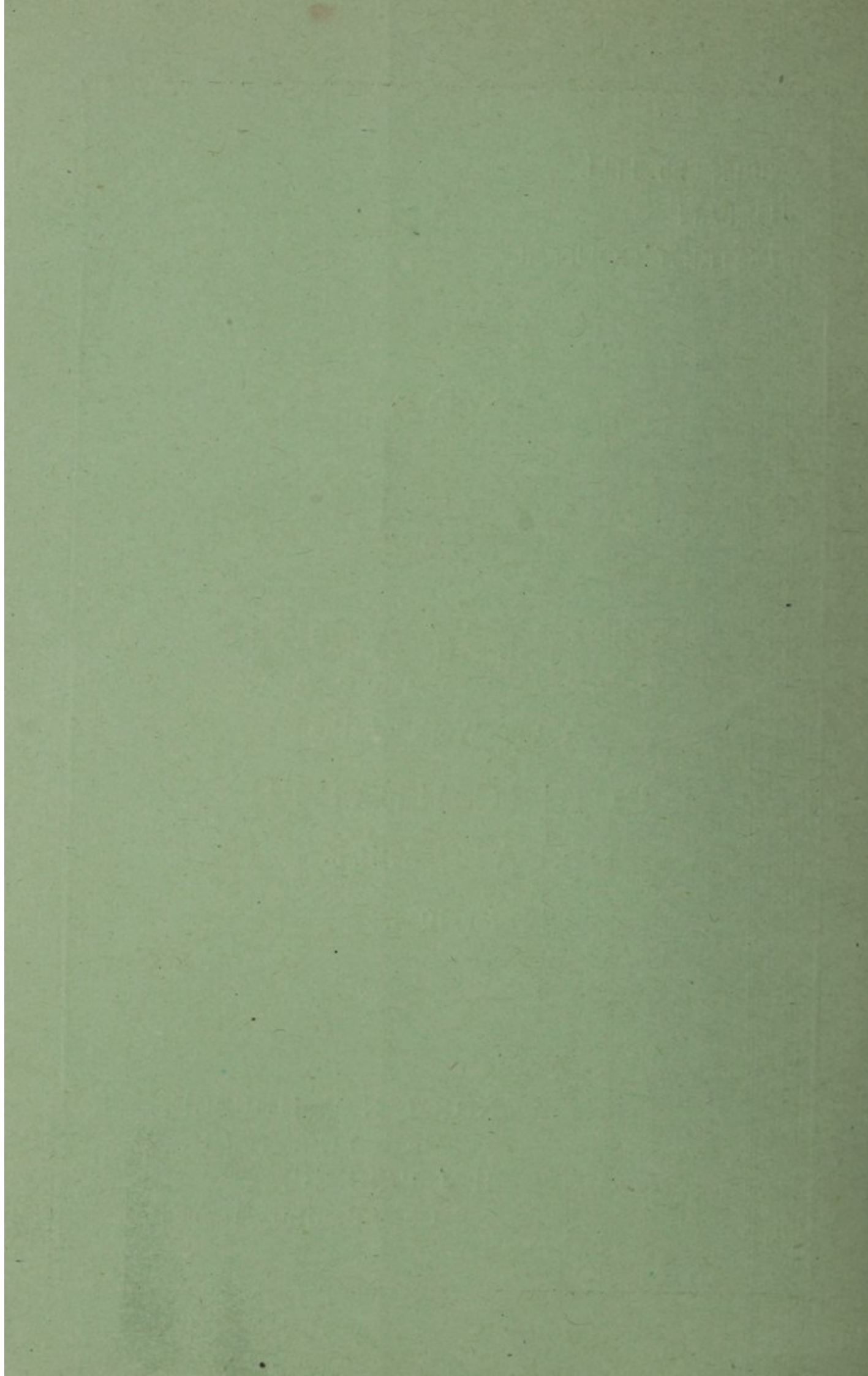
REPORT

on the Work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for 1944.

NORMAN V. HEPPLER,
Medical Officer of Health.
H. J. PARKER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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BARRETT
URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

of the Year 1904

PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

1904

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Vice-Chairman :

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Councillor T. WILLIAMS, M.B.E.

Vice-Chairman :

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Committee.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

*N. V. HEPPLÉ, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
(Also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for Staffordshire
and Medical Superintendent, West Midlands Joint Hospital Board).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

*H. J. PARKER, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Foods
Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*J. W. BILLINGHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and
Foods Inspector.

*W. H. BOWMAN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat
and Foods Inspector. (Resigned 30/6/45)

†A. E. SILCOX (Unqualified).

Veterinary Inspectors :

D. J. ANTHONY, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

D. HOWIE, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Analyst :

E. V. JONES, Esq., County Buildings, Stafford.

Clerical Staff :

†N. BELLAMY.

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*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

†H.M. Forces.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BRIERLEY HILL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hodgetts and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my sixth Annual Report on the work of your Public Health Department for the year 1944.

The Report is once more condensed and somewhat abbreviated in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The Department has been working under difficulties caused by shortage of staff. The work has been done as fully as this permitted, but it is hoped that more technical staff will become available before long, so that the services can be put once more onto a peace time footing.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and other Officers, and to the Staff of the Department for the help so freely given during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. V. HEPPLÉ,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics.

Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1944)	44,500
Area (in acres)	5,932
Rateable Value (1st April, 1944)	£174,181
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1944-45	£677

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There has been little unemployment during the year. Wage levels have been fairly high, and this, together with the fact that rationing has ensured an adequate supply of essential foods to every family, may help to account for the astonishingly good health of the people, despite the drawbacks of overcrowding and dilapidated housing in the sixth year of war.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.**Live Births.**

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	854	423	431
Illegitimate	24	11	13
Total	<u>878</u>	<u>434</u>	<u>444</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population : 19.73.

Still Births.

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	23	17	6
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Total	<u>24</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 11.10.

Deaths.

	Total	Males	Females
	494	264	230

Death Rate per 1,000 civilian population : 11.10.

Owing to population movements and other circumstances connected with war time, it is not possible to give a factor which enables a true comparison to be made between the local death rate and the death rates from other areas.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0.00
Other Maternal Causes	2	2.21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	2.21
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	38.72
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	37.58
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	43.47
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	84

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.**Births.**

The Birth Rate of 19.73 per 1,000 of the population shows a slight reduction from the figure of 20.18 for the previous year. It is still, however, very much higher than the Birth Rate for the years preceding the war, and compares with the Rate of 17.6 for the country as a whole. Had the live birth rates which prevailed up to 1942 continued, this country would inevitably have been faced with a progressive decline in population. It is therefore of great interest to note that such a marked change can come about in the short space of three years. It is provisionally calculated that the number

of births during 1944 is within one per cent. of the number required for the population to replace itself fully in the next generation.

It would, of course, be unwise to assume that this change is permanent. There must be many factors influencing it which will cease to act when hostilities are over.

Deaths.

The Death Rate of 11·10 per 1,000 population is lower than the rate of 11·80 for 1943, and compares with the national Rate of 11·6.

The main causes of death, in the order of their importance were Heart Disease, Cancer, Intracranial Vascular Lesions, Bronchitis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. These conditions were responsible for just over half the total deaths.

Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 384.

Infantile Mortality.

