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REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SERVICES

IN THE

BOROUGH OF CREWE

DURING 1949

J. D. INGRAM, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.,
Medical Officer of Health
Divisional Medical Officer



BOROUGH OF CREWE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Alderman J. SMITH, O.B.E., J.P.

Members :

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. KLEMPT)

Alderman W. R. Foulkes, J.P.

Alderman W. C. White, J.P.

Councillor A. E. Booth

„ A. Broomhall

„ J. T. Coyne

„ Mrs. E. G. Elks

„ A. J. S. Hall

„ J. S. Hobson

„ R. Peach

„ R. Perry

„ Mrs. E. N. Pomfret

„ E. T. Roberts, B.E.M.

„ Mrs. F. E. White, J.P.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CREWE DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman J. Smith, O.B.E., J.P. Chairman
 Councillor Mrs. F. E. White, J.P., Deputy Chairman

Representing Crewe Town Council:—

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. KLEMP)

Coun. A. E. Booth	Coun. Mrs. E. N. Pomfret
„ J. T. Coyne	„ E. T. Roberts, B.E.M.
„ Mrs. E. G. Elks	„ A. Broomhall
„ J. S. Hobson	„ T. Talbot, J.P.
„ R. Peach	

Representing County Health Committee:—

Alderman J. W. Emberton	Coun. W. R. Foulkes, J.P.
Alderman W. E. Noden	„ Miss E. W. Humphreys
Coun. H. Farrall	„ Mrs. E. F. Wood

Representing Local Professional and Other Bodies:—

F. J. Glover, Esq.	Dr. Miles Parkes
E. H. Hunstone, Esq.	S. L. Thomson, Esq.
Dr. E. M. Liddle	V. M. White, Esq., B.D.S.
Mrs. M. McCutcheon	Alderman W. C. White, J.P.

BOROUGH OF CREWE

Medical Officer's Office

J. D. INGRAM, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E., Medical Officer of Health (part time).

R. W. LEACH, Chief Clerk (part time).

Sanitary Inspector's Office

J. GASKELL (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), Chief Sanitary Inspector. Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Acts (whole time).

R. E. PLATT (1, 2, 5), Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

C. BENNETT (1, 2, 3), Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

D. W. COOKE (1, 2, 4), Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

W. HAZELDINE (1), Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

E. WHEELER (1), Sanitary Inspectors' Assistant (whole time from 3-10-49).

1. *Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, or Royal Sanitary Institute).*
2. *Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*
3. *Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*
4. *Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*
5. *Testamur of the Institute of Public Cleansing.*

T. C. SIMPSON (Chief Clerk).

R. S. BAKER, A. J. LAWTON (to 30-4-49), S. T. OWEN (to 31-12-49), G. HART (from 1-8-49), Clerks,

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

J. D. Ingram, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E., Divisional Medical Officer (part time).

Christina R. Laing, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer (whole time).

J. D. Allan, M.D., F.R.C.P., Paediatrician.

E. M. Innes, F.R.C.S., D.L.O., Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon

R. W. Leach, Chief Clerk (part time).

Miss E. Shepley and Miss B. Barnes, Clerks (whole time).

Health Visitors

M. Rouen, East District (ceased 31-5-1949)

E. Wilson, South District

E. Broom, North Central District

J. S. Reid, West and Coppenhall Districts

R. Walch, Central District

L. M. D. Flowers, East District (commenced 1-8-1949)

District Nurses

Miss C. Moss, 5, Tynedale Avenue (Tel. No. 3947)

Mrs. E. A. Heap, 225, Wheelman Road (Tel. No. 3163)

Mrs. O. M. Dobson (part time)

District Midwives

E. A. Bimson, 20, Gatefield Street (Tel. No. 2239)

S. A. McKenna, 195, Gainsborough Road (Tel. No. 3345)

D. Broad, 234, Hungerford Road (Tel. No. 2495)

M. Beatty, 195, Gainsborough Road (Tel. No. 3345)

K. Beech, 75, Minshull New Road (Tel. No. 2826)

B. J. Blatter, 43, Samuel Street (Tel. No. 2825)

E. Wilkinson, 54, Derrington Avenue (Tel. No. 3110)

E. G. Williams, 282, Broad Street (Tel. No. 2666)

M. Wilson, 152, Holland Street (Tel. No. 2875)

Authorised Officer

Mr. R. E. Broach, 1, Gatefield Street (Tel. No. 2478)

Welfare Officer

Miss Pickering, 1, Gatefield Street (Tel. No. 3798)

**To the Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee
and the Divisional Health Committee of the Crewe Town
Council and the Cheshire County Council respectively.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report on the health conditions which prevailed in the Borough of Crewe during the year ending December 31st, 1949.

The health services are shared between the Cheshire County Council and the Crewe Town Council and this report covers all sections of the work.

The initials in brackets which follow certain services show by which authority that service is administered.

Thus C.C.C. represents the Cheshire County Council.
R.H.B. represents the Manchester Regional Hospital
Board.

Services administered by the Crewe Town Council are those without initials or other reference.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to you—the Members of the two Health Committees—for the consideration and support you have always given to me, and in particular to the Chairman, whose help and advice has been invaluable.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. INGRAM,

Medical Officer of Health and
Divisional Medical Officer.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area

4,414 acres.

