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TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH



MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report upon the public health of the Borough during the year 1938.

This Report is arranged according to the instructions given in Circular 1728 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in October, 1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area.	1884 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938.	4662.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book.	1385.
Rateable Value.	£33411.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£130.16.0.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	48.	28.	20.
Illegitimate.	1.	1.	0.

<u>Still-Births.</u>	NIL.	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.			10.73

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	61.	33.	28.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	13.08
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Deaths from Puerperal causes. Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages). Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages). 7.

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	4.	3.	1.

MR. MAYOR AND COUNCIL

I have the honor to present my Report upon the public health of the Borough during the year 1938. This Report is prepared according to the instructions given in Circular 1723 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in October, 1938.

SECTION A STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

Area. 1,884 acres.
Resident population, mid-1938. 4,863.
Number of inhabited houses (and of 1938) according to 1938. 1,985.
Rateable value. £130,16.0.
Sum represented by a penny rate.
The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:

Live Births			Still-Births		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
46	23	23	1	1	0
Infantile Mortality					
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					
10.73			Total		
28			Male		
13.03			Female		
M.I.			Deaths from Infectious Diseases		
M.I.			Deaths from Non-Infectious Diseases		
M.I.			Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		
M.I.			Deaths from Diabetes (all ages)		
M.I.			Deaths from Diphtheria (under 5 years of age)		
M.I.			Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		
M.I.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
Total			Male		
1			Female		

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i). Public Health Officers of the Authority.

a. Medical. Only one Medical Officer of Health, namely, myself, is employed by the Authority, and my appointment is a part-time one.

b. Others. Mr. R. E. Hulse, Cert. R. San. I., is a whole-time officer and combines the duties of Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

(ii). There have been no developments or changes in the services provided under the following heads :

a. Laboratory facilities.

b. Ambulance facilities. These have been good, and have only been used for the transport of sickness and accident cases. All infectious cases were removed by special ambulances provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

c. Nursing in the Home.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

e. Hospitals.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i). Water.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Water-Works Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. All samples taken for analysis were satisfactory.

(ii). Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been satisfactory.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn, and the Birmingham-Worcester Canal pass through the town. No pollution of the River Salwarpe has occurred. The water of the Canal and the field ditches in the neighbourhood has been kept under constant -- supervision and preventive measures applied when any mosquito larvae have appeared.

SECTION 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

a. Medical. Only one Medical Officer of Health, namely, myself, is employed by the Authority, and my appointment is a part-time one.

b. Others. Mr. E. H. Hulse, Cert. H. San. I., is a whole-time officer and combines the duties of Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

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- c. Nursing in the Home.
- d. Treatment Centres and Clinics.
- e. Hospitals.

SECTION 3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Water-Works Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. All samples taken for analysis were satisfactory.

(ii) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been satisfactory.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn, and the Birmingham-Worcester Canal pass through the town. No pollution of the River Salwarpe has occurred. The water of the Canal and the field ditches in the neighbourhood has been kept under constant supervision and preventive measures applied when any noxious larvae have appeared.

3. (i). Closet Accomodation.

All privies and pail closets have now been converted except in the rural and undeveloped portions of the Borough.

(ii). Public Cleansing.

The methods in use for the collection and disposal of refuse have been satisfactory.

(iii). Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Details of this will be found in the attached Tabular Statement.

(iv). Shops.

Inspections have been carried out and any necessary alterations have been done.

(v). Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary in this matter.

(vi). Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one privately owned Swimming Pool in the Borough. Samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year were all satisfactory.

(vii). Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action in connection with this matter was necessary during the year.

4. Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is fair; the water supply good. The scholars were inspected regularly during the year and all cases of infectious disease, together with contacts, were excluded.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts),	445
and number of inspections made for the purpose,	476

All premises and public places have been converted except in the rural and undeveloped portions of the Borough.

(ii) Public Places

The method is used for the collection and disposal of refuse has been satisfactory.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Details of this will be found in the attached Report.

(iv) Shops

Inspections have been carried out and any necessary alterations have been done.

(v) Public Buildings

No action has been necessary in this matter.

(vi) Swimming Pools and Pools

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the Borough. Details taken for bacteriological examination during the year were all satisfactory.

(vii) Drainage of Bad Houses

No action in connection with this matter was necessary.

During the year

4. Schools

The sanitary condition of the schools is fair; the water supply good. The schools were inspected regularly during the year and all cases of infectious disease, together with contacts, were excluded.

APPENDIX D

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), ...
and number of inspections made for the purpose, ...