34 children under one year of age died during the year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 38·72 per 1,000 live births, which is the lowest ever recorded in this area. It compares with the National Rate of 46, and the rate for 148 towns of size comparable with Brierley Hill of 44.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rates of the Urban District for the last ten years :

Year.	Infantile Mortality.					
	Rate.					
1935	64
1936	85
1937	71
1938	49
1939	51
1940	42
1941	54
1942	50
1943	57
1944	39

The average rates for five yearly periods since the beginning of the century in Brierley Hill are as follows :

1900—1904	..	..	..	..	149
1905—1909	..	..	..	..	151
1910—1914	..	..	..	..	139
1915—1919	..	..	..	..	89
1920—1924	..	..	..	..	92
1925—1929	..	..	..	..	71
1930—1934	..	..	..	..	69
1935—1939	..	..	..	..	64
1940—1944	..	..	..	..	48

When one considers that the population has been living under the stress of war and in increasingly congested and unsatisfactory housing conditions for the last quinquennium, the decrease in infantile deaths appears all the more remarkable.

Many factors must have contributed to the decrease which has been apparent from the second decade of the century. Among the most important are probably : (a) the improved physical condition of women, due to increased emancipation, the work of the school medical service among girls, and a more enlightened attitude towards healthy living ; (b) increased ante-natal care and improved mid-wifery ; (c) more widespread infant welfare work and (d) during recent years, improvements in maternal and infantile nutrition, owing to the rationing scheme and the supply of supplementary food factors to expectant mothers and young children.

Maternal Mortality.

There were two maternal deaths during the year, giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of 2·21 per 1,000 live births. This compares with rates of 1·93 for the Country as a whole and 4·28 for 1943. Neither death was due to sepsis.

CAUSES OF DEATH.
REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.

TABLE I.

Diseases.	1944		Total.
	Male.	Female.	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	4	4
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	19	9	28
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	2	3
Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	6	2	8
Measles	—	—	—
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile infective encephaliti	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F)	4	3	7
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	13	10	23
Cancer of breast	—	10	10
Cancer of all other sites	24	20	44
Diabetes	—	6	6
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	25	25	50
Heart disease	51	37	88
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	5	12
Bronchitis	29	13	42
Pneumonia	11	7	18
Other respiratory diseases	2	6	8
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	3	5
Appendicitis	2	2	4
Other digestive disorders	4	9	13
Nephritis	3	9	12
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	2	2
Premature birth	5	3	8
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disorders	13	3	16
Suicide	1	3	4
Road traffic accidents	2	1	3
Other violent causes	12	8	20
All other causes	27	26	53
	264	230	494

Birthrates. Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year.

TABLE II.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin'tve County	Brierley Hill
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births :					
Live Births	*17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	19.73
Still Births	*0.50	0.64	0.61	0.42	0.54
Deaths :					
All Causes	*11.6	13.7	12.4	15.7	11.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.09
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	+46	52	44	61	38.72
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1	5.69
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57	1.97
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90	2.44
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31	1.07
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.33
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98	2.80
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93	0.56
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—					
(a) Notifications :					
Puerperal Fever	} 10.34	13.13	9.25	{ 3.61	} 9.11
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..						{ +14.14
+Including Puerperal Fever.					

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

+ Per 1,000 related births.

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

TABLE II (Continued)

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales :-

No. 140 Aborstion with Sepsis	141 Aborstion without Sepsis	147 Puerperal Infections	142-6 148-150 other	Brierley Hill
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25	2.21

Abortion : Mortality per Million women aged 15-45—England and Wales.

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis	Brierley Hill
25	7	Not Available

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.****Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant County Medical Officer for Staffordshire. This arrangement has many advantages, as it enables a proper integration of the Council's health functions with those services which are administered by the County Council. The Medical Officer also acts as Medical Superintendent for the Kingswinford Isolation Hospital of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent. He is in charge of the administration of the Shops Acts, and also undertakes sampling work under the Food and Drugs Act, for which the Urban District Council is the Authority in this area.

At the time of writing there is only one additional Sanitary Inspector, as a result of the acute shortage of qualified men. It is to be hoped that with the end of the war more inspectors will be available, as the work of the Department cannot be properly carried out without adequate staff. Two Veterinary Officers are employed by the Authority to inspect the meat at a large meat and bacon factory in the area.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Laboratory at Stafford continues to deal adequately with the large number of pathological and bacteriological specimens sent from the area.

The chemical analysis of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the County Analyst, who acts for the Urban District Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

Throughout the year this was run in conjunction with the Civil Defence Ambulance Service from the Depot at Hawbush. One ambulance and one car were provided by the Local Authority.

The following work was satisfactorily carried out :

Mileage	22,321
Accidents	99
Maternity Cases	117
Emergency Calls	68
Admissions	272
Discharges	347
Treatment Cases	1,510

No charge is made to people resident in the Urban District. An ambulance service is provided for the Urban District of Amblecote and for part of the Rural District of Seisdon. A retaining fee and mileage charge is paid in each case

Post Mortem Room.

12 bodies were brought to the Post Mortem Room during the year. Causes of Death :

Natural Causes	6
Accidental	1
Suicide	3
Misadventure	1
War Operations	1

The average length of stay was 4.1/3rd days.

Nursing in the Home.

Five Nursing Associations at present operate in different parts of the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The County Council provide School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal clinics in the area. The particulars can be found in the Annual Reports of the appropriate Authority.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1) Infectious Diseases.

The area is served by the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board, situated at Kingswinford, Moxley, Bilston and Wombourne.

(2) Small-Pox Hospital.

This hospital is situated at Moxley and is under the control of a Small-Pox Joint Hospital Board, of which Brierley Hill is a constituent Authority. This hospital has been taken over by the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board as a hospital for infectious diseases, and other arrangements have been made for Small-Pox cases if they occur.

(3) Sanatoria.

Provision is made by the County Council as reported last year. The shortage of staff has made it very difficult to accommodate all the cases who require treatment, and long periods of waiting for admission are all too common.

(4). Orthopædic.

The County have provided for the specialist treatment of these cases in special clinics and they are referred to hospital if they require in-patient treatment.

(5) Wordsley Emergency Hospital.

This hospital is maintained by the County Council as a Grade I Emergency Hospital. It takes patients referred by the Public Assistance Committee.

(6) Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no nursing homes in the area.

The County Council provide maternity beds at Wordsley Hospital.

(7) Other.

There are no other provided hospitals, but the following general hospitals are within easy reach of the Urban District :

Corbett Hospital, Amblecote.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

There are also the hospitals of Birmingham and Wolverhampton, all of which are within easy reach of the district.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water Supply.**

The District is served by two Companies. The Stourbridge and District Water Board supply 1,725 houses at Wordsley, while the rest of the area is served by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. In both cases the supply comes from deep wells and bore holes in the New Red Sandstone to depths varying from 200 to 500 feet. The water is examined regularly and is of very good potable quality.

The following are typical analyses :

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS CO.

Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.4....colonies per ml.

On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20 - 22°C.10.. colonies per ml.

Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli) ..Nil..per 100 ml. after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.

Analysis.	Parts per 100,000.
Total solid matter dried at 212°F.	28.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid	nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.28
Chlorine	3.2
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	nil
Appearance	clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	none
pH value	7.1

STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.

Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.	....5....colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20—22°C.	....8....colonies per ml.
Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli) .. Nil....per 100 ml. after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.	

Analysis.	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	.. .. 33.0
Free and Saline Ammonia .. ..	.. .. nil
Albuminoid .. ..	.. .. nil
Nitric Nitrogen .. ..	.. .. 0.90
Chlorine .. ..	.. .. 2.7
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours' at 80°F.	.. .. 0.001
Appearance .. ..	.. .. clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination .. ..	.. .. None
pH Value .. ..	.. .. 7.2

There are seven dwelling houses in the area which have no piped water supply, depending on private wells.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

There were no changes of note during the year.

Public Cleansing.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent. A report on the work will be found in his report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The housing position in the area has deteriorated further during the year. At the outbreak of war a large number of individually unfit houses and houses in Clearance Areas were still occupied. Since that date many more houses have become dilapidated to such an extent as to come under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and your Health Department is faced with a great deal of work in this regard as soon as conditions permit.

A large number of families are living under unsatisfactory or overcrowded conditions, and when a case of pulmonary tuberculosis occurs there is a grave danger to the health—and even to the life — of the contacts.

The Council have given priority for re-housing to families exposed to this danger.

The Points Scheme adopted by the Council for the allocation of available Council houses has a great deal to commend it from the administrative point of view, and provided it is worked intelligently, and with due regard to the difficulties of reducing human need to a mathematical formula, it should ensure, broadly speaking, that the people living under the worst conditions are re-housed first.

Even the best scheme cannot work without a supply of houses, however, and no appreciable improvement can be expected until the houses, temporary or permanent, become available.

Details of the work done during the year will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Other Foodstuffs.

Sampling was undertaken throughout the year by the Sanitary Inspectors. Particulars of the results will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Meat.

Meat inspection and the inspection of cottagers' pigs occupied a great deal of the time of the Inspectors. Details are given in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Two Veterinary Officers are employed by the Council to inspect meat at a large meat factory in the area.

The Chief Veterinary Officer reports as follows :—

I beg to submit my annual report on the work done in this department during the year 1944.

The following tables give full particulars of meat condemned, as well as other work done by the veterinary surgeons during the year under review :—

TABLE III. MEAT CONDEMNED, 1944 — PIGS.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stom- achs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts.
Tuberculosis ..	62	2070	1374	1374	1374	701	426	146	2360	165 Fq. 5 Hq.
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	2047	1024	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ehdocarditis ..	—	—	—	—	207	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltrn. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion ..	—	—	10	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ..	—	—	22	14	36	—	16	—	6	—
Peritonitis ..	1	1	1	1	1012	3	—	2	—	3 Omentums
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1032	—	—
Pyæmia ..	1	1	1	1	7	1	1	2	1	2 Hq.
Fasciuloasis ..	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fevered Flesh ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	4	—
Jaundice ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Empyaema ..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	2 Fq. 2 Hq.
Fractures ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haemangiomatica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S. Erysipelas ..	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	—
" Fever ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Gangrene ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Decomposition ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	2	—
Bruising ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 Hq.
Odema & Emaciations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Died in Lairage ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Died in Transit ..	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	62	31	—
Totals ..	116	2124	3507	2469	2700	758	498	1295	2419	167 Foreqrs. 11 Hindqrs. 3 Omentums

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1944 — SHEEP.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts
Muelleriasis ..	—	—	2266	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ..	—	—	66	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	169	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ..	2	12	1062	—	1171	2	2	4	2	—
Fascioliasis ..	—	—	—	—	1829	—	—	—	—	—
Melanosis ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ..	1	5	2	2	10	1	1	2	1	4 Hq.
Empyæma ..	—	2	6	6	2	—	—	—	—	14 Fq.
Bruising ..	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	7 Fq. 4 Hq.
Peritonitis ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	2	—
Fractures ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq. 1 Hq.
Adeno-carcinoma ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Fevered Flesh ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Oedema & Emaciation ..	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	16	8	—
Jaundice ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Died in lairage ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	4	—
Died in transit ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	4	—
Totals ..	25	41	3726	217	3097	25	26	50	25	22 Foreqrs. 9 Hindqrs.

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1944 — CALVES.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts
Tuberculosis ..	8	10	20	20	21	8	18	16	8	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ..	1	3	1	1	6	1	1	2	1	—
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Meningitis ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Empyæma ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bac. Necrosis ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Jaundice ..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	—
Totals ..	13	18	27	26	32	13	23	28	13	—

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1944 — CATTLE.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts.
Actinobacillosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 Tongues
Actinomycosis ..	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ..	178	481	998	414	233	214	219	358	462	151 Fq. 8 Hq. 8 Flanks. 1 Loin
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	1	1	627	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Pericarditis ..	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	2	1	—
Hydatid Cysts ..	—	—	416	—	229	—	3	2	—	—
Fascioliasis ..	—	—	—	—	885	—	—	—	—	—
Haemaangioma ..	—	—	—	—	75	—	—	—	—	—
Bac. Necrosis ..	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis ..	2	2	2	2	45	18	96	3	4	1 Flank
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	5	—
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pyæmia ..	1	1	1	1	15	1	1	2	1	1 Hq.
Bruising ..	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	14 Fq. 5 Hq. 5 Flanks
Congestion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltration ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Metritis ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Fractures ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 Hq.
Arthritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq. 2 Hq.
Septicaemia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Emaciation and Oedema	34	34	33	33	33	33	33	66	33	—
Mastitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	527 Udders
Died in transit ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	2	—
Totals ..	226	549	2087	479	1543	289	364	477	462	11 Tongues, 166 Fqs. 17 Hqs. 14 Flanks 527 Udders 1 Loin

Tables showing percentage of pathological conditions encountered in the course of meat inspection.

TABLE IV.

PIGS.		CATTLE.	
Tuberculosis	8%	Tuberculosis	19%
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	7%	Fascioliasis	17%
Hydronephrosis	3%	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	12%
Pericarditis	3%	Mastitis	10%
Peritonitis	3%	Hydatid Cysts	8%
Cirrhosis	1%	Peritonitis	2%
Hydatid Cyst	0.1%	Haemangioma	1%
Congestion	0.03%	Emaciation and Oedema	0.6%
Pyæmia	0.02%	Bruising	0.5%
Fascioliasis	0.02%	Nephritis	0.4%
Swine Erysipelas	0.02%	Actinomycosis	0.3%
Fatty Infiltration	0.01%	Pericarditis	0.3%
Endocarditis	0.01%	Pyæmia	0.3%
Nephritis	0.01%	Bacterial Necrosis	0.2%
Fevered Flesh	0.01%	Gastritis	0.2%
Empyaema	0.01%	Actinobacillosis	0.2%
Fractures	0.007%	Enteritis	0.03%
Gangrene	0.007%	Fatty Infiltration	0.03%
Bruising	0.007%	Fractures	0.03%
Decomposition	0.007%	Arthritis	0.01%
Gastritis	0.003%	Hydronephrosis	0.01%
Jaundice	0.003%	Congestion	0.01%
Haemangioma	0.003%	Cirrhosis	0.01%
Swine Fever	0.003%	Septic Metritis	0.01%
Oedema	0.003%	Septicaemia	0.01%
Died in Lairage	0.007%	Died in Transit	0.03%
Died in Transit	0.1%		
CALVES.		SHEEP.	
Tuberculosis	0.6%	Muelleriasis	8%
Pyæmia	0.2%	Fascioliasis	6%
Jaundice	0.08%	Hydatid Cysts	3%
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	0.02%	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	0.2%
Pericarditis	0.02%	Pericarditis	0.06%
Hydronephrosis	0.02%	Pyæmia	0.04%
Meningitis	0.02%	Empyaema	0.04%
Empyaema	0.02%	Bruising	0.04%
Bac. Necrosis	0.02%	Oedema	0.02%
Nephritis	0.02%	Peritonitis	0.006%
		Fractures	0.006%
		Adeno-carcinoma	0.003%
		Fevered Flesh	0.003%
		Jaundice	0.003%
		Melanosis	0.003%
		Died in Lairage	0.01%
		Died in Transit	0.01%

TABLE V.
POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ON ANIMALS HAVING
DIED A NATURAL DEATH.