Population

Census 1931, 46,061.
Estimated 1949, 53,120.

Number of Houses

Census 1931, 12,298.
Estimated 1949, 15,808.

Rateable Value

£271,666.

Product of Penny Rate

£1,086.

Births

Live Births :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	401	423	824
Illegitimate	25	17	42
Total	426	440	866
Still Births :			
Legitimate	7	11	18
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	7	11	18

The birth rate was 16.6 per 1,000 of the population. This rate was made up of a live birth rate of 16.3 and a still birth rate of 0.3. The birth rate in England and Wales was 17.1 per 1,000 of the population (live birth rate 16.7, still birth rate 0.4).

The percentage of illegitimate births in all births fell from 6 per cent. in 1948 to 4.8 per cent. in 1949.

The birth rate shows a fall of 0.5 per 1,000 from the birth rate in 1948, but the rate is still well above the average rate before the Second World War.

Deaths

The number of deaths registered during the year, after corrections have been made for outward and inward transfers, was 673—male 350, female 323. The death rate was 12.7 per 1,000 of the population. In 1948 the death rate was 10.6. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 of the population.

The principal causes of death during the years were:—

Cause of Death	Number		Cause of Death	Number	
	M	F		M	F
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	—	Bronchitis	39	20
Scarlet Fever	1	—	Pneumonia	8	8
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	14	6	Other Respiratory Diseases...	3	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	—	Ulcer, Stomach, Duodenum	3	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs) ...	2	—
Influenza	2	2	Other Digestive Diseases ...	7	5
Measles	1	—	Nephritis	5	10
Polio-myelitis	1	3	Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Ac. Infective Encephalitis ...	1	—	Prematurity	3	5
Cancer	44	48	Congenital malformations, birth injuries	5	5
Diabetes	2	3	Suicide	5	2
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	41	60	Road Traffic Accidents ...	5	—
Heart Diseases	106	105	Other Violent Causes ...	4	3
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	11	9	All other causes	31	21

The number of infants who died during the first year of life was 29—14 male and 15 female. Of these deaths 1 female was illegitimate.

The Infantile Mortality was 33.5 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Mortality in England and Wales was 32.

Of the infant deaths 14 occurred within the first week, 18 before the end of the first month, 20 before the end of 3 months, 24 before 6 months, 26 before 9 months, reaching 29 by the end of the first year.

The causes of these infant deaths were:—Prematurity 7, Congenital Malformations 2, Birth Injuries 4, Asphyxia Pallida 1, Broncho-pneumonia 6, Lobar-pneumonia 1, Diarrhoea 2, Gastritis 1, Intussusception 1, Convulsions 1, Haemorrhagic Disease 1, Asphyxis 1.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

HOME NURSING (C.C.C.)

The County Council employs 2 State registered Queen's Nurses, assisted by 1 part time Assistant Nurse to provide home nursing facilities in Crewe. During the year the number of cases attended by the nurses was 307, and the number of visits paid was 8,918. In 1948 the corresponding figures were 238 and 6,628.

HOME HELPS (C.C.C.)

The Home Helps in Crewe are all part timers for there is not yet sufficient work to justify whole time appointments. During the year 11 cases were attended by Home Helps. Of these 7 were required during confinements and the remaining 4 were old people in need of assistance.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the services of the Home Helps were highly appreciated by those who had them. Since, however, there are many who are still under the impression that this is a free service, it seems necessary to point out that it is not, and that applicants are required to contribute towards the cost of a Home Help according to their circumstances.

Demands for assistance to aged, feeble persons, living alone, are increasing in number and, since such assistance may be required over considerable periods, will throw heavy strains on the Service. Where such assistance is merely temporary to cover an illness or upset, a Home Help is certainly the best means of providing it, but where there is little hope of improvement, I do not consider the provision of a Home Help entirely satisfactory since the aged person is left alone through the evenings, nights and week-ends. Many of these old people, however, prefer this to admission to hospital or hostel.

Such cases seem to be borderline cases, not suitable for hospital treatment since they are not ill, and not suitable for accommodation in the County Hostels since they are not quite fit enough physically for such accommodation. It appears to me that the needs of this type, whose numbers will increase from year to year, could best be met by a special type of hostel in which accommodation consisting of one or two unfurnished rooms could be rented, the aged person could thus have his or her own furniture and would retain his or her independence. Provision should be made for the supply of at least one hot meal a day, and there should be a resident manageress with nursing experience to supervise.

Such hostel should be provided in Crewe so that old people are not taken away from their friends and familiar surroundings.

MIDWIVES (C.C.C.)

The number of district midwives practising in the Borough is 11, of these 8 are employed by the County Council and 3 practice as independent midwives.

LABORATORY WORK (R.H.B.)

During the year 46 throat swabs were examined at Monsall Hospital. Of these 1 gave a culture of diphtheria bacillus (*intermedius*), 18 gave cultures of haemolytic streptococci, of which 13 were Group A, 1 Group C, 1 Group G, 1 not belonging to these 3 groups, and 3 which were not typed.

Samples of blood examined numbered 8 and the number of smears and vaginal swabs examined for gonococci were 5; in none of these was a positive result obtained.

7 sputa were examined in the County Laboratory for tubercle bacilli, but all were negative.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION (C.C.C.)

