

[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Cannock U.D.C.

Contributors

Cannock (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1940

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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

1940



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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

MR. COUNCILLOR B. BAILEY

MR. COUNCILLOR A. E. BEDDOW, J.P.

MR. COUNCILLOR F. HURMSON

MR. COUNCILLOR J. JAMES

MR. COUNCILLOR J. PHILLIPS

MR. COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHOUSE

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

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

Mrs. A. Hudson

Mrs. W. E. Jackson

Mrs. W. Ingham

Mrs. A. Stanley

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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

Assistant Medical Officer: A. B. SUTHERLAND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(resigned 30.6.40)

P. S. WARREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(appointed 1.10.40)

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.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector: NORMAN ASTON.

Clerks for Sanitary Inspector: E. FEREDAY and R. HEATH.

HEALTH VISITORS

MISS E. FRIENDSHIP, C.M.B., S.R.N., Health Visitor's Certificate.
Superintendent of Health Visitors and School Nurses.

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

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

MISS F. M. NIXON, C.M.B., Health Visitor's Certificate, S.R.N.

MISS S. THICKENS, C.M.B., Health Visitor's Certificate, S.R.N.

MISS M. J. RAFFERTY, C.M.B., Health Visitor's Certificate, S.R.N.
(appointed 15.1.40).

CLERKS JOINTLY WITH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Miss E. D. Ball Miss I. Barratt Miss D. Roden

PART-TIME OFFICERS

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.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon : W. L. THOMAS, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

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

Dental Surgeon : N. SMITH, L.D.S.

Dental Attendant : MISS E. POOLE (resigned July 1940).

MISS W. BURD (appointed 26.8.40).

Public Health Offices,
Church Street,
CANNOCK

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting this, my fifth, Annual Report to you on the health of the district for the year 1940.

It will be noted that the Registrar-General's estimate of population for the middle of the year is 36,520, a reduction of 530 as compared with the previous year. While this has to be accepted as an estimate of the normal inhabitants in this area, there is no doubt that the population actually resident is far in excess of previous years.

In spite of the war conditions there was no serious outbreak of any infectious disease, nor was there any evidence of a deterioration in the health of the people.

Immunisation against diphtheria has proceeded slowly, but there is much room for improvement, especially amongst children under five years old. It is essential that parents of these young children should have them immunised, at least before they attend school, if the scheme for immunisation is to be successful.

The Birth Rate was slightly higher than in the past two years. While the Infant Mortality Rate was higher than that of the previous four years, the Maternal Mortality Rate was the lowest for the past nine years with the exception of 1936.

This area has been well served by the voluntary hospitals, especially those at Wolverhampton and Stafford. More benefit could be derived if the difficulties and costs of travel were eliminated. If a local consulting dispensary, visited periodically by those specially qualified, could be established, through voluntary efforts or otherwise, I am certain such a scheme would be most welcome in this area. Arrangements would have to be made whereby costs of con-

sultations or treatment should not deter the general practitioner nor the patient in obtaining the same. Heart disease is a cause of high mortality and yet no special clinics are available for the diagnosis and treatment of such cases. If the public could realise the great loss both to individuals and the nation from rheumatism they would clamour for a better service to combat this disease.

Only a few convalescent homes are available to certain members of the community. These should be more numerous and available both for prevention of, and recovery from, disease. One maternity home is available within the district, while there is a greater demand for such than can be accommodated at this home. Better support should be given to domiciliary nursing, which should be made easily available to everyone.

There has been no change in the First Aid Section of the A.R.P. organisation. All members of this Section have been loyal and obedient to all calls made upon them. So far no actual damage has been caused by enemy action within the area, but if the time comes when aerial bombardment does occur, I feel confident the Cannock Urban District Air Raid personnel will be able to deal with it. I thank them for their loyalty and co-operation.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council, for your co-operation and help throughout the year.

I am also grateful to my Staff, including Mr. Turner and his staff, for their loyalty and help in carrying out the work of the department.

As in past years, the General Practitioners, the Midwives, the District Nurses and the Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C. have worked in close harmony and co-operation with my department, for which I am also grateful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. GAPPER

18th August, 1941.

SECTION A.—Statistics And Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year	36,520	X
Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	acres 8,155	
Total population at all ages at 1931 Census ...	35,300	
Rateable Value (end of 1940)	£156,728	
Sum represented by penny rate (end of 1940) ...	£608	
Nett Births	673	
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) ...	18.4	
Nett Deaths belonging to the whole district:—		
Under one year of age	45	
At all ages	413	
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ...	65.9	
Death Rate at all ages	11.5	
Comparability Factor	1.12	
Adjusted Death Rate	12.62	
Poor Law Relief (outdoor) for whole year	£6,083 13 1*	
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year	9,493	X

N.B.—*The Old Age and Widows' Pensions Acts, 1940, which came into force in August, 1940, caused some decrease in Poor Law Relief.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There were very few changes in factories and workshops during the year due to war conditions.

Unemployment figures for the district are not available, but there was no evidence of increased poverty within this area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

The natural increase of population shown as excess of births over deaths is 260. The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population of 36,520 shows a decrease of 530 over that of mid-year 1939.

	Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	643	351	292
Live Births, illegitimate	30	11	19
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...			18.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England & Wales (Live Births) ...			14.6

	Total	M	F
Still Births, legitimate	33	16	17
Still Births, illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total population ... ..	...	...	0.9
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	0.55
	Total	M	F
Deaths	413	226	187
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... ..	...	...	11.5
Adjusted Death Rate ... ..	...	...	12.62
Death Rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	14.3

Maternal Mortality

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	
		Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	0.52
Others	2	2.84	1.64
Total	2	2.84	2.16

Infant Mortality

Deaths under one year of age—

	Deaths	Rate	Eng. & Wales
All Infants per 1,000 live births	45	65.9	55
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	43	66.0	—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	2	64.5	—
	Deaths	Rate	Eng. & Wales
		Rate per 1,000 of Population	
Deaths from Cancer	49	1.3	—
„ „ Measles	1	0.02	0.02
„ „ Whooping Cough	4	0.10	0.02
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	7	0.19	4.6
„ „ Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
„ „ Diphtheria	5	0.13	0.06
„ „ Influenza	11	0.30	0.32

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

The general provisions remain the same as in the past years. 673 births were notified by midwives and 4 by doctors and parents out of the total of 677.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-natal visits :—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	153
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	242
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	642
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	7,816
Re-visits to infants according to age :—					
Under one year	...	...	...	...	2,471
One to two years	...	...	...	...	1,944
Two to three years	...	...	...	...	1,249
Three to four years	...	...	...	...	1,100
Four to five years	...	...	...	...	1,052
Special visits :—					
Measles :—					
Primary, all ages	...	...	...	...	604
Re-visits, all ages	...	...	...	...	285
Ophthalmia :—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	2
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea :—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	1
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough :—					
Primary	...	...	...	...	76
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	5

446 mothers attended the Ante-natal Clinics out of a total of 677 births.

WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	49	134	28	2062	1358
Hednesford	48	117	35	1575	1175
Chadsmoor	51	197	60	2815	844
Heath Hayes	47	68	23	968	649
Totals	195	516	146	7420	4026

There were 477 total attendances at the Toddlers Clinic held fortnightly during the year, when 26 sessions were held. The average attendance per session was 18. 55 individual children attended, 13 of whom were primary attendances.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The two centres, one at Cannock and one at Chadsmoor, are functioning as before, the Chadsmoor Clinic being held every Thursday morning.

	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Total
Primary attendances	319	115	434
Re-attendances	769	265	1034
Post-natal	4	2	6
Total attendances	1088	380	1468
Number of Sessions	51	24	75
Average No. per Session	21.3	15.8	19.6
No. of Cases referred to Consultant	10	10	20
No. of ante-natal patients referred to Consultant by Private Practitioners			21
Abnormalities detected (defects not cases)	107	39	146
No. of patients supplied with free milk	8	2	10

One session per week is allocated by the Dentist for dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers.

The Dentist reports:—

76 new patients were seen during the year at the special clinic reserved for expectant and nursing mothers. A total of 275 visits were made, of which 16 were purely for examination.

TREATMENT GIVEN

Extractions	635
General Anaesthetics given	86
Scaling	12
Dressing and advice only	10
Patients fitted with dentures	24
Repairs	6
Operations (visits) construction of Dentures and Repairs	136

• Pre-school children were seen by the dentist on sessions held on Saturday mornings. He reports:—

Pre-school Children:—

No. of patients	53
Extractions	126
Dressings	2
General Anaesthetics	32
Fillings	1

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

Six children were on the register at the end of the year, to whom a total of 57 visits were paid throughout the year.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN

Thirteen visits were paid to these children on behalf of the Public Assistance Committee.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Twelve cases were notified, of whom 11 were removed to hospital. The same arrangements for hospital treatment existed as in previous years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were two fatal cases classified by the Registrar-General as Maternal deaths.

A.—Age 28 years. Primipara. Refused to attend Ante-natal Clinic and was not very co-operative with the midwife. She was seen by midwife in June and was quite well. At the end of the second week in August she was not feeling well and midwife called for medical aid. Patient developed fits the same day and was immediately removed to hospital as a case of eclampsia. There was a normal breech delivery of macerated female child the next day, but the patient's condition never improved and she died the following day from eclampsia.

B.—Age 27 years. Multipara—2nd pregnancy. In the first pregnancy labour was long and caesarean section was performed after failed forceps. She attended the ante-natal clinic, from where she was referred to the Specialist. He detained her in hospital and removed a hydatid mole. The patient had shock and severe haemorrhage, from which she died.

HOME HELPS

25 individual cases were provided with Home Helps.

INFANT MORTALITY

25 children (out of the 44 who died under one year of age) were under one month. 16 of these were under a week old. Of the total, 8 died of premature birth, 6 of gastro-enteritis, 7 of broncho pneumonia, 10 from congenital causes and 1 from asphyxia. One died from cerebral sinus thrombosis, 2 from whooping cough, one from laryngitis, one from inanition, one from bronchitis, 3 from birth injury, one from cerebro spinal meningitis and 2 from debility.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Two cases were notified, none of whom were removed to the Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary. They all recovered without any damage to the eyes.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO NECESSITOUS CASES

1,825 pounds of dried milk were supplied at a cost of £136 5s. 2d. Altogether, 12,601 pounds of dried milk were supplied to mothers and children at all the Clinics and Welfare Centres. The amount of dried milk supplied free of cost was reduced due to the introduction of the National Milk Scheme.

