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CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

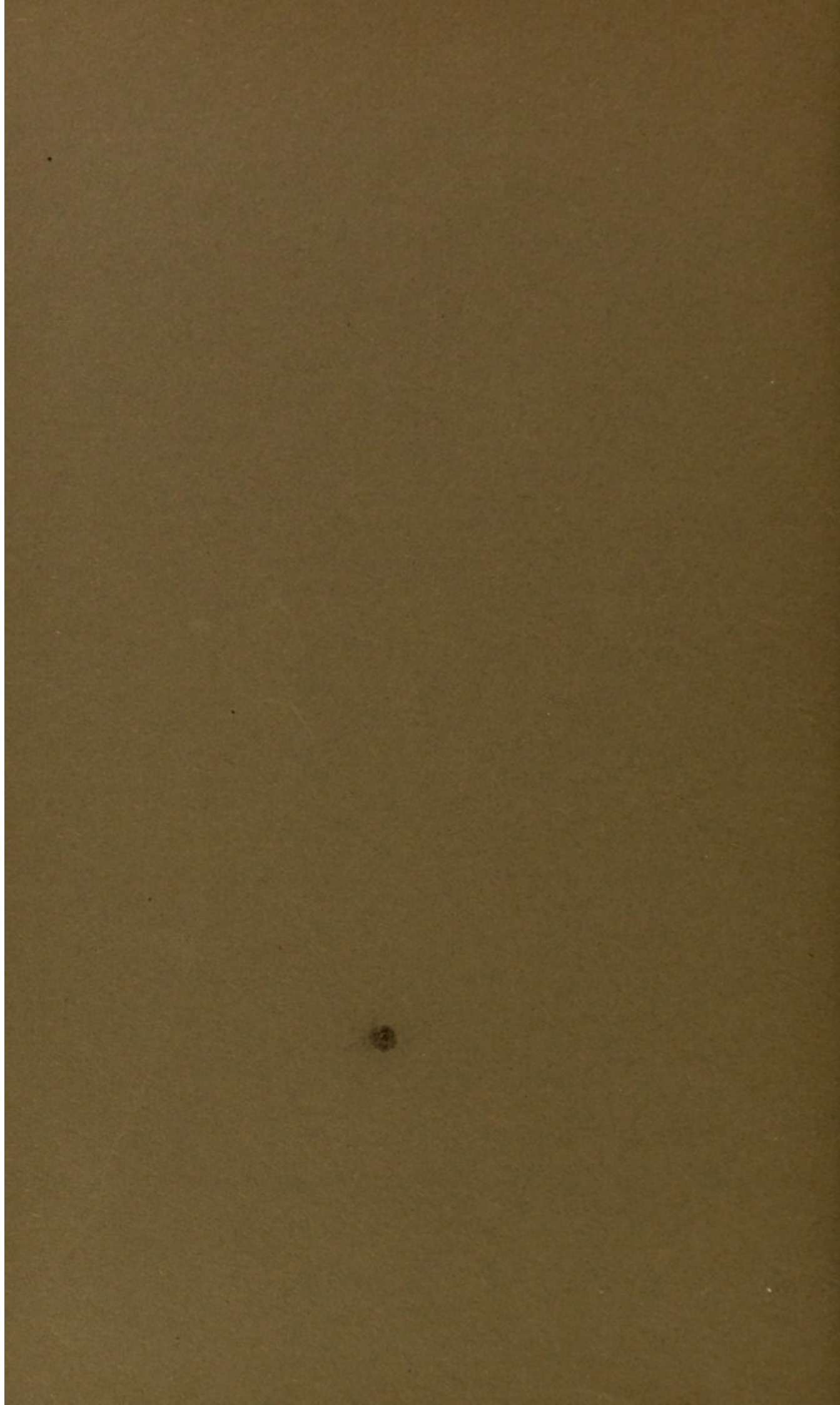
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1937



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Mr. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON.

Mr. COUNCILLOR D. BENION.

Mr. COUNCILLOR A. E. BEDDOW.

Mr. COUNCILLOR A. CLARKE, J.P.

Mr. COUNCILLOR H. J. FOSTER.

Mr. COUNCILLOR JOSEPH HAMPTON.

Mr. COUNCILLOR J. PHILLIPS.

Mr. COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHOUSE.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Mr. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON.

All the Members of the Public Health Committee with the following co-opted Members:—

Miss Hanning.

Mrs. A. Stanley.

Mrs. W. E. Jackson.

Mrs. M. Wright.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: W. F. GAPPER, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer: H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon: G. WILLIAMSON, L.D.S.

Dental Attendant: Miss N. T. NOKES.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector: FRED TURNER, C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: JOSEPH BALL, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: NORMAN ASTON.

Clerks for Sanitary Inspectors: J. WINSPEER, E. FEREDAY.

HEALTH VISITORS

MRS. E. HARRIS, C.M.B., Nursing Training.

MRS. D. ROBINSON, C.M.B., State Registered Nurse.

MISS D. WATWOOD, C.M.B., Nursing Training.

MRS. M. ROWLEY, C.M.B., Nursing Training.

MISS M. RICHARDSON, C.M.B., Nursing Training.

CLERKS JOINTLY WITH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Miss D. Foster.

Miss E. D. Ball.

Miss D. Roden (appointed 23-8-37).

PART-TIME OFFICERS.

Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare:

MARGARET C. FAIRLEY, M.B., Ch.B. (appointment terminated 30-4-37).

Oculist: G. F. HAYCRAFT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Surgeon for Nose and Throat: F. W. SYDENHAM, F.R.C.S., Ed.

Orthopaedic Surgeon: ERNEST A. FREEMAN, F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.

Aural Surgeon: W. L. THOMAS, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

Orthopaedic Masseuse: Miss F. M. BARNES, C.S.M.M.G.

**VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING
1937 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.**

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Nett Births		Nett Deaths belonging to district			
		Number	Rate per 1000	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
				Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate
1927	36,810	759	20.6	65	85.6	392	10.6
1928	35,830	781	21.8	46	58.9	337	9.4
1929	35,290	693	19.6	49	70.7	404	11.4
1930	35,290	716	20.2	42	58.6	340	9.6
1931	34,850	673	19.3	61	90.6	432	12.4
1932	34,930	676	19.3	47	69.5	334	9.5
1933	34,700	627	18.06	45	71.7	364	10.4
1934	35,689	651	18.2	54	82.9	358	10.0
1935	35,990	564	15.6	50	88.6	374	10.3
1936	36,230	644	17.7	54	83.8	415	11.4
1937	36,490	699	19.1	38	54.3	410	11.2

Comparability factor 1.11

Adjusted Death Rate 12.4

Area of district in acres (exclusive of area covered
by water) 8,155

Total population at all ages at Census, 1931 ... 35,300

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) accord-
ing to rate books 9,109

Rateable Value £147,070 0 0

Sum represented by penny rate £568 0 0

Poor Law Relief (outdoor) year ended 31st

December, 1937 £6,469 15 10

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health,
W. F. GAPPER, M.B., D.P.H.
for the Year 1937

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban
District Council*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my second Annual Report on the health of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

The report has been prepared in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health as laid down in Circular 1650 dated 4th October, 1937.

I was appointed Medical Officer of Health in 1936 and commenced duties as such on January 1st, 1937. Dr. Margaret Fairley acted as part-time Assistant up to 30th April. Dr. H. E. C. Sutton was appointed full-time Assistant Medical Officer of Health and commenced on May 1st.

Mr. G. Williamson, L.D.S., who was appointed School Dental Surgeon, with Miss Nokes as Dental Attendant, took up his duties on January 1st, 1937. He is responsible for the dental treatment of patients referred to him from Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Clinics.

SECTION A.—Social Conditions.

The main industry in the area is coal mining. The coal raised is chiefly used for household purposes and, therefore, there is a marked change in employment in the summer and winter months, showing an increase in unemployment during the summer.

Other industries in the area consist of Bricks and Tiles Manufacture, Edge Tool Manufacture, Building, Wholesale Clothing Manufacture, Toy and Glove Manufacture, General Engineering, Confectionery and Baking Manufacture.

Two new factories for the manufacture of leather goods and a new iron foundry for the manufacture of heavy iron castings were opened during the year.

All the local trades have shared in the general trade improvement, though the Edge Tool trade was handicapped towards the end of the year by a shortage of raw material.

Mr. P. G. Plant, Manager for the Ministry of Labour of the Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied the following figures :—

Month ended 14th December, 1936.

	Men	Boys	Women	Girls	Total
Wholly Unemployed, including					
non-claimants	560	5	41	11	617
Temporary stopped	74	3	13	2	92
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	634	8	54	13	709
Non-Monday claimants	1243	55	3	—	1301
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	1877	63	57	13	2010

Month ended 26th July, 1937.

	Men	Boys	Women	Girls	Total
Wholly Unemployed, including					
non-claimants	471	8	63	22	564
Temporary stopped	626	16	18	8	668
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1097	24	81	30	1232
Non-Monday Claimants	5014	235	8	2	5259
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	6111	259	89	32	6491

Month ended 20th December, 1937.

	Men	Boys	Women	Girls	Total
Wholly Unemployed, including					
non-claimants	503	10	86	24	623
Temporary stopped	265	24	31	7	327
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	768	34	117	31	950
Non-Monday Claimants	146	—	10	2	158
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	914	34	127	33	1108

Comparing these figures with those for the previous year, it shows that the general improvement in trade existing in the past two years was maintained in 1937.

The number of contributors to Unemployment Insurance is approximately 20,000. Last year's figure of 22,000 was later found to include a number living outside the district.

The number of persons receiving Home Assistance throughout the year, taking a weekly average, was 570. Actually the weekly average number of "cases" receiving assistance was 225, giving an average approximately of five persons to every two "cases" receiving assistance.

There is little evidence of cases of extreme poverty in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The natural increase of population, shown as excess of births over deaths, is 289. The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population for mid-1937 is 36,490, an increase of 260 over the estimated population for the area for mid-1936. This shows a balance of migration from the district contrary to last year.

The Birth Rate showed an increase over the past four years.

The Infant Mortality rate is the lowest ever recorded for the district, being 54.3 as compared with the previous lowest record of 58.4 in 1930,

There was an increase in the Maternal Mortality rate, however, being the highest for the past four years.