During the year cards received from Medical Practitioners showed that 507 children were immunized against diphtheria. There is some reason for thinking that more children were immunized than are shown by our records. 507 represents 58 per cent. of the total number of births

notified during the year. In addition 220 children received a boosting dose to restore their immunity. During the year it was found that 71.3 per cent. of the children entering school for the first time had been immunized. It is to this process of immunising children that we owe the absence of any prevalence of diphtheria. Of the few sore throats sent to the Isolation Hospital as being probably diphtheritic only one yielded cultures of the diphtheria bacillus.

31 children were also immunised against whooping cough. The number of vaccinations reported to me in the period from July 5th, 1948, to December 31st, 1949, was 209.

An indication of the vaccinal state of children in Crewe can be gained from the following table, which shows the percentage of children vaccinated of those examined at various ages during the year:—

% Vaccinated	5 yrs. old	9 yrs. old	14 yrs. old
Boys	53.6%	45.7%	40.9%
Girls	44.3%	38.4%	36.0%

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year 29 persons were medically examined. Of these 14 were new appointments to the Crewe Corporation's Staff, 2 were new appointments to the County Council's Staff, 11 were of persons applying for a taxi driver's licence, 1 was carried out for the Hospital Service and 1 for another Local Authority.

MEDICAL COMFORTS AND APPLIANCES

The St. John Ambulance Brigade Comforts Depôt has continued this year, as in previous years, to meet all demands.

The following table shows the number of items loaned out during the year:—

Bed Rests	33	Rubber Bed	1
Rubber Sheets	27	Feeding Cups	2
Air Rings	31	Kidney Bowl	1
Bed Pans	24	Sputum Mug	1
Urine Bottles	11	Wheel Chairs	2
Bed Tables	7	Pair of Crutches	1
Bed Cradles	4		

MORTUARY

During the year 62 bodies were taken to the Mortuary with a view to Post Mortem examination.

MORAL WELFARE

The Crewe and District Committee for Preventive and Rescue Work deals with moral welfare in Crewe and the surrounding area. It also maintains the St. Hilda's Home, 71, West Street, Crewe.

I am indebted to the Secretary for the following information:—

54 Girls and Babies were received into the Home:—

- 19 Girls were sent to Hospital or Maternity Home.
- 15 Girls were returned to their homes or to friends.
- 1 Girl was found work.
- 1 Girl was sent to a Training Home.
- 23 Girls were advised or helped in various ways.

AMBULANCE SERVICE (C.C.C.)

The Ambulance Service commenced the year with 5 full-time drivers, 4 attendants and 1 night watchman. This staff was sufficient to cope with the work in the early part of the year but the increasing demands made on the Ambulance Service showed clearly that if the Service was to remain efficient and to cover the whole of the 24 hours an increase was imperative. The staff was increased in August to 8 drivers and 7 attendants. This staff has proved in general sufficient, though the very heavy demands made on the Service in October and November caused anxiety—largely due to the age and condition of the ambulances.

The details of the work done by the Ambulance Service are shown on the following page.

AMBULANCE SERVICE, 1949

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Number of journeys made	211	233	312	272	341	295	287	340	395	489	506	414	4095
Number of patients carried	213	242	327	281	359	317	297	349	420	503	532	432	4272
Emergencies and accidents	27	24	20	34	51	56	44	47	56	57	57	53	526
Journeys made for other divisions ...	7	7	10	10	7	4	13	9	10	15	16	22	130
Journeys made by other divisions ...	—	1	4	6	8	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	38
Journeys by taxi ...	—	3	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	1	2	14
Journeys made by train ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Miles covered ...	3154	3110	3023	3052	4329	3509	3902	4169	6466	7573	5700	5710	53697
Average miles per journey	14.9	13.3	9.7	11.2	12.7	11.9	13.6	12.2	16.4	15.4	11.3	13.8	13.1
Number of journeys made ...	1949	211	233	272	341	295	287	340	395	489	506	414	4095
1948	138	129	156	129	158	157	161	123	136	159	216	161	1823
1947	143	117	136	151	111	93	110	128	115	113	125	131	1473

The amount of petrol issued during the year was 3,665 gallons—equivalent to 14.7 miles per gallon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC (C.C.C.)

This was held each Wednesday afternoon in the Ludford Street Centre. During the year 30 expectant mothers made 35 attendances; the majority of these women were examined with the administration of gas and air analgesia in view.

4 mothers made 7 attendances at the Dental Clinic. One mother had a complete set of dentures provided, the others were treated by extractions and fillings.

CONTRACEPTIVE ADVICE (C.C.C.)

Contraceptive advice was given to 22 women, who made 46 visits. No regular clinic is held for this purpose since advice is only given on medical grounds and women are only seen by appointment.

INFANT WELFARE (C.C.C.)

At the time of the first visit made by the Health Visitor it was found that 59.3 per cent. of the babies were entirely breast fed, 5.2 per cent. were fed partly on the breast and partly on the bottle, while 35.5 per cent. were fed entirely on artificial foods. These figures show a slight decline in breast feeding from the percentages found last year—60.2 per cent., 6.8 per cent. and 33 per cent.—but this decline is not significant, following as it does two years which showed considerable increases in the percentage of babies breast fed.

