

[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, Bromsgrove U.D.C.

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Bromsgrove (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1943

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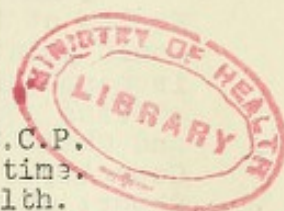
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BRONGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1943.PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) A.B. Follows, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
 Medical Officer of Health Part time.
 & Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

- (b) H. Holden, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
 R.S.I. Meat & Food Certificate.
 Liverpool University Meat & Food Certificate.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.
 Meat & Food Inspector.
 Shops Inspector.
 Petroleum Officer.

D.S. Smith, Cert. S.I.B. Additional Sanitary Inspector.
 (Serving with H.M. Forces)

C.J. Burford, Cert. S.I.B. Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector.

R.H.K. Howse (Clerk)
 (Serving with H.M. Forces)

Miss M. Beachin (Clerk)
 (Serving with H.M. Forces)

Temporary Clerks:-

Miss J. Griffiths and Miss D. Aykroyd.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS:-

A.J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

M.I. Dick, M.B., Ch.B. (Rednal and Barnt Green)

PUBLIC VACCINATORS:-

A.J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

M.I. Dick, M.B., Ch.B.

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health of the Bromsgrove Urban District for the year 1943. I would point out that the Health Services for which this Council is responsible are for the most part of an environmental nature whereas personal health, the school medical services, Maternity and Child Welfare etc. is the responsibility of the County Council, a report on which will be incorporated in the Annual Report of the County M.O.H. The vital statistics of the town for the year may be considered satisfactory. The Birth Rate has risen to 18 per 1000 and the Death Rate is still low at 11.1 per 1000. Both of these figures and also the Infant Mortality Rate are an improvement on the England and Wales figures and compare favourably with other towns of a like population. There is no evidence to show that there is any falling off in the nutrition of the people, in fact, clinical observation shows that nutrition and physical efficiency have shown an improvement, especially amongst the school and pre-school population. This improvement is to some extent offset by long working hours amongst adults and, in the case of children the bad practice of going to bed late. It is rather remarkable that after 4 years of destructive war we should be able to present a reasonably good account of ourselves in the field of health. A sharp influenza epidemic swept the town at the end of the year and the beginning of 1944 which caused some incapacity. Monotony and a certain amount of nervous exhaustion are perhaps the most noticeable of all bodily conditions which might be attributed to the war.

It has been possible to get more work done in the department during the year, partly due to the appointment of Mr. Burford to the post of Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector.

The work of diphtheria immunisation has continued unabated and work on drainage inspection, pig slaughtering and the rat campaign have received much attention. Mr. Holden and Mr. Burford have given me every assistance in my work and Mr. Burford is to be congratulated on obtaining the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Council officials for their valued co-operation during the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - 9248 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of
resident population, mid 1943 - 25,970
" 1942 - 26,860
" 1941 - 27,020

Number of inhabited houses - end of 1943 - 7,130
" " " " - end of 1942 - 7,130
" " " " - end of 1941 - 7,130

Rateable value, 1st April, 1943 - £136,568.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £548

The information given in my report for 1938 concerning social conditions and the industries carried out in the district, is still applicable.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population:-
Legitimate	453	222	231	<u>1943</u> <u>1942</u> <u>1941</u>
Illegitimate	15	8	7	<u>18.021</u> <u>16.641</u> <u>16.25</u>
	468	230	238	England and Wales :- 16.5

Still Births:	Total.	M.	F.	Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births:-
Legitimate	8	2	6	<u>1943</u> <u>1942</u> <u>1941</u>
Illegitimate	1	1	-	<u>18.867</u> <u>28.60</u> <u>26.60</u>
	9	3	6	Still Birth rate per 1000 population:- 0.346
				Still birth rate per 1000 population England and Wales:- 0.51

Deaths:-	Total.	M.	F.	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population:-
	289	139	150	<u>1943</u> <u>1942</u> <u>1941</u>
				<u>11.128</u> <u>10.83</u> <u>10.77</u>
				England and Wales:- 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal causes	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:-

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	18	11	7
Illegitimate.	1	1	-
	19	12	7

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>
All Infants per 1000 live births	40.598	53.69	51.22
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	39.735	51.16	46.19
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	66.66	117.65	187.5
England and Wales:-	49		

Infantile Mortality:-

This important Death Rate (40.5) is the lowest recorded for 11 years and has remained steady now for 3 years. The England and Wales figure is 49. What can be done in bringing down this rate is shown in reports of other countries, of New Zealand and parts of Scandinavia, when a figure below 20 has been reached.

Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	46
" " Measles (All ages)	1
" " Whooping Cough (All ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT 1943.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES	FEMALES	MORTALITY RATE
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	-	-	0.000
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	0.000
Scarlet Fever	-	-	0.000
Whooping Cough	-	1	0.0385
Diphtheria	-	-	0.000
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	10	2	0.4620
Other Tuberculosis	1	-	0.0385
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	0.000

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	MORTALITY RATE
Influenza	5	5	0.3850
Measles	1	-	0.0385
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	0.0000
Acute infectious encephalitis	-	-	0.0000
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) & uterus (F)	3	2	0.1925
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	8	0.5000
Cancer of breast	-	7	0.2695
Cancer of all other sites	10	11	0.8086
Diabetes	-	-	0.0000
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	18	15	1.2706
Heart Disease	26	32	2.2333
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	4	0.1540
Bronchitis	9	8	0.6546
Pneumonia	19	4	0.8856
Other respiratory diseases	5	3	0.3080
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	0.0000
Diarrhoea, (under 2 years)	1	1	0.0770
Appendicitis	-	2	0.0770
Other digestive diseases	1	2	0.1155
Nephritis	6	5	0.4235
Puerperal and Post abortive Sepsis	-	-	0.0000
Other maternal causes	-	1	0.0385
Premature Birth	2	2	0.1540
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	1	3	0.1540
Suicide	2	2	0.1540
Road traffic accidents	4	3	0.2695
Other violent causes	4	1	0.1925
All other causes	6	26	1.1321
TOTALS.	139	150	11.128

SECTION B.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examination of clinical material (swabs, sputa, blood etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the County Analyst, Shirehall, Worcester.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Cases, Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital Board.

For Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity cases, a motor ambulance maintained and run by the local branch of the Red Cross jointly with the Civil Defence organisation.

The service in the area is adequate and efficient.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The question of nursing help in the home has been at times very acute. All possible help has been given by the W.V.S., the Red Cross and St. John and other voluntary organisations in the town. An assistance scheme was in operation at the time of the influenza epidemic at the end of the year. There is no nursing provided for infectious cases by the County Council or the Local Authority. There is no change in the arrangements for Home Nursing as provided by the various Nursing Associations.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

It will be observed that these are, for the most part, provided by the County Council and are conducted by officers employed by the County Council.

Much valuable preventive health work is done at these clinics and centres and increasing demands are made on the responsible staffs. The time and work devoted to the Welfare Centres by voluntary workers is much appreciated.

Particulars of these centres are tabulated below:-

Clinic.	Situation.	Provided by.	Time of holding.
Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.	Recreation Road.	County Council.	Wednesday 2.0 p.m.
Catshill Infant Welfare Centre.	Baptist Chapel.	County Council	Friday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Infant Welfare Centre.	St. Chad's Church Hall.	County Council.	Thursday 2.0 p.m.
Bromsgrove Ante-Natal Clinic.	Recreation Road.	County Council	Monday 2.0 p.m.
School Clinic Bromsgrove.	Recreation Road.	County Council	Wednesday 10.0 a.m.
Dental Clinic	Recreation Road	County Council	As arranged
Tuberculosis	Recreation Road	County Council	Wednesday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Ante-Natal Clinic	St. Chad's Church Hall.	County Council	Thursday 10.0 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre	Bromsgrove Urban District Council	2nd & 4th Wednesdays in month 10.0 a.m.

HOSPITALS (PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY).