TREATMENT TO CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

132 children were treated at the special clinics, as follows:— Squint 11, tonsils and adenoids operation 10, orthopaedic defects 48, aural defects 10, dental defects 53.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances

WATER

The South Staffordshire Water Works Co. supply all the houses in the area with the following exceptions:—

Two houses obtain water from a well, two from springs, ten from a Colliery situated nearby, and one from a common stand pipe. The last house has been dealt with in a road widening scheme. Two houses with no internal supply obtain it from adjoining premises. A demolition order has been made on one of these houses. The Waterworks Company supplied seven additional houses with water during the year. A combined chemical and bacteriological report is received each month from the Company on the water in their reservoirs.

21 samples were submitted by the Authority for chemical and bacteriological examination, being one from a well, one from a spring, fourteen from pumps, and five from taps supplied by the South Staffs. Waterworks Company. Twelve of the pumps were supplied by the Conduit Trust, who were informed of the reports received.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The total mileage of stormwater sewer in the district is 22 miles and of foul water sewers is approximately 53 miles. No new sewers were put down during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

All watercourses were inspected periodically. Nine samples of river waters were taken. Two samples were found unsatisfactory due to overflowing cesspools from property in an adjoining area. The Authority concerned were consulted and the trouble remedied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

	End of 1939	End of 1940
Water Closets	10,104	10,157
Waste Water Closets ...	404	402
Dustbins	9,483	9,487
Privies	44	23
Privy Ashpits	27	23
Privy Pans	144	152
Dry Ashpits	—	—

8 water closets, 4 pail closets and 14 dustbins were dispensed with following demolition of property.

OFFICES

Fifteen premises were visited, routine inspections being carried out from time to time. Sanitary conditions and washing facilities were satisfactory in the majority of the premises.

CAMPING SITES

Only one camping site, at Chestall, Cannock Wood, was in existence. Periodical inspections were made of this camp, where an adequate supply of water is supplied by the South Staffs. Waterworks Co. The sanitary accommodation, consisting of water closets drained to a sewage disposal works, was very satisfactory. The premises were kept clean and tidy.

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, controlled under the Bradford system of Tipping.

Wimblebury tip was completed during the year. A new tip was commenced at the Clayhole, Littleworth. In addition, refuse was tipped at the following sites :—

Princess Street, Chadsmoor; Green Heath Road, Hednesford; Brindley Heath, Rugeley Road, Hednesford; Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes; Hawkes Green, Cannock.

While most of the tips should last for a lengthy period, the tips on the Hednesford side are nearing completion and will be available for only about twelve more months. They are the tips at Rugeley Road and Green Heath Road. It is essential that alternative sites should be obtained and made available as soon as possible.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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

Inspection of Dwelling Houses—			
	(1) Housing Inspections	... ..	53
	(2) District Inspection	... ..	4542
„	„ Bakehouses	... ..	106
„	„ Common Lodging House	... ..	52
„	„ Cowsheds	... ..	170
„	„ Dairies	... ..	203
„	„ Milk Shops	... ..	26
„	„ Milk Bars	... ..	6
„	„ Milk Floats	... ..	33
„	„ Ice Cream Shops	... ..	41
„	„ Restaurant Kitchens	... ..	16
„	„ Fried Fish Shops	... ..	113
„	„ Shops	... ..	582
„	„ Meat Shops	... ..	1258
„	„ Slaughter Houses	... ..	255
„	„ Meat Distributing Centre	... ..	294
„	„ Markets	... ..	406
„	„ Factories	... ..	50
„	„ Knackers Yard	... ..	62
„	„ School Sanitary Conveniences	... ..	10
„	„ Public Conveniences	... ..	52
„	„ Works for abatement of nuisances	... ..	2458
„	„ Works for abatement of housing repairs	... ..	315
„	„ Drains (Tests applied)	... ..	1
„	„ Complaints investigated	... ..	126
„	„ Cinemas	... ..	6
„	„ Water Courses	... ..	15
„	„ Tips	... ..	6
„	„ Living Vans	... ..	5
„	„ Sewage Disposal Works	... ..	3
„	„ Electric Refrigerators	... ..	46
„	„ Pit-Head Baths	... ..	6
„	„ Canal Boats—Wharves	... ..	29
„	„ Premises under Firewatchers Order	... ..	63
„	„ Premises <i>re</i> Clearance of Lofts Order	... ..	110
„	„ Army Billets	... ..	32
„	„ Evacuee Billets	... ..	767
„	„ Camping Grounds	... ..	2
„	„ School Air Raid Shelters	... ..	39

2.—The Number of Notices Served during the Year

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
“	“	“	“	“	Sec. 39	...	...	...	1
“	“	“	“	“	Sec. 44	...	...	...	18
“	“	“	“	“	Sec. 45	...	...	...	8
“	Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 66				...	...	...	...	7

3.—Result of Service

Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
*Notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

* Several of these are informal notices

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There were no complaints, following periodic inspections, of the emission of smoke from factories, etc., within the area. The smoke from pit mounds has been abated following the action of the various Colliery Companies of preventing fires in the “black-out.”