The percentage entirely breast fed at 3 months of age rose from 9.1 per cent. in 1948, to 15 per cent. and the number entirely breast fed at 6 months of age rose from 4.6 per cent. in 1948 to 6.4 per cent.

The percentage of babies found to be sleeping alone at the time of the first visit was 99.1 per cent., an improvement on last year's figure of 97.1 per cent.

The number of babies attending the Welfare Centres, the number of times they attended, and the number of consultations with the Welfare Centre Doctor are shown in the following table:—

	Babies	Attendances	Consultations
Ludford Street	309	2519	654
Stalbridge Road ...	314	3311	838

The number of children attending the Centres for the first time was 358.

Children under 5 years of age also attended the following Clinics:—

Dental Clinic	37 children made 50 visits
Paediatric Clinic	12 children made 31 visits
Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic	4 children made 5 visits

SUPPLY OF DRIED MILK (C.C.C.)

Dried milk is issued from the Medical Officer's Office on Tuesday afternoons to those mothers attending the Welfare Centres for whose babies such milk has been prescribed by the Welfare Centre Doctor. The milk is supplied at cost price plus a 10 per cent. establishment charge.

The amounts supplied during 1948 and 1949 were:—

	Cow & Gate Half Cream	Cow & Gate Full Cream	Lactogen	Trufood
1948	171 lbs.	1164 lbs.	—	—
1949	182 lbs.	1032 lbs.	96 lbs.	36 lbs.

Work of the Health Visitors.

	District S	District SC	District E	District NC	District W	Total
First visits under 1 year :	149	147	172	209	194	871
New Cases this year	19	—	2	14	8	43
Old Cases from last year	794	615	274	262	418	2363
Re-visits under 1 year	1862	667	749	1313	2370	6961
Re-visits 1 to 5 years	4	—	—	7	6	17
First Visits to Illegitimate Infants	3	—	5	52	10	70
Re-visits " "	30	11	—	2	—	43
First Visits to Ante-natal Cases	55	4	3	1	3	66
Re-visits to Ante-natal Cases	293	55	156	207	170	881
Visits to Tuberculosis Cases	—	1	—	3	1	5
Visits to Still Births	33	25	14	65	27	164
Other Visits						
	3242	1525	1375	2135	3207	11484
	227	113	449	661	904	2354
Lost Visits						
	3469	1638	1824	2796	4111	13838

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Prevalence

The numbers of each disease notified were:—

Scarlet Fever 209	Cerebro-spinal Fever 1
Diphtheria 9	Puerperal Pyrexia ... 1
Erysipelas 9	Whooping Cough ... 169
Pneumonia, lobar ... 12	Pulmonary
Measles 697	Tuberculosis 61
Acute Polio-myelitis . 8	Other forms of
Acute	Tuberculosis 2
Polio-encephalitis 2	

Scarlet Fever

There were 106 more cases of Scarlet Fever notified during 1949 than in 1948.

The monthly notifications were:—

Jan. 25	April 12	July 12	Oct. 31
Feb. 8	May 10	Aug. 12	Nov. 41
Mar. 11	June 17	Sept. 7	Dec. 23

Diphtheria

The number of cases notified as Diphtheria each month were:—

Jan. 1	April 1	July —	Oct. 1
Feb. —	May 1	Aug. 2	Nov. —
Mar. 1	June 1	Sept. 1	Dec. —

Of the cases notified 1 was infected by diphtheria bacilli (intermedius type), the remainder were considered to be other forms of throat infections.

During the year the number of children immunized for the first time was 509, of whom 461 were under school age.

The ages of children protected against diphtheria for the first time during the year were:—

0—1 ... 105	4—5 ... 21	8—9 ... —
1—2 ... 292	5—6 ... 32	9—10 ... —
2—3 ... 25	6—7 ... 8	10—11 ... 3
3—4 ... 18	7—8 ... 4	11 & over 1

During the year a special note was made of the condition as regards immunization against diphtheria of the children examined at the school medical inspections. The percentage of children in the various groups who had been immunized were:— 5 years old 71.3%, 9 years old 70.8%, 14 years old 78.9%.

Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.

Polio-myelitis became epidemic in England and Wales in the second half of the year. Crewe did not escape this year as lightly as it did in the previous epidemic. 8 cases of polio-myelitis and 2 of polio-encephalitis were notified but other cases where this diagnosis was made or suspected brought the number up to 16. In 9 of these cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. Two cases where death occurred swiftly and with little or no warning were found on post-mortem to be due to acute encephalitis, and the verdict at the Inquests of acute polio-myelitis seemed fully justified. Of all the cases known, whether notified in Crewe or in other hospitals, 7 cases were diagnosed definitely as polio-myelitis or polio-encephalitis; of these 7 cases 4 died.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position in Crewe regarding the prevalence of tuberculosis. It will be noticed the numbers in each group are less at the end of the year than they were at the beginning.