The general Death Rate is slightly less than the past year, the adjusted rate being the same as that for England and Wales. As in the previous years, the chief causes were heart and other circulatory diseases, respiratory diseases and cancer. Deaths from cancer, heart and other circulatory diseases showed a decrease, being more marked in cases of cancer. Last year there were 52 deaths from cancer, but this year they were reduced to 37. Four of these were between 25 and 45 years, while 16 were 65 or over. More males died of cancer than females, being 23 and 14 respectively. The commonest site of the cancer was some part of the digestive organs, accounting for 25 cases.

	Total	M.	F.
Live births, legitimate	676	349	327
Live births, illegitimate	23	12	11

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 19.1.

	Total	M.	F.
Still births, legitimate	26	17	9
Still births, illegitimate	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), 37.1.

Deaths	410	248	162
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.2.

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	3	4.1
Other Puerperal causes	—	—
Total	3	4.1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

	Deaths	Rate
All infants per 1,000 live births	38	54.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	38	56.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Deaths from Cancer	37	
„ „ Measles	3	
„ „ Whooping Cough	4	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3	

There were only 3 deaths from Diarrhoea of children under two years of age as compared with 10 last year.

Of the total 410 deaths, 121 or 29 per cent. occurred in institutions. Of these, 33 died in the Public Assistance Committee's Institution, 29 at Stafford Infirmary and 24 at The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Deaths from violence, being the same as in the past year, included 10 mining accidents, an increase of one, and five traffic casualties, a decrease of two.

1937

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		
		All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	14.9	12.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	14.9	12.5	0.01	—	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62
148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	15.3	11.9	0.00	—	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55
London	13.3	12.3	0.00	—	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60
Cannock	19.1	11.2	0.00	—	0.08	0.00	0.1	0.13	0.46	0.68	4.2	54.3
" adjusted		12.4										

SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a.) Laboratory Facilities.

The same arrangements exist with the Staffordshire County Council Laboratory as in previous years, for the carrying out of all necessary examinations of clinical material, water, milk and food-stuffs. Every material sent is examined and reported on most satisfactorily and willingly. All samples of milk submitted to the Laboratory for examination by the Authority's Sanitary Inspector are charged to the Authority at 3/- per sample. Reports on examination of all other material are not charged directly to the Local Authority.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Two ambulances are maintained by the Council and the service is adequate. One ambulance is to be renovated. Arrangements have been made with surrounding district where one can call upon the other when necessary in a case of emergency.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

Each of the three Nursing Associations in the district employs a District Nurse. The Council pay an annual grant of £25 to each Association in consideration of which the nursing of Measles, Ophthalmia, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis, Epidemic Diarrhoea and Puerperal Pyrexia is undertaken. Cannock Nursing Association propose to have an additional District Nurse for the Bridgtown area. The Heath Hayes district is without a District Nurse. It would be a great boon to this district if a Nursing Association could be formed to provide a District Nurse for the area.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Ante-natal Clinics (2):—

Methodist Institute, Chadsmoor.
Health Department, Church Street, Cannock.

Welfare Centres (4):—

Chadsmoor : Methodist Institute.
Cannock : Sunday Schools, Walsall Road.
Hednesford : Victoria Street.
Heath Hayes : St. John's Institute.

Toddlers' Clinic (1):—

Chadsmoor: Methodist Institute.

These are for consultative purposes only and consist of assembly room, weighing room and doctor's room. Provision for perambulators exists at all centres but is not very satisfactory.

School Clinics (4):—

The Central Clinic, Church Street, Cannock, for:—

- (a) Orthopaedics.
- (b) Dental.
- (c) Refraction.
- (d) Tonsils and Adenoids operations.
- (e) Aural cases.
- (f) Minor Ailments.

The three remaining Clinics for Dental treatment and Minor Ailments are provided in the same buildings as the Welfare Centres at Chadsmoor, Hednesford and Heath Hayes.

The new Clinic in Arthur Street, Chadsmoor, is nearly completed and will be opened early in the coming year. The Clinic will replace the one at the Methodist Institute and will cater for similar type of work under similar arrangements as in the present one. It is proposed to build a new Clinic in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, to replace the one in Victoria Street, which is very inadequate and unsuitable. The conversion of two school rooms at Rawnsley for a Clinic and a new Clinic at Heath Hayes are being considered.

Tuberculosis Sub-Dispensary:—

Newhall Street, Cannock.

The Dispensary is open twice weekly:—

Tuesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults.

Friday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Children.

Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases:—

The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

(e) **Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.**

FOR SMALL-POX:—

The hospital of the South Staffordshire Joint Board is available, this district being one of the constituent Authorities. The hospital is situated at Moxley, in the Bilston Urban District.

FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

No hospital is maintained by the Council and there is no agreement with any Authority for reserving any beds for the needs of the district. Cases are sent to the Walsall Borough Hospital, Isolation Hospital of the Cannock Rural District at Cheslyn Hay, and occasionally to Stafford Borough Fever Hospital, the Council paying

the charges. When these hospitals are full, great difficulty is experienced in the hospitalization of cases. It has been necessary to send cases to West Bromwich and other Isolation Hospitals several miles further away from Cannock.

A scheme has been prepared to establish an isolation hospital for combined areas in Mid-Staffordshire whereby a united district will be formed under Section 6 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The proposed scheme includes the following districts—The City of Lichfield, the Borough of Stafford, the Urban District of Aldridge, the Urban District of Brownhills, the Urban District of Cannock, the Urban District of Rugeley, the Urban District of Uttoxeter, the Rural District of Cannock, the Rural District of Lichfield, the Rural District of Stafford, the Rural District of Tutbury and the Rural District of Uttoxeter. The Cannock Urban Council will have four representatives on the Joint Hospital Board.

Though this scheme will involve increased expenditure to the Local Authority for the treatment of infectious disease, it will provide the accommodation for the hospitalization of cases of infectious disease in the area which the Authority have never possessed.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and abnormal and necessitous maternity cases are sent to The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, with whom the Authority have a satisfactory scheme.

FOR TUBERCULOSIS :—

County Sanatorium, Prestwood House, Kingswinford.

Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital, Kinver.

Groundslow House Sanatorium, Tittensor.

Yarnfield Isolation Hospital, Near Stone.

Children's Sanatorium, The Limes, Himley.

Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, Eccleshall.

These are maintained by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee.

FOR CHILDREN :—

There are no hospitals available under any arrangement by the Council for the treatment of children, but cases are often referred to the Birmingham Children's Hospital, Wolverhampton Royal Hospital and Stafford Infirmary and the Public Assistance Institution at Cannock.

There is a Miners' Accident Home at Hednesford in the Urban District. This Home is maintained by voluntary efforts and is of very useful service to the area.

The Public Assistance Institution is within the Urban District.

The General Hospitals, all voluntary, available for the district are at Wolverhampton, Walsall, Stafford and Birmingham. Most cases attend the Wolverhampton and Stafford Hospitals.

For unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, the Public Assistance Institution and the Children's Homes of the Public Assistance Committee are within the area.

FOR ORTHOPAEDICS :—

For cases requiring a short stay, The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, is available.

(f) **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The district has been served in the past by 12 Midwives, but the work was not evenly distributed between them. Under the Midwives Act, 1936, a scheme prepared by the County Authority, who is the Supervising Authority, provides for seven salaried Midwives to the district, with an additional relief Midwife. The work will be more evenly distributed under this scheme compared to the past, when most of the work was limited to three of the busiest Midwives.

704 births were notified by the Midwives during the year out of a total of 718 notified births. Eight births were un-notified, two being still-births. Of the six live births, one was notified to the County and five were un-notified by Midwives or parents.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS.

Ante-natal visits :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	143
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	131
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	...	681
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	...	8,310

Re-visits to infants according to age :—

Under one year	...	...	...	...	2,892
One to two years	...	...	...	...	2,236
Two to three years	...	...	...	...	1,108
Three to four years	...	...	...	...	1,019
Four to five years	...	...	...	...	1,055

Special visits :—

Measles—

Primary, all ages	...	...	...	404
Re-visits, all ages	...	...	...	412

Ophthalmia—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	9
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	33
Diarrhoea—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	11
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	13
Whooping Cough—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	103
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	35

There has been an increase in the number of visits to infants under two years of age, but a decrease in the visits to those from three to five. There was a marked reduction in the number of Measles cases, but cases of Whooping Cough were increased.

The Authority have considered the employment of a trained superintendent of Health Visitors, but have deferred the matter sine die. Applications by two of the Health Visitors to attend a course of training were considered by the Authority but they were not granted. This matter should receive serious consideration by the Authority, as none of the Health Visitors employed have their Health Visitor's certificates. Only one is fever trained and is also a State registered nurse. All of them have their C.M.B. One has been in your service since 1918, three since 1926 and one since 1929, the last having already served many years in various posts as a nurse. I feel that none of them have had enough training in Public Health work to come up to modern requirements. They should be allowed and encouraged to attend courses to adapt themselves to modern views and ideas if they are to be employed as Health Visitors until they reach the retiring age of 65 under the Superannuation Scheme which is now in force in the district. Being trained nurses, with no Public Health training, they tend to think of their work as being chiefly treatment instead of being "largely educational and social" (as quoted from the 1935 report of the Chief Medical Officer in last year's report). To make the service really efficient, a fully trained superintendent should be appointed. At present their work is supervised either by the Medical Officer of Health or his Assistant. It is impossible for either of these two to pay enough attention and the close supervision that is necessary to make the service fully efficient.

WELFARE CENTRES.

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	47	115	27	1934	1155
Hednesford	47	73	17	1146	1013
Chadsmoor	50	80	28	1785	1070
Heath Hayes	45	67	30	1071	1109
Totals	189	335	102	5936	4347

There were six sessions less held during the year than in the previous year, but the total attendances, 10,283, were 1,127 more than last year.

The average attendances at each Welfare Centre were:—

Cannock 65.

Chadsmoor 53.

Hednesford 46.

Heath Hayes 48.

At Chadsmoor a Toddlers' Clinic has been established and is held once fortnightly. Of the 1,070 total attendances at the Welfare Centre, 194 were attendances at the Toddlers' Clinic, of which 13 sessions were held. The average attendance at each session was 15. This accounts for the reduction in the average attendance per session of the Chadsmoor Welfare Centre. There were 45 primary attendances at the Toddlers' Clinic, of which 14 had never attended a Welfare Centre before. Considering that this Clinic has only been established this year, the result has been fairly satisfactory, but it is hoped that the attendances will improve as the years go by.