ERADICATION OF BEDBUGS

The method used is the same as that described in the 1938 Report. Details of work done are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

FACTORIES

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

Artificial Manure Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bottlers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boot Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	9
Brick and Tile Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Edge Tool Makers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fancy Leather	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foundries	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gas Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gravel Pits	...	...	...	...	...	2
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	10
Motor Vehicle Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	17
Masons	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	2

Printers	6
Saddlers	3
Sausage Makers	19
Toy Makers	1
Tailors	6
Waggon Repairs	3

Total ... 126

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

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AT FACTORIES

Floors repaired	2
Floors Cleansed	4
Water Closets Cleansed	33
New Water Closet Pans	1
Accumulations of refuse or manure removed ...	1
Rooms limewashed and cleansed	33
Sink Waste Pipes Cleansed	1
Yards Cleansed	1
Urinals Cleansed	2
New Flushing Apparatus to Water Closets ...	1
New Flushing Apparatus to Urinal	1
Screens provided to Sanitary Accommodation ...	1
Door Repaired	2
Benches and Apparatus Cleansed	2
Chemical Closet provided for Privy	1

OUTWORKERS

Notice was received of one outworker in the district; premises were inspected and found satisfactory.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	98	16	—
Factories without mechanical power	28	6	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	126	22	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M Inspect'r	
Want of Cleanliness	19	19		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature				
Ineffective drainage of floors				
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	1	0		
Unsuitable or defective	5	4		
Not separate for sexes				
Other offences	7	7		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Powers) Order 1921 and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	32	30		

SECTION D.—Housing

The number of houses build during the year was:—

By Local Authority	0
By Private Enterprise	1

OVERCROWDING

No. of cases on books at end of year	20
No. of cases dealt with	46
No. of overcrowding cases abated:—	
From Council Houses	8
From Private Houses	18
No. of new cases reported to Medical Officer of Health	11

FITNESS OF HOUSES

Number Inspected	53
Percentage damp	90.57
„ verminous	0
„ dirty tenants	1.89
„ overcrowded	0

Of the 53 houses, 1.89 per cent. contained two families.

The number of persons per house was 3.79 and there were 1.31 rooms per person, there being a total population of 201 in 263 rooms (104 living rooms and 159 sleeping rooms).

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

	Houses inspected and recorded under Regulations	Houses repaired without formal Notices	Notices Formal Housing Acts	Public Health Acts	Houses made fit
1936	415	106	2	9	245
1937	368	95	—	26	162
1938	421	176	—	3	185
1939	302	59	36	10	104
1940	53	33	—	12	143

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

UNFIT HOUSES

Number Demolished—

Individual Unfit	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clearance Order	...	...	...	...	...	8
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	5

Situation of Houses Demolished—

Bridgtown Ward—

303, 303a, Watling Street, Bridgtown ... Clearance Area

Cannock Ward—

3 Walsall Road, Cannock ... Voluntarily

2 Mill Street, Cannock ... „

69a Dartmouth Road, Cannock ... „

Hednesford Ward—

37 View Street, West Chadsmoor ... Voluntarily

870 Cannock Road, Pye Green ... „

Heath Hayes Ward—

86, 86a, 88, 88a Cannock Road, Heath

Hayes ... Clearance Area

Littleworth Ward—

564, 566 Littleworth Road, Rawnsley ... Clearance Area

Derrys Building, Cannock Wood ... By Order

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food

Supervision by the County Officials as well as our own has been carried out as in the past. Details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.—Infectious Diseases

DIPHTHERIA

Fifty-six cases were notified during the year, of which 44 cases and one carrier were removed to hospital. There were five fatal cases, most of them being due to the delay in calling for medical aid.

Immunisation proceeded steadily throughout the year, when 1,414 were immunised and 41 were inoculated but did not complete the course. By the end of the year 2,650 had been immunised in this area and 58 had been inoculated but not completed the course. At the time of writing this report, 3,486 have been immunised and 72 have been inoculated but not completed the course. Of the 3,486 immunised, 823 were under 5 years old and 2,663 were between 5 and 15 years old. Thus less than a third of the native children under five and approximately 50% of the school children have been immunised since the scheme commenced in November, 1937.

All parents should know by now of this preventative measure against diphtheria, and they should realise that if their children do develop the disease it is due to their apathy and negligence that it has happened. No normal child should die from diphtheria these days if the parents do their part in having their children protected against this disease. Parents who would sacrifice their lives to protect their children from physical dangers, such as air raids, do not seem to realise that there is a lurking danger constantly present amongst their children. They would seek the air raid shelter with their children in case of an air raid, which would not be much of a protection if a direct hit was scored. Why don't they seek shelter for their children against diphtheria, which would be a much more efficient protection if their children were "attacked" by the diphtheria germs? One could almost say that any normal child who now dies from diphtheria, if capable of doing so, could point an accusing finger at its parents and say that this might not have happened if they had not been so apathetic. This disease may have avoided most children so far, but the "germs" will visit every one of them sooner or later, and it is now that parents should see that their children are "sheltered" and protected against them. The fact that by the end of 1941 at least 50% of the children will be immunised may increase the possibility of more carriers in this area, causing a greater risk to the remaining 50%. Protection can be arranged and given free at all clinics in the area.

