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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF DUDLEY
FOR THE YEAR 1918

AND OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR

DUDLEY :

PRINTED AT THE HERALD PRESS

1919

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

| | | | | | | |
|------------|--|--------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| POPULATION | 1891 Census | ... | | | 45,740 | |
| | „ 1901 Census | ... | | | 48,525 | |
| | „ 1911 Census | ... | | | 51,079 | |
| | „ 1912 Estimated at end | | | | | |
| | of June, 1912 | ... | | | 51,466 | |
| | „ 1913, estimated | ... | | | 51,966 | |
| | „ 1914, estimated | ... | | | 52,580 | |
| | „ 1915, estimated | ... | | | 52,580 | |
| | „ 1916, estimated | ... | | | 52,580 | |
| | „ 1917, estimated | ... | | | 54,000 | |
| | „ 1918, estimated | ... | | | 54,000 | |
| ELEVATION | { | Cawney Hill | ... | 820 feet above sea level | | |
| | | St. Thomas' Church | 700 | „ „ | | |
| | | Eve Hill | ... | 720 | „ „ | |
| | | Netherton | ... | 610 | „ „ | |
| | | Woodside | ... | 570 | „ „ | |
| | Geological Formation | ... | Limestone, Carboniferous & Heavy Clays | | | |
| | Area of the Borough | ... | ... | ... | 3,602 acres | |
| | Number of Inhabited Houses, Census, 1911 | ... | ... | ... | 10,957 | |
| | Birth Rate, 1918 | ... | ... | ... | 24.92 | |
| | Nett Death Rate, 1918 | ... | ... | ... | 18.25 | |
| | Death Rate from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | .8 | |
| | Influenza Death Rate | ... | ... | ... | 2.2 | |
| | Death Rate under 1 year age per 1,000 Births | ... | ... | ... | 132 | |
| | Total Deaths under 5 years of age | ... | ... | ... | 319 | |

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the County Borough of Dudley.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to present to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough for the year ending, December 31st, 1918.

The most important matter which your Committee have had to consider during the year has been the employment of a whole-time Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer to replace the part time officials of the Corporation and Education Authority. After much deliberation and conference between the Health Committee and the Education Committee, rules and conditions of appointment of a whole-time Officer were agreed upon, and the Appointment advertised, with the result that an appointment was made to the office; the gentleman appointed subsequently requested to be released, and the position was again advertised at an increased salary; at the end of the year it was expected that the position would be satisfactorily filled and the services of a competent whole time Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer secured.

With respect to the routine work of the Health Department during the year, the Housing question, and the severe epidemic of Influenza experienced in the 3rd and 4th Quarters of the year, are the features of most interest and are dealt with in some detail in the substance of this Report.

In accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board only urgent and necessary matters are dealt with in the Report, but the forms which were officially ordered to be kept in pre-war days, have again been utilized for the returns since, although they are not asked for by the Board, they constitute a continuous series in definite form of our vital statistics.

The Birth Rates for Dudley in recent years have been :—

| Year | Total Births | Birth Rate per 1,000 |
|------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1893 | 1,698 | 37.10 |
| 1894 | 1,685 | 36.03 |
| 1895 | 1,739 | 38 |
| 1896 | 1,739 | 38 |
| 1897 | 1,735 | 36.01 |
| 1898 | 1,739 | 35.72 |
| 1899 | 1,800 | 36.35 |
| 1900 | 1,695 | 32.85 |
| 1901 | 1,741 | 35.73 |
| 1902 | 1,752 | 35.73 |
| 1903 | 1,691 | 33.93 |
| 1904 | 1,779 | 35.18 |
| 1905 | 1,593 | 30.99 |
| 1906 | 1,552 | 29.73 |
| 1907 | 1,637 | 31.34 |
| 1908 | 1,610 | 30.26 |
| 1909 | 1,554 | 28.61 |
| 1910 | 1,476 | 27.17 |
| 1911 | 1,414 | 27.50 |
| 1912 | 1,432 | 27.84 |
| 1913 | 1,470 | 28.28 |
| 1914 | 1,502 | 28.56 |
| 1915 | 1,460 | 27.69 |
| 1916 | 1,297 | 24.67 |
| 1917 | 1,394 | 25.81 |
| 1918 | 1,355 | 25.09 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Deaths—The total number of Deaths registered in the Borough during 1918, was 956; to these must be added 80 deaths of Dudley people who died away from home in other districts, and were transferred by the Registrar General, to Dudley. From this total are deducted the deaths of 53 non-residents which were registered in the Borough. The number of Deaths for statistical purposes is therefore 986, and the Nett Death Rate, after correction is 18.25, which is the highest death rate recorded in the Borough since 1904. This higher Death Rate is entirely attributable to the deaths of 119 persons from Influenza, and 179 from Pneumonia; nearly one-third of the total mortality for the year is due to these two causes; if 91 deaths from Bronchitis are added to the Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality, the total deaths from these three diseases would be 389 out of a total of 986 deaths.

The Borough is not a military station, and the figures refer to the civilian population only.

Births.—The number of Births registered in the Borough during 1918 was 1348, and the inward transfers of Births by the Registrar General, were 7; the total number of Births was therefore 1,355. The Birth Rate is equivalent to 25.09 of the population; in the previous year this rate was 25.81 per thousand, so it remained on about the same level during the past year. It is to be hoped that the present low Birth Rates will show a substantial increase when Peace is finally and definitely settled.

Of children born in the Borough, 707 were males, and 641 females.

Infant Mortality.—The Deaths registered under one year of age, were 179 in number, and the number of Births was 1,355. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 132, which is a considerable increase upon the previous year, when the figure was 109; increased deaths from Congenital Debility and Influenza are accountable for the rate being higher.

Infectious Diseases.—No case of Small Pox was notified in the Borough during 1918, a case occurred in an adjacent district of which information was sent officially, but fortunately the disease did not spread to Dudley; a careful look out was observed for any suspicious case.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Only one case of Typhoid or Enteric Fever was notified during the year; this occurred in St. James' Ward, and the man was treated in the Borough Hospital, he made a good recovery; no certain cause for the attack could be ascertained. The incidence of this disease in Dudley is very low, and contrasts very favourably with the numbers reported a few years ago, before the conversion of privy-middens to W.Cs.

DIPHTHERIA.

Six cases of Diphtheria were notified, as compared with 16 in the previous year. Injection of Anti-toxin was resorted to in 3 cases; no deaths occurred and the cases were all mild in type.