Unless the present staff is augmented it will not be possible to arrange Toddlers' Clinics in the other areas, as the Health Visitors are already fully occupied with their present work.

Similar arrangements exist as in the previous years for referring children under five to special Clinics and for dental treatment.

ANTENATAL CLINICS.

Dr. Sutton, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who was in charge of these Clinics, reports:—

"Sessions have been held twice monthly at Cannock and Chadsmoor as in the past, the work showing a slight increase.

Post-natal cases are encouraged to attend these Clinics two months after confinement. If the numbers of such cases warrant it, special post-natal Clinics may be formed. During the year, however, only three cases were seen.

Reports on the confinements of the mothers who have attended these Clinics, from the doctor or midwife, are of great value for the keeping of records.

The number of patients referred for dental treatment has greatly increased.

There are many would-be patients from Hednesford who find the distance to Chadsmoor too far in the later stages of pregnancy.

The following tables show the attendances, etc., at each Clinic—

	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Total
Primary attendances	111	79	190
Re-attendances	208	197	405
Post-natal	2	1	3
Total attendances	321	277	598
Number of Sessions	24	23	47
Average Attendance per Session ...	13.4	12.0	12.7
Number of cases referred to Consultant	4	6	10
Abnormalities detected	14	24	38
Number of cases supplied with free milk	26	22	48

The total number of cases referred to the Dentist from both Clinics was 42.

Summary of abnormalities found:—

Varicose veins requiring ambulant treatment ...	14
Contracted pelvis	6
Heart disease	4
Severe Albuminuria	4
Chronic nephritis	1
Uterine prolapse	1
Hydramnios	3
Cystitis	2
Fibroids	1
Lacerated cervix	1
Specific disease	1

Cases referred to Consultant:—

Heart disease	1
Impairment of vision	1
Contracted pelvis	1
Varicocele Vulvae	1
Albuminuria	1
Fibroids	1
Split cervix	1
Threatened abortion	1
Hydatidiform Mole	1

Some mothers were supplied with dentures during the year."

It is desirable to have Ante-natal Clinics at Hednesford and Heath Hayes, but under the present circumstances it will be difficult to form such Clinics because the Clinics are not very suitable and of the amount of work the Health Visitors already have. The Authority cannot expect much further extension of the services until an additional Health Visitor is appointed.

It will be necessary for the Dentist to arrange a special weekly session for the treatment of ante-natal cases, as it is impossible to cope with the work at the Saturday morning sessions, when casuals from schools and Welfare Clinics are also treated.

The Dentist reports :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Patients referred	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of visits paid by patients	...	...	...	...	...	112
„ „ permanent teeth extracted	...	...	...	...	...	237
„ „ occasions local anaesthetic used	...	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ occasions nitrous oxide gas used	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ scalings	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ dressings	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ advice only	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ patients fitted with dentures	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ operations in construction of dentures	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ patients examined only at first visit	...	...	...	...	...	12

CHILD WELFARE AND TODDLERS' CLINICS.

Number of patients referred	...	...	...	...	...	35
„ „ occasions local anaesthetic used	...	...	...	...	...	23
„ „ surface analgesia used	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ fillings	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ occasions advice given was to parents	...	...	...	...	...	3

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Health Visitors are the appointed visitors to children to whom the Act applies. There were five children on the register at the end of the year. The Health Visitors paid 56 visits throughout the year. There was one case where home conditions became

unsatisfactory, but the child's guardian immediately arranged for the child to be returned to Coventry, from where she came.

Notices regarding the nursing and maintenance of children coming under this Act have been inserted periodically in the local newspapers.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN.

The Health Visitors paid 72 visits to these children on behalf of the Public Assistance Committee.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The following rates are those of deaths of women per 1,000 live births registered :—

Year	England & Wales	Cannock	Actual deaths—Cannock	
			From Sepsis	From other Causes
1931	4.11	2.97	—	2
1932	4.24	2.96	—	2
1933	4.42	3.1	2	—
1934	4.6	6.1	4	—
1935	4.1	3.5	—	2
1936	3.65	1.4	—	1
1937	3.11	4.1	3	—

All the maternal deaths were due to Puerperal Sepsis. Two were attended by the same Midwife, who had four cases almost at the same time. All the cases were normally delivered without instrumental or other interference. In one case only was there a history of a torn perineum which required stitches.

The first case, a woman of 29, was normal up to the 14th day of her confinement, when she had a slight temperature. She was removed to hospital on the 17th day of her confinement and died the following day from (a) Puerperal Sepsis (b) Parturition. Post mortem examination showed presence of gas gangrene due to B. Welchii.

The second case was a woman of 30 who was admitted to hospital on the fourth day of confinement and her second day of Pyrexia, and died on the 20th day following confinement from (a) Puerperal Sepsis (b) Parturition.

The third case, attended by a different Midwife, had Pyrexia on the fifth day of her confinement, was admitted to hospital on the same day and died eight days later, i.e., the thirteenth day of confinement, from Puerperal Septicaemia, Puerperal Sepsis, Parturition and Broncho-Pneumonia.

The causal organism in the last two cases was streptococcus haemolyticus.

Both the Midwives concerned were immediately suspended from work pending bacteriological examinations of swabs from nose and throat. Both were found to harbour haemolytic streptococci, but only after repeated swabbing. There was no evidence of any negligence on the part of the midwives concerned.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PYREXIA.

Case rate per 1,000 total births :—

Cannock	...	...	...	...	15.1
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	13.93

Four cases notified as Puerperal Fever were removed to hospital.

Seven cases were notified as Puerperal Pyrexia and five were removed to hospital. A scheme exists between the Local Authority and Wolverhampton Royal Hospital providing hospital treatment for maternity cases when necessary. Two Consultants have been appointed to whom patients are referred and who any general practitioner can call upon when necessary, the Local Authority being responsible for payment of fees, under the scheme. The scheme has been very satisfactory so far.

Regarding a scheme for the provision of emergency units for difficult ante-natal and labour cases, it is at present under consideration by the Authority. Under the present scheme for Consulting Obstetricians and hospital treatment, such cases are adequately dealt with and no case has arisen that could not be satisfactorily dealt with under the scheme.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT
VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Under 1 day	1—7 days	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	TOTAL Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	TOTAL Under 1 year	Cannock	Bridgtown	Hednesford	Littleworth	Heath Hayes	Chadsmoor
Pneumonia		2				2	1		2	3	8	2	2	1	1	1	1
Gastro Enteritis ..								2			2					1	1
Premature Birth ..	2	5	1			8	2				10		1	2	1	1	5
Congenital Malformations	1		2		1	4	2	1			7		1	3		3	
Bronchitis							1				1	1					
Marasmus							1	2			3	2		1			
Whooping Cough ..									1	1	2	1	1				
Influenza							1				1			1			1
Intussusception ..									1		1						
Tuberculous Meningitis									1		1			1			
Septicaemia			1			1					1			1			
Intra-cranial Haemorrhage									1		1	1					
Totals	3	7	4		1	15	8	5	6	4	38	7	5	10	2	6	8

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Mortality Rate in Wards in 1936 and 1937 was as follows :—

Ward	Births		Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 births	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
Chadsmoor	149	176	18	8	120	45
Littleworth	74	65	5	2	67	30
Cannock	155	174	8	7	51	40
Heath Hayes	65	84	5	6	76	71
Hednesford	151	160	16	10	106	62
Bridgtown	32	40	2	5	62	125

Table showing Death Rates per 1,000 Births.

	Under 4 weeks		4 weeks to 1 year		Total	
	Cannock	England & Wales	Cannock	England & Wales	Cannock	England & Wales
1932 ..	45.8	31.58	23.6	33.46	69.5	65
1933 ..	35.0	32	36.6	32	71.7	64
1934 ..	47.6	33.31	35.3	28.	82.9	59
1935 ..	40.7	30.38	47.9	26.56	88.6	57
1936 ..	46.5	30.16	37.3	28.37	83.8	59
1937 ..	21.4		32.9		54.3	58

Deaths from Stated Causes. Rates per 1,000 Births.

	Developmental and Wasting Diseases		Diarrhoea and Enteritis		Respiratory	
	Cannock	England & Wales	Cannock	England & Wales	Cannock	England & Wales
1932 ..	44.3	29.27	7.3	5.91	13.3	13.1
1933 ..	35	30.14	7.9	6.13	17.5	12.2
1934 ..	43	28.6	7.6	4.84	13.6	10.43
1935 ..	46	28.03	12.4	5.06	17.7	10.59
1936 ..	31	27.71	13.9	5.32	13.9	10.97
1937 ..	28.6		2.8		12.8	

The Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded in the district.

Out of a total of 38 there were 15 deaths of children under one month. Of these, ten were children under a week old, eight of them being prematurely born. As in the past years, this has been one of the main causes of infant mortality in the district. Seven children died from congenital malformations, while nine died from Pneumonia. There were only two deaths from Gastro Enteritis this year. During the past years this accounted for a high percentage

of deaths in babies. Taking only three of the main causes of death of young babies in this area, namely, pneumonia, prematurity and gastro-enteritis, possibly some of these babies could have been saved if they had received expert institutional treatment. There is no institutional treatment provided by the Local Authority for such cases. If such arrangements could be made it might help to keep down the high infant mortality rate which has existed in the district in the past. It would be necessary to arrange for the admission of nursing mothers at the same time.

The scheme for the provision of Home Helps is being considered by the Authority.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Nine cases were notified during the year, an increase of six over the previous year. Six were removed to the Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary. Two were receiving treatment at the end of the year. All the others recovered without any damage to the eyes.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO NECESSITOUS CASES.

The above cost £178 11s. 10d. The total amount of dried milk supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and young children at the Welfare Centres was 8,679-lbs.

THE CHILD FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS.

Mortality at ages One to Five Years.

	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	Total
Bronchitis	1				1
Measles	2	1			3
Whooping Cough ..	1	1			2
Pneumonia	3	1	2		6
Tuberculous Meningitis	1		1		2
Gastro Enteritis ..	1				1
Other Respiratory Dis.	1				1
Asphyxia		1			1
Violence		1		1	2
	10	5	3	1	19

Treatment.

Clinic treatment was afforded to 86 children, 37 more than last year, as follows:—Squint 12, Tonsils and Adenoids operations 7, Orthopaedic defects 21, Aural defects 11, Dental defects 35.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER.