SCARLET FEVER

There were 39 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, only eight of whom were removed to hospital. There were no fatal cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

Eight cases were reported, six of whom were treated in hospital. One child age 3 years, removed to hospital, died three days after admission on the fourth day of her illness after being treated with full doses of M. & B. 693 intramuscularly as she was unable to take tablets by mouth. One child, age eleven months, died at home on her first day of illness when medical aid was sought. One child completely recovered at home following treatment with M. & B.

TYPHOID FEVER

There was one case, a boy of ten, notified with Paratyphoid B. He recovered following hospital treatment. The source of infection was not traced.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty-eight cases of pneumonia were notified and 19 deaths were reported from all forms of pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

There were 584 cases of measles and 161 cases of whooping cough. There was one fatal case of measles and four died from whooping cough.

CANCER

There was an increase of seven deaths from cancer as compared with the previous year, the death rate being 1.3.

DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1940

	AGE GROUPS										Total	
	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							3		3		6	
Cancer of Digestive Organs and Peritoneum, including Liver and Pancreas			1	2		3	7		8	6	12	15
Cancer of Male Genito Urinary Organs												
Cancer of Female Genito Urinary Organs					1							
Cancer of Breast								2				3
Cancer of Uterus								3		2		5
Cancer of Other Sites								1		2	5	3
Totals			1	3		11	13		11	10	23	26

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1940

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District											Total	Total Cases Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At Ages—Years														
	Under 1 Year	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Whooping Cough ..	15	17	21	18	23	61	5	1	9	5	6	65	161	45	4
Diphtheria ..				6	3	16	14	8					56		5
Erysipelas ..													11		
Scarlet Fever ..		1		4	3	15	4	4	5	1	4		39	8	
Pneumonia ..						2	1	3	13	4	4		28		19
Enteric Fever ..						1							1		2
Puerperal Fever ..									10				12	11	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	2		2	1			2	1		2			8	6	2
Poliomyelitis ..							1	1					2	2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2												2		
Measles ..	19	51	69	67	74	281	21	1	1	2	6	2	584		
Pulmonary Tubercle ..							11	11	10				31		
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1						3	1	1		1		7		
Encephalitis Lethargica	1												1		
	40	70	94	96	103	376	51	31	49	14	17	2	942	75	32

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				Total	DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	..
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
5—15	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	1	1
15—25	5	6	1	...	12	...	4	1	...	5
25—35	4	6	1	...	11	...	1	2	...	3
35—45	2	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	4
45—55	4	...	...	1	5	3	...	...	...	3
55—65	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1
65 up	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	3
Totals	17	14	5	2	38	8	7	3	2	20

There were two more male and five more female pulmonary cases notified than in the previous year. Non-respiratory cases were the same as last year. There were twenty deaths from Tuberculosis (pulmonary and non-pulmonary) compared with twelve in the past year.

The total number on the register at the end of the year was 255, being 145 males and 110 females.

Mortality

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population—

Respiratory 0.41

Non-Respiratory 0.13

The Health Visitors paid 26 primary and 1,020 re-visits.

Sleeping accommodation of the 185 Pulmonary cases :—

Patients having a bed and room to themselves ... 49

Patients occupying a separate bed but sharing a room ... 22

Patients occupying a bed with others 65

Notice of admission to Institutions was received as follows :—

Groundslow Sanatorium 10

Prestwood Sanatorium 13

Himley Sanatorium 1

Standon Hall 4

Staffs. General Infirmary 1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES, 1940

1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—
2.	Measles	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	—
4.	Whooping Cough	4
5.	Diphtheria	5
6.	Influenza	11
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	2
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	15
10.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	5
11.	Syphilis	1
12.	General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	49
14.	Diabetes	4
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	13
16.	Heart Disease	91
17.	Aneurysm	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	37
19.	Bronchitis	30
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	19
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	10
22.	Peptic Ulcer	2
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	7
24.	Appendicitis	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	7
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	2
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	27
32.	Senility	—
33.	Suicide	3
34.	Other Violence	15
35.	Other Defined Diseases	44
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	—
37.	Diarrhoea, 2 years and over	—
	Total	413

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 1940.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals	134
Insufficient water closets and drains	151
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter	7
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	5
Chimneys emitting large quantities of smoke	0
Dirty dwelling-houses	19
Dwelling-houses needing repairs	177
Dwelling-houses overcrowded	46
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year	858
Number of Notices served	447
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936	24

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

6	Additional water closets provided.
10	Water closets substituted for 10 privies.
33	Water closets substituted for 33 trough closets.
1	Chemical closet substituted for 1 privy.
3	Water closets dispensed with.
2	Additional pail closets provided.
10	Pail closets substituted for 10 privies.
1	New water closet substituted for 1 dilapidated water closet.
2	Water closets substituted for 2 waste water closets.
469	Dustbins substituted for 469 worn out dustbins.
5	Dustbins provided where there was no ashes accommodation.
17	New drain inspection chambers.
10	Drain ventilating shafts.
329	Yards of new glazed stoneware drains laid on 20 premises.
13	New syphon gully traps fitted.
41	New water closet pedestal pans fitted.
44	New flushing apparatus fitted to water closets.
6	Water closets cleared.