A supply of Anti-toxin has been kept in stock by the Medical Officer of Health during the year at the expense of the Corporation, and supplied to Medical men on request, free of charge. I am in hope that this will be continued; it has been supplied for a number of years at very small cost, and has frequently proved most valuable in dealing with emergency cases of Diphtheria; it is necessary to use this remedy immediately, to obtain the best result, and precious time is lost if it has to be procured from London.

Of the six notified cases of Diphtheria, one occurred in St. Thomas' Ward, two in St. John's, and three in St. Edmund's Ward.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

Twenty-five deaths were registered from these diseases during the year, as compared with twenty-two in the previous year; 17 of these were under the age of one year; 5 between one and two years; one was between 5 and 15, and one between 45 and 65; of the 25 deaths, 2 were located in St. Thomas', 3 in

Castle, 2 in St. Edmund's, 3 in St. James', 7 in St. John's, 7 in Netherton, and 1 in Woodside Wards.

The Mortality figure for Diarrhœa and Enteritis, in 1918, was .4 per thousand.

SCARLET FEVER.

Last year I reported that in 1917, Scarlet Fever statistics were more favourable than in any year since notification came into operation, as only 30 cases were notified, and no death occurred; I am glad to be able to report that for 1918 this figure is further improved, for during the whole year only 25 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, and again no death was reported; we may certainly claim that in Dudley, the policy of not maintaining an expensive Hospital and Staff for the so-called Isolation of these cases, which is really aggregation, has abundantly justified itself; at present the extremely low incidence, with a mortality of practically nil, from Scarlet Fever, is quite remarkable for a Town with the local conditions of Housing and industrial circumstances of Dudley.

PHTHISIS.

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis notified, was 56, of which 40 were cases of Lung Disease, the other 16 were chiefly cases of Tubercular Glands in the neck, or Tubercular Abdominal disease; in the previous year 67 cases of Lung Disease were notified, therefore there is a considerable improvement in this direction, if all the cases which occurred have been notified; there is also an improvement in the mortality figure, for only 50 persons died from Tubercular Lung Diseases, in 1918, as compared with 62 in the previous year. It would almost appear that the administrative and educational measures adopted for dealing with Tuberculosis, are beginning to shew some return in the direction of lessened incidence and decreased Mortality from Tubercular disease. It is gratifying to be able to report that increased Sanatorium accommodation for the treatment of Surgical Tuberculosis, and for the treatment of Tubercular

children is in contemplation for Staffordshire, which will also benefit Dudley. I drew attention, in my Report for last year, to the urgency of the need which existed for this additional accommodation. During the year a number of delicate children were again sent to the Open-Air Schools at Malvern, by the Education Committee, and all derived much benefit. By arrangement with the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committees, the services of our two Health Visitors are available for visiting and reporting upon Tubercular cases among insured persons, but there is room for closer co-ordination between the work of our Health Department and the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The total Deaths from Phthisis during the past 17 years have been :—

| Year | | | | Total Phthisis Deaths |
|------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| 1902 | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| 1903 | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| 1904 | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| 1905 | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| 1906 | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| 1907 | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| 1908 | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| 1910 | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| 1911 | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| 1912 | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| 1913 | ... | ... | ... | 49 |
| 1914 | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| 1915 | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| 1916 | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| 1917 | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| 1918 | ... | ... | ... | 50 |

MEASLES.

Measles has continued to be epidemic during 1918, but has not been attended with the degree of mortality experienced in the previous year. During 1918 the notified cases of Measles

numbered 556, as compared with 786 in the previous year. During the past year, 1918, only 8 deaths were registered from Measles, while in the previous year 48 deaths occurred from this cause, so that although there have been a considerable number of cases, mortality from Measles has been low. The Health visitors have visited nearly all the notified cases. I am of opinion that the decreased Mortality from Measles is attributable largely to the increased care which the people now take when their children are attacked, the visits of the Health Visitors have certainly done much to insure this increased amount of care.

BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Only one case of Enteric has been treated in the Hospital during the year, but it is always ready for any emergency case, and all the public disinfection of clothing and bedding is done there by the Steam Disinfector. Mr. Williams, the Disinfecting Officer, who is in charge of the Disinfecting Station at the Hospital, has now returned to his duties, after a period of military service, followed by detention in Germany as a prisoner of war.

During the year the Military Authorities suggested using the Hospital for a Military Post if necessary, but the Health Committee did not see their way to accede to their request.

MIDWIVES' ACTS.

There are 14 Midwives upon the register, who practice in Dudley, but only 8 of these reside within the Borough; of these one is not practising as a Midwife, but acts as a Monthly Nurse; of the 7 women actually practising as Midwives, two receive an honorarium of £25 per annum from the Corporation. During the year one Midwife, who was appointed by the Council to Netherton Ward, died, and another, who was appointed to Holly Hall and Woodside, left in less than a month from the date of her appointment; every effort has been made to obtain two trained and certificated Midwives for these vacancies; as no applications were received after repeated advertisement, I recommended the

Council to increase the honorarium offered; the appointments were again advertised at £50 per annum as an honorarium, and two very suitable candidates were appointed, but both subsequently withdrew their applications and declined to come. It is evident that for some reason, the attractions of Midwifery practice in Dudley are not sufficient to induce the better class of Midwives to undertake this work, even when they are offered a substantial honorarium.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, with the exception of the Midwifery, has been carried on very successfully during the year, at the Town Hall. Sessions are held twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons; the Health Visitors attend on Tuesday for the purpose of weighing the babies, and giving general advice, and the Medical Officer of Health attends from 3 to 5 on Friday afternoons for consultation and advice.

The supply of Infant foods, chiefly Glaxo, and Cow and Gate Food, at cost price, has been continued during the year, and has been a great benefit to many of the mothers and infants attending the Centre, particularly to the wives of men serving in the Army. The details of the work carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre, are given in the Reports of the Health Visitors; the two rooms in use at the Town Hall for the Centre are too small now that the work is increasing, and it is proposed to remove the Centre as soon as practicable to "The Firs," which will provide abundant and suitable accommodation of the best kind. Some arrangement should be made for providing tea for the Mothers in connexion with the Centre, as many of them come from Netherton, Harts Hill, Pensnett, Tividale and other areas outside the Borough. The work of the Centre has been very interesting, I believe it has been useful, and I am sure the Mothers have been grateful for the advice and attention given.

POPULATION.

I have again based my estimate of population upon the excess of Births over Deaths, influx of workers to the District,

and exodus of young men joining the Services. I am of opinion from the Statistical data available, that the population is about 54,000 and I have again calculated my returns upon this figure.