There are numerous hospitals and Institutions situated in the Urban District, many of which belong to the City of Birmingham and receive Birmingham patients. The following hospitals, some of which, are situated in the District are available to Bromsgrove residents:-

Hospital.	Name.	Situated.	By whom provided
General.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.	Bromsgrove.	Voluntary.
Infectious Disease.	Bromsgrove, Droitwich & Redditch Joint Hospital.	Hill Top, Bromsgrove.	Under Joint Control.
Tuberculosis	Ditto and Knightwick.	Ditto and Knightwick.	County Council.

Hospital.	Name.	Situated.	By whom provided
Smallpox	W.C.C. Smallpox Hospital.	Worcester.	W.C.C.
Maternity.	Mary Stephens. Lucy Baldwin.	Stourbridge. Stourport.	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Children.	Children's Hospital.	Birmingham.	By arrangement with County Council
Tonsils and Adenoids.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.	Bromsgrove.	By arrangement with County Council
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.	General Hospital. Royal Infirmary.	Birmingham. Worcester.	By arrangement with County Council.
Institution General.	Public Assistance Institution.	Bromsgrove.	W.C.C.
Mental.	Barnsley Hall.	Bromsgrove.	W.C.C.

EMERGENCY HOSPITALS.

Two emergency hospitals have been established in the area. The All Saints Hospital has now been taken over by the U.S.A. forces.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of the town's water supply submitted frequently for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination have revealed that the excellent quality of the water in the district is being maintained.

Below is given the result of analysis taken in June:-

Physical Characters. Clear, odourless.
Deposit: very slight brown.
pH 6.6

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in Suspension	(Dried at 100°C)	...	...	Trace
Solids in Solution	(Dried at 100°C)	...	...	21
" " "	After Ignition	...	...	16
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt		...	...	3.2
Hardness, Permanent		...	...	9
" Temporary		...	...	6
" Total		...	...	15
Free and Saline Ammonia...		...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia		...	...	0.002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)		...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)		...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C		...	...	None
Toxic Metals		...	...	None detected.

Note: To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37°C...	...	6 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C...	...	70 per one "
Coli-aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	Nil per 100 "
Cl. Welchii	...	-- per
Streptococci	...	Absent.

Opinion:- The sample is fit for drinking.

No extensions to mains have been made during 1943, owing to the suspension of building development. All houses in the more populated part of the District have a main supply and the majority of those houses conveniently near a mains supply have been connected up. In the more rural parts of the District the people are dependent on wells, the majority of which no doubt would be found, on analysis to yield impure water. The Government's proposals for a National Water policy, after the war, have now been submitted in white paper form, so we will look forward to a time when a pure supply will be available to all.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Surveyor informs me that one sewerage extension was made in Golden Cross Lane during the year. There are still a number of roads in the northern part of the district which require sewerage. This work was suspended at the outbreak of war and will be resumed as soon as national circumstances permit.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Spadestourne brook which runs through the centre of the town could be most attractive, if people would use their rights as good citizens to prevent the unsightly littering of their brook by irresponsible youths and thoughtless children. Regular cleansing of the brook so far as labour difficulties permit is carried out by the Surveyor's department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's section of the Report. It is well to compare the figures given here with those of the previous year. From these it will be noticed that the inspection and re-inspection made, have more than doubled, and I am sure that this represents a great deal of steady and conscientious effort on the part of the Inspector.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection and disposal is supervised by the Surveyor and he has kindly supplied me with the following figures:-

<u>House refuse collected during 1943.</u>	
Loads from bins	1386
Loads from ashpits	128
Loads of night soil	246

The local authority do not undertake the emptying of cesspools, except in the vicinity of the town.

CAMPING SITES.

No licences were issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Improvement have been effected at one factory in the district which was emitting smoke in such a quantity as to be a nuisance to persons living and working in the vicinity.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The housing position is much the same as it was last year, probably a little worse. It has been possible to carry out a few minor sanitary improvements, but the labour shortage and the difficulty of obtaining materials is a constant handicap. Overcrowded conditions still prevail and the clearance of much slum property has had to be postponed. As old houses are swept away and replaced by new ones with more accommodation, overcrowding will to some extent disappear.