- 47 Drains cleared.
- 4 New inspection chamber covers.
- 133 Water closets put in order.
- 9 Drains repaired.
- 4 Urinals repaired
- 4 New urinals provided.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The work of dispensing with the various obsolete types of Sanitary Conveniences has proceeded steadily during the year. The number of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets was two, ten privies were dispensed with and ten water closets provided; six additional water closets were also provided. It will be seen in the list of Principal Structural Improvements carried out the various improvements that have been done. It is also worthy of note that 33 trough closets were dispensed with and 33 water closets provided in place of same.

The number of privies left in the district is now only 23. These chiefly exist where no sewer is provided, and a few are situated at the rear of properties which have been dealt with under the Housing Act for demolition. These houses are still occupied.

In the early part of the year the Council adopted a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936. A charge is made on each owner of each house where a new dustbin is supplied at the rate of 2/6 per annum. This scheme has worked very satisfactorily, and it has also been the means of keeping a better check of the state of the dustbins in the area.

During the year the number of dustbins supplied in the scheme was 469.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Periodical inspections are made of these conveniences, which are situated in the various thoroughfares of the district, also in the Parks and Playing Fields.

The Council endeavour to keep these premises in a clean and wholesome condition by employing a man to visit these places daily.

As I have, in previous years, drawn the Council's attention to these premises, I once again mention that there are certain persons who will persist in fouling these conveniences, and some people even go further than that, by actually doing structural damage to the buildings and to the fittings.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS

Inspections are made of all the sanitary conveniences at the various schools in the area. These premises are found to be kept in

a clean condition with the exception that, at certain non-provided schools, the walls and floors of the water closets have been fouled by some person or persons. In these cases the Managers were requested to have the premises cleansed, and that more attention should be paid to cleanliness generally.

Improvements were carried out at the following schools :—

	IMPROVEMENT
Bridgtown Council School (Girls' and Infants' Department) ...	11 Trough closets converted into fresh water closets.
St. Mary's R.C. School ...	8 Trough closets converted into fresh water closets.
Heath Hayes Infants' School ...	7 Trough closets converted into fresh water closets.
Station Road Infants' School ...	7 Trough closets converted into fresh water closets.

SCHOOL AIR RAID SHELTERS

At all the schools in this area there is an air raid shelter, and each one is provided with sanitary accommodation for males and females. These conveniences consist of the pail type.

A workman from the Public Health (Sanitary) Department is responsible for inspecting these conveniences at least twice a week and is required to empty and cleanse the pail closets when necessary.

Up to the present no serious complaint has been made as regards any fouling of the conveniences, with the exception of one shelter at which the public have access. This shelter is situated, not at the school premises, but away from the school on waste land. This particular shelter has had to be visited daily and cleansed each time a visit has been made.

RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920 TO 1925

Section 2 (2) of Act, 1920

Four applications were received under the above mentioned Acts during the year and a certificate granted in each case.

HOUSES IMPROVED

Houses respouted ...	89
Houses repointed or cemented ...	7
Roofs repaired ...	30
Walls and ceilings repaired ...	81
Chimneys repaired ...	5
Damp proof courses provided ...	5
New wood floors and wood floors repaired ...	9
Quarry and brick floors repaired ...	18

New firegrates fitted or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired, made to open, sashcords and fasteners fitted	...	...	...	...	...	35
New doors and doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Handrails fixed on staircases	...	...	...	...	...	5
New sinks fitted or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Staircases lighted	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coppers and fireboxes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Foodstores provided and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Foodstores lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Yard paving relaid and yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	5
Burst water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	50
Additional 4½" walls	...	...	...	...	...	1

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)	...	...	...	...	...	218
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	698
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	53
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	368
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	2
(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	...	...	...	...	...	216

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	121
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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	...	...	...	...	...	2
(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	21
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	20
(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	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(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	0
(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 at various places in the area, such as house refuse tips, sewage disposal works, also premises where food is prepared and sold.

No serious complaints have been made during the year of any large numbers of rats or mice having been found in any of these premises.

When complaints are made an inspection takes place of the premises in question and the department supply rat baits, and if these fail to eradicate the rodents a drain testing machine is used whereby smoke is driven into the rat runs.

LIVING VANS AND TENTS

There are now only four vans in the district, and the number of occupants is six persons or 1.25 persons per van. The number of vans is getting less each year.