The area is well supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. There are thirty-four houses known to be unconnected with the public supply of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. Particulars are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Waterworks Co. examine the water from all the various sources at least once a month and periodically from the supply depots. Arrangements have been made whereby the Company supply the Public Health Department with a copy of each report on samples taken from the local supply depots.

Samples from various wells, etc., in the area are also submitted periodically by the Sanitary Inspector to the County Laboratory for examination.

Mr. F. J. Dixon, M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., Engineer in Chief to the Company, has kindly supplied the following report on an examination of the water made 27th October, 1937 :—

Bacteriological Examination.

Bacteria. Colonies per ml.	Bacterium Coli.
Nutrient Agar at 20°C 3 days 5	Presumptive test Absent
Nutrient Agar at 37°C 1 day 1	Confirmatory tests Absent
Nutrient Agar at 37°C 2 days 2	

Physical Characters.

Colour (Burgess) 2mm.	Taste Normal
Turbidity Clear	Odour Nil

Chemical Analysis (expressed in Parts per 100,000).

pH 7.7	Silica (SiO ₂) —
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) 9.8	Aluminium (Al) —
Chlorides (Cl) 1.99	Calcium (Ca) —
Ammoniacal Nitrogen Trace	Magnesium (Mg) —
Albuminoid Nitrogen... Trace	Sodium (Na)..... —
Oxidised Nitrogen ..... .25	Carbonate (CO ₃)..... —
Oxygen absorbed (3hrs. at 27°C) ..... .013	Sulphate (SO ₄) —
Temporary hardness ... 9.4	Iron (Fe) ..... .005
Permanent hardness ... 5.4	Manganese (Mn) Trace
Total hardness 14.8	Zinc (Zn) —
Total solids (dried at 180°C.) —	Poisonous Metals —

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All the water courses in the area have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition. Where cesspools drain into streams frequent inspections are made to ascertain if any house drainage is discharging into them.

Samples of water have been taken and examined from streams into which the sewage effluent flows from the various sewage disposal works, and found satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

The Surveyor reported sewage flows and rainfall for the year 1937 as follows:—

CANNOCK OLD HIGH LEVEL AND NEW LOW LEVEL WORKS.

SEWAGE FLOW AND RAINFALL.

<i>For the 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.</i>	<i>Last Year</i>
Total Flow for the year was 477,591,200 gallons	458,943,400
with a daily average of 1,308,469 gallons	1,253,944
Total Dry Weather Flow was 227,208,000 gallons,	196,063,000
the daily average being 1,102,951 gallons taken	1,089,239
over 206 fine days.	180
Total Rainfall for the year was 25.1 inches, falling	26.87"
on 159 wet days	186

Greatest Falls above $\frac{1}{2}$ " per day were as follows:—

18th January	...	...	...	.67 inches	
7th February	...	...	...	.60	,,
26th May	...	...	...	.62	,,
13th September	...	...	...	.51	,,
27th October	...	...	...	.52	,,
2nd December	...	...	...	.60	,,
4th December	...	...	...	.69	,, (greatest rainfall)

Greatest Intensities above $\frac{1}{2}$ " per hour :—

25th February	...	...	0.1	in 6 mins.	=	1.0" per hour
26th May	...	...	0.1	,, 6 ,,	=	1.0" ,, ,,
11th June	...	...	0.2	,, 12 ,,	=	1.0" ,, ,,
24th July	...	...	0.06	,, 5 ,,	=	.72" ,, ,,
16th September	...	...	0.2	,, 10 ,,	=	1.2" ,, ,,

CANNOCK OLD HIGH LEVEL WORKS.

<i>For the 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.</i>	<i>Last Year</i>
Total Flow for the year was 246,950,000 gallons with a daily average of 676,575 gallons.	236,909,000 647,838
Total Dry Weather Flow was 119,380,000 gallons, the daily average being 579,515 gallons taken over 206 fine days	101,655,000 564,750 180
Total Rainfall for the year was 25.1 inches, falling on 159 wet days.	26.87" 186

CANNOCK NEW LOW LEVEL WORKS.

<i>For the 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.</i>	<i>Last Year</i>
Total Flow for the year was 230,641,200 gallons with a daily average of 641,893 gallons.	222,034,400 606,651
Total Dry Weather Flow was 107,828,000 gallons, the daily average being 523,437 gallons taken over 206 fine days.	94,408,000 524,489 180
Total Rainfall for the year was 25.1 inches, falling on 159 wet days	26.87" 186

HEATH HAYES SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

<i>For the 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.</i>	<i>Last Year</i>
Total Flow for the year was 34,100,350 gallons with a daily average of 93,152 gallons	34,387,650 93,955
Total Dry Weather Flow was 14,108,650 gallons, the daily average being 69,160 gallons taken over 204 fine days.	14,130,150 74,369 190
Total Rainfall for the year was 29.22 inches, falling on 161 wet days	31.33" 176

CLOSET AND REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

	End of 1936	End of 1937
Water Closets	8,726	9,059
Waste Water Closets	615	607
Dustbins	7,615	7,966
Privies	117	111
Privy Ashpits	89	83
Privy Pans	149	145
Dry Ashpits	398	363

With the demolition of property included in Clearance Orders and Demolition Orders, or which has been demolished voluntarily, the following conveniences were demolished or dispensed with :—

Water Closets	33
Privies	2
Privy Ashpits	2
Dustbins	33

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The work is carried out by the Council's own staff under the control of the Surveyor.

Refuse is disposed of on tips which are all controlled. At the end of the year there were six in use.

The Council has under consideration the use of dustbins in every house in the area. At present there are several ashpits in the district and many of these are emptied by wheeling the contents on to the road and then loading on to carts. The result of such procedure on a windy day can be better imagined than described. The 1936 Public Health Act gives the Authority the necessary power to deal with this matter.

SHOPS.

The Sanitary Inspector reports the following improvements to have been carried out during the year :—

New sanitary accommodation at 6 shops.

Washing accommodation at 7 shops.

The sanitary and washing accommodation at the shops in this area is quite satisfactory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Reference is made in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned or public swimming baths or pools, open to the public, in the area.

A small paddling pool supplied with water from a nearby well has been provided at the Heath Hayes Children's Playground.

The question of a public swimming bath has been considered by the Authority for several years. A Baths Committee is rituously formed every year with the hope of establishing public baths in the area. Various sites have been considered for the erection of the baths, but so far no definite decision has been made.

Swimming is one of the best forms of exercise for children and adults, and it would definitely be of benefit to the health of the local inhabitants.

DISINFESTATION.

This is carried out by means of Hydrogen Cyanide Gas by members of the staff of the Sanitary Department. Two vans are used for disinfestation of furniture, which is carried out at the "Hills." Where necessary, houses have also been disinfested with the same agent.

Details of the work done are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SCHOOLS.

Except for certain schools not under the full control of the Local Education Authority, these are satisfactory. Reference is made to these in the School Medical Officer's Report.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of factories and workshops on the register is as follows:—

Factory Bakehouses ...	...	...	12
Workshop Bakehouses ...	...	...	9
Shoeing Smiths ...	...	...	5
Upholsterers ...	...	...	2
Boot Repairers ...	...	...	4
Masons ...	...	...	2
Saddlers ...	...	...	2
Tailors ...	...	...	5
Sugar Boilers ...	...	...	1
Garages and Cycle Repairs ...	...	...	14
Bottlers ...	...	...	2
Poster Writers ...	...	...	2
Doll Factory ...	...	...	1
Total ...	...	...	61

Inspections have been made periodically and the premises found in a satisfactory condition.

OUTWORKERS.

One list has been received during the year.

Number of visits 2

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AT FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Additional Water Closets provided	4
Urinal provided	1
Floors repaired	9
Floors cleansed	2
Water Closet cleansed	1
Obstructed drain cleared	1
New sink	1
Roof repaired	1
Accumulations of manure removed	2
Rooms limewashed and cleansed	42
Walls and ceiling painted	1
Means of ventilation provided	3

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	100	11	—
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)	101	17	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ..	—	—	—
Total ..	201	28	—

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			No. of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	R'm'died (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	10	2		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances	2			
Sanitary Accommodation:				
Insufficient	2	2		
Unsuitable or Defective	3	3		
Not Separate for Sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-houses (s.101)				
Other Offences				
(Excluding offences relating to out work and offences under Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ..	17	7		

1.—The Number and Nature of Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses—

(1) Housing Inspections	368
(2) District Inspection	5014
„ „ Bakehouses	113
„ „ Common Lodging House	23
„ „ Cowsheds	152
„ „ Dairies	140
„ „ Fried Fish Shops	160
„ „ Knacker's Yard	38
„ „ Meat Shops	1170
„ „ Slaughterhouses	1205
„ „ Workshops other than Bakehouses	65
„ „ Outworkers	2
„ „ School Sanitary Conveniences	39
„ „ Markets	470

Inspection of Smoke Observations	4
„ „ Works for abatement of nuisances	1006
„ „ Works for abatement of Housing Repairs ...	1302
„ „ Drains (Tests applied)	9
„ „ Ice Cream Shops	33
„ „ Complaints investigated	117
„ „ Cinemas	6
„ „ Water Courses	6
„ „ Milk Floats	30
„ „ Tips	5
„ „ Living Vans	3
„ „ Sewage Disposal Works	7
„ „ Electric Refrigerators	12
„ „ Pithead Baths	2
„ „ Shops	544
Owners interviewed	310

2.—The Number of Notices Served during the Year.

Informal	240
Statutory Public Health Act, 1875, Section 94 ...	12
Statutory Public Health Act, 1875, Section 49 ...	—
Housing Act, 1930, Section 17	—

3.—Result of Service.

Number of Nuisances abated	91
* Notices not complied with	34

* Several of these are informal notices.

SECTION D.—Housing.

Progress is still being made in improving the housing standard in the area. Several owners have improved their property without being dealt with by the Local Authority. **Some owners, however, allow their properties to become rather dilapidated and seem to wait for the Local Authority to draw their attention to the condition of their property. These owners should realise that it is their responsibility to keep their properties in order without being notified by the Local Authority.**

More houses are needed in the area, though the 295 houses built during the year is the largest number built in any year since 1926.