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
On register 1-1-1949 ...	192	129	60	67	448
New notifications	33	22	—	2	57
Restored to register ...	2	4	—	—	6
Removed from register	40	32	10	17	99
On register 31-12-49 ...	187	123	50	52	412

During the year 35 pulmonary cases received residential treatment in Sanatorium or Hospital as shown in the following table:—

Market Drayton Sanatorium	27
Wrenbury Hall (from Market Drayton)	4
Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport	3
Hefferston Grange Sanatorium	2
Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool	1
Hyde Tuberculosis Pavilion	1
Isolation Hospital, Macclesfield	1

One non-pulmonary case—a child—received treatment at the High Carley Children's Annex, Ulverston.

The sites affected by non-pulmonary tuberculosis were:—

Lymphatic glands ...	57	Bones and joints ...	21
Abdomen	10	Genito-urinary tract	6
Meninges	3	Skin	5

The numbers removed from the register for recovery or death were:—

	Recovered		Died	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Pulmonary	4	3	20	13
Non-pulmonary	8	4	1	3

Water Supply

The water supply to Crewe is taken from deep wells situated at Eaton and at Whitmore under the jurisdiction of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, to whose Engineer and Manager, Mr. N. A. F. Rowntree, I am indebted for the following information. Since the Board took over the control of the Crewe Corporation and Nantwich R.D.C. Water Undertakings various inter-connections between the Eaton, Bearstone, and British Railway systems of supply have been made which are not all metered.

Estimations have been calculated with as fair a degree of accuracy as possible.

Supplies from Eaton Pumping Station	353,517,000	gallons
Supplies from British Railways	312,970,000	„
	<hr/>	
	666,487,000	
Deduct supplies to other areas	121,879,000	
	<hr/>	
	544,608,000	
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Frequent samples taken have consistently shown a high degree of bacterial purity.

All houses in the Borough are supplied directly from the mains, none are supplied by means of standpipes.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Crewe.

10th June, 1950.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Crewe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my second annual report on the sanitary circumstances and sanitary inspection of the area.

During 1949 the demands made upon the Department have been particularly heavy.

Lack of sufficient building labour and materials (particularly cement) has once again hampered progress with essential building repairs, and has retarded compliance with notices served under the provisions of the Housing and Public Health Acts. It is disappointing to be unable to report the resumption of slum clearance on any scale. New housing accommodation which has become available has been used to give families separate homes, but the needs of the population requiring to be re-housed from houses which cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost will also have to be considered in the future. The Department has been particularly handicapped in cases of unfit cottage property, let at very low rents, which do not now cover the cost of even ordinary repairs. During the year the Housing Act, 1949, became law. This Act made several important changes in housing law, but one of the most important innovations was the making available of exchequer contributions to local authorities in respect of expenditure incurred by them on the improvement of housing accommodation, and in the making of grants to other persons for such improvements. It is hoped that property owners will avail themselves of these new provisions.

In regard to meat inspection, it is interesting to note the percentage of cows and cattle, excluding cows affected with

tuberculosis, decreased by almost 7% (i.e. from 49.4% to 42.7%) in the case of cows, and by over 4% in the case of other cattle (i.e. from 21.4% to 17.2%). Despite the decrease, however, over 40% of the cows slaughtered were affected with tuberculosis, indicating as was stressed in last year's report, the need for more frequent and regular examination by veterinary officers of dairy cattle at the farm. On inspection at the slaughterhouse one calf was found to be affected with congenital tuberculosis. Details of this case were forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and as a result the dam of the calf was traced, was found to be suffering from tuberculosis, and was consequently slaughtered. I have particularly drawn attention to this case in order to illustrate the close and happy co-operation which is maintained with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department, on such matters. During the year cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were reported in various parts of the country and it became necessary for special examination of all bovine carcasses to be carried out. Meat so infested, if consumed, might give rise to tape worm in the human being. Eight carcasses were found to be affected and these were dealt with in the recommended manner.

During the year the Health Committee decided to co-operate with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the question of atmospheric pollution. Three standard deposit gauges and three sulphur dioxide recorders for measuring atmospheric pollution were stationed at three points in the Borough. Regular monthly recordings are now taken from the apparatus stationed at these points. In this regard I would like to take this opportunity of recording my very best thanks to Dr. G. E. Wilson and the staff of the British Railways Laboratory, Crewe, for the facilities, help and advice they have so willingly given.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Health and other Committees of the Council, to members of the staff, also to express appreciation to other chief officers and their staffs for their co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN GASKELL,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Nature of Inspections made	Number	No. of Notices Served		Result of Notices Served		Prosecutions	
		Informal	Statutory	Notices Complied with	Remaining in Hand	Instituted	Pending
1 Dwelling Houses (PH Act)	275	100	13	94	19	...	...
2 Dwelling Houses (Housing Act) ...	284	221	92	161	152	...	...
3 Back-to-back Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	27	3	...	3	...	...	...
5 Verminous Houses ...	102	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Privy Pails, Ashpails, etc.	1333	616	276	864	28	...	...
7 Yards and Passages ...	27	4	2	6	...	...	...
8 House Drains ...	1104	85	119	204	...	...	...
9 Ditches and Watercourses	79	8	...	1	7	...	...
10 Offensive accumulations ...	30	1	...	1	...	...	...
11 Keeping of Animals ...	17	1	...	1	...	...	...
12 Offensive Trades ...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 Piggeries ...	46	3	...	2	1	...	...
14 (a) Slaughterhouses ...	631	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Other places where food is prepared or sold ...	1683	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 Bakehouses ...	220	42	...	42	...	...	...
16 (a) Cowsheds ...	131	44	...	44	...	...	...
(b) Dairies and Milkshops	193	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 (a) Factories (Mechanical Power) ...	409	3	...	3	...	...	...
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	51	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Workplaces ...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Outworkers ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
18 Common Lodging Houses	132	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 Shops under Shops Act ...	33	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 Smoke Observations ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
21 Infectious Diseases (Enquiries and Re-visits)	682	...	...	...	...	...	...
22 Houses re overcrowding ...	92	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Milk Samples—		...	...	...	...	...	...
Bacteriological Exam. ...	74	...	...	...	...	...	...
24 Water samples ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 Food & Drugs Act (including samples) ...	184	...	...	...	...	2	...
26 Miscellaneous samples ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Applicants for Corporation houses ...	505	...	...	...	...	...	...
28 Rodent Control ...	83	...	...	...	...	...	...
29 Miscellaneous ...	701	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 Re-inspections ...	1625	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	10840	1131	502	1426	207	2	...