Cause of Death.	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Pneumonia & Pleurisy	—	—	1	5	6
Tuberculosis & Emaciation	—	—	—	1	1
Peritonitis	—	—	—	2	2
Eclampsia	—	—	2	—	2
Internal Haemorrhage	—	—	4	15	19
Toxaemia	—	—	2	—	2
Impaction of Rumen ...	1	—	4	—	5
Fractures and Bruising	—	1	—	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	3	2	5
Bracken Poisoning	4	—	—	—	4
Suffocation	—	—	—	1	1
Syncope	—	—	1	11	12
Totals	5	1	17	37	60

Of imported canned goods, meat and manufactured goods, the following table shows the total condemnation, due to a variety of causes, chiefly decomposition, bone taint and mould :-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Canned goods		6	0	15	14
Beef		6	3	3	12
Mutton			1	8	8
Pork	3	1	1	10	8
Bacon and Hams ...		8	1	21	0
	4	3	0	3	10

TABLE VI (Continued)

	Erysipelas		Smallpox		Other Notifiable Diseases	* Civilians	Orig. Not.		Final Nos.	
	M	F	M	F			M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified										
Civilians	5	10	—	—						
Non-Civilians	—	—	—	—	Puerperal Pyrexia		4		4	
					Ophthalmia Neonatorum		2	2	2	2
Final Nos. after correction :										
0 —	—	—	—	—						
5 —	—	—	—	—						
15 —	2	2	—	—						
45 —	2	6	—	—						
65 and over	1	2	—	—						
Age NK	—	—	—	—						
Total Civilians	5	10	—	—	Puerperal, Pyrexia	Non-Civilians				—
Non-Civ. { 15 — or NK	—	—	—	—						
{ 45 and over	—	—	—	—						
Total Non-Civilians	—	—	—	—						

* Disease and Sex, but not Age.

Diphtheria.

62 notifications of Diphtheria were received during the year. In 14 of these the diagnosis was not confirmed on further examination in hospital. The final diagnoses in these cases were as follows :—

Rhinitis	1
Vincent's angina	1
Tonsillitis	7
Tonsillitis in carrier	1
Rubella	1
Not Infectious Disease .. .	2

Thus the actual number of confirmed cases was 48, giving a case rate of 1.07 per 1,000 population, as compared with 2.90 for the previous year, and 0.69 for the towns of size comparable with Brierley Hill. Most of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year, and constituted the last phase of the large epidemic reported in 1943.

Four deaths occurred, giving a mortality rate of 0.09 per 1,000 population. **None of these children were immunised.**

The deaths occurred in the following age groups :

0—1 year	nil.
—5 years	2
—15 years	2
over 15 years	nil.

There were 13 confirmed cases in immunised children. It was noticeable that these cases, although occasionally clinically severe did not get the complications which were so common in unimmunised persons, and all made an uneventful recovery.

Immunisation.

The campaign has been energetically pursued during the year, and great help has been received from the Assistant County Medical Officers who work in the area, and from the Health Visitors and Head Teachers. So far as children of school age are concerned, the position now is that practically the only ones requiring primary immunisation are a small proportion of the new entrants.

All new entrants, are however, given the opportunity of having a reinforcing dose when they start school, and large numbers are taking advantage of this facility.

All the infants Departments were visited regularly by the Medical Officer of Health, and the Medical Officers of the County Council School Clinics co-operate in the work. Children under school age can be immunised at the County Council Infant Welfare Centres in the area.

The following is a list of County Council School Clinics and Welfare Centres where immunisation can be obtained :

	School Clinics.	Infant Welfare Centres.
Brierley Hill (Church Hill) ..	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday : 9—12 noon.	Tuesday and Friday : 2—5 p.m.
Quarry Bank (Mount Pleasant)	Wednesday : 9—12 noon.	Wednesday : 2—5 p.m.
Wordsley (Methodist Buildings New Street)	Monday : 9—12 noon.	Monday : 2—5 p.m.
Kingswinford (Methodist Buildings, Moss Grove)	Tuesday : 9—12 noon.	Tuesday : 2—5 p.m.
Pensnett (Methodist School-rooms)	Thursday : 9—12 noon.	
Brockmoor (St. John's Schoolrooms)	Friday : 9—12 noon.	Friday : 2—5 p.m.

Many of the general practitioners in the town will also immunise children at the Council's cost.

	Under 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	Total.
Number of children immunised during 1944	542	211	753

	At 31st Dec., 1943		At 31st Dec., 1944	
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	Under 5 years	5—15 years
Estimated population ..	3,789	7,060	3,972	6,824
Estimated percentage of child population who had received complete course of immunisation	48.4	83.9	47.02	91.92

It will be seen from the above Table that the degree of protection in the schools is highly satisfactory.

The drop in the percentage of pre school children is a statistical artefact due to the large number of births during the year. Even so, however, the figure is very low, and every effort must be made to induce parents to bring their children for protection near the first birthday.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 88 notifications during the year, giving a notification rate of 1.99 per 1,000 civilian population. This is below the average rate for the country as a whole. The disease was of mild type, and there were no deaths.

Erysipelas.

Fifteen cases were notified giving a rate of 0.33.

Pneumonia.

25 cases were notified among the civilian population during the year giving a notification rate of 0.56.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

There were 4 notifications. Hospital treatment is provided by the County Council if necessary.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

4 cases were notified during the year, giving a notification rate of 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

Whooping Cough.

There were 110 notifications as compared with 145 for the previous year. The notifications rate of 2.44 is similar to that for the rest of the country.

Measles.

During the last quarter of the year an epidemic commenced in the area, giving 125 notifications and a rate of 2.80 per 1,000 of the population.

Scabies.

The special clinic continued to function at the First Aid Post, Cottage Street, during the year, and was used by general practitioners in the town and by the School Medical and Child Welfare Services who referred cases to it. Benzyl Benzoate emulsion was used after a bath. The following figures give particulars of the work done :

New patients	.. ..	67
Total of patients	.. ..	85
Total attendances	.. ..	173
Number known to be cured		45

So far as possible the contacts of a case are persuaded to go for treatment at the same time, and cases are followed up as much as shortage of staff will allow.

Tuberculosis.

Summary of Tuberculosis Register 1944.

TABLE VII.