The travelling van dweller has not been seen very often during the year, and there have been no complaints of untidiness or any nuisances caused or found in our country lanes and bye-roads.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS

Nature of Offence	Remarks
Contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	Fined £2
Failure to Comply with Notice under Section 44, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	Case adjourned
Contravention of Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936	Fined £1
Contravention of Section 83, Public Health Act, 1936	Fined £1
Contravention of Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936	Fined 10/-
Application for Order to close a well ...	Order granted with 10/- costs

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

	December 1940
Licensed Slaughter-houses	26
Visits to Meat Shops	1258
Visits to Slaughter-houses	255

UNSOUND FOOD—Tuberculosis

	Weight lbs.
BOVINES—	
11 Pieces of Beef	259
3 Heads	77
13 Sets of Lungs	
4 Livers	
PIGS—	
4 Pieces of Pork	13
9 Heads	140
2 Plucks	
2 Other Organs	

UNSOUND FOOD—Other Diseases

	Weight lbs.
BOVINES—	
25 Pieces of Beef	401
4 Bags Imported Ox Tails	327
1 Head	26
9 Livers	
5 Sets of Lungs	
1 Spleen	
PIGS—	
14 Carcasses and all organs	976
7 Pieces of Pork	104
5 Plucks	
1 Set of Lungs	

SHEEP AND LAMBS—

7 Pieces of Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	29
37 Livers						
23 Sets of Lungs						
6 Plucks						

OTHER FOODS—

10 Boxes of Apples	...	...	...	...	...	120
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	180
6 Baskets of Strawberries	...	...	...	...	...	24
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	17
1 Tin Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	...	12
40 Crabs						

SUMMARY OF WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

					Weight lbs.
Bovines	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	336
Pigs	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	153
Bovines	Other Diseases	...	...	...	754
Pigs	Other Diseases	...	...	...	1080
Sheep and Lambs	Other Diseases	...	...	...	29
Other Foods	Other Diseases	...	...	...	353
					<hr/>
	Total	...	...	...	2705
					<hr/>

or 1 ton, 4 cwts., 0 qrs., 17 lbs.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

(Set out in the various Wards)

		Slaughter-	Butchers'	Meat
		houses	Shops	Stalls
		Licenced		
Bridgtown	...	4	4	—
Cannock	...	5	10	16
Chadsmoor	...	4	9	—
Hednesford	...	8	15	1
Heath Hayes	...	4	5	—
Littleworth	...	1	4	—
		—	—	—
		26	47	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	...	...	...	91
Notice of Disease, Art. 9	...	...	...	0

Animals inspected were:—

Bovines	...	...	...	...	88
Calves	...	...	...	...	3
Pigs	...	...	...	...	228
Sheep	...	...	...	...	143
					—
Total				...	462
					—

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

At mid-night on January 14th, 1940, all slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption ceased in the slaughter-houses in this area. The Ministry of Food took over slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption, and this work is carried out at the Government Slaughter-house, Shortacre Street, Walsall.

In accordance with the requirements of Circular 1650, showing all carcasses inspected and condemned, the figures set out in that table are the number of animals slaughtered in this area for the fourteen days prior to the Ministry of Food taking over the slaughtering at Walsall.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT SHOPS AND MEAT VANS

The number of licenced Slaughter-houses in the area is the same as in the previous year, i.e., 26. These premises have only been used since January 15th, in certain cases, for the slaughter of pigs for persons who have reared the pigs and had the same slaughtered for their own consumption. Periodical visits are made to these premises to see that the premises are kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

Inspections are made at all the Meat Shops in the area each week. All these premises have been found to be kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

Premises where food is cooked or partly cooked come in for frequent visits to ascertain that all these premises and the utensils used for preparing the food are kept in a clean condition.

In the area there are two markets. One is held at Cannock and the other at Hednesford. The number of meat stalls at Cannock has considerably reduced since the rationing of food came into force. The remaining meat stalls are inspected each day they are open and attention is paid to these places to see that they are kept in a clean condition. At the close of each Market, all bones and trimmings have to be removed from the stalls.

The number of Meat Vans in the area has also reduced. There are only a very few Butchers who use their own vans for the hawking of meat, but when these vans are seen an inspection is made of the interior to ascertain the condition.

When the rationing of meat came into force, the Local Buying Committee was formed of members of the Local Butchers' Association. This Committee took over a portion of the Market Hall at Cannock and used same as a Meat Distributing Centre. These premises proved to be totally unsuitable for the large amount of meat that had to be dealt with each week.

I made representation to the Butchers' Buying Committee, asking them to secure other premises where the meat could be properly hung up and which would also give better facilities for inspection. Fortunately, they were able to secure a building in the same street and this was taken over, fitted up with proper rails for hanging the meat, also stages for storing imported meat. This has proved to be a very suitable place both for the Butchers and for the Inspectors, as it gives better facilities for the meat to be inspected and examined.

The meat sent in from the Government Slaughter-house at Walsall varies in quality. Some weeks the quality is much better than others. At the beginning of the rationing scheme, a certain amount of meat and offals was condemned and the Authority at Walsall had their attention drawn to this matter. I am glad to state that afterwards a considerable improvement took place and no further complaint has been made.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR 1650

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed (if known) ..	70	18	3	143	228
Number Inspected	70	18	3	143	228
All diseases ex. Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	2	...	...	...
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .. ..	...	11.1	...	...	...
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. ..	...	...	...	...	1.7

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

During the year four 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.