The number of houses built during the year was :—

By Local Authority	...	...	...	109
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	186

FITNESS OF HOUSES

Number inspected	...	...	...	368
Percentage damp	...	...	...	98.37
„ verminous	...	...	...	10.59
„ dirty tenants	...	...	...	3.26
„ overcrowded	...	...	...	3.53

Of the 368 houses, 3.26 per cent contained two families.

The number of persons per house was 4.21, and there were .99 rooms per person, there being a total population of 1,548 in 1,538 rooms (651 living rooms and 887 sleeping rooms).

The results of inspections as regards notices issued and repairs carried out during the last four years are :—

	Houses inspected and recorded under Regulations	Houses repaired without formal Notice	Formal Notices Housing Acts	Public Health Acts	Houses Made fit
1934	639	118	222	46	344
1935	425	112	186	43	234
1936	415	106	2	9	245
1937	368	95	—	26	162
	<hr/> 1847	<hr/> 431	<hr/> 410	<hr/> 124	<hr/> 985

Further statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

OVERCROWDING.

There were 84 overcrowded houses at the end of the year, in which there were 94 families composed of 723 persons, or an average of 7.6 persons per family. There were 24 new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. Fifty-eight cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, composing of 407 persons. Two were re-housed from three to four bedroomed Council houses. Twenty-nine were re-housed in Council houses from privately owned houses. None of these were relieved in the course of slum clearance operations. Twenty-seven cases became abated, 21 by leaving the house to a bigger house on their own or by leaving the district, and six were relieved in various ways, such as marriage or death in the family or a member of the family leaving the district, etc. Of the 84 overcrowded houses at the end of the year, 11 are owned by the Local Authority.

No dwelling-houses where overcrowding was abated by the Local Authority became overcrowded again.

No grant is allowed at present for the re-housing of overcrowded cases unless by clearance area operations. Some of the houses required for these families are the largest type built by the Local Authority and therefore have the highest rent. The families to be rehoused cannot afford to pay the economic rent of such houses, and Local Authorities cannot be blamed if they tend to leave overcrowding until a later date when a grant will be allowed.

UNFIT HOUSES.

Number Demolished—

Individual unfit	...	...	...	...	...	9
Clearance Order	...	...	...	...	...	25
Voluntarily	...	...	...	...	...	1

Situation of Houses Represented for Demolition—

Hednesford Ward :—

55d, Station Road, Hednesford.
39, Ebenezer Street, Hednesford.
41, Ebenezer Street, Hednesford.

Heath Hayes Ward—

45a, Glover Street, Wimblebury.
211, Hill Street, Hednesford.
213, Hill Street, Hednesford.

Situation of Houses Represented for Closing—

Bridgtown Ward—21, Walk Mill Lane, Bridgtown.
Hednesford Ward—Rear of No. 7, Station Road, Hednesford.

Situation of Houses Demolished—

Cannock Ward—

161, Old Fallow Road, Cannock ... By Order
283, 285, 287 and 289, Wolverhampton
Road, and 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16,
Longford Road, Cannock ... Clearance Area
52a, 52b and 52c, Walsall Rd., Cannock Clearance Area

Chadsmoor Ward—

16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30, Bradford
Street, Hightown ... By Order
22, Princess Street, Chadsmoor ... Voluntarily

Heath Hayes Ward—

10, 12, 14 and 16, Splash Lane, Hednesford Clearance Area

Littleworth Ward—

4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14, Reservoir Road, Hednesford Clearance Area

Clearance Areas Represented—

During the year 27 Clearance Areas were represented containing 135 houses, occupied by 531 persons.

The following representations were made :—

	Area sq. yds.	No. of Houses.	No. of Persons
Bridgtown Ward :—			
Cannock (Walk Mill Lane, Bridgtown) (No. 27) Clearance Order, 1937	840	7	25
Cannock (Watling Street, Bridgtown) (No. 31) Clearance Order, 1937	2,742	2	7
Cannock Ward :—			
Cannock (New Penkridge Road and Old Penkridge Road, Cannock) (No. 26) Clearance Order, 1937	3,184	14	36
Cannock (Walsall Road, Cannock) (No. 45) Clearance Order, 1937	2,024	2	6
Cannock (Stafford Road, Cannock) (No. 46) Clearance Order, 1937	387	4	19
Chadsmoor Ward :—			
Cannock (Cannock Road, Chadsmoor) (No. 32) Clearance Order, 1937	840	2	10
Cannock (John Street, Chadsmoor) (No. 33) Clearance Order, 1937	628	3	10
Cannock (John Street, Chadsmoor) (No. 37) Clearance Order, 1937	747	3	11
Cannock (John Street, Chadsmoor) (No. 38) Clearance Order, 1937	473	2	7
Cannock (John Street, Chadsmoor) (No. 39) Clearance Order, 1937	872	5	17
Cannock (Moss Street, Chadsmoor) (No. 6) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1937	822	1 (& Tent)	10

Hednesford Ward :—

Cannock (Mount Street, Hednesford (No. 5) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1937 ...	1,960	9	28
Cannock (El Dorado Terrace, Hednesford) (No. 29) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	4,740	12	56
Cannock (Florence Street, Hednesford) (No. 34) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	773	2	6
Cannock (Belt Road, Hednesford) (No. 40) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	1,924	3	9
Cannock (McGhie Street, Hednesford) (No. 50) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	1,628	2	11
Cannock (Anglesey Street, Hednesford) (No. 51) Clearance Order, 1937 ...		2	6
Cannock (Bradbury Lane, Hednesford) (No. 52) Clearance Order, 1937 ...		3	12

Heath Hayes Ward :—

Cannock (John Street, Wimblebury) (No. 35) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	629	2	9
Cannock (John Street, Wimblebury) (No. 36) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	990	5	26
Cannock (John Street and Glover Street, Wimblebury) (No. 42) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	2,148	14	69
Cannock (Arthur Street, Wimblebury) (No. 43) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	4,430	6	22
Cannock (Splash Lane and Hill Street, Hednesford) (No. 7) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1937 ...	2,226	4	10
Cannock (Hednesford Road and Cannock Road, Heath Hayes) (No. 49) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	806	2	5

Littleworth Ward :—

Cannock (George Street, Hednesford) (No. 30) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	2,303	9	42
Cannock (Reservoir Road, Hednesford) (No. 41) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	2,254	6	23
Cannock (Littleworth Road, Rawnsley) (No. 47) Clearance Order, 1937 ...	1,936	8	39

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.

Supervision has been carried out by the County as well as the Local Authority. There were very few farmers whose attention had to be drawn to the unclean state of their premises, all the others being satisfactory.

Samples have been taken in this district by Mr. A. W. Butlin, the Chief Inspector of the County Council under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, who has kindly supplied the following information :

Undesignated Milks.

Of 33 samples, 22 were found satisfactory. Eleven samples were unsatisfactory regarding cleanliness, while seven were tuberculous.

Specially Designated Milks.

TUBERCULIN TESTED.

Cleanliness		T.B.	
Satis.	Unsatis.	Neg.	Pos.
3	—	3	—

ACCREDITED.

Cleanliness		T.B.	
Satis.	Unsatis.	Neg.	Pos.
1	—	1	—

PASTEURISED.

Cleanliness		Phosphatase		T.B.	
Satis.	Unsatis.	Passed	Failed	Neg.	Pos.
3	—	3	—	3	—

Chemical Examination.

Out of 35 samples from the district submitted for examination under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, five were found deficient in fat, being five samples of ordinary milk supplied by two retailers who were cautioned.

OTHER FOOD.

Thirty-eight samples of other foodstuffs were submitted for examination to the County Laboratories at Stafford, and each one was found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

No standards are set for the purity and cleanliness of ice cream. The Sanitary Inspector, however, supervises the conditions under which it is produced and sold.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All butchers slaughter their animals in their own slaughter houses. Most of these are registered. Some improvements could be attained in many of them. Due to the scattered nature of the district and the number of slaughter houses in the area, supervision of all meat killed involves much work and travelling. Particulars are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

NUTRITION.

A Health Week was held from November 1st to 6th. An exhibition was held throughout the week at the Drill Hall, Hednesford. The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Edward T. Campbell, J.P., M.P. (Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Health).

The stalls exhibited various matters concerning the general health and well-being of the public.

Films on various Health subjects were shown at a nearby Cinema and talks were given by different experienced speakers on the matter shown in the films.

In addition, a travelling cinema, kindly lent by the Health and Cleanliness Council, exhibited films on various health subjects in the other parts of the district during the week.

A small booklet was published containing articles on health printed by the kind permission of the Central Council for Health Education. These booklets were distributed throughout the district.

This is the first Health Week ever held in the area and it was most successful. Whether the fruits of the labour taken will come up to expectation remains to be seen.

Leaflets and booklets are distributed freely at the various Clinics. Only talks to individual mothers have been given so far.

Monthly posters from the Central Council for Health Education bearing on health in general have been posted on special hoardings in various parts of the district.

The gas and electricity companies have exhibited films on nutrition and given cookery demonstrations free to the public. These should be encouraged.

SECTION F.—Infectious Diseases.

DIPHTHERIA.

Fifty-one cases were notified during the year, the same as last year. Thirty-five of the cases were removed to hospital, six more than in the previous year.

There were thirty-six houses with one case in each, six houses with two and one house with three cases in each.

Thirty-two cases were of school age, six under and thirteen over school age.

There were five deaths.

The first case was a girl of six years. Notification of the case was received on the morning following her death. She had been ill for several days before the doctor was called in. She died two days after being seen by the doctor.

The second case, a girl of thirteen, had not been well for about ten days before being seen by the doctor. She received antitoxin and was removed to hospital, where she died six weeks after admission from post-diphtheritic paralysis.

The third case, a girl of six years, was seen by her doctor on the third day of her illness, was removed to hospital the following day, when she was notified, and died eleven days later.

The fourth case was a boy of $5\frac{1}{2}$ years who was seen by the doctor, received antitoxin and was removed to hospital on the second day, where he died on the sixth day of his illness.

The fifth case, a boy seven years old, was seen by his doctor on the third day of his illness, removed to hospital and died a week from the onset of the disease.

In most of these cases there has been a delay in calling in the doctor. The common occurrence of sore throat in various members of families, which has cleared up in a few days without consulting a doctor, has possibly caused parents to wait too long before seeking medical advice when the younger members of the family may possibly be suffering from Diphtheria. A delay of a day or two may prove fatal for many cases when they could possibly have been saved by the earlier administration of antitoxin.