Much education is always required before a new generation realises, to the full, the benefit of space, fresh air and all the amenities of a modern house. Therefore health teaching will have to go hand in glove with the new housing provision. It is gratifying to note the spirit of enquiry and criticism which prevails amongst the people of Bromsgrove in respect to the future planning of their town. There is no doubt an awakening of public conscience today, which has laid dormant only too long. Women are becoming more house conscious and it is to be hoped that they will be able, in future, to take a useful part in the work of housing committees. I am also of the opinion that women would be usefully employed as housing welfare officers on council estates.

House design has been much discussed of late. The detail as to lay-out and modern conveniences which has received so much attention in the proposed Portal houses, will bring to the people a greater joy of living and added benefits to health. There is still a general preference for houses rather than bungalows or flats amongst working class housewives, but whether this view will prevail in 10 or 12 years time remains to be seen.

As a preliminary to the work of rehousing, detailed surveys will have to be made, in order to bring the housing position up to date. At present the limited staff will not permit of this being done.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Government's white paper CMD 6454 issued in July 1943, is a measure to improve the quality of the Nation's Milk Supply. If this comes into force it will mean that the supervisory powers, now possessed by the Sanitary Inspectors of local authorities over farms and cowsheds, will disappear and will be taken over by Executive Officers of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food.

Work on milk has, to my knowledge, been most energetically pursued in this area and a high standard of milk production has been reached, and I should be sorry to see the work pass into the hands of another department. The policy to improve efficiency in production and distribution is no doubt sound, but there has been much criticism on the effect which the white paper will have on safeguarding the quality of milk.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

A much larger number of visits to food premises have been made than in the previous year. Bromsgrove is a market town of some size and importance and the Council have realised the need for an abattoir, a site for which has been provided in the new post war town planning scheme.

Slaughtering is at present often carried out under the most unhygienic conditions. This is again referred to in Mr. Holden's report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1943.

	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	21	19	-
Scarlet Fever	65	55	-
Puerperal Fever	11	10	-
Acute Pneumonia	6	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	30	1	1
Whooping Cough	36	2	1
Erysipelas	6	6	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	25	22	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	-
Dysentery	6	4	-

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases, on the whole, compare favourably with those of last year. The diphtheria figure is down by nearly half and scarlet fever also shows a decline. The figures given below can be to some extent misleading, without further enquiry, for the following reasons. The Urban District is exceptionally well supplied with Hospitals, Institutions and Homes of various kinds, the number of Institutional beds being 4,786. This number represents an appreciable proportion of the population at risk and the chances of epidemics arising are greater in a closed community. Twenty three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum might be expected in the course of as many years in time of peace. All these notified cases were from a war-time Maternity Hospital. I am very glad to report that the medical practitioners are most helpful in their prompt notification to the department, of cases of Infectious Diseases.

At the end of 1943 and beginning 1944, a sharp outbreak of Salmonella food poisoning due to B. Newport involving 69 patients was reported from one of the Institutions, and in early 1944 300 school children and staff were affected with gastro-enteritis, as a result of food consumed at a school feeding centre. An account of the first outbreak is reported hereafter. A report on the second has been forwarded to the School Medical Officer.

OUTBREAK OF FOOD POISONING DUE TO SALMONELLA (NEWPORT B.)

It was reported to me that 50 children and one nurse had been taken ill during the night of the 27th March. The symptoms complained of, namely diarrhoea and abdominal pains, were suggestive of food poisoning. In 4 cases there was vomiting. In 6-8 cases the stools contained mucus and in one case there was blood in the stools. 27 out of 32 children were from wards 1 and 2 (ages 5 - 16 years) 13 out of 35 in wards 3 and 4 (boys ages 9 - 16) and 5 out of 20 in the playroom (ages 18 months - 5 years). The nurse was on wards 1 and 2. The first case was taken ill at 12.15 a.m. The children's meals for the previous day were as follows:-

Breakfast (7.40) Porridge and fried bread.
Dinner (12 noon) Roast beef, peas, boiled potatoes and puddings. #
Tea (4.0 p.m.) Tea and bread and butter, grated carrots and special items brought by individual visitors.