BIRTHS.

The Birth Rate for 1918 was 25.09, as compared with 25.81 for the previous year, so there is again a slight falling off in the Birth Rate, but it is to be expected that with a return to Peace conditions, and demobilization, the Birth Rate will soon show a substantial increase.

The total number of Births notified to the Medical Officer of Health under the Notification of Births Act, was 1,008, of which 555 were males and 453 females.

Of the total number, medical practitioners notified 240 Births, Midwives 798, and parents 8.

During the year the Health Visitors have done an enormous amount of work of a routine character, the details of which may be seen in their Reports.

328 Births were notified by the Registrar, which had not been previously notified, and 12 were discovered by the Health Visitors in the course of their daily work.

Since the total number of Births registered during 1918 was 1,348, and only 1,020 were notified or discovered, it is obvious that a large percentage of Births are not notified. It is difficult to assign a cause for this failure to notify, but as there is a penalty for non-notification, it will be absolutely necessary for some further action to be taken by the Health Committee unless there is an improvement in this direction.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

DUDLEY TOWN AND KATE'S HILL DISTRICT.

BIRTHS.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1918.

| BIRTHS | | Males | Females | Total | BY WHOM NOTIFIED (includes still-births) | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------|---------|--------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Notified to Medical Officer ... | 334 | 261 | 595 | Medical Practitioners | 166 | |
| Discovered | 2 | 0 | 2 | Midwives | 447 | |
| Notified by Registrar .. | 104 | 138 | 241 | Monthly Nurse ... | 1 | |
| | | | | Parents | 7 | |
| Live Births | 440 | 399 | 838 | Discovered by Health Visitors | 2 | |
| Still Births | 17 | 9 | 26 | Registrar | 241 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | | | 864 | Total .. | 864 | |

| VISITS | | No. | FEEDING | No. |
|------------------------------|------|-------------------------|---------|-----|
| 1 First Visits | 412 | Breast Fed | 364 | |
| 2 Revisits to Babics | 607 | Artificially Fed | 22 | |
| 3 General Advice | 388 | Still-born | 26 | |
| 4 Visits to Midwives | 25 | | | |
| 5 Measles | 41 | | | |
| 6 Revisits to Measles | 5 | | | |
| 7 Ante-Natal | 35 | | | |
| 8 House Inspection | 25 | | | |
| 9 Common Yards | 32 | | | |
| 10 Ophthalmia Cases | 1 | | | |
| 11 Special Visits | 64 | | | |
| 12 Influenza Cases | 4 | | | |
| 13 Tuberculosis Cases .. | 119 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total | 1738 | Total .. | 412 | |

J. D. CLEOBURY,

Health Visitor.

STATISTICAL RETURN.
NETHERTON AND WOODSIDE DISTRICT.

BIRTHS.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1918.

| BIRTHS | Males | Females | Total | BY WHOM NOTIFIED | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Notified to Medical Officer ... | 221 | 192 | 413 | Medical Practitioners | 74 |
| Discovered ... | 3 | 7 | 10 | Midwives ... | 35 ¹ |
| Registrar ... | 52 | 35 | 87 | Health Visitor ... | 10 |
| Still Births ... | 10 | 3 | 13 | Registrar ... | 87 |
| | | | | Parents ... | 1 |
| Total ... | 286 | 237 | 523 | Total ... | 523 |

| VISITS | | No. | FEEDING | | No. |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-----|
| 1 | First Visits ... | 522 | Breast Fed ... | 434 | |
| 2 | Revisits to Babies ... | 2271 | Artificially Fed ... | 75 | |
| 3 | General Advice ... | 691 | Still-born ... | 13 | |
| 4 | Visits to Midwives ... | 127 | | | |
| 5 | Measles ... | 507 | | | |
| 6 | Revisits to Measles... | 162 | | | |
| 7 | Ante-Natal Visits ... | 104 | | | |
| 8 | House Inspection ... | 41 | | | |
| 9 | Common Yards ... | 15 | | | |
| 10 | Ophthalmia Case ... | 1 | | | |
| 11 | Puerperal Septicaemia ... | 1 | | | |
| 12 | Influenza Cases ... | 31 | | | |
| | Total ... | 4473 | Total ... | 522 | |

No. of illegitimate children born in Borough:
Males, 25. Females, 25.

M. A. EVANS,

Health Visitor.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Number of Infants attended during the year, 184.

Number of attendances, 537.

Number of Women attended for advice, 27.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in Dudley during 1918 was 956, or 18.25 per thousand of the population, after correction by deducting deaths of 53 non-residents, and the addition of 80 deaths of Dudley people dying away from home.

The Death Rate in England and Wales, from all causes, in 1918, was 17.6, and in 96 great Towns, including London (census populations exceeding 50,000), the rate was 18.2; the Death Rate in Dudley was, therefore, almost exactly the average one of the 96 great Towns.

The Annual Death Rate in the Borough for the past 22 years is appended.

| Year. | | | | Death Rate. |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1897 | ... | ... | ... | 23.73 |
| 1898 | ... | ... | ... | 23.17 |
| 1899 | ... | ... | ... | 20.51 |
| 1900 | ... | .. | ... | 20.45 |
| 1901 | ... | ... | ... | 19.25 |
| 1902 | ... | .. | ... | 17.54 |
| 1903 | ... | ... | ... | 19.17 |
| 1904 | ... | ... | ... | 18.82 |
| 1905 | ... | ... | ... | 17.52 |
| 1906 | ... | ... | ... | 16.23 |
| 1907 | ... | ... | ... | 17.32 |
| 1908 | ... | ... | ... | 15.28 |
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | 15.24 |
| 1910 | ... | ... | ... | 14.25 |
| 1911 | ... | ... | ... | 15.69 |
| 1912 | ... | ... | ... | 15.48 |

| Year. | | | | Death Rate. |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1913 | ... | ... | ... | 17.53 |
| 1914 | ... | ... | ... | 16.0 |
| 1915 | ... | ... | ... | 16.31 |
| 1916 | ... | ... | ... | 14.97 |
| 1917 | ... | ... | ... | 13.70 |
| 1918 | ... | ... | ... | 18.25 |

MONTHLY DEATH RATE FROM ALL CAUSES.