In five other cases recovery was slow, tracheotomy having to be performed in one of the cases on admission to hospital. In three of these cases medical advice was not sought until the third day of illness or afterwards. Two of the five cases were sisters who had a severe type of infection but made good, though slow, recovery.

Two had some degree of post-diphtheritic paralysis with ultimate recovery.

The Ward distribution of the cases was as follows :—

Cannock	...	...	...	18
Hednesford	...	...	...	13
Littleworth	...	...	...	3
Chadsmoor	...	...	...	13
Bridgtown	...	...	...	2
Heath Hayes	...	...	...	2

At the end of November a scheme for immunisation against diphtheria was commenced, for the first time, in the district. The three-shot method with T.A.F. has been adopted. Cards were issued to mothers and children to apply for a course of injections and arrangements made for injections at the various school Clinics. Up to the end of the year 40 children had been immunised. It is proposed to use various methods of propaganda regarding immunisation. Local practitioners are supplied with the necessary material, if required, free of charge.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 228 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, an increase of 110 over the past year. On the whole, it was a mild type with the rash disappearing in under 48 hours from the onset in several cases.

The case rates per 1,000 in different Wards, based on the Census figures, were :—

Cannock	...	...	...	10.9
Hednesford	...	...	...	8.3
Chadsmoor	...	...	...	5.0
Bridgtown	...	...	...	2.4
Littleworth	...	...	...	3.2
Heath Hayes	...	...	...	3.6

The highest case rate, as well as the actual number of cases, was at Cannock.

Infectivity.

There were 449 children under 15 years in houses from which cases were reported, and of these 196 had Scarlet Fever. Of these, 44 were under school age and 37 over school age.

All the cases occurred in 199 houses, as follows :—

Houses with four cases	—	1	(all children under 15 years of age)
Houses with three cases	—	3	(two houses with all cases under 15, and one house with one case over and two under 15 years).
Houses with two cases	—	19	(17 houses with both cases under 15, two houses with one case under and one case over 15).

One child had Scarlet Fever for the second time.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in whole District													Total Cases Re-moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At Ages—Years														
	Under 1 Year	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Total		
Diphtheria ..		1	2	3	4	22	9	3	6	2	3	51	35	5	
Erysipelas ..							1		7	4	20	33	2		
Scarlet Fever ..	2	5	3	18	16	108	44	11	19	1	1	228	35		
Pneumonia ..	2	3	3	1	2	7	4	5	7	2	3	41		40	
Puerperal Fever ..									4			4	4	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..									4	3		7	5	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever						1		1				2	1	1	
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum	9											9	6		
Dysentery ..				1		3	1				2	6	2	1	
Poliomyelitis ..												1	1		
	13	8	6	22	22	141	59	20	47	12	29	382	91	50	

Isolation.

Thirty-five cases were removed to Hospital, five more than last year. Most of the cases left at home were mild with proper isolation available.

Complications.

Of seven recorded cases, three had rheumatic pains or chorea, two otorrhoea, one tachycardia and one had enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

Fatality.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever.

Disinfection.

Printed instructions are left by the Sanitary Inspector for the occupier of each house with a case of Scarlet Fever, on what to do when the patient is past the state of infection, usually four weeks from the day of onset of the disease. No disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Two cases were reported, with one death. One was a girl six years old from Prospect Village who was treated at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. She was taken ill on May 21st, the doctor called in on May 24th, removed to hospital on the 29th, where she had 80 cc's of anti-meningococcal serum and was discharged on June 7th. Recovery was complete.

The second case was a boy of sixteen and a half years old, from Cannock. He was taken ill on the evening of June 15th, the doctor was called in on the 17th, and the patient died on the afternoon of the 18th. Notification was received on the 19th. No serum was given.

PNEUMONIA.

Forty-one cases of Pneumonia were notified and there were 40 deaths. All cases of Pneumonia are not notifiable. Influenza was rather prevalent in the district during the first four months of the year, resulting in seven deaths from Influenzal Pneumonia. During these four months there were 21 deaths, more than half the deaths for the whole year, due to Pneumonia.

ANTHRAX.

There was one fatal case of Anthrax, a man of 32 years. He was occupied as a labourer at a horse slaughterer's business near Stafford. On the 9th June he noticed what appeared to be a "gnat-bite" on the right side of his neck which he accidentally cut while shaving. The following day a swelling appeared which extended up the neck and down to the chest. A doctor was consulted on the 11th, who sent the patient to hospital for treatment. An incision was made at the hospital on the same day and the patient was sent home. On the 12th the doctor was sent for again and the patient removed to Wolverhampton Hospital by ambulance. On the early morning of the 13th 50 cc's of anti-anthrax serum was given intravenously. The patient died the same day. The actual source of infection was not traced. Bacteriological examination of shaving utensils was negative.

DYSENTERY.

Six cases of Dysentery were notified, all of them occurring in December. There was one fatal case. The first cases were two brothers in Cannock Ward. One, a boy of 11 years, felt sick on the evening of December 6th followed by vomiting and, later, diarrhoea. About 6 a.m. on the 7th another brother, aged 9, had similar symptoms. A doctor was called in, who notified the cases, and both were removed to Stafford Infirmary after failure to get them admitted to any Isolation Hospital within over 30 miles of the district. The boy of 11 died during the night, 7th—8th, while the other one recovered. *B. dysenteriae*, Sonne type, was recovered from samples of faeces of both cases.

Following upon these cases all Medical Practitioners were asked to notify any cases they had with mild or severe diarrhoea, etc. As a result of bacteriological examination of samples of faeces from various patients, four further cases were found who had mild attack, or were recovering from an attack, of Dysentery. Two of these were a mother and son, aged 6 years, from Cannock, one adult from Cannock, and one boy, aged 6, from Hednesford. No connection could be traced between the various cases. These cases were isolated and treated at home. The source of infection was never traced. Possibly there were several more cases in the area, as there were several cases about the district at this time of the year complaining of diarrhoea of varying degrees. Investigations were still being carried on at the end of the year.

LABORATORY WORK.

Reports from the County Bacteriologist :—

			Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria—				
Private Practitioners	...	...	32	204
Medical Officer of Health	...		18	150
Sputum for Tuberculosis—				
Private Practitioners	...	...	2	10
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	--	—
Dysentery—				
Private Practitioners	...	...	1	15
Medical Officer of Health	...		3	27

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 404 cases of Measles during the year, less than half the number in the previous year. 204 cases were of school age.

Teachers reported 130 cases and the Health Visitors paid 816 visits concerning these diseases. Sixty cases received nursing assistance.

There were three deaths registered as due to Measles, all boys over a year old. Four deaths were due to Whooping Cough, being three boys, two over and one under a year old, and one girl under a year old.

No hospital accommodation is available for these cases, and if such could be arranged it is possible that some of these children could be saved.

Complications.

As in the past years, the chief complications of Measles were Otorrhoea and Bronchitis. Many children had a persistent cough with signs of Bronchitis in the chest for several months after. The Otorrhoea cases were also persistent in spite of treatment, being much more difficult to cure than in the case of Scarlet Fever.

CANCER.

There were only 37 deaths during the year, a decrease of 15 on the previous year, being 23 males and 14 females. This represents a death rate per 1,000 of the total estimated population of 1.01.

The death rate for the past seven years is shown by the following table :—

			Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000
1931	...	...	43	1.2
1932	...	...	41	1.17
1933	...	...	44	1.2
1934	...	...	50	1.4
1935	...	...	51	1.4
1936	...	...	52	1.4
1937	...	...	37	1.01

DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1937.

	AGE GROUPS										Total Deaths	
	0—15		15—25		25—45		45—65		65 Up			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Pharynx												
Cancer of Digestive Organs and Peritoneum (including liver and pancreas)												
Cancer of Respiratory Organs												
Cancer of Uterus												
Cancer of other Female Genital Organs												
Cancer of Breast												
Cancer of Male Genito-urinary Organs												
Cancer of Skin												
Cancer of other sites												
Totals												

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		T'tl	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		T'tl
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1			1		1			1		1
1—5			1	2	3			1	1	2
5—15	5	2	2	1	10		1	1		2
15—25	5	3	1	1	10		1			1
25—35	2	2	2	1	7	2	1			3
35—45	6	4			10	1		1		2
45—55	4	1			5	1				1
55—65	3	2			5	1	1			2
65 Up		2			2	1	1			2
Totals	25	16	7	5	53	6	5	4	1	16

There was an increase of one in the number of new cases over the previous year. There were three more males and five less females suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, while there was an increase of two males and one female in the Non-Pulmonary cases.

The total number on the register at the end of the year was 255, comprising 136 males and 119 females, being a decrease of five. Pulmonary cases numbered 184 and other forms of the disease 71. The 184 Pulmonary cases were comprised of 94 males and 90 females.

Two of the new cases were not on the register at the end of the year, being unnotified deaths returned after the end of the year.

Mortality.

Death Rate per 1,000 :—

			Cannock	England & Wales
Respiratory	...	...	0.3	0.58
Non-respiratory	...	...	0.12	0.11

There were four deaths in the year which had not been previously notified. Three were children who died of Tuberculous meningitis. The other was a child who died from Tuberculosis of the bowels.

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitors paid 39 primary and 1,005 re-visits.

All the notified cases are visited and if the case comes under the scheme of the Joint Committee an environmental form is completed and sent to the Tuberculosis Officer giving particulars of the housing conditions and the number in family.

Housing Accommodation.

Where the accommodation is unsatisfactory it is reported by the Health Visitors and investigated by the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector, who make special applications to the Housing Committee if a better house is required.

The sleeping accommodation of 141 respiratory cases at the end of the year was :—

Patients having a bed and room to themselves	...	64
Patients occupying separate bed but sharing room	...	19
Patients occupying a bed with others	... ..	58

Notice was received of admission of patients to Institutions as follows :—

Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	6
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	15
Himley Sanatorium	...	...	4
Standon Hall	...	...	3
Yarnfield Sanatorium	...	...	1

The Ministry require me to state if any action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, which empowers removal to hospital in certain cases. No action has been taken under these powers.

The regulations prohibit persons suffering from Tuberculosis from employment in the milk trade.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the staff of the whole Department for their loyal support and co-operation.

Also, to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees I wish to express my grateful thanks for the kind and courteous manner in which they have supported me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. F. GAPPER

26th May, 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1937.

