

[Report 1921] / Medical Officer of Health, Bury (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF BURY.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
1921.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For 1921.

Population at Census, 1921	-	-	-	9,630
Estimated Population for 1911	-	-	-	9,043
Area of District in Statute Acres	-	-	-	12,017
Number of Inhabited Houses	-	-	-	2,438

To the Rural District Council of Bury.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for 1921. The statistics are based on the results of the Census taken during the year as provided by the Registrar General. This shows an increase since the 1911 Census of 587, and an increase over the estimated population for 1920 of 583.

The district is a wide and scattered one, being composed of all that part of the Bury Union which is not Urban, and contains five townships, Ainsworth, Birtle-cum-Bamford, Outwood, Unsworth, and Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth. It is of an undulating character, varying in height above sea level between 125 feet at Molyneux and 1500 feet at Whittle Pike. The subsoil varies from clay and gravel at Ainsworth to a heavy soil overlying rock at Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth.

The district contains both agricultural and industrial communities. The chief centres of population are in parts of each of the townships of Ainsworth, Bamford, Outwood, and Unsworth, Birtle to a less extent, and Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth is mainly agricultural. The inhabitants in these centres of population are chiefly employed in textile industries, consequently there

is a large demand for female labour, many married women being employed. The agricultural part of the population are mainly engaged in the milk supply, most of which is carried for sale in the urban districts in the neighbourhood. There is a colliery in Outwood, and a large machinist's shop at Ainsworth.

Birth Rate.—173 births have been registered during the year, of which 83 were males and 90 females. This gives a Birth Rate of 17·9 per 1000 persons living, compared with a rate of 20·7 in 1920.

Death Rate.—133 deaths of residents (Civilian Population) have been registered, 68 males and 65 females. This gives a death rate of 13·8 compared with 9·6 in 1920.

Infantile Mortality.—15 deaths of infants under one year old have occurred, compared with 14 in 1920. The death rate per 1000 births being 86 as against 74 in 1920. The causes of these deaths were 6 from Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, 3 from Gastro-intestinal Disease, 3 from Respiratory Diseases, 1 from Umbilical Sepsis, 1 from Congenital Heart Disease, and 1 from Whooping Cough.

The deaths occurred at the following ages, 6 in the first week, 3 in the second week, and 1 in the third week, 3 between 1 and 3 months, 1 between 3 and 6 months, and 1 between 6 & 9 months.

Illegitimate Births.—9 have been registered, 2 males and 7 females, and the death of 1 illegitimate child under one year old has occurred.

The other deaths occurred at the following ages. 1 between 1 and 5 years, 5 between 5 and 15 years, 7 between 15 and 25 years, 29 between 25 and 45 years, 35 between 45 and 65 years, and 41 over 65 years.

Mortality under Five years of age.—17 out of the total number of deaths occurred among children under 5 years of age. This is at the rate of 12·03 per cent. of the total deaths.

Mortality over Sixty-five years of age.—The deaths of 41 persons over 65 years of age occurred. This is at the rate of 38 per cent. of the total deaths.

Zymotic Death Rate.—1 death has occurred from Whooping Cough, 1 from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 1 from Influenza, and 2 from Diarrhoea, a total of 4. This gives a death rate of .41 per 1000 persons living compared with .55 in 1920.

Tubercular Diseases.—7 deaths have occurred, 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 from other Tuberculous diseases, giving a death rate of .72 per 1000 persons living, compared with .74 in 1920. The Phthisis death rate was .51 per 1000 as against .22 in 1920.

Cancer and other Malignant Diseases have caused 9 deaths, 3 males and 6 females, as against 7 in 1920, giving a death rate of .93 per 1000 persons living, compared with .77 in 1920.

Respiratory Diseases have caused 19 deaths compared with 17 in 1920, giving a death rate of 1.9 per 1000 persons living, compared with 1.8 in 1920.