Supper (6.30 p.m.) All wards except the babies
had bread and butter and
grade III salmon.

The staff does not have the same meals as the
children. The staff meals on this occasion consisted
of:-

Breakfast.	Porridge and scrambled eggs.
Dinner.	Spam, beetroot, potatoes and rice pudding.
Tea.	Jam and bread and butter.
Supper.	Pea soup and fish casserole.

During the investigation it was reported that the
Orderly was also affected with diarrhoea. He
started to be ill at 6.0 a.m. Both he and the
affected nurse had staff dinner. All the staff
had pea soup for supper.

26 samples of faeces, 1 sample of vomit, samples
of food from stock and recovered portions of the
previous day's meals were submitted for examination.
A sample of milk and water was also submitted.

The Hospital kitchen was inspected. There
were 6 on the staff, 5 resident and 1 dilly. All
declared they were in good health and had not
been affected with diarrhoea either on this
occasion or previously. In some respects the
kitchen needed modernising and the washing and
lavatory facilities were not conveniently situated,
but otherwise the kitchen arrangements were
considered satisfactory. The peas had been soaked
in boiling water to which bicarbonate of soda had
been added (1 dessertspoonful to 1 bucket of water,
in white enamel buckets). These and the potatoes
had been boiled in iron boilers. The meat had
been roasted in roasting tins. All utensils had
been in use for some years.

On the next day (29th) the matron reported
that the diarrhoea had now stopped. 7 cases of
vomiting, new cases from ward 1, had occurred during
the night and a specimen was submitted for
analysis. 2 other children were rather poorly
today, but the rest were progressing favourably
and gave no cause for alarm. On calling at the
Hospital on 30th midday it was found that a
further 4 cases of diarrhoea had occurred in the
playroom during the previous afternoon. No faeces
had been kept. One case in particular was ill
and had vomited repeatedly. Several other children
had also vomited and 8 specimens of vomit were
submitted for examination. On April 4th, the
County Bacteriologist reported that in 15 of the
27 specimens of faeces examined, organisms of the
salmonella group were isolated, the remainder were
negative, and in 5 of the 15 cases further examination
revealed the presence of the B. Newport. B.
Newport was also discovered in the food recovered
from the waste bin; this was definitely the
previous days food; the bin was turned out and
the specimen was taken from the centre of the pile.
Examination of foodstuffs, grade III salmon etc.
gave negative results from salmonella organisms.
The 8 specimens of vomit were also negative.

Attention was again directed to the kitchen
staff and 6 specimens of faeces were submitted,
4 of which were reported on April 7th as containing
large numbers of Bact. Newport. Blood specimens
were then taken from these 4 cases, 3 on 8/4/44
and one on 11/4/44.

The serums were tested against Salmonella Composite, the B. Newport organism isolated from one of the cases of 28/3/44, and the B. Newport isolated from one of the kitchen staff of 4th April, and also against the standard Salmonella Newport with negative results. In one case Salmonella Composite gave a positive reaction in dilution 1:25 and 1:50 only, but I am informed that titres up to this amount may be formed in any average normal serum. Specimens of faeces from the kitchen staff, taken on April 11th and 13th and again of the 17th April were reported negative for salmonella organisms.

The samples of milk and water gave negative results.

Consideration was given to the possibility of infection from rats and mice. No rats had been reported in recent weeks, but rat venom had been used about the kitchen and other parts of the premises at about the time of the outbreak. A portion of the rat venom which was recovered showed a live strain of B. Enteritidis (Gaertner), but there was no agglutination with this serum and the Newport organisms which therefore ruled out the venom as a responsible factor in the outbreak.

A mouse was caught and examined, but this gave negative results.

Discussion. Few outbreaks due to B. Newport have been described. In this particular outbreak the organism was discovered (i) in faeces from the patients (ii) in the food and (iii) in the faeces from the kitchen staff. It is impossible to say which particular article of food was responsible. The kitchen staff declare they had no symptoms, although they were proved to be harbouring the organism and may have become infected at the same time as the patients from a common source, which is the most likely occurrence, or they may have been acting as temporary carriers from another source.

It seems most likely that the patients and not the staff meals were infected as the only 2 members of the staff involved were working on the wards in close contact with the patients and it is possible that they may have partaken of a portion of the patients meals.

This is another example of an outbreak traced to infection of the food with a particular organism, but after careful investigation we are left in the dark as to how the food became specifically infected.

* The padded pudding is made from milk, custard powder, cocoa, sugar, syrup, dried egg, bread crumbs and vanilla essence.

IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation for the prevention of Diphtheria was carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre, Recreation Road, at Euseley Hills School, Rubery, and at various schools and centres at regular intervals during the year.

The position on the 31st December 1943 was as follows:-

Number of children treated during the 12 months.

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>	
570	395	= 965

The number of children treated previously:-

No. of Children Immunised	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	
(Over 5)	1282	116	205	607	446	} = 3843
(Under 5)	129	86	108	310	554	

Grand total of children immunised 1938 - 1943 = 4808

Estimated percentage of children inoculated at the end of 1943, in the two age groups, having regard to the numbers treated privately:-

	Under 5	Over 5
Percentage. treated	86.36%	82.78%
untreated	13.64%	17.22%

Various propaganda methods have been used to obtain consents for treatment, and in this respect the Central Council of Health Education have been most helpful.

The treatment consists of two injections of A.P.T. separated by an interval of approximately four weeks. No adverse after effects resulting from the injections have been brought to my notice.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
No of cases of Diphtheria	104	82	50	55	57	21
No. of Deaths	2	2	1	1	1	-
No. of cases of Diphtheria Immunised	-	-	-	4	3	1
Mortality Rate per 100 cases	1.91	2.44	2.0	1.82	2.76	-
No. of cases notified from Hospitals and Institutions	8	30	25	27	17	14

It will be observed that there is a steady decline in the number of cases of Diphtheria occurring since 1938.

SCABIES.

Mostly children have been treated by the local authority, 124 cases having been dealt with at the Recreation Road clinic. Here I should like to record my appreciation of the good work done by Dr. Pugh and Nurse Hopkins. Fifteen cases of a more severe type have been referred to the Tollardine Hospital, Worcester for treatment under a County scheme.

As scabies is essentially a family disease, I suspect that quite a number of adults have been effected and have treated themselves at home, under the advice of their own doctors.

The treatment for Scabies is carried out by immersing the patient in a hot bath for 20 minutes, scrubbing and drying with a rough towel and then using benzyl benzoate emulsion and allowing to dry into the skin.

Each patient averages four treatments each before a cure is effected.

A treatment centre for adults is provided and 47 persons have made use of it.

This disease is not compulsorily notifiable.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES OF MORTALITY DURING 1943.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-resp.		Respiratory		Non-resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	5	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	5	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
35 - 45	3	1	-	1	5	1	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 onwards.	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
TOTALS.	19	3	3	3	9	1	2	-

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

A.B. FOLLOWS.

Medical Officer of Health.

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my sixth annual report on the sanitary inspection of the district for the year 1943.

The number of inspections made during this year greatly exceeds the number made in any year since the commencement of the war, the reason being that the relief from billeting work and the appointment of Mr. J. Burford as an additional inspector have enabled us to devote much more of our time to this essential work. The chief items for comment are

(1) the large increase in the number of pigs slaughtered by householders. Every endeavour is made to inspect all the pigs notified to this office, and the extent of condemnations set out in the report does, I think, justify the necessity for this course being taken.

(2) the commencement of the Rat Campaign involving in its initial stages the inspection of 533 premises.

(3) the survey of drainage connections still required in the north end of the district.

COMPLAINTS.

119 complaints have been received and investigated during the year.

INSPECTIONS.

The following is a list of inspections carried out:-

	<u>Primary</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Re-</u> <u>inspections.</u>
Houses under Public Health Acts	77	178
Overcrowding	2	-
Water Supply	31	18
Tents, Vans, Sheds	11	17
Schools	5	-
Ashes Accommodation	10	11
Accumulations	7	-
Animals or Birds	2	1
Stable Premises	1	-
Piggeries	7	14
Timber Permits	51	-
Drainage Inspections	538	267
" Tests	41	-
Closets - Water... ..	12	22
Pails or Privies	5	1
Cesspools	7	3
Urinals	6	1
Sewers and Street Gullies	57	6
Cowsheds	37	26
Milkshops and Dairies... ..	27	9
General Food Premises	122	2
Cottager's Pigs... ..	500	8
Factories (with mechanical power)	29	19
Bakehouses	13	9
Rats and Mice Acts	533	-
Verminous Premises	7	-
Infectious Diseases	103	1
Houses Disinfected	13	-
Housing - Section 9	7	-
- Section 25	2	9
- Other Visits	74	-
Petroleum Act	4	-
Smoke Abatement... ..	3	1
Miscellaneous Visits	124	-
Interviews - Owners, Tradesmen etc.	93	-
Totals.	<u>2561</u>	<u>628</u>

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

652 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods, and these included 506 visits for the purpose of the inspection of pigs killed by householders for their own use. In many cases these pigs are slaughtered under the most unsatisfactory conditions in old nail shops and wash houses and, in some cases, no mechanical stunning device is used previous to slaughter.

The option of notifying pigs slaughtered is one for the householder - there is no requirement by law to notify the local authority but I am glad to record that the number of people who do ask for an inspection, so that they may safeguard themselves and families from consuming diseased meat, has increased very considerably during the last two years.

The list of surrenders of pig meat found to be diseased is set out below.

Surrenders of Carcasses and part Carcasses of pigs slaughtered by householders.

	No.	Weight in lbs.	Cause of surrender
Whole Carcasses & offals	6	1330	Generalised Tuberculosis.
* Carcase and offals excluding two hams.	1	180	Generalised Tuberculosis.
Heads.	11	132	Tuberculosis.
Liver.	2	18	"
Lungs.	3 sets	15	Congestion and Tuberculosis.
Mesenteries etc.	4	24	Tuberculosis.

* The owner refused to surrender the two hind legs although affected with generalised tuberculosis. No seizure could be made owing to the weakness of the existing law.

The following is a list of other unsound food examined principally in shops and surrendered mainly because of decomposition:-

Tinned goods.

Milk	101 tins
Fish	77 tins
Meat, Ham etc.	78 tins
Vegetables	183 tins
Soups	41 tins
Fruit and Preserves	67 tins

Other Commodities.

Beef	232 lbs. 11 oz.
Cheese	25 1/2 lbs.
Butter	2 1/2 lbs.
Margarine	9 1/2 lbs.
Sugar	12 lbs.
Dates	4 lbs.
Chocolate Biscuits	1 lb.
Peas	10 lbs.
Fish Cakes	190
Eggs	86
Bacon and Ham	79 lbs. 14 oz.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

11 licences were renewed under the Act and 1 new licence was granted.

The number of licences granted is considerably reduced. This is due to the fact that no slaughtering at private slaughter houses at present takes place in the District.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Seventy samples were obtained under the Food and Drugs Act during 1943. 69 were samples of milk taken formally under the Act and one was an "informal" sample of gravy brooming.

The samples reported on adversely by the Public Analyst are set out below together with particulars of action taken:-

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Result of Analysis.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Milk No. 216	8.3% deficient in fat.	Further samples genuine.
" No. 218	Contained 1.7% extraneous water.	---ditto---
" No. 227	6.7% deficient in fat.	---ditto---
" No. 233	3.3% deficient in fat.	---ditto---
" No. 256	Contained 11.7% extraneous water.	"Appeal to Cow" samples genuine. Legal proceedings taken. Fined £2.0.0 and £2.2.0 costs.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Six samples of water have been taken during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Three samples were found to be unfit for drinking and a satisfactory supply was provided, to two houses, from the mains by the local authority in default of the owner after the service of a Statutory Notice.