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
Number on register 1st January, 1944	157	57	147	53	414
New Notifications, 1944 ..	23	5	31	1	60
Number restored to register, having been removed in previous quarter	—	—	—	—	—
Cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	—	—	—	1
Number removed from register 1944	30	3	14	4	51
Number on Register 31st December, 1944	151	59	164	50	424

Age and Sex of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis—1944.

TABLE VIII.

Age	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery	Pul-monery	Non-Pul-monery
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—5	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
—15	2	3	3	1	—	—	1	—
—25	3	—	17	—	4	—	4	—
—35	5	—	7	—	5	—	4	2
—45	4	—	4	—	2	—	—	—
—55	4	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
—65	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65andover	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	23	5	31	1	19	1	9	3

CANCER.

There were 84 Deaths from Cancer during 1944. This gives a death rate of 1.88 per 1,000 population.

The following table gives an analysis of cancer deaths in the area for the previous ten years :
 DEATHS from CANCER FOR YEARS 1934-1943.

TABLE IX.

	MALE							FEMALE							Total				
	0-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65+	Total	0-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45		45-55	55-65	65+	Total
Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	5	22	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	35
Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	4	15	30	30	30
Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	3	14	15	29	61	—	1	1	2	5	8	35	52	113	113
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	4	10	25	29	69	70	70
Bowel and Small Bowel	—	—	—	—	3	5	34	54	96	—	—	—	1	4	21	46	72	168	168
Other Sites ...	1	—	3	2	3	13	26	51	99	—	—	1	5	10	19	21	61	160	160
Total ...	1	—	3	3	9	34	81	156	287	—	1	1	8	15	36	80	148	289	576

**REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

I present herewith the Report on the work carried out in my Department during 1944.

The Report has been extended to cover the various activities of the department, more details being presented.

As will be seen from the report some progress has been made in repair work, but much remains to be done, one of the largest obstacles being the high costs — these are becoming excessive.

During August Mr. Silcox, an unqualified Inspector, was called up for military service after receiving two exemptions. This was unfortunate, not only for the Department, but himself as he was within nine months of taking his final examination. There is still one vacancy for a District Sanitary Inspector.

Under Public Cleansing will be seen the salvage figures for five years, the total amount sold up to the 31st March, 1945, being 5,244 tons for which the sum of £19,544 was received.

The income and expenditure statement for salvage for the year ending 31st March, 1945, is shown on page 54, this resulted in a surplus of income over expenditure of £763 0s. 0d.

In addition to the normal duties a considerable amount of the time of the staff has been devoted to work entailed by A.R.P., i.e., Transport, Ambulance (including Town Ambulance), Decontamination.

To the staff generally, I wish to tender my thanks for their interest and keen support in carrying out the many extraneous duties which have been undertaken. My thanks also to the work-people in the Cleansing Department for their willingness, no matter what I have had to ask and for sticking to their various jobs through fair and foul weather.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1944.

(Houses other than Council Houses).

	Inspections.	Re- Inspections.
Housing.		
Section 9	17	31
Section 11	116	20
Section 12	19	1
Clearance Areas	—	8
Other Visits	21	12
 Public Health Acts.		
Houses	1,154	1,914
Overcrowding	43	9
Water Supply	17	16
Schools	8	2
Entertainment Houses	7	9
Ashes Accommodation	256	263
Accumulations	82	28
Animals or birds	10	6
Yards, courts, etc.	13	2
Drainage inspection	113	85
Drainage tested	33	16
Water closets, wash houses, etc.	104	79
Cesspools	19	11
Urinals	25	24
Sewers and street gullies	42	14
Infectious diseases	157	3
Rag and Bone dealers	1	—
Smoke Abatement	38	8
Rivers, pollution	6	14
Houses let in lodgings	1	2

	Inspections	Re-Inspections
Bye-Laws.		
Tents, vans and sheds	75	110
Stable premises	12	—
Piggeries	113	54
Slaughterhouses	170	1
Offensive trades	3	17
Factory Act.		
Factories	62	35
Bakehouses	53	30
Outworkers	1	2
Food and Drugs Act.		
Food premises and markets ..	158	5
Cowsheds	87	82
Dairies	103	94
Cold Stores	10	—
Ice Cream premises	6	3
Fish fryers	41	15
Meatshops	96	13
Rats and Mice Acts	304	121
Interviews with Owners, etc., on property	470	—
Miscellaneous visits	213	15

Complaints.

463 complaints were received against 372 for 1943: 290 related to stoppages in drain pipes. All of these received immediate attention, a workman from the Cleansing Department being sent to the property to relieve the nuisance.

173 of the complaints related to defective housing conditions, all of which were investigated and action taken where necessary.

157 visits were made to cases of infectious disease: 145 houses were disinfected.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Sanitary Improvements Carried out as a Result of Inspections made and Notices Served. (Work actually carried out).

Dwelling-houses.

Roofs repaired	133
House brickwork repointed	22
Gables, cement rendered	11
Chimney stacks rebuilt	3
Chimney stacks repointed	28
Chimney pots provided and repaired	7
Defective brickwork of walls rebuilt	2
Dangerous walls rebuilt or repaired	3
Rainwater spouting repaired or renewed	78
Vertical damp proof courses provided	4
Horizontal damp proof courses provided	3
Walls and Ceilings :	
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	174
Walls and ceilings cleansed	133
New firegrates provided	13
Firegrates repaired	23
New doors provided	2
Doors and door frames repaired	28
New door sills provided	8
Locks and keys provided	13
Latches provided	17
Door steps repaired or renewed	21
New windows provided	21
Windows repaired	114
Sash cords renewed	90
Top sashes of windows hung	6
Window fasteners provided	15
Windows made to open	4
New window casements provided	6
Light and ventilation provided to bedrooms	3
Ventilation provided to living rooms	3
Quarry floors repaired or renewed	28
Living room floors repaired or renewed	44
Bedroom floors repaired or renewed	40
Sub-floor ventilation provided	19

New stairs provided	2
Stairs repaired	8
Hand rails on stairs provided or repaired	3
Pantry floors repaired or renewed	24
Pantries limewashed	41
Cellar steps repaired	8
Water removed from cellars	1
New covers to cellar lights provided	3
Cellar walls limewashed	2
Basements cleansed	3
Verandahs repaired	3
Dirty houses — tenant's neglect	8
Dirty bedding — tenant's neglect	2
Baths cleansed	1
Name of M.O.H. and Permitted Number not inserted in Rent Book	5
Boundary walls rebuilt	1
Miscellaneous	10

Wash-houses, Water Closets, etc.

New wash-houses provided	2
Wash-house roofs repaired	28
Wash-house doors repaired or renewed	17
Wash-house chimneys repointed or rebuilt	2
Wash-house windows repaired or renewed	1
Wash-house brickwork repointed	2
Wash-house floors repaired	2
Insanitary brick sinks demolished	2
New earthenware sinks provided	7
Water supply provided to sinks	6
Wash-houses limewashed	4
Washing boilers provided or repaired	16
Washing furnaces provided or repaired	27
Brickwork of washing boilers repaired	13
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	14
Gully taps provided	6
New water closets provided	2
Water closet brickwork repaired or repointed	13
Water closet roofs repaired	23
W.C. floors repaired or renewed	2

W.C. doors repaired	4
Leaking W.C. joints repaired	4
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	60
W.C. pans provided	23
W.C. seats renewed	12
W.C. windows provided or renewed	1
Water supply provided to W.C.	2
Rainwater spouting provided or repaired to wash-houses and W.C.'s.	1
Rainwater cisterns repaired	2
W.C.'s. limewashed	5
Coal stores repaired	2
Privy middens demolished	3
Yards paved or paving repaired	7
Ashpits demolished	3
Ashbins provided	169
Dirty W.C. pans—tenant's neglect	13
Miscellaneous	2

Drainage.