The following Tables supplied by the Registrar General are inserted for comparison and information :

Birth-rate, Death-rate, & Analysis of Mortality during the year 1921.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civilian Population								Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths				
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes	of Death
England and Wales	22.4	12.1	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.23	0.44	15.5	83	25.5	92.5	6.4	1.1	
96 Great Towns, including London, Populations exceeding 50,000	23.3	12.3	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.15	0.23	0.40	19.3	87	33.2	92.5	6.8	0.7	
148 Smaller Towns, 1911 Populations 20,000-50,000	22.7	11.3	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.11	0.11	0.26	0.35	15.6	84	17.7	93.5	5.1	1.4	
London	22.3	12.4	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.23	0.42	21.3	80	49.3	91.6	8.2	0.2	

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year 1921.

		Total	Male	Female
Births	Legitimate	164	81	83
	Illegitimate	9	2	7
Deaths	-	133	68	65

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Total 15 Legitimate 14 Illegitimate 1

Deaths from Measles, all ages —

„ Whooping Cough, all ages 1

„ Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age 3

	Rates per 1000 of Population			Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Phthisis Death-rate	
1921	17.9	13.8	0.51	86
1920	20.7	9.6	0.22	74
Mean of 10 years 1911-1920	17.6	14.1	0.74	94
Increase or Decrease in 1921 on— Previous Year	—2.8	+4.2	+0.29	+12
Ten Years' Average	+0.3	—0.3	—0.23	—8

The following Table shows how the births and deaths are distributed over the five townships of the district:

Locality	Area in Statute Acres	Population		Births				Deaths		
		Cen- sus 1911	1921	Male	Female	Illegit	Rate per 1000 of Populn	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 of Populn
Ainsworth ...	1460	1903	2160	15	22	3	17.1	12	20	14.8
Birtle-cum-Bamford ...	2413	1676	1764	11	9	1	11.3	12	15	15.2
Outwood ...	1938	2099	2556	25	32	4	22.3	13	17	11.7
Unsworth ...	3067	2707	2584	27	19	1	17.9	27	10	14.3
Walmersley-cum-Shilwh	3139	658	566	5	8	9	22.9	4	3	12.3
Totals ...	12017	9043	9630	83	90	9	17.9	68	65	13.8

Water Supply.—Nearly the whole of the district is served by Water Boards which provide a constant supply. Many of the farms and some of the outlying portions of the district have private supplies. The Boards which serve the district are the Bury and District, the Heywood and Middleton, and the Bolton Corporation. No complaints have been received and the supply is efficient and of good quality. As regards the private supplies, 7 samples have been bacteriologically examined during the year. In one of these, Barrack Fold Farm, Ainsworth, the water was good but the supply was insufficient. This has now been remedied. In one other case the matter is now being dealt with.

Rivers and Streams.—This is under the control of the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Committee.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Outfall works are provided in most of the populous parts of the district. Particulars of the sewage treatment in each township are as follows :

AINSWORTH.

Bradley Fold.—Treatment is effected by septic tanks, storm tanks, and continuous filtration. These works are designed for a population of 3000, with an approximate dry-weather flow of 75000 gallons per day.

Black Lane.—These are small works and have about 70 houses connected with them. They consist of a detritus tank, septic tank, cinder filter beds, and a humus tank. The sewage passes into a brook which discharges into the River Irwell. These works will be done away with as soon as the scheme of the Radcliffe Urban District Council, which this area adjoins, is completed. The sewer is now laid but the houses are not yet connected up.

BAMFORD.

Treatment is effected by septic tanks, storm tanks, and continuous filtration. These works have an approximate dry weather flow of 30000 gallons a day and receive the sewage from nearly the whole of the village of Bamford.

OUTWOOD.

Irwell Bank.—This is a small sewage works laid down to treat the sewage from the Irwell Bank Mill and the houses in the immediate neighbourhood. It consists of septic tanks, storm tanks, and continuous filtration.

Prestolee.—These works consist of a detritus chamber, septic tank and cinder beds. These have not been working satisfactorily lately and steps are being taken to render them efficient. They serve a population of about 700.

Ringley.—These works are designed for a population of about 675 and consist of septic tanks and continuous filtration.

Outwood.—These are situated at the north-west end of the township near the Colliery, and provide treatment for about 300. They consist of detritus tanks, screens in duplicate, covered septic tank, and filter bed.

UNSWORTH.