Closet Accommodation

The number of closets of each type in the Borough at the end of the year was:—

Water Closets	15,705
Waste Water Closets	917
Pail Closets	207
Privy Middens	5

During the year two sets of W.C. fittings were issued for the conversion of privy pails to water closets.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

13 motor vehicles (including 3 spare vehicles) are employed on the collection of household and trade refuse, and 1 for the collection of nightsoil, in addition to 2 vehicles in connection with refuse disposal.

	Tons
Household refuse collected	11,122
Trade refuse collected	741
	<hr/>
Total refuse collected by the Department during the year	11,863
	<hr/>

1,623 tons of shop and factory refuse were also brought to the Refuse Disposal Works for disposal, making a total of 13,486 tons of refuse dealt with during the year. 82% of the total passed through the Works, while the remainder was disposed of by controlled tipping.

The estimated amount of nightsoil collected during the year was 147 tons.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following table shows the number of premises dealt with during 1949.

	Number found to be Infested		Number of Premises Disinfested
	Premises	Rooms	
Council Houses	13	38	13
Other Houses	36	87	36
Cases confirmed after complaint of infestation	28	—	—
Cases found by Sanitary Inspectors	21	—	—
Houses disinfested by Corporation	—	—	47
Houses disinfested by Contractors	—	—	2

The work of disinfection carried out by the Corporation was by the use of D.D.T. and patent fumigant solutions. An infestation in two houses proved very troublesome and it was decided to treat them with hydrogen cyanide gas. This treatment was carried out by Contractors.

In addition to the premises listed above 31 houses were treated for infestations of ants, 14 houses for beetles and 1 for crickets.

Disinfectant

During the year, 142 bottles of disinfecting fluid, amounting to 15 gallons, were supplied free of charge, for use at premises where cases of infectious disease had occurred.

Library Books

Following cases of infectious disease, 58 library books belonging to the Public Library and 38 books from private libraries, were withdrawn from circulation and disinfected before being returned.

Swimming Baths

During 1949, 6 samples of the water in the swimming baths, Flag Lane, were submitted for bacteriological examination. One sample gave an unsatisfactory bacteriological result due to the absence of free chlorine but all later samples proved satisfactory.

Water Supply

5 samples of water were taken during the year from various premises in the Borough and all proved satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses

There are three common lodging houses in the Borough and the table set out below shows the number of beds available at each house:—

Situation	No. of Beds	Accommodation available for
1. 2 and 4, Cross Street	8	Males and Females
2. 9, Oak Street	22	Males only
3. 177, Market Street ...	25	Males only
Total number of beds ...	55	

The number of persons who used the lodging houses during the year is given below, with comparative figures for the two preceding years:—

	Adults		Children	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1949 ...	10,402	1,414	—	—
1948 ...	9,187	1,830	—	—
1947 ...	9,554	1,862	—	—

Offensive Trades

The following offensive trades are carried on in the Borough:—

Rage and Bone Dealers	3
Gut Scraper	1

There is also 1 Knacker's Yard in the Borough.

Pigkeepers

There are 77 persons keeping pigs on premises in the Borough.

Rag Flock

Rag flock is not manufactured on any premises in the Borough.

HOUSING STATISTICS**Number of New Houses Erected During the Year :**

(a) By the Local Authority	241
(b) By other bodies and persons	4

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Act)	321
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	559
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	221
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	284
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	221

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	146
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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	92
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	43
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	5
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	13
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(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 ...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(3)	Number of undertakings to carry out works in lieu of demolition accepted by the Council	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	25
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	43
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	217
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	19
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	25

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	228
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

As from the 1st October, 1949, The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries became responsible for the registration of dairy farms and dairy farmers and the enforcement of the legislation on farm premises.

The local authority retained their responsibility for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than farms, for the provisions relating to the distribution of milk and for those concerning diseases communicable to man. In addition, dealer's licences for designated milks continue to be issued by local authorities, while this local authority, as a Food and Drugs Authority, licence and control pasteurising plants.