New drainage laid	7
Houses provided with proper drainage	2
Obstructed drains cleared	290
Drains repaired or reconstructed	23
Inspection chambers provided	4
New covers provided to inspection chambers	6
Trapped drain inlets provided	1
Ventilation shafts provided	1
Waste pipes repaired	6
Miscellaneous	2

Slaughterhouses.

Walls limewashed after notice	2
Lairage limewashed	2
Offal bin cleansed	1
Yards relaid	1
Miscellaneous	2

Food Premises . .

Food shops cleansed	1
Hot water supply provided	3
Miscellaneous	2
Walls of fish shops cleansed	1
Floors of fish shops cleansed	2
Fish frying rooms cleansed	2
Accumulations removed	2
Gutting rooms provided complete	1
Premises limewashed	1

Smoke Abatement.

Smoke nuisance remedied	2
---------------------------------	---

Shops Acts.

W.C. accommodation provided	1
Forms required to be exhibited	3
Proper means of heating provided	1
Stores cleansed	2

Ice Cream Premises.

Sterilising apparatus provided	4
Separate rooms for manufacture	2
Rooms cleansed	1
Hot water supply provided	1

Licensed Premises.

Sanitary conveniences limewashed	17
Sanitary conveniences not marked	1
Sanitary conveniences not screened	1
Accumulations removed	1
Licensed rooms—general repairs	1
Drainage repaired or relaid	2
Miscellaneous	3

Offensive Trades.

Marine store dealer's premises limewashed	2
---	---

Milk and Dairies.

Walls of cowsheds limewashed after notice	13
Dairies limewashed	22
Walls cemented	1
Dirty milking stools	2
Insanitary yard	1
Dirty cowsheds	2
Dirty cows	7
New dairy provided	2
Miscellaneous	4

Factories and Workshops.

Factories and workshops limewashed	8
W.C. or urinals limewashed	13
Sanitary conveniences not marked	1
W.C's. provided	1
W.C's. repaired	5
Washing facilities provided	1
W.C. pans cleansed	13

Bake-houses.

Limewashed after notice	14
Roofs repaired	1

Other nuisances.

Dilapidated sheds removed	2
Stables limewashed	2
Manure receptacles provided	3
Caravans removed	3
Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	5
Nuisance from fowls and other animals abated	1
Overcrowding abated	8
Miscellaneous	6

Letters and Notices Sent Out.

Preliminary notices and Housing Schedules	.. ..	582
Letters	.. .. .	4,718

Statutory Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936 :

Section 39	.. .. .	5
Section 45	.. .. .	14
Section 75	24
Section 83	2
Section 93	49

Housing Act, 1936 :

Section 9 (repairs)	15
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Two houses on which notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Acts were not complied with and the work was carried out by the Council in default at a total cost of £93 10s. 0d.

A notice served under Section 75 to supply an ash receptacle was not complied with and this was provided in default, the owner reimbursing the Council with the cost of the bin.

Legal Proceedings.

1. Obstructing Sampling Officer, Food and Drugs Act, 1938
Defendant fined £15 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £3 3s. 0d. costs.
2. Nuisance Order applied for under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936. Order made for work to be carried out within six weeks, together with costs £4 4s. 0d.
In this case the Owner did not comply with the Order and the work was carried out in default at a cost of £50 0s. 0d.
3. Selling milk to the prejudice of the Purchaser, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Fined £5 0s. 0d. and £4 6s. 0d. costs.
4. Selling milk to the prejudice of the Purchaser, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Fined £75 0s. 0d. and £5 18s. 6d. costs.
In this case the Stipendiary Magistrate was asked to consider the removal of the Defendant from the Register of Milk Purveyors. This application was refused.

5. Nuisance Order applied for under Public Health Act, 1936. Adjournd for 21 days. Case withdrawn on completion of work and payment of costs.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

There are 181 houses still occupied on which orders under this Act are operative and every effort has been made to keep these houses in occupation by temporary repairs, owing to the housing shortage.

An Undertaking was accepted in respect of 29, New Street, Quarry Bank, under the Housing Act, that it should not be used for human habitation. The house was vacated during the year.

Thirteen houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders are operative have been re-opened under the Defence Regulations. These houses are licenced for six months at a time and are subject to rent and tenant being first approved.

The following is a list of housing work carried out under the Housing Act between 1934 and 1944. Practically the whole of these properties were dealt with during the period 1934 to 1939.

Clearance Areas.

Number of areas confirmed	33
Number of houses in areas	628
Number of persons displaced	2,197
Number of houses demolished	512

Demolition Orders.

Number of orders made	1,089
Number of persons displaced	4,269
Number of houses demolished	1,018

Closing Orders.

Number of orders made	126
Number of persons displaced	336
Number of houses demolished	10

Undertakings.

Number accepted	77
(Houses not to be re-let)	
Number of persons displaced ..	197
Number demolished	12

OVERCROWDING.

A considerable amount of overcrowding exists in the area, the majority of the cases being sex overcrowding, principally due to houses being occupied by two families.

The most urgent need is houses to re-establish family life and these people should receive, as far as possible, priority, for the new houses erected. Some of the cases investigated are most pitiful and it is difficult to re-assure the people that everything is being done to assist them.

The known number of statutory overcrowded cases is not large, being at present 131, and the Council can congratulate themselves that they obtained sanction and erected 162 houses for relief of statutory overcrowding cases, just before hostilities commenced.

These houses had a material effect on the number of cases. The following figures are of interest :

Statutory cases of overcrowding found by overcrowding survey, 1936 ..	701
Abated	620
On the books, 1939	81
Abated to 1944	14
	67
New cases	64
Total, 1944	131

As a matter of interest it has been possible to extract the number of spare rooms in houses owned by this Authority. In assessing the position all persons in the forces have been included and children over the age of ten years have been classified as adults, separate rooms being allowed for each sex.

(1) Houses with no spare bedrooms	2,915
(2) Houses having one spare bedroom	795
(3) Houses having two spare bedrooms	157
	3,867

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The total number owned by this Authority is 3,867 and the duty of supervision of the tenants is carried out by my Department, one female inspector being employed on this work. Owing to various other duties it has not been possible to inspect all houses during the year.

All tenants in the houses owned by the Authority have been classified. These are as follows :

Clean tenants	.. .. .	3,387
Dirty tenants	.. .. .	927 53
Untidy tenants	.. .. .	157 324
Total	.. .. .	3,867

The following inspection work was carried out :

Inspections	.. .. .	2,175
Re-Inspections	.. .. .	1,688

The re-inspections relate to the tenants in the dirty and untidy classification. The fact that so many housewives have been employed has rather reduced the standard of cleanliness, but on the whole there was a marked improvement during the year.

There are a few tenants in the dirty classification who will always be a source of trouble without they receive visits at frequent intervals.