MILK SUPPLY.

The conditions of production and distribution of milk have continued to receive careful supervision.

The total number of cowsheds in the district is 29 and 63 visits were made to these during the year and many of these visits were made at milking times.

The requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order have been enforced as far as possible under war-time conditions.

Thirty six visits were made to milkshops and dairies and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Complaints were received from farmers - of milk churns being returned from wholesalers in a dirty condition. Apart from the legal requirements, owing to the lack of proper facilities on most farms for properly cleansing churns, it is imperative that they should be delivered to the farmer in a clean condition. Representations to the firms responsible have resulted in some improvement in this connection.

33 samples of ordinary milk from producers and producer retailers were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Some of these samples were taken following complaints of premature souring received by the Food Office. Twenty four of the samples obtained were of the standard required for accredited milk. The nine samples which were below this standard were followed up, farm visits being made and subsequent samples showed a marked improvement.

Of 58 samples of milk obtained under the Milk (special Designations) Orders in this district, only one failed to satisfy the requirements of the Orders, B. Coli being present in three tubes. A farm visit was made and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The following main sanitary improvements were effected during the year:-

House drainage etc. connected to public sewer ...	26
Urinals provided ...	2
Pail closets abolished ...	10
Privies abolished ...	1
Cesspools abolished ...	17
Pails renewed ...	2
Asbins provided ...	21
Ashpits abolished ...	3
Floors repaired ...	14
Roofs repaired ...	6
Wallplaster made good ...	8
Ceiling plaster made good ...	7
Defective and obstructed drains repaired ...	36
Eavespouting repaired or renewed ...	1
Defective chimneys repaired ...	5
Flushing cisterns provided or repaired ...	2
New washing coppers provided ...	2
Additional W.C.'s and new pedestals provided ...	8
Sinks provided ...	2
Doors repaired ...	2
Staircases repaired ...	2
Firegrates repaired ...	2
Water supplies provided ...	2
Caravans removed ...	22
Smoke nuisances abated ...	1

DRAINAGE.

A summary of the number of premises which are connected to the sewers in the north end of the district is set out below. This check up was made in October, 1943.

<u>Length of Sewer.</u>	<u>No. of Properties.</u>	<u>No. Connected.</u>	<u>Percentage Connected.</u>
Staple Hill. (B'ham Road to Round Hill Cottages).	118	52	44.0
Braces Lane.	30	26	86.7
Golden Cross Lane.	89	62	69.7
Barley Mow Lane.	77	32	41.6
Meadow Road and Gibb Lane.	69	43	62.3
Alcester Road, School Lane and Little Heath Lane.	95	43	45.3
Old Birmingham Road. (Linehouse Lane Crossroads to Monument Lane including Marlbrook Lane).	161	125	77.6
Birmingham Road. (Townsend Mill to Lydiate Ash).	250	151	60.4

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	48	8	-
Factories without mechanical power. -4-	22	7	-

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Other Premises (not including Outworkers premises).	-	-	-
Total ...	70	15	-

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found or brought forward (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness	10	10	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floor	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience:-				
Insufficient	4	3	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences ...	10	10	-	-
	26	24	-	-

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT AND INFESTATION ORDER.

The duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act were transferred from the County Council to the Local Authority at the latter end of the year and a survey of the rat population was carried out. It was revealed that many large infestations were present, particularly in the town area adjacent to and in the brookcourse. An organisation was set up to deal with this problem and came into operation in 1944. Details of the work carried out in this respect will be reported on next year.

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	Served.		Complied with.	
	Informal	Formal.	Informal	Formal
Public Health Acts	102	12	89	9
Factories Act	6	-	11	-
Milk & Dairies Order	16	-	10	-

PETROLEUM ACTS.

47 licences were renewed during 1943 for the storage of 124,814 gallons of petroleum spirit.

Two licences were renewed for the storage of 1224 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their support during the year and to the officers of the Council and staff of the Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HOLDEN

Senior Sanitary Inspector.