The Monthly Death Rates from all causes for the past 10 years is given below, but deaths of residents dying away from home are not included, as the figures were not available when the Monthly Reports were presented. Non-residents have been excluded, so the rates are corrected for actual deaths in Dudley.

| | 1909 | 1910 | 1911 | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January ... | 15.88 | 14.90 | 13.4 | 18.20 | 16.34 | 18.0 | 16.71 | 17.06 | 17.01 | 10.83 |
| February | 13.19 | 17.23 | 15.08 | 25.79 | 13.64 | 18.51 | 17.25 | 14.64 | 17.55 | 14.4 |
| March ... | 17.76 | 14.36 | 16.03 | 14.41 | 17.42 | 18.01 | 14.63 | 16.56 | 17.3 | 13.77 |
| April .. | 15.15 | 15.08 | 14.33 | 10.31 | 15.15 | 21.01 | 22.90 | 14.09 | 19.77 | 13.48 |
| May ... | 18.32 | 12.44 | 10.6 | 16.43 | 13.89 | 17.01 | 16.32 | 17.4 | 16.4 | 15.21 |
| June ... | 14.27 | 12.2 | 10.43 | 8.14 | 16.16 | 12.4 | 12.06 | 14.83 | 10.13 | 9.61 |
| Ju. & Aug. | 13.67 | 22.63 | 13.49 | 9.27 | 13.4 | 9.54 | 10.38 | 9.49 | 8.92 | 10.4 |
| September | 10.0 | 11.46 | 17.04 | 12.43 | 18.51 | 11.69 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 8.81 | 13.96 |
| October ... | 12.21 | 10.29 | 20.35 | 8.0 | 14.31 | 9.52 | 13.84 | 10.9 | 8.24 | 14.0 |
| November | 13.48 | 12.44 | 9.5 | 11.25 | 15.73 | 14.32 | 15.32 | 10.38 | 9.81 | 10.47 |
| December | 17.59 | 11.48 | 16.28 | 9.85 | 16.76 | 14.09 | 18.05 | 12.36 | 10.83 | 25.27 |

MILK SUPPLY.

In the early months of the year there was a milk shortage, and parents of young infants had difficulty in procuring a sufficient supply. In March I reported that "Orders have been issued by the Food Controller and The Local Government Board, under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, which empower the Council to supply Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and Milk for children under 5 years of age. Milk may only be supplied in certain definite quantities, and can be supplied free or at less than cost price, if a person authorised by the Council certifies that it is needed for a necessitous case."

It was suggested that the food be supplied through Medical Officers of Health, and Infant Welfare Centres. I recommended that a supply of "Glaxo," and "Cow and Gate" dried milk be obtained and distributed through the Child Welfare Centre at the Town Hall.

The Board's Grant is available, and will amount to half the expenditure in the approved scheme.

This recommendation was adopted and a supply of "Glaxo," and "Cow and Gate" Milk was obtained, and was regularly distributed throughout the year at cost price for children who were attending at the Centre. I am of opinion that this continues to be of much assistance to the Mothers; in the early months of the year, many of them could not obtain this food except at the Centre. As regards the general supply of fresh milk, there was a continued shortage during the whole of the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Details of this work are given in Mr. Atkinson's Report. With respect to the Meat supplied in the Borough, there was certainly a shortage in the earlier part of the year, and also during the winter months many people experienced a difficulty in obtaining even the small quantity allowed by their Ration Cards. A very large amount of American and Colonial meat was supplied relatively to fresh meat in the Borough; a good deal of meat supplied was of poor quality, and not very nutritious.

No prosecution for bad meat was necessary during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected by Mr. Atkinson, and most of them are in an entirely satisfactory condition; several of the older bakeries have discontinued bread-baking, as the owners find it pays better to purchase the bread from the larger firms with steam bakeries, and then retail it.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza became epidemic in the Borough in the early part of July, and was almost pandemic during the weeks ending July 13th and July 20th, after which it disappeared as rapidly as it arose. Isolated cases continued to occur during August, but the disease no longer existed as an epidemic during the month.

During the month of July, 15 deaths were directly attributable to Influenza, and 34 deaths to Pneumonia, including 3 which occurred during the first week in August. Many of these must be ascribed to the Influenza Bacillus or a Micrococcus infecting the respiratory organs; both varieties were found during this epidemic.

There appears to be no real prevention, although it is possible that spraying the nose and throat with an anti-septic solution may confer some protection; the use of Formalin lozenges or tabloids is also possibly of value. A weak solution of permanganate of potassium is recommended for spraying the cavities of the nose. The fever during this epidemic usually lasted for 3 or 5 days. Quinine appears to be useless as a preventative. Perhaps the most important point is to remain in bed while the fever lasts in Influenza.

From the end of July, Influenza disappeared from the Borough until the first week in September, when a few cases occurred and two deaths were reported, but the disease again became epidemic in most serious form in the last week of October, and continued until the end of the year. The actual weekly deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia during this period were :—

| | | | | | Influenza. | Pneumonia. |
|-------------|----------|----------|------|------|------------|------------|
| Week ending | November | 2, | 1918 | ... | 6 | 3 |
| " | " | November | 9, | 1918 | 7 | 7 |
| " | " | November | 16, | 1918 | 18 | 13 |
| " | " | November | 23, | 1918 | 19 | 21 |
| " | " | November | 30, | 1918 | 20 | 23 |
| " | " | December | 7, | 1918 | 16 | 14 |
| " | " | December | 14, | 1918 | 7 | 16 |
| " | " | December | 21, | 1918 | 3 | 1 |
| " | " | December | 28, | 1918 | 1 | 1 |

During this epidemic, mortality was most marked at the middle period of life; some of this mortality was due to people continuing at work instead of giving up and remaining in bed when attacked. It should be recognised by the public that the fever lasts for five days at least, during which time the greatest care should be exercised, as this disease is exceedingly dangerous and very infectious.

The total deaths during both epidemics were, 119 from Influenza, and 179 from Pneumonia, or nearly one-third of the total mortality.

Measures taken for dealing with Influenza were as follows: Owing to the very large number of children attacked I visited personally many of the Elementary Schools in the Borough, and advised the closure forthwith for 3 weeks of the Park Schools, the Higher Elementary, and Kate's Hill Council School. Subsequently, as the numbers increased, I advised the closure of the whole of the Schools in the Borough, and this was complied with.

In accordance with instructions received from the Local Government Board, the managers of Theatres and Picture Houses were notified that children under 15 were prohibited from attendance at these places. The managers of all the Sunday Schools in the Borough were also communicated with, and requested to close their schools for a period, and this was complied with.

Dr. McNulty, of the Local Government Board, visited the Town in connection with this epidemic, and I had a long conference with him.