From the inspections made during the year it has been possible to classify the houses as to occupation which is as follows :

Houses inspected	2,175
Statutory overcrowded cases ..	85
Occupied by more than one family	482
Sex overcrowding cases	72

Houses not used to capacity—

3 bedrooms — 53 occupied by 1 or 2 persons.

4 bedrooms — 2 occupied by 3 persons or less.

A close watch has been kept on houses for vermin, 98 houses came under suspicion and were sprayed, 51 being found infested with bugs. In all, 297 sprayings have been carried out at houses owned by this Authority.

The number of houses **infested** is not large and is under control, spraying and fumigation being carried out systematically, including test spraying.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 2,404 pigs were examined at the two bacon factories still remaining under my supervision and this total represents the whole of the animals slaughtered on the premises. 10.1% of these were found to be affected with Tuberculosis. One whole carcase was condemned and 242 carcasses were affected with Tuberculosis in some part or organ. The number in which some part or organ was affected with other diseases was 202.

897 pigs were slaughtered on private premises against 857 for 1943, practically the whole of these were examined.

The following is a list of food stuffs condemned at the various shops :

33 lbs. Cheese.

14 lbs. Bacon.

29 lbs. Sausage.

3 lbs. Butter.

39 lbs. Apple Rings (Dried).

50 lbs. Dried Peaches.

1 Box Kippers.

21 Jars Jam.

280 Oranges.

41 doz. Fish Cakes.

69 lbs. Dates.

49 Cream Tablets.

1,032 Packets Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.

952 tins Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.

As far as possible the whole of these were utilised, either for fat rendering or for feeding of animals, so that, very little was actually wasted.

The total weight of meat and food condemned (excluding tinned goods) was 2 tons 8 cwts. 1 qr. 16 lbs.

No.	Article.	Formal	Informal	Remarks.
35	Milk	35	—	Genuine.
1	Do. (Sterilised) ..	1	—	Genuine.
1	Do.	1	—	6% added water. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	2.3% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	5.3% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	23% deficient in fat. Appeal to cow samples taken.
1	Do.	1	—	3.7% deficient in fat Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	16% deficient in fat. Proceedings taken.
1	Do.	1	—	10.9% added water, 6.7% deficient in fat Appeal to cow sample taken. Proceedings taken.
APPEALS TO COW				
2	Milk	2	—	Genuine.
1	Milk	1	—	10% deficient in fat.
MISCELLANEOUS.				
35	Misc. Foodstuffs ..	—	35	Genuine.

During the year 49 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and set out below is a table showing analysis of results :

Plate counts in 1 c.c.				B. Coli content in			
Under 30,000	30,000 to 200,000	200,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Nil.	1/10th c.c.	1/100th c.c.	1/1000 th c.c.
15	16	5	13	17	9	6	17

Three samples were submitted for the Phosphatase test, these were satisfactory.

In addition twenty samples of milk produced in this area were submitted for examination for the detection of Tuberculosis : one sample was reported as containing tubercle bacilli.

Owing to the method adopted in dealing with these cases twenty-two weeks elapsed before the cow which was affected with Tuberculosis was taken from the herd. During the whole of this period milk affected with Tuberculosis was being retailed. The matter was considered by the Public Health Committee who decided that the facts should be reported to the Ministry of Health with a view to some steps being taken to prevent infected milk being sold raw.

Ice Cream.

Towards the end of the year all persons known to have sold Ice Cream before hostilities commenced were notified that before they could recommence the business the premises must be registered. At the end of the year —

3 premises were registered for storage and sale ;

2 premises were registered for manufacture and sale.

Steps are being taken to see that all premises where Ice Cream is manufactured are suitable and that proper facilities exist for the storage and sterilisation of utensils.

Food Premises.

Applications were received from two persons for premises to be registered for the drying of fish and potatoes : in both cases registration was refused. One of the applicants appealed to the Magistrates against the decision of the Council : the Council's decision was upheld.

Milk and Dairies.

The following are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926—1943 :

Dairymen	.. .. .	34
Retail Purveyors Bottled Milk	..	250

There are 17 cowsheds in the area.

One retail purveyor was given notice under Section 22 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to show cause why his registration should

not be cancelled. As the retailer carried out the required improvements the registration was confirmed.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936—1942 :

Supplementary :

Tuberculin tested	..	..	..	3
Pasteurised	..	..	..	4

Slaughterhouses.

There are 20 slaughterhouses in the area, four of these only are in use at the present time.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are 74 slaughtermen licensed to carry out the work of slaughtering. Two men were licensed during the year.

Water Supply.

During the year six samples of water were taken and submitted both for chemical and bacteriological analysis as follows :

Mains supply	..	..	..	5
Shallow well	..	..	..	1

The samples from the mains supply were satisfactory : the sample from the well was reported as polluted.

Steps are being taken to provide a piped supply but owing to distance some difficulty is being experienced. Meanwhile the occupiers have been advised to boil the water.

There are nine houses in the district at present not connected to the public water supply.

BILLETING.

It is now possible to give some idea of the work carried out up to 1944.

During this period 1,059 evacuees were received in this district, were found accommodation and billeting allowances paid. In addition a large number of war workers were found accommodation at private houses.

Billeting was at times very difficult due to differences between householders and billetees, but on the whole it was possible to give satisfaction to both sides without having to resort to compulsory billeting.

The provision of bedding, etc., presented difficulties at times, but with the aid of a Welfare Committee troubles were overcome and generally speaking the evacuees were pleased with their reception and treatment.

In addition a large house was converted and equipped to take fifty persons ; also nine other houses were requisitioned and equipped for homeless persons.

These are purely bald statements and give no idea of the patience that had to be shown in dealing with these people.

In all, 2,068 visits were made during 1944 for billeting purposes alone.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year considerable progress has been made and in order to carry out this work the Council decided to appoint a Rodent Officer, but eventually, owing to the lack of suitable applicants an Operative was appointed. He was found to be unsuitable and his appointment was terminated. A temporary employee of the Cleansing Department was trained and he is reasonably satisfactory, but owing to the shortage of labour it is not possible to keep this man whole time on disinfestation work.

At the request of the Ministry of Food the whole of the sewers were dealt with for rat infestation, two treatments being made :

First treatment :	Manholes baited	622
	Approx. number rats killed	553
Second treatment :	Manholes baited	482
	Approx. number rats killed	259

This work required the services of one unqualified inspector, the operative and a labourer for seventeen weeks.

This Authority had, at the end of the year, 19 maintenance contracts with works for dealing with rats. Owing to the extent of a number of these works — iron, steel and brick — it is very difficult to ascertain that the premises have been completely cleared and in consequence the works receive quarterly treatments.

Since the work commenced in all, 296 separate premises have been dealt with, 271 being minor infestations, resulting as follows :

Visits made	786
Poison baits	954
Pre-baits	1,001

No charge is made for treatment of minor infestations. This policy is due to the fact that it was found that when a charge was made occupiers did not report infestations.

Factory Act, 1937.

Factories with Mechanical power	131
Factories without Mechanical power	122
Bakehouses	19

Six notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories relating to insanitary conditions, and these had attention.

Two outworkers' lists were received, notifying two outworkers. Six lists notifying seven outworkers were received from other districts.

Shops Acts.

There are 701 shops on the register.

Petroleum Act.