Number of dwellinghouses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932,		58
and number of inspections made for the purpose ...		58
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation,		2
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those - referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation,		95
2. <u>Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.</u>		
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers,		95
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers.</u>		
a. <u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>		
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs,		2
Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
a. By owners,		Nil
b. By Local Authority in default of owners,		2
<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>		
a. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied,		19
b. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : (i) By Owners,		19
<u>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.</u>		
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made,		Nil
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders,		14
<u>Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.</u>		
Nonproceedings were taken under this Section during the year.		Nil
4. <u>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.</u>		
a. (i). Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year,		60
(ii). Number of families dwelling therein, ...		64
(iii). Number of persons dwelling therein,		393
b. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year,		Nil

58	Number of dwellings (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, 1932 and 1933, and number of inspections made for the purpose.
58	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to unfit for human habitation.
58	Number of dwellings (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.
58	Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.
58	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.
58	Action under Statutory Powers.
58	a. Proceedings under Sections 5, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
58	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.
58	Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
58	a. By owners.
58	b. By local authority in default of owners.
58	Proceedings under Public Health Act.
58	a. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.
58	b. Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
58	(i) By owners.
58	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.
58	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.
58	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.
58	Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.
58	Nonproceedings were taken under this Section during the year.
58	Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.
58	a. (i). Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.
58	(ii). Number of families dwelling therein.
58	(iii). Number of persons dwelling therein.
58	b. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.

- | | | |
|---|-------|-----|
| c. (i). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, | | 1 |
| (ii). Number of persons concerned in such, | | 5 |
| d. Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, | | Nil |
| e. The erection of 70 houses to relieve overcrowding was commenced at the end of the year. | | |

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and all samples taken by him were satisfactory.

b. Meat.

All meat shops, stores and slaughter-houses in the Borough were inspected regularly throughout the year and found to be satisfactory.

During the year 75 lbs. meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

c. Adulteration.

No action was taken during the year.

d. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Bacteriologist at the Shirehall, Worcester.

During the year a successful prosecution was made under Section 20 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, in connection with a liquid egg business being carried on in the Borough, and 135,000 eggs were condemned and seized under a magistrate's order. As a result of this prosecution the business has now been closed.

- 1
3
- c. (i). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year
 - (ii). Number of persons concerned in each
 - d. Particulars of any cases in which dwellings have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.
 - e. The operation of 70 houses to relieve overcrowding was commenced at the end of the year.

SECTION 2.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

a. MILK.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and all samples taken by him were satisfactory.

b. MEAT.

All meat shops, butchers and slaughter-houses in the Borough were inspected regularly throughout the year and found to be satisfactory.

During the year 75 lbs. meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

c. ADULTERATION.

No action was taken during the year.

d. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

This work is carried out by the County Bacteriologist at the Council's Laboratory.

During the year a successful prosecution was made

under Section 80 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, in connection with a larder and business being carried on in the Borough, and 125,000 eggs were condemned and seized under a magistrate's order. As a result of this prosecution the business has now been closed.

SECTION F.

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

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	2.	2.	-
Diphtheria.	6.	6.	1.
Erysipelas.	1	-	-

An analysis of the cases notified under age groups showed :

Scarlet Fever occurred in 2 cases at age 4.

Diphtheria occurred in 6 cases at ages 5, 9, 12, 14, 27 and 31; the one death occurring at age 5.

Erysipelas occurred in 1 case at age 75.

Details with regard to new cases of Tuberculosis are as follows :

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
4.	3.	-	1.

No action was taken in 1938 under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (affecting the employment of tuberculosis persons in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1927, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (affecting the compulsory removal to Hospital of cases of Tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr. Arthur V. Holyoake, the Town Clerk; Mr. R. E. Hulse, the Borough Surveyor; and their Staffs for the help they have given me in compiling this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Arthur S. Roden

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1939.

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SECTION V.
PREVALENCE OF THE CONTROL OVER INFECTIONS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Gastroenteritis	2	2	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Rheumatism	1	1	1

An analysis of the cases notified under age groups showed:

Gastroenteritis occurred in 2 cases at age 1.
 Diphtheria occurred in 1 case at ages 2, 3, 12, 14, 27
 and 31; the one death occurring at age 3.
 Rheumatism occurred in 1 case at age 10.
 Details with regard to new cases of Tuberculosis are

Male	Female	Total
4	3	7

No action was taken in 1933 under the Public Health
 (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1927, affecting the employment of
 tuberculosis patients in the milk trade or under Section 63 of the
 Public Health Act, 1927, or Section 175 of the Public Health Act,
 1936, affecting the compulsory removal to Hospital of cases of
 Tuberculosis.

My thanks are due to Mr. Arthur V. Holman, the Town
 Clerk, Mr. E. H. Miles, the Borough Surveyor, and their Staffs for
 the help they have given me in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,
 Yours obedient servant,
W. H. Miles
 Medical Officer of Health

August, 1933.