A very considerable strain was imposed upon the local Medical and Nursing Professions by the large number of Influenza and Pneumonia cases which had to be dealt with, and every one worked very hard. This was the most serious epidemic of which I have had knowledge during a period of 21 years as Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

In January, the Housing Special Sub-Committee instructed the Borough Surveyor to prepare a plan, plotting out the land fronting Birmingham Road, in building plots, and also suggested to the Estates and Cemetery Committee, that the Firs Estate, Claughton Road, should also be plotted out as well as the Brewery Fields Estate.

At their meeting in February, the Special Sub-Committee approved of the plans for plotting out both Estates.

NETHERTON HOUSING.

In October, the Sub-Committee having been in negotiation with Lord Dudley's Agent for the purchase of land adjoining Recreation Street, and the Northfield Road Schools, Netherton, for housing purposes, the area being 8a. 2r. 10p., and the price £5,160, recommended the purchase of the land off Northfield Road, for housing purposes, at the price asked by Lord Dudley's Agent, provided he would include at the same price, certain land adjoining Recreation Street.

At their November meeting, the Sub-Committee recommended to the Council that they should be authorised by the Council to prepare a scheme for the erection of 120 houses (as an instalment of the 500 houses the Council decided on in October, 1917), at Red Hill, on the land presented by Alderman Grazebrook, Captain Grazebrook and Mr. Palethorpe, and on adjoining land purchased by the Corporation. The scheme to be subject to the terms set out in the Board's circular letter of March 18th. The Sub-Committee further recommended that in the letting of houses at Red Hill, preference be given to workers at Netherton, pending the carrying out of a scheme at Netherton.

Since the end of the year, material progress has been made with the Housing Schemes, both for Netherton and Woodside. There continues up to the present, to be an acute shortage of houses throughout the Borough.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Company, has continued to be of excellent quality, and no instance of any shortage of quantity supplied has been brought to my notice during the year. The water continues to be analysed at regular intervals, by the Borough Analyst, and his Reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

In concluding this, my final Report, upon the health of the Borough, I desire to express to the Council and the Health Committee, my sincere thanks for the uniform courtesy and sympathetic consideration and support I have always received during the 21 years I have endeavoured to serve the Council in the responsible position of their Medical Officer of Health. My thanks are also due to Mr. Atkinson, your Chief Inspector, for his loyal and valued help during many years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. HOWARD WILKINSON.

June, 1919.

The number of Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases in the various Wards was:—

| Diseases | St. Thomas | Castle | St. Edmund | St. James | St. John | Netherton | Woodside | Guest Hospital | Boro' Hospital |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | 1 | — | — | — | 6 | 1 | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | 2 | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | 3 | — | — |
| Small Pox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhoea | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 1 | — | — |

Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases were:—

| Diseases | Total Deaths | Under 5 years | 5 years and upwards |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — |
| Measles | 8 | 8 | — |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 1 | — |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 10 | 9 | 1 |
| Small Pox | — | — | — |
| Diarrhœa | 25 | 22 | 3 |

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

The subjoined table gives the Deaths at various age periods for the last fourteen years.

| | 1905 | 1906 | 1907 | 1908 | 1909 | 1910 | 1911 | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Under 1 year | 277 | 247 | 250 | 228 | 212 | 193 | 214 | 162 | 218 | 209 | 181 | 154 | 153 | 179 |
| Between 1 and 5 years | 150 | 107 | 159 | 102 | 142 | 102 | 120 | 65 | 145 | 103 | 102 | 89 | 118 | 140 |
| Between 5 and 15 yrs. | 36 | 44 | 46 | 32 | 49 | 24 | 28 | 34 | 38 | 37 | 32 | 36 | 50 | 71 |
| Between 15 and 25 yrs. | 33 | 33 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 24 | 32 | 33 | 37 | 32 | 25 | 42 | 30 | 53 |
| Between 25 and 65 yrs | 256 | 233 | 249 | 245 | 227 | 233 | 223 | 265 | 277 | 260 | 271 | 240 | 254 | 341 |
| Over 65 years | 199 | 183 | 167 | 172 | 165 | 156 | 193 | 238 | 196 | 205 | 247 | 226 | 182 | 175 |

TABLE III.
DUDLEY COUNTY BOROUGH.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1918

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Deaths of "Residents," whether in or beyond district | | | | | | | | Total Deaths in Institutions in the District | |
|---|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | All ages | Under 1 Year | 1 and Under 2 | 2 and Under 5 | 5 and Under 15 | 15 and Under 25 | 25 and Under 45 | 45 and Under 65 | | 65 and up-wards |
| All causes { Certified ... Uncertified ... | 959 | 179 | 69 | 71 | 71 | 53 | 151 | 190 | 175 | 88 |
| Enteric Fever ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles... | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Scarlet fever ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping-cough ... | 10 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | | | | | |
| Diphtheria ... | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Influenza ... | 119 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 38 | 26 | 11 | |
| Erysipelas ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meningitis ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Organic Heart Disease ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis (Pul'ary Tuberculosis) | 50 | | 2 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 19 | 5 | | 2 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis ... | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Other Tuberculous diseases | 13 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | 2 | | 4 |
| Rheumatic Fever ... | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Cancer, Malignant disease | 55 | | | | | | 14 | 28 | 13 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Bronchitis ... | 91 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 28 | 6 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 179 | 22 | 25 | 33 | 18 | 10 | 30 | 31 | 10 | 6 |
| Other diseases of the Respiratory organs ... | 4 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... | 25 | 17 | 5 | | 1 | | | 2 | | |
| Broncho Pneumonia ... | 14 | 1 | 3 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| Appendicitis ... | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Alcoholism ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver ... | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... | 11 | | 1 | | | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal fever... | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Other accidents & diseases of pregnancy and par- turation | 4 | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 |
| Congenital Debility .. | 77 | 75 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Violent Deaths ... | 25 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 18 |
| Suicides ... | 3 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| Other defined diseases ... | 249 | 24 | 9 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 29 | 55 | 107 | 38 |
| Diseases unknown or ill- defined ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Totals ... | 959 | 179 | 69 | 71 | 71 | 53 | 151 | 190 | 175 | 88 |

TABLE V.**Factories, Workshops Laundries, Workplaces and Home Work.**

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

| PREMISES | Number of | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Prosecutions |
| FACTORIES ... (including Factory Laundries) | 40 | 7 | ... |
| WORKSHOPS ... (including Workshop Laundries) | 698 | 4 | ... |
| WORKPLACES ... (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTAL ... | 738 | 11 | ... |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

| PARTICULARS | Number of Defects | | | No. of Prosecutions |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i> | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness ... | 6 | 6 | ... | ... |
| Want of Ventilation ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Overcrowding ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Want of drainage of floors ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other nuisances ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sanitary accommodation | insufficient ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| | unsuitable or defective ... | 4 | 4 | ... |
| | not separate for sexes ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i> | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Other offences ... (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTAL ... | 15 | 15 | ... | ... |

**Report of Administration in connection with
the Public Health (Milk and Cream)
Regulations, 1912.**

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1918.