Number of milk producers' premises in the Borough at 1st October, 1949	49
--	----

Distributors of Milk:

Registered distributors of loose milk	47
Registered distributors of sealed bottled milk ...	63

Designated Milk

Tuberculin Tested Milk :

Dealer's bottling licences	4
Dealer's licences	10

Pasteurised Milk

Establishments at which milk is pasteurised :

Holder Process	2
H.T.S.T. Process	1
Dealer's licences	4
Dealer's supplementary licences	1

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's licences	49
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Milk Sampling

During the year, 74 samples of designated milks were taken for bacteriological examination during the year and the following table provides details of the results :

No. of samples	Description of milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphates Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
8	Tuberculin Tested	6	2	8	—
5	Pasteurised	5	—	5	—
61	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	61	—	55	6
74	Totals	72	2	68	6

The following table shows the average fat and solids-not-fat content of the milk samples taken under the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938 :

Summary of Chemical Analyses of Milk Samples :

Period	No. of samples examined	Averages	
		Milk fat %	Solids-not-fat %
Quarter ended 31st March, 1949	27	3.61	8.71
Quarter ended 30th June, 1949	10	3.32	8.84
Quarter ended 30th September, 1949	11	3.56	8.63
Quarter ended 31st December, 1949	12	3.45	8.76
Year 1949	60	3.52	8.73

Ice Cream :

Ice cream was manufactured at 4 premises in the Borough in 1949, while 31 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

4 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination, 3 of which were placed in provisional grade 1 and 1 in provisional grade 4.

11 samples of ice cream were taken under the Food and Drugs Act for chemical analysis and average fat content per sample was 8.8%.

Meat and Other Foods :

Number of inspections of Slaughterhouses made during the year	631
Number of inspections of premises where food is stored or prepared for sale	1683
Number of inspections of bakehouses	220

The following tables show the types of animals slaughtered and inspected, with particulars of the diseases found, necessitating complete or partial condemnation.

Number of Animals Slaughtered During the Past Five Years

Year	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
1949	1305	2163	2475	11535	349	17827
1948	1331	2084	3095	11197	200	17907
1947	1682	1785	3771	10712	60	18010
1946	1454	2358	3695	14775	154	22436
1945	1211	2542	5093	9769	659	19274

MEAT INSPECTIONS AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	TOTALS
Number killed ...	1305	2163	2475	11535	349	17827
Number inspected ...	1305	2163	2475	11535	349	17827
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	38	19	15	10	85
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	558	722	3	612	36	1931
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	43.0%	35.1%	0.9%	5.4%	13.2%	11.4%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	76	2	...	4	88
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	219	847	...	...	36	1102
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	17.2%	42.7%	0.08%	...	11.5%	6.7%

WEIGHT, IN LBS., OF MEAT, ETC., CONDEMNED FOR VARIOUS REASONS

DISEASE	Beef	Veal	Mut'n	Pork	Bacon and Ham	Rab'ts and Po'try	Sausage	Fats and Cheese	Bread and Flour	Fruit and Veg.	Fish	Butter and Mar'c	Tinn'd Goods	Misc.	Totals
Tuberculosis	72906	302	...	1622	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74830
Dropsy	4297	...	136	366	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4799
Emaciation	1460	...	37	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1513
Moribund	...	38	273	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Fevered	4079	65	68	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4262
Septicaemia	6697	...	...	113	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6810
Peritonitis	557	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	557
Pneumonia	...	...	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Mastitis	250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Angioma	2168	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2168
Actinomycosis	104	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Parasites and Cysts	22112	...	1079	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23236
Abscesses	2496	28	18	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2556
Traumatism	1972	...	137	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2019
Jaundice	...	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Turnour	2	...	...	217	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Inflammation & Congest'n	100	...	24	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Pleurisy	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Pericarditis	7	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Immaturity	...	196	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Decomposition	2743	...	46	47	356	415	614	342	349	3194	870	99	5272	1043	15390
Miscellaneous	198	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
	122168	720	1818	2619	356	415	614	342	349	3194	870	99	5272	1043	139879

TOTAL WEIGHT—139,879 lbs. or 62 tons, 8 cwts., 103 lbs.

Tuberculosis in Calves

During the year notification was made to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of one calf found to be affected with Tuberculosis on inspection at the slaughterhouse. The Divisional Inspector reported that the dam of the calf had been traced and slaughtered as suffering from Tuberculosis.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1948	39
Applications for licences granted during 1949 ...	3
Number of slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1949	42

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year, 69 formal samples and 115 informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

Nature of Sample	Number of Samples		Number of Samples adulterated or not genuine
	Informal	Formal	
Milk	—	60	7
Meat & Meat Products	18	—	—
Fish & Fish Products	4	—	—
Fat	1	—	—
Jam, etc.	2	—	—
Fruit — Fresh and Preserved	3	—	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	48	—	3
Confectionery & Sweets	9	—	—
Ice Cream	13	—	—
Cordials	1	—	—
Wines, Spirits & Beers	—	9	—
Medicines, etc.	16	—	—
	115	69	
	184		10

The table below shows details of the samples found not to be genuine and of the relative action taken:

Sample number	Article	Adulteration or other irregularity	Action taken
1483 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 2% of its fat.	Vendor cautioned.
1502 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 1% of its fat.	Vendor cautioned.
1531 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 1% of its solids-not-fat	Vendor cautioned.
1536 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 2% of its solids-not-fat	Vendor cautioned.
1570 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 3% of its fat.	Vendor cautioned.
1571 Informal	Mixed Pickles	Deficient in acetic acid.	Stock withdrawn.
1626 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 11% of its fat.	Same vendor as samples 1483 and 1502. Proceedings instituted, Vendor fined £2.
1627 Formal	Milk	Deficient of 2% of its fat.	Vendor cautioned.
1644 Informal	Pickled Onions	Mouldy and slightly decomposed.	Stock withdrawn.
1652 Informal	Sponge Flour	Infested with mites.	Stock withdrawn.