						Males	Females
1.	Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	3	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	3
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	8	9
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6	5
10.	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4	1
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	1	—
12.	General paralysis of the insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	—
13.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	23	14
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	4
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	13	13
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	44	34
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory	...	...	...	...	5	13
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	7
20.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	30	10
21.	Other Respiratory	...	...	...	...	2	—
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	3	—
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	3	—
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
27.	Other Digestive	...	...	...	...	1	5
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	8	2
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	3
30.	Other Puerperal	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	11	11
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	15	8
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	5	1
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	22	3
35.	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	23	13
36.	Ill-defined Causes	...	...	...	...	1	—
	Anthrax (included in 35 above)	...	...	...	...	1	—
	Totals	...	...	...	...	248	162

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Committee.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1937.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH.

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals	96
Insufficient water closets and drains	25
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter ...	3
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	2
Chimneys emitting large quantities of smoke	4
Dirty Dwelling-houses	12
Dwelling-houses needing repairs	414
Dwelling-houses overcrowded	84
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year	640
Number of Notices served	274
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 94, P.H.A., 1875	12

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

8	Additional Water Closets provided.
2	Water Closets substituted for 2 privies.
6	Water Closets substituted for 6 pail closets.
1	Pail closet substituted for 1 privy.
21	New Water Closets substituted for 21 dilapidated water closets.
70	Dustbins substituted for 35 dry ashpits.
79	Dustbins substituted for 79 worn-out dustbins.
2	Privies abolished.
18	New drain inspection chambers.
10	Drain ventilating shafts.
501	Yards of new glazed stoneware drains laid on nine premises.
17	New syphon gully traps fitted.
44	New water closet pedestal pans fitted.
21	New flushing apparatus fitted to water closets.
1	Water Closet cleared.
19	Drains cleared.

- 2 New inspection chamber covers.
- 23 Water Closets put in order.
- 4 Drains repaired.
- 3 Intercepting traps provided.
- 14 Water Closets substituted for 14 waste water closets.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

During the year the work of bringing up to date the sanitary accommodation of the district was well maintained. Twenty-one water closets which were in disrepair and not readily accessible to the houses were demolished and 21 new water closets were erected nearer to the houses; 8 additional water closets were provided where the accommodation was insufficient; 2 water closets were substituted for 2 privies; 6 water closets were substituted for 6 pail closets; 14 water closets were substituted for 14 waste water closets; 1 pail closet was substituted for 1 privy.

The number of privies now left in the district is 111. These are situated in those parts of the district where no sewer exists, or the properties have been dealt with under the Housing Act in Slum Clearance areas. The latter will be demolished as soon as the occupiers have been re-housed in new Council houses.

149 new ashbins have been provided; 70 were for houses which had ashpits and in these cases 35 ashpits were demolished. Seventy-nine new ashbins were provided to replace worn-out ashbins.

The type of ashbin now provided by the property owners is of a much better quality than those provided previously. I have on many occasions advised owners and ironmongers to obtain the best quality ashbin, because it will stand more strain than the cheaper quality and its life is much longer.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

New sanitary conveniences have been provided in the Park at Cannock. These are up-to-date and of modern design and are a credit to the Parks Committee, and it is to be hoped that the public will appreciate what has been provided for their convenience, because, as I have stated in previous years, certain members of the public will cause damage or create nuisances in the conveniences in various parts of the district by damaging the fittings or fouling the floors and interiors.

The public sanitary conveniences which are situated in different parts of the district are kept in a very clean and tidy condition by the Council.

The public conveniences at Hednesford are now becoming old and new conveniences are required, so as to bring the requirements of this part of the district more up to present-day requirements.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conveniences at all the Schools in the district are inspected very frequently and any defects to fittings or drains or waste of water is reported to the Education Department and the defects are remedied.

The sanitary conveniences at the Council Schools are in a good state of repair and are kept clean and well looked after.

At other Schools belonging to other bodies the sanitary conveniences are not as modern as they might be, and I have drawn the attention of the persons responsible to these matters. In one case of a senior school, plans have been submitted and accepted for the erection of new sanitary conveniences. I am hoping that the work will be put in hand at an early date.

RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS ACTS 1920 to 1925. Section 2 (2) of Act, 1920.

No applications were received under the above-mentioned Acts during the year.

HOUSES IMPROVED.

Houses repaired and renovated throughout	...	...	...	162
Houses respouted	...	...	...	122
Houses repointed or cemented	...	...	...	259
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	170
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	884
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	88
Vertical damp proof courses provided	...	...	...	11
New wood floors and wood floors repaired	...	...	...	79
Quarry and brick floors repaired	...	...	...	198
New firegrates fitted or repaired	...	...	...	155
Windows repaired, made to open, sashcords and fasteners fitted	...	...	...	499
New doors and doors repaired	...	...	...	167
Handrails fixed on staircases	...	...	...	82
New sinks fitted or repaired	...	...	...	52
Airbricks fitted	...	...	...	35
Stair treads repaired	...	...	...	33
New coppers fitted	...	...	...	18
Coppers and fireboxes repaired	...	...	...	50

Foodstores provided and ventilated	...	...	...	...	40
Sculleries repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Yard paving relaid and yards paved	...	...	...	...	95
Burst water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	7
New coalhouses built	...	...	...	...	28

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	394
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1,354
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	368
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1,302
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	164
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	230

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	116
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	...	...	...	...	...
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	39
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	...	...	...	...	...
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	...	...	...	...	...
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919.

Inspections have been made of all the Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tips in the area and these have been found to be fairly free from rats.

Special attention is paid to premises where food is prepared and sold, such as Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Hotels and Restaurants. If any signs of rats are found on these premises steps are taken at once to eradicate the rodents. The methods used are of two kinds (1) by laying baits in convenient places where the rats are likely to be. These baits are checked as to how many are laid and a visit is made next day to ascertain how many have been taken and how many are left behind. (2) The use of gassing in the open is employed by means of a drain testing machine. The material used is Sulphur Dioxide mixed with paper which is specially prepared for testing drains. This latter method has proved very successful on many occasions.

LIVING VANS AND TENT.

The number of living vans still decreases year by year. Certain of the remaining vans and the tent have been dealt with under the Housing Act in a Slum Clearance Area. These will be demolished in a short period when new houses are ready for the occupants.

There are now nine vans and one tent with 20 occupants, or an average of two persons to each place.

The travelling van dwellers have not been so numerous during the year and consequently there has been less untidiness in the country lanes, as these people often cause untidiness and nuisances by depositing filth and litter under the hedgerows and on the roadside.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS.

Nature of offence.	Remarks.
Contravention of the Shops Acts, 1912-1928	Fined £1.
Contravention of the Shops Acts, 1912-1928	Fined £1.
Contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 (two cases)	Both cases dismissed
Contravention of the Shops Acts, 1912-1928	Fined 5/-.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

	Dec. 1935	Dec. 1936	Dec. 1937
Registered Slaughter-houses	20	20	19
Licenced Slaughter-houses	8	8	8
Visits to Meat Shops	1004	1307	1170
Visits to Slaughter-houses	1239	1040	1205

UN SOUND FOOD.—Tuberculosis.

BOVINES—	Weight lbs.
8 Carcases and all organs	5013
3 Pieces of Beef	34
5 Heads	120
6 Sets of Lungs	
3 Livers	
3 Stomachs	
PIGS—	Weight lbs.
2 Carcases and all organs	445
72 Heads	753
31 Plucks	
6 Other organs	

OTHER DISEASES.—UN SOUND FOOD, ETC.

BOVINES—	Weight lbs.
34 Pieces of Beef	290
2 Sets of Lungs	
6 Livers	

PIGS—						Weight lbs.
1	Carcase and all organs	...	...	...	...	160
19	Pieces of Pork	...	...	...	...	319
1	Liver					
10	Heads	...	...	...	...	115
SHEEP AND LAMBS—						Weight lbs.
1	Lamb carcase and all organs	...	...	...	...	30
	Pieces of Mutton, loins, shoulders and legs	...	...	...	...	271
4	Livers					
OTHER FOODS—						Weight lbs.
1	Box Pork Kidneys	...	...	...	...	31
28	lbs. Halibut					
5	lbs. Bacon					
24	lbs. Brains					

SUMMARY OF WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED.

				Weight lbs.
Bovines	Tuberculosis	...	...	5167
	Other Diseases	...	...	290
Pigs	Tuberculosis	...	...	1198
	Other Diseases	...	...	594
Sheep and Lambs	Other Diseases	...	...	301
Other Foods	Other Diseases	...	...	88
Total				7638

Or, 3 tons, 8 cwts, 0 qrs, 22 lbs.

In all cases the foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily on inspection.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

(Set out in the various Wards)

		Slaughter-houses.		Butchers'	Meat
		Registered.	Licenced	Shops	Stalls
Bridgtown	...	2	2	4	—
Cannock	...	4	1	9	16
Chadsmoor	...	3	1	7	—
Hednesford	...	7	3	16	1
Heath Hayes	...	2	1	4	—
Littleworth	...	1	—	3	—
		—	—	—	—
		19	8	43	17
		—	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Notices of slaughter, which are ordered to be sent to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, were as follows :—

Three hours' notice	...	...	...	193
Notice of Disease, Art. 9	...	...	...	18
Animals inspected were :—				
Bovines	...	...	...	832
Calves	...	...	...	14
Pigs	...	...	...	1351
Sheep	...	...	...	1129
Total				3326

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT SHOPS & MEAT VANS.

The slaughter-houses in this district are very scattered, and during the year one Registered Slaughter-house has been closed voluntarily. There are now 19 Registered Slaughter-houses and 8 Licenced Slaughter-houses in the district.

Some of the Registered Slaughter-houses are now getting very old and they are not so well equipped as the Licenced Slaughter-houses which have been built in the last 20 years.

The premises generally are kept in a very clean and tidy condition and they are inspected very frequently. All animals intended for food are inspected and all carcasses slaughtered are carefully inspected. The meat slaughtered in the district is of very good quality.

All slaughter-houses have installed therein electric light and every butcher has an electric refrigerator. These refrigerators are inspected periodically.

In this district there are two Markets, one at Cannock which is open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and one at Hednesford, which is open on Saturdays. There are several meat stalls in the Cannock Market and one meat stall in Hednesford Market. The meat that is brought to these Markets is inspected each market day. The bulk of the meat is from outside the district, and most of it is slaughtered in Abattoirs of adjoining towns. There is also a quantity of imported meat sold in the Markets.