1. *Milk ; and Cream not sold as prepared Cream.*

| | Number of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative | Number in which a preservative was reported to be present |
|-----------|---|---|
| Milk ... | 25 | — |
| Cream ... | — | — |

2. *Cream sold as Preserved Cream.*

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct—

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| (i) Correct statements made | ... | ... | 0 |
| (ii) Statements incorrect | ... | ... | 0 |
| Total | ... | ... | 0 |

(b) Determination made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream—

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| (i) Above 35 per cent. | ... | ... | 0 |
| (ii) Below 35 per cent. | ... | ... | 0 |
| Total | ... | ... | 0 |

TABLE V.—Continued.
3.—HOME WORK.

| NATURE OF WORK | OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107 | | | | | | | | | | OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE-SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108 | | | OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110 | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------------|---|------|------|
| | Lists received from Employers | | Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils | Number of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils | Prosecutions | | Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises | In-stances served | Notices served | Prose-cutions made (S. 110) | In-stances | Orders made (S. 110) | Prose-cution (Sec. 109, 110) | | | |
| | Twice in the year | Once in the year | | | Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists. | Failing to send lists | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) | (11) | (12) | (13) | (14) | (15) | (16) |
| Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. | 11 | 139 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 100 | ... | ... | 35 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Furniture & Upholstry | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| File Making | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cables and Chains | 6 | 343 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 203 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTAL | 17 | 482 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 303 | ... | 31 employed | 125 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

| Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year | Number | |
|---|--------|-----|
| | (1) | (2) |
| General Workshops | ... | 485 |
| Workshop Bakehouses | ... | 65 |
| TOTAL | ... | 550 |

| Class | No. | |
|--|-----|-----|
| | (1) | (2) |
| Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:— | | |
| Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)... | ... | 9 |
| Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) | ... | 8 |
| Other | ... | ... |
| Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):— | | |
| Certificates granted during the year | ... | ... |
| In use at the end of the year | ... | 3 |

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

The Summary of Notifications under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, is appended:—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.
PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

Summary of Notifications received during the Year ended December 31st, 1918.

| | NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED ON FORM A | | | | | | | | | | NO. OF CASES NOTIFIED ON FORM C. | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | 0 to 1 | 1 to 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20 | 20 to 25 | 25 to 35 | 35 to 45 | 45 to 55 | 55 to 65 | 65 and upwards | Totals | Poor Law Institutions | Sanatoria |
| Age periods ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 10 | 1 |
| Pulmonary Males ... | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 6 | 6 | — | — | — | — | 8 | 16 |
| " Females .. | — | — | — | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | — | — | — | 56 | — | — |
| Non-Pulmonary Males ... | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| " Females .. | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS .. | — | 1 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 56 | 18 | 17 |

J HOWARD WILKINSON,
 Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Fifteenth Annual Report and Summary of work done in my Department during the year ending 31st December, 1918.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Houses provided with proper Water Closets | 4 |
| Houses provided with proper Drainage | 8 |
| Water Closets or Drains cleansed, repaired or reconstructed | 126 |
| Accumulation of Manure, etc., removed | 7 |
| Cowsheds limewashed | 1 |
| Ashes, accommodation provided | 29 |
| Dilapidated Privies or Ashpits rebuilt, repaired or abolished | 12 |
| Cases of overcrowding dealt with | 3 |
| Bakehouses limewashed | 3 |
| Workshops cleansed and limewashed | 1 |
| Sanitary Conveniences in Factories or Workshops :— | |
| New provided | 1 |
| Repaired | 4 |
| Cleansed | 3 |
| Separate Accommodation for Females provided ... | 1 |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Washhouses rebuilt, repaired, or new sinks provided | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Dwelling houses repaired | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Dwelling houses cleansed | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Houses provided with spouting (where a nuisance) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Yard paving relaid or repaired | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Miscellaneous nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Preliminary Notices issued | ... | ... | ... | 202 |
| Statutory Notices issued | ... | ... | ... | 135 |

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

There are at present 485 Workshops on the Register, including 65 Bakehouses. During the year ending 31st December, 1918, 698 visits of inspection were made, and a number of minor defects remedied, upon the occupiers' notice being called thereto.

Four "Notices of Occupation" were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, which were in due course visited and entered on the Register.

"Separate Sanitary Conveniences" for females were provided in one case, "New Conveniences" provided in one case; in five cases the Conveniences were repaired, and in five cases it was necessary to take action on account of the dirty condition. One Workshop was cleansed and limewashed upon notice being given to the occupier.

It was necessary to take action in three cases where Bakehouses were in a dirty condition.

During the year ending December 31st, 1918, 9 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with regard to defects or defaults in Factories or Workshops. In 8 cases the matters complained of were remedied, and in one case no action was taken.

OUTWORKERS.

During the year 17 Lists of Outworkers have been received from Employers, containing 482 names and addresses, 303 of which were outside the Borough of Dudley. The names and

addresses of those persons outside the Borough were forwarded to the respective Councils in whose district they resided; 130 visits were paid to Outworkers' premises.

In addition to the above, 10 lists, containing 11 names and addresses, have been received from other Councils, making a total list of 493 Outworkers dealt with. It was necessary in 31 instances to caution employers for not sending in their lists of Outworkers as required by the Factory and Workshop Act.

No case came under my notice of work being done upon infected premises during the year ending December 31st, 1918.