Croft Lane, Hollins.—The daily dry-weather flow is about 11000 gallons, and the approximate population served is 800. The method of treatment is by sedimentation, continuous filtration and finally land filtration.

Parrs Lane, Unsworth.—Treatment is by means of a septic tank, filter beds with circular sprinkler and humus tank. This provides for a population of about 700.

Kilner Croft.—The sewage from a few houses in this area discharges on to a filter bed and thence to the Foxley Brook. Additional works are to be erected near the Foxley Brook to treat the drainage from the new houses at Unsworth, built by the Bleachers' Association. These works will also be able to treat the sewage from the upper part of the village of Hollins.

Closet Accommodation.—Nearly 70 per cent. of the closet accommodation is by privy middens or pails. There has been no opportunity during the year 1921 of getting any conversions into water closets, but the new houses erected in Unsworth have all had water closets provided.

The following Table shows the types of closets and the provision for house refuse in the various townships :

Locality	No. of Privy Middens	Privy Closets	Pail Closets	Fresh Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Ashpits	Ashbins
Ainsworth ...	167	298	21	153	23	27	146
Birtle-cum-Bamford ...	24	81	126	172	26	116	50
Outwood ...	168	302	3	208	6	72	56
Unsworth ...	215	464	5	68	45	32	55
Walmersley-cum-Shilwh	35	86	26	3	—	20	—
Totals ...	609	1231	181	627	100	267	307

Scavenging.—In Ainsworth this is carried under contract and is done in a satisfactory manner. This system should be extended to other districts until the Council is prepared to carry out the work by their own employees. In the remaining townships frequent difficulties are encountered and much tact is required on the part of your Sanitary Inspector to keep the ashpits in a tolerable state of cleanliness. The steps taken are to make arrangements for a farmer in each locality to empty the various ashpits and refuse bins on to the land. This is done at the expense of the various tenants and owners.

Schools.—There are 7 Elementary Schools in the district, viz: at Ainsworth, Buckhurst, Hollins, Prestolee, Ringley, Turn, and Unsworth. The buildings are in a good condition, and the premises are kept clean and are well ventilated. Except at Prestolee and Unsworth, which are provided with water closets, they all have privy middens or pail closets. The water supply of these schools is derived from one or other of the Water Boards except at Turn and Buckhurst. The supply to Turn School was put into a satisfactory condition during 1920 and the water at Buckhurst has been examined during the present year and found to show no evidence of pollution. The medical inspection of the children is entirely in the hands of the County Council.

Milk Supply.—Most of the agricultural part of the district is concerned with the milk supply of the population of this and the urban districts in the neighbourhood. The dairies are kept in a clean condition, but there is, however, very little storage of milk, it being taken direct from the shippens to the customers. There are 92 cowkeepers and purveyors of milk in the district, all of whom are on the register. The shippens are in a fairly satisfactory condition, but in some instances there is insufficient airspace and the ventilation and sanitary arrangements require attention. In several instances the manure heaps are situated too near the shippens, and every opportunity is taken to urge the farmers to remove the manure away from the vicinity as quickly as possible. The cows are all grazed during the summer months.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.—This is under the control of the County Council.

Meat.—There are 2 slaughter houses in the district, but these are not used to any great extent, much of the meat being brought into the district from the urban districts in the neighbourhood. There is no public abattoir, and no arrangements are made for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter. Meat exposed for sale is frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

There are 3 bakehouses in the district. Most of the bread is either baked privately or brought in from the surrounding urban districts.

Infectious Diseases.—The notification of Chickenpox was in force under temporary Orders until November 20th, 1921. The total number of notifications received during the year was 66. This number included 7 cases of Diphtheria, 3 of Erysipelas, 12 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 6 of Pneumonia, 13 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3 of other forms of Tuberculosis, and 20 of Chickenpox. Chickenpox was somewhat prevalent in Unsworth in October. No schools have been closed for infectious diseases during the year.

Removal to Hospital.—24 cases in all were removed to the Hospitals or Sanatoria. Of these 7 were suffering from Diphtheria, 7 from Scarlet Fever, 1 from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 8 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 from Chickenpox.

The following Table shows the distribution of the cases in the various townships :

Locality	Estimated Population	Ordinary Infectious Cases								Tuberculosis Cases						
		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fev.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Primary and Influenza Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Total	Infectious Cases removed to Hospi	Per cent. of cases to population	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tub. Diseases	Total	Removed to Sanatoria	Per cent. of cases to population
Ainsworth	2160	2	1	5	1	—	2	3	14	5	·23	3	—	3	2	·09
Birtle-c-Bamfrd	1764	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	4	3	·11	2	—	2	2	·11
Outwood.....	2556	5	1	—	—	1	1	—	8	5	·19	7	1	8	4	·15
Unsworth	2584	—	—	4	—	—	2	17	23	2	·07	1	2	3	—	—
Walmersley-c- Shuttleworth	566	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	·17	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	9630	7	3	12	1	1	6	20	50	16	·16	13	3	16	7	·08

With regard to the non-notifiable infectious diseases the schools are frequently visited and inquiries made as to any prevalence. No vaccinations have been performed by me under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council and can be obtained at the Office and in various parts of the district.

Bacteriological examinations of 5 specimens of sputum and 7 of water have been made.

The notification of Tuberculosis is carried out fairly satisfactorily by the medical practitioners. No occasion has arisen during the year requiring any action.

Sanitary Administration.—In addition to the Medical Officer of Health, who is a part time official, there is one Inspector of Nuisances who devotes nearly the whole of his time to the duties.

Hospital Accommodation.—The Rural District Council is a constituent authority of the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board. The Board provides accommodation for 35 cases of Smallpox and for 166 cases of other infectious diseases including Tuberculosis. It is satisfactory in every way.

The Council have adopted The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1907, The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

Arrangements have been made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for the chemical and bacteriological examination of specimens.

HOUSING.

21 new houses have been erected in Unsworth by private enterprise during the year. In no other district has any additional building taken place. There is still a considerable amount of overcrowding throughout the district. Supervision is exercised in all cases and the evil mitigated as far as circumstances will permit. No definite action can be taken until further accommodation is provided.

The following Table shows the area, number of houses inhabited, population, assessable value, &c., in the various townships.

Township	Area in Statute Acres	Inhabited Houses			Population			Persons per house			For purposes of poor rate		For purposes of special expenses rate	
		1901	1911	1921	1901	1911	1921	1901	1911	1921	Assessable Value	Amount produced by vald. rate	Assessable Value	Amount produced by vald. rate
		(Census)									£	£	£	£
Ainsworth ..	1460	365	421	569	1718	1903	2160	4.70	4.52	3.8	17359	72	15634	65
Birtle-em-Bamfrd	2410	358	439	495	1447	1676	1764	4.04	3.81	3.54	11037	46	9229	38
Outwood ..	1938	312	433	537	1514	2099	2456	4.85	4.84	4.75	30199	125	27462	114
Unsworth ..	3067	583	659	672	2698	2707	2584	4.62	4.10	3.84	19872	82	18912	78
Walmersley-c-Sh.	3139	153	155	165	711	658	566	4.64	4.24	3.44	3839	14	..	..
Rural District	12014	1771	2107	2438	8088	9043	9630	4.56	4.29	3.94	£82306	£339	£71237	£295

The following statistics are required by the Ministry of Health :

1. GENERAL.

Population (1921)	-	-	9630
General Death Rate	-	-	13.8
Death Rate from Tuberculosis	-	-	0.72
Death Rate from Phthisis	-	-	0.51
Infantile Mortality	-	-	86
Number of dwelling-houses of all classes			2438
Number of working-class dwelling-houses			2201
Assessable Value, less reductions on Appeals	£64000		
Sum represented by a penny rate	-	-	£266

2. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. Inspection.

1 Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	56
2 Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	-	-	74
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	40
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	34

II. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	34
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III. Action under Statutory Powers.

a Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning &c. Act, 1919

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
2 Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit	
a By Owners	6
b By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
3 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	0

b Proceedings under Public Health Acts

1 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	20
2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
a By Owners	20
b By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

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

1 Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
2 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
3 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	0
4 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
5 Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

d Number of houses demolished voluntarily by Owners or converted into workshops, &c.	0
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Annual Report of Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, & Homework.

INSPECTION.

Premises	Number of Inspections
Factories	38
Workshops	28
Workplaces	—
Total	66

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	4	4
Other nuisances	8	8
Sanitary accommodation, unsuitable or defective	7	7

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

2 Milliners
 1 Barber
 3 Clog Makers
 1 Undertaker
 1 Brewery
 1 Tripe Dresser
 3 Bakehouses
 1 Plumber
 3 Dressmakers

Total number of workshops on the Register 16

OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts (s. 5, 1901)	Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s 101) in use at end of year	0

Factory and Workshops Act.—The usual inspections have been carried out and the factories and workshops have been found in a clean and satisfactory condition. There are 35 factories and 16 workshops in the district. They are situated in the various townships as follows :

Locality.	Ainsworth	Birtle-cum-Bamford	Outwood	Unsworth	Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth	Total
Factories	13	5	5	10	2	35
Workshops	4	3	1	7	1	16
Total	17	8	6	17	3	51

The factories consist of 3 cotton spinning mills, 7 cotton weaving sheds, 1 woollen mill, 2 fulling mills, 6 dyeworks, 1 calico print works, 6 bleach works, 1 poultry food factory, 3 wheelwrights' shops, 1 joiner's shop, 1 engineer's works, 1 fire-lighter's, 1 spindle and flymaker's works.

One complaint of insufficient means of escape in case of fire has been received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories. This has been attended to. There are no outworkers in the district.

Appended is the Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I beg to remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES W. COOK,

Bury, June 7th, 1922.

Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

UNION OFFICES,

BURY.

To the Rural District Council of Bury.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1921.

Table of Nuisances, &c., from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1921	Ainsworth	Birtle-cum Bamford	Outwood	Unsworth	Walmersley- cum- Shuttleworth	TOTAL
No. of Journeys made to each District	68	40	68	63	15	254
„ Visits and Inspections made in each District	310	170	230	201	35	946
„ Notices sent (Legal and Preliminary)	21	10	25	23	4	83
„ Notifications received & reported upon to the M.O.H.	14	4	8	23	1	50
„ „ „ Tuberculosis	5	3	5	2	1	16
„ Rooms disinfected and cleaned	25	10	23	30	2	90
„ Dairies and cowsheds inspected	30	32	16	22	20	120
„ Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of milk registered	18	25	9	19	18	89
„ Houses inspected Regulation Act, 1910	20	14	28	19	3	74
„ „ „ Public Health Acts	14	6	12	23	1	56
„ „ built during the year	—	—	—	20	—	20
„ Sanitary Improvements made, Water Supplies included	8	6	16	15	4	59
„ Other Nuisances dealt with, Privy Ashpits included	4	19	30	20	8	71
„ Nuisances abated	12	25	46	35	12	130
„ „ receiving attention	20	23	29	19	6	97
„ „ found, including Privy Ashpits	32	48	75	54	18	227

House Dwellings.

Housing Acts are somewhat interfered with owing to the insufficient house accommodations for the outgoing tenants, many of which came from adjoining districts. The 20 new houses at Unsworth have been occupied which in a few instances relieved overcrowding. 90 rooms have been disinfected and cleaned and many minor nuisances abated. The scavenging of privy ashpits have given much trouble in one of your districts and can report favourably for the future. New sewers are being laid in the Black Lane portion of Ainsworth, and will report further when the house drains are connected up to same.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

120 inspections have been made, and considering many of the farms have changed hands the Regulations are being carried out better than expectations. Improvements in the water supplies have been made to one farm and more samples taken and analysed with a view to a good supply to other farms. Steps have also been taken for other sanitary improvements to be carried out in ventilation, light, and airspace.

Factories and Workshops.

Large extensions have been made to one cotton mill and textile machine works which has caused extra W.C. accommodation. There are 51 factories and workshops which have been periodically inspected and generally found to be kept in a sanitary condition. 66 inspections have been made and 19 defects found and remedied, in addition to one complaint—by H.M.I. of Factories, re insufficient means of escape in case of fire, which was also remedied. Smoke observations have been made and steps taken to have the nuisance abated.

Yours obediently,

HENRY HURST,

Inspector.