There are 98 licensed premises to store petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licensed being 88,200 gallons. Licence fees amounting to £59 0s. 0d. were received.

In addition five licences to store Calcium Carbide were issued : Total amount 16,128 lbs. ; Licence fees £2 10s. 0d.

H. J. PARKER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Staff.

The work carried out by this Department relates to House Refuse Collection and Disposal, Salvage, Street Sweeping, Gully and Cesspool emptying and the cleansing of Public Conveniences, the following staff being, at present, employed :

	H.R.C., Sweeping, etc.	Salvage.
Men	24	4
Women	—	10
Boys	—	2

Considerable difficulties have been experienced in carrying on due to the shortage and type of labour now available for this work. For in 1939, 41 men, all able bodied, were engaged against 24 now, 8 of these being temporary. The majority of the men are over 50 years of age, 4 over 60 and 3 over 65. In spite of numerous applications no men were obtained via the Ministry of Labour.

There are still eleven members of the Cleansing Department at present in His Majesty's forces.

Vehicles.

No new vehicles have been purchased. The following are road-worthy and are constantly employed :

- 3 S.D. Freighters (7 cub. yards).
- 1 S.D. Gully Emptier—dual purpose (7 cub. yards).
- 2 Morris (2 ton and 1 ton).
- 1 Ford (1 ton).

In addition there is one horse vehicle.

Very little time has been lost by vehicles due to mechanical defects, in fact, the maintenance agreements entered into with Messrs. Shelvoke and Drewry for the vehicles supplied by them, has been most beneficial to this Authority. Extremely good service has been given.

Collection.

It has been possible in spite of all difficulties to maintain a fortnightly collection from moveable receptacles. This was only made possible by the men working overtime. On several occasions due to illness and weather conditions, it appeared that the whole system would break down, but by taking the remaining men off street sweeping arrears were overcome. At no time was the collection more than a few days behind.

The remaining fixed receptacles have been emptied approximately at intervals of three months.

The following table gives some indication of the work carried out :

Vehicles.	Number of Loads.				Total
	Bins.	Fixed receptacles.	Cesspools.	Trade Refuse.	
S.D.1.	1,011	—	—	—	1,011
S.D.2.	819	—	—	—	819
S.D.3.	1,692	—	—	—	1,692
M.C.4.	91	107	—	17	215
S.D.5.	280	—	265	—	545
Horse Vehicle.	47	356	—	194	597
Total	3,940	463	265	211	4,879

As reported in 1943, difficulty was again experienced by owners in the replacement of worn out ash receptacles, and as the lack of receptacles was likely to cause some disorganisation in the work of collection a check was made and in all, 771 bins were provided. The owners paid the cost in full. These were all of a standard type and galvanized.

I called attention in my last report to the Public Health Act, 1936, which empowers Local Authorities to provide and maintain ash receptacles at an annual charge, which scheme I hoped the Council would adopt, but I have now come to the conclusion that it would be a much more economical proposition if powers could be obtained for all ash receptacles to be provided by the Local Authority and the cost of so doing becoming a charge on the rates.

By so doing as bins became dilapidated or broken they could be replaced with new bins without having to notify owners. This would obviate the complaints from owners who purchased sub-standard bins that workmen are damaging them.

Further, all receptacles would be of a standard size and quality.

Disposal.

During the year house refuse has been deposited at the Leys Estate and controlled, but again labour shortage prevented full control. Two men, one of whom is temporary and over 65 years of age, are employed. This estate was purchased for refuse disposal in 1939 and will provide means for disposal of house refuse for many years to come.

In all, 4,290 loads of refuse were deposited at the Leys tip.

The lower pool was drained during the year and your Surveyor laid a 36 inch storm water sewer through the bed to take surface water which flowed into this pool from the Pensnett area. The cost of carrying out this work was apportioned between refuse disposal and sewerage, the cost to Disposal being approximately one third, i.e., £335. Filling of the bed with House Refuse has been commenced.

Street Sweeping.

This work has been carried out under extreme difficulties. In 1939 there were 14 street orderlies — during 1944 there were but 8, 4 of these being not able bodied. It was necessary on several occasions in order to clear up house refuse collection to take suitable street sweepers to assist and in consequence sweeping suffered.

The question of mechanical sweeping will be one for consideration in the near future.

Gully Cleansing.

This work has been regularly carried out. There are 1,406 street gullies. These have been emptied frequently at intervals of six to eight weeks by mechanical means, 8,248 cleansings being effected and 373 loads being removed from the gullies.

Cesspools.

There are 98 cesspools in the area all of which have been emptied periodically, 229 being cleansed during the year.

Public Conveniences.

There are seven for male and three for female in the area, all of which receive daily attention — two are cleansed twice daily.

Considerable damage has been caused to two of the conveniences and it has been necessary at both of these to remove the locks from the W.C's.

The sum of £12 4s. 4d. has been collected during the year.

Salvage.

Three vehicles together with four trailers are constantly employed on the collection of salvage, a fortnightly house-to-house collection being maintained. This work is carried out with female labour.

In all 3,429 loads of waste material were collected.

There are 375 waste food bins throughout the district these being emptied twice weekly, 443 loads being collected.

The work of sorting and baling is undertaken by three women and two boys, baling of tins being carried out by one mechanical press paper by two hand presses.

The total amount of material salvaged and returned to industry was 958½ tons, equal to 47·7 Lbs. per head of the population against 1,160 tons for 1943. Income being £4,057 against £4,677.

The following is the statement of expenditure and income for the year ending 31st March, 1945 :

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
Salaries and Wages ..	£ 1,658	Waste Paper	£ 2,301
Supernannuation	52	Textiles	438
Repairs and maintenance of buildings	13	Bottles and broken glass, etc.	447
Haulage	997	Scrap metal	81
Materials and other expenses	505	Tins	231
Equipment purchased ..	69	Bones	65
Net Income	763	Kitchen Waste	483
		Batteries and Tyres ..	11
	<u>£4,057</u>		<u>£4,057</u>

The following are the weights and values of the materials salvaged during the past five years, 1st April, 1940, to the 31st March, 1945 :

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
Paper	317 $\frac{1}{2}$	371	365	309 $\frac{1}{2}$	310 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tins	213	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	216	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	129
Metal	100	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	37	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Glass, Jars, Bottles ..	77	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	190 $\frac{1}{2}$	167	130
Condemned Meat	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Household bones	8	8	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	15
Textiles	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	36	34	25 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kitchen Waste	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	303 $\frac{1}{2}$	332	400 $\frac{1}{2}$	320
Rubber	—	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	16	11	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Batteries	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	11	—
	<u>796</u>	<u>1,066</u>	<u>1,263$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	<u>1,160</u>	<u>958$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Paper	1,352	1,606	2,448	2,467	2,301
Tins	293	252	439	273	231
Metal	231	234	283	94	81
Broken Glass, Jars, Bottles ..	169 $\frac{1}{2}$	447	780	639	447
Condemned meat, household bones	32	45	54	66	65
Textiles	90	247	624	499	438
Kitchen Waste	89	510	540	595	483
Rubber, batteries	3	12	33	43	11
	<u>2,259$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	<u>3,353</u>	<u>5,201</u>	<u>4,676</u>	<u>4,057</u>

H. J. PARKER,
Cleansing Superintendent.