The following is a list of trades carried on in the Workshops :

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Joinery 7 | Clog Making ... 1 | Boat Building ... 3 |
| Bellows 1 | Art Metal ... 2 | Florists 1 |
| Dress and Millinery 52 | Gas Fittings ... 2 | Umbrella 1 |
| Ashpans, etc. ... 4 | Paints, etc. ... 2 | Galvanizing ... 2 |
| Boots 30 | Breeze Making 9 | Fenders 2 |
| Tailoring 38 | Blacklead Pressing 1 | Tea Packing ... 1 |
| Wheelwright ... 5 | Rivets 1 | Chain 168 |
| Sugar Boiling ... 1 | Fellmonger ... 1 | Nails 84 |
| Engineering ... 1 | Jeweller 1 | Carpenters ... 3 |
| Knitting 1 | Blacksmith ... 9 | Sheet Iron ... 2 |
| Picture Frames ... 1 | Upholsterers ... 2 | Rope and Tents ... 3 |
| Plumbers 1 | Mason 1 | Basket Making ... 1 |
| Cycles 2 | Polishing 1 | Saddlers 4 |
| Pattern Makers ... 1 | Stone Breaking ... 2 | Bottling 2 |
| Currier 1 | Drugs 2 | Drysoap Mixing ... 1 |
| Crates 2 | Dyeing 1 | Brewing 2 |
| Staple Making ... 1 | Carriage Building 2 | Scales and Weights 1 |
| Printing 1 | Tinware 1 | Bakers 65 |
| Cooper 1 | Builders 3 | |
| Ragsorting ... 2 | Cabinet Maker ... 7 | |

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are at present 17 Registered Common Lodging Houses within the Borough, accommodating 334 persons.

During the year ending December 31st, 1918, 907 inspections were made of these houses, and minor defects remedied upon attention being called to the same.

In two cases it was necessary to take action on account of the defective condition of the houses, and in one case where the drains were choked. It was also necessary to serve notice in one instance for the defective yard paving.

During the year 1918 no Lodging Houses were transferred, but nine applications for re-registration were granted.

There are now nine Common Lodging Houses which are registered only from year to year. The houses are visited weekly and the Bye-Laws posted in the kitchen of every house; all the sleeping rooms are ticketed, showing the maximum number of lodgers to be accommodated.

Several of the Common Lodging Houses are kept in excellent condition as regards general cleanliness, while there are others which accommodate the worst type of lodger, which are not what one would wish. The conditions, however, are largely owing to the filthy habits and verminous state of the lodgers.

Every Lodging House is swept daily, floors washed weekly, and the premises limewashed throughout at least twice a year.

No case of infectious disease occurred in any of these houses during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are 14 'Registered' and 10 'Licensed' Slaughter Houses within the Borough, all of which are kept under observation. Owing to food restrictions, few of these Slaughter Houses have been in use during the year.

During the year 10 applications for renewal of licence were granted.

The Slaughter Houses, Markets and Shops where food is sold have been regularly visited.

Four pigs, one calf, one goat, 117 lbs. frozen beef, 103 lbs. frozen mutton, 1 hind quarter frozen beef, 1 piece frozen pork, 1 box mackerel, 5 sides bacon, 13 rolled shoulders of bacon, 29

hams, 24 boxes of tomatoes, and a quantity of organs and offal were surrendered to your Inspector as being unfit for human food, and destroyed. Sundry parcels of fruit, fish and tinned foods have also been surrendered and destroyed on account of being unfit for food.

The inspection of meat will always be extremely difficult until all private Slaughter Houses are abolished and public Abattoirs are universal.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 48 Cowkeepers (who also act as Milksellers) and 75 Milksellers on the Register, the approximate number of cows kept within the Borough being 402.

All the Cowsheds and Milkshops have been visited at least twice during the year, and attention called to minor defects and want of cleanliness where necessary.

There are still many old wooden Cowsheds existing which are far from satisfactory, and there are at times many of them overcrowded, if the cubic capacity of 800 feet be insisted on for each cow.

I have, when visiting Milkshops, always pointed out the necessity of keeping a piece of muslin over the milk receptacles, so as to prevent dust from polluting the milk, and am pleased to report that many Milksellers now make a practice of keeping the milk covered. There are Milksellers who do not seem to believe that a "little dust" is at all harmful to milk, and personally I am pleased to see the increase in the number of shops which are only selling milk which has been bottled at the dairy.

During the year it was necessary to take action on account of the dirty condition of one Cowshed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

All cases of Infectious Disease have been visited, and a printed copy of your Medical Officer's instructions left at each house. Infected bedding and clothing have been removed to the

Borough Hospital and steam disinfected, and the infected rooms sprayed with disinfectant and fumigated.

The cases of Tuberculosis notified under the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1912, have been visited, and endeavours made to point out the risk of infection to the other occupants of the house, and how best to avoid it.

In all cases disinfectants have been offered, and houses and clothing disinfected.

During the year 82 beds, 47 bolsters, 113 pillows, 27 blankets, 57 sheets, 21 counterpanes, and a quantity of miscellaneous clothing, carpets and curtains were removed to the Hospital for disinfection.

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACTS.

At the suggestion of the Board of Agriculture, I was appointed under the above Acts as Local Inspector for the purposes of the American Gooseberry Mildew (Fruit Order), 1912, and the Wart Disease of Potato Order.

During the season circulars were distributed to fruiterers with respect to the Gooseberry Mildew Order, but no infected fruit was found within the Borough. Leaflets were distributed where it was considered advisable with regard to Potato Wart Disease, but no case was discovered in the district.

CANAL BOAT INSPECTION.

During the year ending 31st December, 1918, periodical inspections have been made of the Boats passing through this district, the number of Boats inspected being 28. The infringements of the Acts and Regulations discovered and dealt with were as follows :—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| No Certificate on board | 1 |
| Lettering Defaced | 1 |
| Dirty Cabin | 1 |
| Leaky Cabins | 2 |

5 Infringements on 2 Boats.

No case of Infectious Disease has been reported on any boat ; there has not been any necessity to detain a single Boat for disinfection or cleansing, nor have any legal proceedings been taken under the Canal Boats Acts.

CONVERSION OF PRIVY MIDDENS.

During the past year 4 Dwelling-Houses were provided with water closets, where the accommodation was found to be insufficient, in consequence of action taken by your Committee. This makes a total of 6,923 Dwelling-Houses provided with water closets during the past fifteen years.

This is the lowest number of conversions during the past fifteen years, and with the exception of a few isolated cases, and such districts as Yew Tree Hill and Gads Green, where there are no proper sewers, the Borough may now be considered a water closet town.

There are within the Borough (approximately) 11,960 Dwelling-Houses, of which only 350 are supplied with privy-middens ; and 331 Hutments and several Hostels built by the Minister of Munitions.

DESTRUCTOR

The Destructor has been most beneficial in abolishing the complaints of offensive smells from the tips, more especially the Dock tips, and the appearance of that vicinity has been much improved owing to light rubbish being now burned, which was formerly blown all over the neighbourhood.

The old tins and glass are sorted from the refuse, but I cannot find anyone to buy and remove it.

There has not been any complaint as regards nuisance arising from the Destructor.

During the year ending December 31st, 1918, 2,376 loads of ashpit and dust-bin refuse, 283 loads of trade refuse, 736 tubs of fish offal, 8 loads of butchers' offal, 72 loads of fruiterers'

refuse, 132 loads of market garbage, 5 joints of beef, 51 dogs, 4 pigs, 1 calf, 1 goat, and a fairly large amount of diseased meat and unsound fruit and fish, which had been seized or surrendered, were burnt in the Destructor.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

Owing to the existing conditions there has been very little work done under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and no houses have been closed.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It will be seen from the "Summary of Work carried out" at the beginning of the Report that 337 Notices have been served during the past year, and only four houses were supplied with water closets.

I find that there are now only 350 houses provided with privy middens, practically all of which are in the outlying districts, where there are no sewers.

There is a decided shortage of houses within the Borough, and where notices have been served in cases of overcrowding, there has been great difficulty in the occupants finding other houses.

Owing to the present national crisis it has been impossible to carry out work as usual, and on the instructions of your Committee every allowance has been made where work could stand over.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

I beg to report as follows with regard to the work carried out under the Food and Drugs Acts during the year ending December 31st, 1918 :—

During the year 119 samples, consisting of 37 articles, were taken by me for analysis. Of these, 3 samples were adulterated as undermentioned :—

1. New Milk—Deficient of 4 per cent. of its non-fatty solids Official.
See Notes.
2. New Milk—Deficient of 12 per cent. of its natural milk fats Official.
See Notes.
3. New Milk—Deficient of 4 per cent. of non-fatty solids and 5 per cent. of milk fat ... Official.
See Notes.

Of the 25 samples of Milk submitted to your Analyst, 3 were found to be adulterated. The first was taken from a small shop, and was deficient of 4 per cent. of its non-fatty solids; a further sample was taken at a later date, and found to be deficient of 12 per cent. of its natural milk fats.

Not being at all satisfied with these results, and knowing the source of the milk, I paid a surprise visit to the farm in the early morning, and saw the cows "milked out," and took a third sample; this milk proved to be deficient of 4 per cent. of non-fatty solids and 5 per cent. of milk fat, so no proceedings were taken.

The cowkeeper was, however, advised to alter the feeding of his cattle.

Your Analyst, in commenting on this case in his Quarterly Report, said:—

"I may say that it is rare for the mixed milk from a herd of cows materially to fall below the standard of the Board of Agriculture, and though I have many times investigated cases of adulteration in a similar manner, this is the first occasion that an appeal to the cow has been successful in establishing the good faith of the vendor."

The 6 samples of butter were found to be genuine and free from preservatives. This, I think, is very satisfactory.

The South Staffordshire Water has been analysed four times and found satisfactory.

Samples taken for analysis :—

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | Butter | 1 | Camphor and Mustard Oils |
| 25 | Milk | 2 | Evaporated Milk |
| 6 | Pepper | 2 | Boracic Acid Powder |
| 1 | Baking Powder | 1 | Cheese |
| 20 | Coffee | 2 | Egg Powder |
| 2 | Camphorated Oil | 1 | Turpentine |
| 3 | Custard Powder | 1 | Sweet Cocoa Powder |
| 2 | Seidlitz Powder | 1 | Oats |
| 1 | Compound Licorice Powder | 1 | Arrowroot |
| 1 | Pearl Barley | 1 | Calcined Magnesia |
| 2 | Eucalyptus Oil | 1 | Compound Tincture of Indian Bark |
| 8 | Margarine | 1 | Blanc Mange Powder |
| 1 | Epsom Salts | 3 | Rice |
| 3 | Castor Oil | 7 | Tea |
| 1 | Condensed Milk | 2 | Corn Flour |
| 1 | Carbonate of Magnesia | 1 | Yorkshire Pudding Powder |
| 1 | Balsam of Aniseed | 1 | Cough Syrup |
| 2 | Cocoa | 1 | Olive Oil |
| 3 | Lard | | |

In concluding my Fifteenth Annual Report, I again wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence, to acknowledge assistance received from the Officials in the other departments, and to thank the Staff of the Sanitary Department for their loyal co-operation.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.,

Ass. R. San. Ins.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL

FOR THE YEAR 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Team Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on House Refuse Removal, for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

HORSES.

The number of horses kept for the collection of dust bin refuse in the Borough is five.

CARTS.

There are, in the Sanitary Department, eleven carts (including five used by the Contractor).

Four carts used exclusively for the collection of dust bin refuse, are covered with a light tarpaulin, a method which I consider has proved satisfactory.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

Five teams are wholly employed in dealing with the collection of dust bin refuse in the Town, Kate's Hill, Netherton, and Woodside Districts, the dust bins of the whole Borough being collected by the Corporation workmen.

In the principal streets the dust bins are emptied twice a week, and the remainder are dealt with weekly.

The ashpits in the whole Borough are now dealt with by a Contractor.

During the year ending December 31st, 1918, no Trade Refuse was removed by the Corporation.

Herewith is a summary of work carried out :—

| TOWN AND KATE'S HILL | | NETHERTON | | WOODSIDE | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1918 | Dust Bins emptied once or twice weekly, Dec. 31st, 1918 | Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1918 | Dust Bins emptied weekly Dec. 31st, 1918 | Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1918 | Dust Bins emptied weekly, Dec. 31st, 1918 |
| 3,124 | 3,279 | 2,552 | 875 | 922 | 662 |

The number of loads removed during the year from dust bins by the Corporation workmen were 10,069. In addition to the above refuse, 1,212 loads of clinker were removed from the Destructor during the year ending December 31st, 1918.

REMARKS.

The dust bins have only slightly been increased in number, 8 additional bins being added during the year ending December 31st, 1918.

The collection of dust bins by the Corporation workmen is, I am sure, better carried out, and can be more efficiently supervised than when it is let out to contract.

The emptying of ashpits can be readily supervised when this work is done by contract, and the present contractor has again carried out his work very well indeed under exceptional difficulties.

The emptying of ashpits in the whole of the Borough is now done by contract. Of the 11,960 dwelling houses within the Borough, only 350 houses are supplied with privy middens, practically all of which are in the outlying districts where there are no sewers.

Owing to the progressive policy of the Health Committee with regard to the conversion of privy middens, there is now very little nuisance created in the removal of House Refuse. In conclusion I wish to be permitted to again thank the Chairman and Members of the Team Committee for their support during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.,

Assoc. R. San. Inst.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