The condition of the meat stalls and utensils receives careful attention to see that they are at all times kept in a clean and wholesome condition. After each market day every butcher has to clean down his stall and utensils and remove all bones and trimmings.

The selling of meat from motor vans has increased during the year. Several of these butchers come from other districts. These vans are followed up and the meat inspected, also the condition of the interior of the vans is noted. These vans have all been found to be kept in a clean condition.

All unsound meat and other foods are removed to the premises of the Cannock Agricultural Co., Ltd., where same is destroyed and a Certificate is received from this firm for all unsound meat and other foods received.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR 1650,
Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed (if known) ..	504	369	20	1185	1400
Number Inspected	480	352	14	1129	1351
All diseases ex. Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	8	—	4	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.7	2.3	—	.4	.2
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	8	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	8	—	—	88
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. ..	.8	4.5	—	—	6.7

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

During the year seven new Licences were granted to persons employed by butchers in the area. These applicants had had experience in the meat trade previously and they also satisfied the Authority that they were capable of slaughtering animals.

Seventy-three Renewal Licences were granted during the year.

All stunning instruments have been examined and all have been found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

KNACKERS YARD.

There is only one Knackers Yard in this area and these premises are inspected very frequently. They are always found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Number of visits 38.

ICE CREAM.

Ice Cream vendors have increased during the year, due to the fact that two large manufacturers of Ice Cream have set up depots in the district. This Ice Cream is packed in cartons and there is very little risk of contamination by dust. The old-fashioned Ice Cream vendor with his open container is going out of business.

Thirty-three visits have been made to premises where Ice Cream is prepared, and these premises were found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

One sample of Rag Flock was taken during the year and submitted for examination to the County Laboratory for chemical examination.

This sample contained 21.0 parts per 100,000 of Soluble Chlorine.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the area. The premises are always kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS AND UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION.

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52

Purveyors of Milk from other Districts selling milk in this area	47
Bakehouses : Factory 12, Workshop 9	21
Slaughter-houses : Registered 19, Licenced 8	27
Butchers' Shops	43
Meat Stalls	17
Fried Fish Shops	56
Outworkers' Homes	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	9
Mortuaries	2
Knackers Yard	1
Common Lodging House	1
Workshops	48

CANAL BOATS.

There is very little difference in the canal boat traffic as compared with last year.

A large amount of coal that was conveyed by boats from this area is now conveyed by motor lorries.

During the year 11 visits were made to the following Wharves :

- 3 to Walk Mill Wharf.
- 6 to Hednesford Wharf.
- 2 to Leacroft Wharf.

MOTOR AMBULANCES.

The Council have two Motor Ambulances. In the past year the number of cases of sickness and accidents removed to Hospital was 769. The number of miles registered was 17,022, or 22.14 miles per journey.

The ambulances are adequately disinfected and cleansed after each journey. The drivers continue to carry a full complement of First-Aid requisites.

FISH FRIERS.

During the year 9 applications were received from persons for consent to commence the trade of a fish frier. All applications are advertised in the local Press, and any person may make representation in writing either in support or objecting to the application. Such representations are sent to the Public Health Committee. The applications and representations are then considered by the Committee.

Of the nine applications received, six were granted, two not granted and one deferred pending plans being submitted for new premises. Seven applications were granted for businesses to be transferred from one person to another, and three fish friers have given up the trade. There are now 59 fish friers in the area, which is three more than last year.

The premises are visited frequently and special attention is taken of the general cleanliness, such as the cleansing of the stove, utensils, floors and walls, and the disposal of the fish offal.

Every fish frier has a modern or up-to-date stove, and the majority of these people purchase fish already trimmed. This saves themselves the trouble of having a lot of fish offal to dispose of. The premises, generally, are kept in a very clean and tidy condition.

DISINFESTATION.

The number of Council houses found to be infested ...	6
The number of Council houses disinfested	6
The number of other houses found to be infested ...	27
The number of other houses disinfested	27

The method of disinfesting employed is as follows:—If houses are single or semi-detached, Hydrogen Cyanide Gas is used. The tenants are rehoused for at least two nights so that the house can be certified free from gas and vermin. In other cases where houses are in rows a well-known insecticidal fluid is used and every part of the house is sprayed.

The belongings of tenants such as furniture, pictures and bedsteads are treated at the house, except in cases where a removal is taking place, then in a case like that the furniture and other household goods are removed in a container to the Disinfesting Station and disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas. All bedding, bed clothes, soft furnishings and clothing are steam disinfested at the Disinfesting Station. The latter course is carried out at every house where bugs have been found and the house treated.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, by a staff of the Public Health Department who have been trained in this work.

Fifty-four loads of furniture have been disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas from the houses where the tenants have been re-housed in Council houses. All bedding and soft furnishings were dealt with by passing through the Steam Disinfector.

STEAM DISINFECTOR.

The steam disinfecter at the Council's depot was used for disinfecting the following articles :—

				Disinfestation
Beds	...	...	109	164
Bedcovers	...	...	9	22
Blankets	...	...	162	244
Bolsters	...	...	73	138
Quilts	...	...	46	192
Mattresses	...	...	1	4
Pillows	...	...	235	307
Sheets	...	...	122	287
Eiderdowns	...	...	15	47
Other articles		...	363	287
Totals			1,135	1,692

Number of times Disinfecter used, 160.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply in this area is provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, the water being of a very good quality.

During the year eleven samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. Four of these were from wells, four from taps from a private supply, one from a spring, and two from South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's taps. The well water was found to be unsatisfactory and the owners were asked to thoroughly clean out the well. It was impossible to get a supply of water from the Waterworks Company, as the property was a considerable distance from their nearest main.

All the houses in the area have a separate supply of water supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company by means of a tap over the sink, with the exception of the following :—

- 6 Houses obtain water from wells.
- 5 Houses obtain water from springs where water is collected into shallow wells.
- 11 Houses obtain water from a Colliery which is situated near the houses.
- 3 Houses obtain water from one common stand pipe. These houses have been dealt with in a road widening scheme.
- 5 Houses obtain water from the Conduit Trust supply.

- 4 Houses have no internal supply. The occupants of these houses have to carry water for drinking and domestic purposes from adjoining premises. Three of these houses are now included in a Slum Clearance Area.

At seven houses a supply of water was provided by the Waterworks Company.

WATER COURSES.

An inspection has been made of the various water courses, and samples of water from certain streams have been taken and submitted for chemical analysis.

The water in the various courses in the area has been found to be fairly clear and satisfactory.

Four samples of water from the various streams have been taken and have been found to be satisfactory.

MILK.

The number of milk producers on the Register is 26, being two less than last year—of these, eight are producers of “Accredited” milk. The number of milking cows kept is 239, or an average of nine cows per farm. At these 26 farms there are 37 cowsheds.

The producers are as set out in the following table:—

Wholesalers	...	...	...	6
Wholesalers and Retailers	...	...	...	9
Retailers	...	...	...	11

There are also 52 Dairies and Milkshops in the area, and 47 Retail Purveyors whose premises are outside this area.

Two more sterilizing outfits have been provided by two milk producers, this bringing the number of sterilizers up to 11 in use in the district. I have advised all producers and bottlers of milk to purchase a steam sterilizer for sterilizing their bottles, churns and hand-cans, as this is the only safe way in which milk can be dealt with to keep it free from bacteria.

There are still a few of the older milk producers who cannot be convinced that sterilizing of milk utensils is an important matter in the production and distribution of milk.

Visits are made to cowsheds during the hours of milking early mornings and afternoons to ascertain the methods adopted by the various producers in the production of milk. Advice is given to milkers on any points that are noticed and which are likely to cause contamination of the milk.

Special attention is paid to the cleansing of udders, teats and flanks of cows, also that clean cloths are kept and used for this purpose, also to the condition of all milking stools and to the accumulation of manure. It has been necessary to call the attention of certain cowkeepers to a practice of leaving the cleaning of the cowshed floors until late in the day; this causes dung to be lying on the floor and channels for too long a period, and when cows are not turned out it is usual to find the flanks of the cows coated with dung. In cases where this neglect has taken place frequent visits are made to the cowshed, and I am glad to find improvements have taken place.

During the year one of the larger milk producers has installed a new and up-to-date milking machine.

The following licences were granted to sell designated milks :—

Designation.				No. of Licences
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	3
Accredited	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	3

MILK SUPPLY TO SCHOOLS.

Samples of milk have been obtained from the various Schools in the area and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Visits have been made to the dairy where this School milk is bottled.

Thirty samples of milk have been obtained from the Schools and six samples have also been obtained from the dairyman who supplies the milk.

It has been necessary to draw the dairyman's attention to the high bacteriological count of certain samples of milk, also to other samples failing to pass the Phosphatase Test.

This particular dairyman has now ceased to supply the schools with milk, and a firm of milk contractors are supplying in his place.

Samples taken from the contractors have proved satisfactory and all have passed the Phosphatase Test.

SHOPS ACTS.

During the year the following visits were made :—

Number of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	544
Number of persons reported for contravention of the Acts (and cautioned by letter)	...	...	...	...	...	23

Observations on the various shops have been made in all parts of the area, and shopkeepers who have been found to be causing any contravention of the various Acts have been reported to the Public Health Committee.

Several improvements have been carried out at numerous shops relating to sanitary and washing accommodation.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Four smoke observations were made during the year. These were made in various parts of the area. The most smoke emitted from chimney stacks is from those of the brick and tile manufacturers. The smoke is worst when the fires have just been made, afterwards the quantity of smoke is diminished.

These manufacturers are willing to co-operate with this Department in trying to reduce the amount of smoke emitted, and they introduce new methods and ideas for achieving the latter result.

The worst smoke nuisance in the area is due to smoke from the pit mounds at certain collieries. These nuisances have been going on for some time, and it would be a very large and expensive matter to abate the nuisances. Apart from the smoke, there is also the fumes from the mounds, which at times are very objectionable to persons who reside near to these premises.

CONCLUSION.

The work in the Department has proceeded in a very efficient manner. New Acts of Parliament relating to Public Health work have considerably increased the work.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Gapper), and the Staff for the help and assistance they have rendered to me in the various branches of our work during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

FRED TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector



PRAILL
PRINTER
CANNOCK