RODENT CONTROL

The Corporation employ two full-time rat catchers and the extermination methods employed are poisoning, gassing and trapping. During 1949, complaints relating to 56 rat infestations and 51 mice infestations were received.

The following table summarises the treatments carried out :

	Rats	Mice
Treatments carried out.		
Major Infestations	11	5
Minor Infestations	96	173
	107	178
No. of bodies found	140	—
Estimated Kill	2914	4465

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. 400 manholes were baited and 165 takes of poison bait were recorded, showing an estimated kill of 745 rats.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

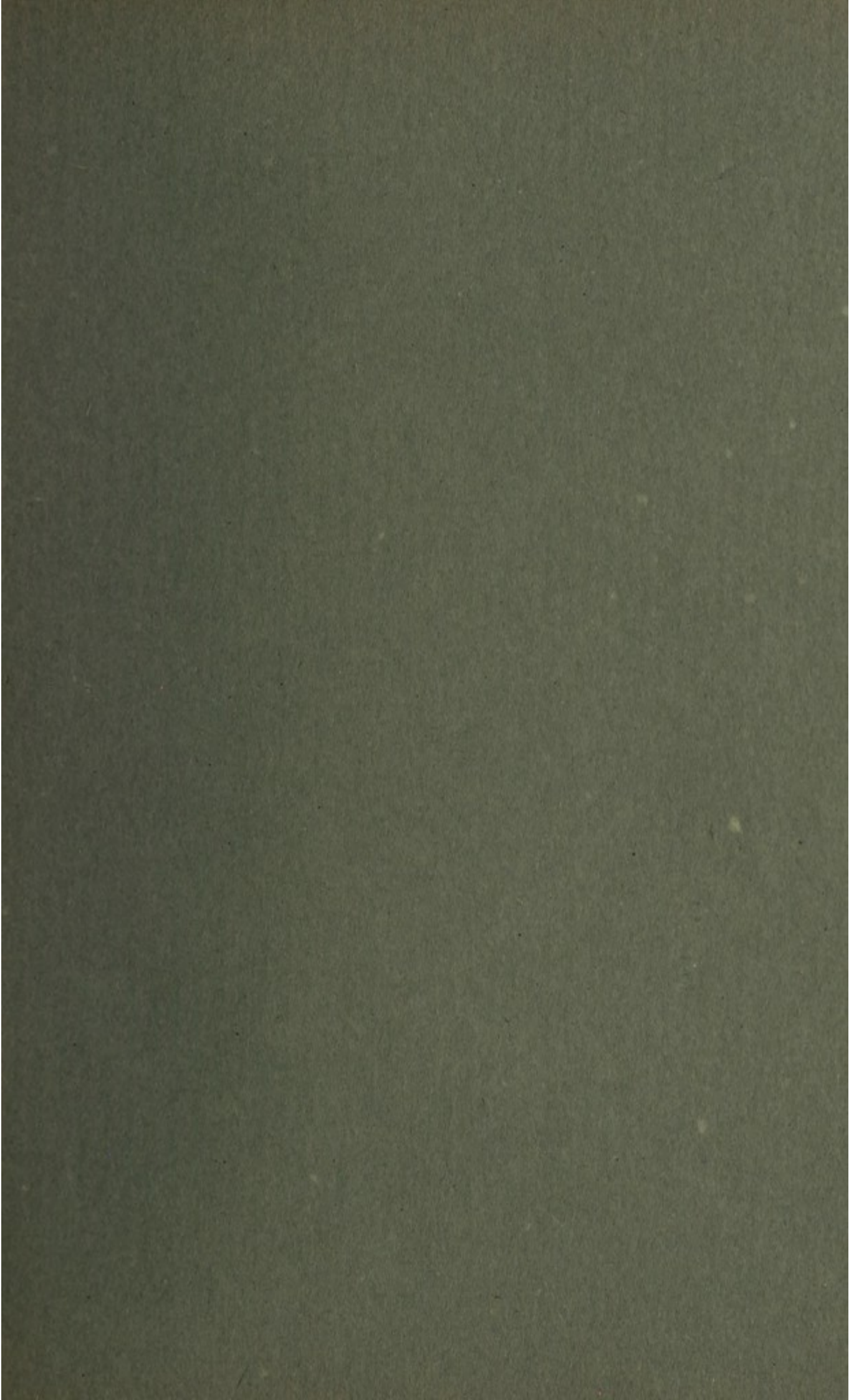
1. INSPECTIONS for purposes or provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	86	51	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	172	403	3	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	6	...	...
TOTAL	262	460	3	...

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	...	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	...	2
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	3	3	...	3

3. **OUTWORKERS.** Lists required by Section 110 were received relating to 4 outworkers, all engaged in making wearing apparel.



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