Ninety-five 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.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is only one Knacker's 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 62

ICES OR ICE CREAM

There are 52 premises where Ices or Ice Cream is made or sold. All these premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Improvements have been carried out at several of these premises by way of providing additional sanitary accommodation also more adequate ventilation to the premises where this food is prepared. Several of the occupiers of the premises have also been requested to cause the walls and ceilings of the rooms to be thoroughly cleansed and limewashed.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911—1928

No samples of Rag Flock have been taken during the year.

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.

Number of visits 52

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

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Purveyors of Milk from other districts selling milk in this area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126

CANAL BOATS

There has been an improvement in the Canal Boat traffic in this area as compared with last year, but still a large quantity of coal sent away from this area either goes away by rail or road.

The number of boats found and inspected was eight. All the boats were found to be in a clean condition, no overcrowding was found, each register inspected was in order and no infectious disease was found aboard any of the boats.

During the year 29 visits were made to the following Wharves :—

- 10 to Walk Mill Wharf.
- 10 to Hednesford Wharf.
- 4 to Leacroft Wharf.
- 5 to Churchbridge Locks.

MOTOR AMBULANCES

The Council have two Motor Ambulances. In the past year the number of cases of sickness and accidents removed to hospital was 752. The number of miles registered was 14,985, or 19.92 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

There are now 57 Fish Friers in the area; this number is four less than the previous year. Every Fish Frier has a modern stove, and these on inspection have always been found to be in a clean condition. The premises generally have been clean, with the exception of one or two cases where the occupiers have been requested to cause the interior walls and ceilings to be redecorated.

DISINFESTATION

The number of Council houses found to be infested ...	12
The number of Council houses disinfested	12
The number of other houses found to be infested ...	39
The number of other houses disinfested	39

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

All tenants are periodically visited following the cleansing of their houses in order to educate them as to the methods of preventing re-infestation.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfector at the Council's depot was used for disinfecting 2,648 articles.

Number of days Disinfector in use	174
--	-----

MILK

The number of milk producers on the Register is 28; of these nine are producers of "Accredited" milk. The number of milking cows kept is 289, or an average of ten cows per farm. At these 28 farms there are 38 cowsheds.

The producers are set out in the following table:—

Wholesalers	...	...	...	...	6
Wholesalers and Retailers	...	...	...	...	8
Retailers	...	...	...	...	14

There are also 58 Dairies and Milkshops in the area, and 49 Retail Purveyors whose premises are outside this area.

The work of inspecting Cowsheds and Dairies takes up a large portion of our duties, inasmuch as the Cowsheds are visited at the time of milking—that is, in the early hours of the morning and late evening. The number of samples of milk taken on these occasions amounted to 66.

The total number of samples taken during the year from Cow Keepers and Retail Purveyors was 136, and in 58 cases the milk proved to be unsatisfactory. In the 58 unsatisfactory samples taken, 17 samples were milk that was produced outside the Council's area. In all these cases the Sanitary Inspector in the district concerned was notified of the unsatisfactory report.

As regards unsatisfactory samples of milk produced in our own area, further visits are made to the farms in question and samples are again taken. Also the method used by the farmer of producing the milk is watched very carefully.

Improvements have been carried out at two cowsheds, the work done being new floors relaid in cowsheds and the approach thereto.

As regards the cow-keepers, the cowsheds and dairies are kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness and the cow-keepers are always willing to co-operate with any suggestions that this department may offer for improving the premises or providing other utensils which may be to the benefit of producing cleaner milk.

The following Licences were granted to sell designated milks:

Designation	No. of Licences
Tuberculin Tested	4
Accredited	3
Pasteurised	3

MILK SUPPLY TO SCHOOLS

Forty-one samples of milk were taken from the various Schools in the area. In each case the samples were satisfactory, with the exception of one sample which failed to pass the Phosphatase Test. In this case the contractor who supplies the milk to the various Schools was notified of this matter.

SHOPS ACT

During the year the following visits were made :—

Number of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	582
Number of persons reported for contravention of the Acts (and cautioned by letter)	...	...	...	...	...	88
Number of persons against whom summary proceedings were instituted	...	...	...	...	...	—

Inspections have been made of all the shops in the area. At two shops new sanitary and washing accommodation was provided; at another shop heating arrangements were provided.

Observations have been made on certain shops in the area where young persons were employed, owing to these persons having been found to be employed more hours than allowed by the Act.

These matters were reported to the Public Health Committee and instructions were given to send each employer a warning letter. In each case after the warning letter had been received, the hours of employment of the young persons were made to comply with the Act.

CONCLUSION

I wish to state that the work in this department has greatly increased in regards to the inspection of meat and other food, and this particular work is taking up a considerable amount of time of the Inspectors. I consider that it is most essential that all the food-stuffs should be carefully inspected and examined, as these are times when all food that is in preparation of, or exposed for sale should be fit for human consumption. As regards the other work of the department, the work on housing has decreased, but a certain amount of inspections are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am glad to state that the work of the department has not suffered in any way and that it has proceeded in a very satisfactory and able manner.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and other Members of the Council, also the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Gapper), the Inspectors and the Staff in the Public Health Department, for their help and co-operation they have given to me in carrying out my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector





