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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

P. STANLEY BLAKER,
M.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Lond.)

AND OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

F. ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.
Cert. Royal San. Institute

FOR THE


County Borough of Dudley

FOR THE YEAR

1925

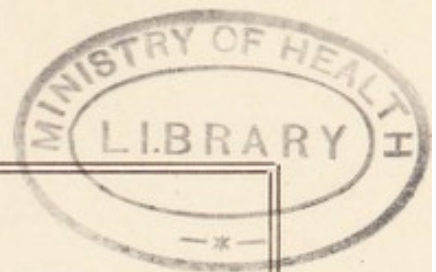
DUDLEY:

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1926



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1925.

1. ALDERMAN CHAMBERS (Chairman).
2. THE MAYOR (Alderman J. Smellie).
3. THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman T. W. Tanfield).
4. COUNCILLOR WHITEHOUSE (Vice-Chairman).
5. ALDERMAN FULLWOOD.
6. COUNCILLOR ARNOLD.
7. " BALLARD.
8. " BODIN.
9. " DAVIES.
10. " EDWARDS.
11. " GOLDING.
12. COUNCILLOR HANSON.
13. " LANE.
14. " STEWART-SMITH
15. " H. SMITH.
16. " TANFIELD.
17. " TAYLOR.
18. " WRIGHT.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

1925.

1. ALDERMAN ADSHEAD (Chairman).
2. THE MAYOR (Alderman J. Smellie).
3. THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman T. W. Tanfield).
4. COUNCILLOR WHITEHOUSE (Vice-Chairman).
5. ALDERMAN COOK.
6. " FULLWOOD.
7. COUNCILLOR BAYLISS.
8. " EDWARDS.
9. " H. SMITH.
10. COUNCILLOR STEWART-SMITH
11. " WRIGHT.
12. MRS. GEE.
13. MISS A. M. SMITH.
14. MR. J. PRICE.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: P. STANLEY BLAKER, M.R.C.P. (Lond.),
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Lond.)

Assistant Medical Officer of Health: AUSTIN FURNISS,
(to May 31st, 1925), Resigned.

V. A. T. SPONG,
M.B.B.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.)

Tuberculosis Officer: DR. LILLEY (Staffs., Wolverhampton and
Dudley Joint Committee).

Venereal Diseases Officer: DR. MENTON, The Guest Hospital.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitors: NURSE EVANS and NURSE BLACK.

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
"	1919, estimated	...	...	...	54,000
"	1920, estimated	...	...	...	56,169
"	1921, estimated	...	...	...	57,100
"	1922, estimated	...	...	...	57,860
"	1923, estimated	...	...	...	58,150
"	1924, estimated	...	...	...	58,600
"	1925, estimated	...	...	...	58,810

ELEVATION	{ Cawney Hill	...	820 feet above sea level.	
	{ St. Thomas' Church	...	700	" "
	{ Eve Hill	...	720	" "
	{ Netherton	...	610	" "
	{ Woodside	...	570	" "

Geological Formation...Limestone, Carboniferous and Heavy Clays

Area of the Borough ... 3,602 acres

Number of Inhabited Houses, Census, 1921 ... 11,005

The Assessable Value of the Borough for General

District Rate is ... £212,238

The produce of a 1d. Rate is ... £800

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Births Legitimate	1309	677	632	Birth Rate 22.02
" Illegitimate	24			
Deaths ...	793	415	378	Death Rate 13.5

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

From sepsis	...	...	...	4
From other causes	...	...	...	10

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—

Total	...	...	...	139
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	106.2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)... 34

" Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 13

" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 27

Death Rate from Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases ... 0.89

Influenza Death Rate34

Tuberculosis Death Rate86

Total Deaths under 5 years of age ... 261

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 beg to present herewith the ANNUAL REPORT upon the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Dudley for the year 1925.

The Census Population of the Borough in 1911 was 51,079, and in 1921 it had increased to 57,160. The estimated population according to the Registrar General's Return for 1925 is 58,810.

BIRTHS.

The corrected number of births for the year 1925 is 1,309 (677 males and 632 females), giving a birth rate of 22.02 per 1,000 on an estimated population of 58,810. There were 19 more births registered in 1925 as compared with 1924.

The birth rate for England and Wales in 1925 was 18.3, as compared with 18.8 in 1924, whilst for 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including Dudley, it was 18.8, as against 19.4 per 1,000.

Last year there were 45 more baby boys than girls. In 1924 there were only 8 more boys than girls.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. In the total number of births above recorded are included 24 illegitimate babies. In 1924 there were 28, and in 1923 21.

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

Year		Total Births		Birth Rate per 1,000
1903	...	1,691	...	33.93
1908	...	1,610	...	30.26
1913	...	1,470	...	28.28
1918	...	1,355	...	25.09
1923	...	1,314	...	22.71
1924	...	1,290	...	22.01
1925	...	1,309	...	22.02

From this Table it will be seen that there has been a very steady decline in the Birth Rate, especially when this figure is taken side by side with that of the steady growth of the population.

DEATHS.

The corrected number of Deaths, taken from the Registrar General's Returns, in Dudley during 1925 was 793, compared with 730 in the previous year. This gives a Death Rate of 13.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. In 1924 it was 12.45. The Death Rate in England and Wales from all causes in 1925 was 12.2, and in 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns it was 12.2.

The Death Rate in the Borough since 1900 is as follows:—

Year				Death Rate
1900	...	...	...	20.45
1905	...	...	...	17.52
1910	...	...	...	14.25
1915	...	...	...	16.31
1920	...	...	...	14.77
1923	...	...	...	12.61
1924	...	...	...	12.45
1925	...	...	...	13.5

MONTHLY DEATH RATE FROM ALL CAUSES.

The figures for the past ten years are given below, but they exclude deaths of non-residents and also deaths of residents dying away from their homes in Dudley.

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
January	17.06	17.01	10.83	14.63	13.9	12.2	19.3	10.3	12.0	13.1
February	14.64	17.55	14.4	19.25	12.0	13.9	23.2	15.3	16.2	10.1
March	16.56	17.3	13.77	19.5	25.0	14.2	14.68	16.3	22.3	14.2
April	14.09	19.77	13.48	21.26	30.8	11.56	15.9	13.8	12.1	13.8
May	17.4	16.4	15.21	14.8	14.2	9.14	11.9	11.5	11.5	11.7
June & July	14.83	10.13	9.61	7.2	9.6	10.2	7.9	10.2	6.59	11.8
August	9.49	8.92	10.4	8.0	9.1	8.2	9.25	11.2	8.57	12.6
September	7.9	8.81	13.96	7.9	9.1	10.7	8.4	8.3	6.7	8.3
October	10.9	8.24	14.0	10.9	10.9	10.8	8.19	6.6	9.7	8.7
November	10.38	9.81	10.47	7.5	11.9	10.2	8.2	11.4	11.9	11.5
December	12.36	10.83	25.27	11.1	12.2	14.1	7.9	12.7	8.12	18.2

The following Table shows the Death Rate in the various Wards of the Borough:—

Wards.	Population.	Number of Deaths during 1925	Death Rates per 1,000 Deaths
St. Thomas'	7775	103	13.1
Castle	8599	83	9.6
St. Edmund's	2766	32	11.5
St. James'	6412	81	12.6
St. John's	8792	117	13.3
Netherton	15526	171	11.0
Woodside	6024	68	11.2

A few brief remarks may be made here with reference to the Death Returns for the year.

MEASLES. In 1924 there were 2 deaths due to this infectious disease, but in 1925 there were 34 children who succumbed. All these children were under 5 years of age.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 50 deaths due to all forms of Tuberculosis, of which number 37 had the disease located in the Respiratory system. In 1924 59 deaths were attributed to all forms of Tuberculosis.

BRONCHITIS. This disease claimed 88 deaths, 67 of whom were over 45 years of age.

PNEUMONIA—All Forms. This very fatal disease accounted for 118 deaths, 69 of these took place under 5 years of age, 46 over 25 years, and 3 between these limits. This shows that pneumonia is a very fatal disease in the very young and in those over 25 years of age.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES accounted for 13 deaths. Thus it will be seen that Respiratory Diseases (including Pulmonary Tuberculosis) were responsible for 250 deaths during the year.

CANCER—Malignant Disease. 25 males and 22 females (total 47) died from this disease—all, except one, over the age of 25 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Under one year of age the number of deaths registered was 139, and the number of births 1,309. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 106.2. In 1924 there were 119 deaths under one year old (20 less than last year) and there were 1,290 births (19 less than last year) registered. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 92.24 for 1924.

The number of Deaths occurring in each month of baby life is as follows:—

From Birth to 1 month	...	...	67
„ 1 month to 2 months	...	...	11
„ 2 months to 3 months	...	...	11
„ 3 „ 4 „	...	...	5
„ 4 „ 5 „	...	...	5
„ 5 „ 6 „	...	...	7
„ 6 „ 7 „	...	...	6
„ 7 „ 8 „	...	...	7
„ 8 „ 9 „	...	...	7
„ 9 „ 10 „	...	...	7
„ 10 „ 11 „	...	...	2
„ 11 „ 12 „	...	...	4
			—
			139
			—

Thus, 67 babies (nearly half) died before they attained the age of four weeks,

Causes of Baby Deaths:—

Total of all deaths under 1 year.			Deaths under 1 month old (included in first column).	
Prematurity	...	28	28	
Debility	...	14	14	
Inanition	...	6	6	
Marasmus	...	3	—	48
Pneumonia	...	25	2	
Bronchitis	...	12	2	
Whooping Cough	...	3	—	
Convulsions	...	6	5	
Dentition	...	7	—	
Enteritis	...	17	3	
Congenital Deformities		2	1	
Measles	...	4	—	
Other conditions	...	12	6	19
Total			Total	
			139	
			67	

48 of the 67 Neo-Natal deaths were assigned to Pre-maturity, Debility and Inanition. These are all conditions that can be very materially prevented by Ante-Natal care of the mother, including food and suitable housing conditions.

34 of these mothers were attended by Handy women at their confinement, a doctor being present in some instances, but, in the majority, the doctor arrived after the confinement.

STILL-BIRTHS.

41 Still-Births were reported to me during the year.

7 cases were attended by Doctor and Midwife.

15 (two pairs of twins) were attended by Doctor and Handy-woman.

16 by Midwife only.

Taking these cases as a whole the following facts are elicited:—

Ages of Mothers.	No. of Pregnancy.		Presentation.	
20 } 6	1	preg. 8 women	Vertex ...	23
24 } 6	2	" 7 "		
25 } 6	3	" 9 "	Footling and	
26 } 6	4	" 7 "	Breech	11
28 } 14	5	" 1 "	Transverse ...	2
29 } 14	6	" — "		
30 } 14	7	" 3 "	Cord ...	—
31 } 14	8	" 2 "	B.B.A. ...	2
32 } 14	9	" — "		
33 } 11	10	" 3 "	Not Notified	3
34 } 11	11	" 1 "		
35 } 9				
38 } 9				
39 } 9				
40 } 9				

Age of Fœtus:

Full time	...	...	...	24
8 months	...	...	...	6
7 months	...	...	...	7
6½ months	...	...	...	3

The Fœtus was mascerated in 15 instances.

6 Mothers had previously had 1 still-born baby.

1	"	"	"	5	"	"
1	"	"	"	8	"	"

MATERNAL DEATHS.

During the year 14 women died at, or soon after, their confinement. There were 1,309 babies born. This gives a Maternal Mortality Rate of 10.7. That for England and Wales for 1924 was 3.70.

The following are a few notes on each case:—

CASE I.—Mrs. F.; Confined January 24th; Died January 29th; Age 29. Married; First pregnancy; Full time. Instrumental delivery; Ruptured perinæum. Handy-woman. No answer to my letter to doctor for particulars of this case.

CASE II.—Mrs. H. ; Confined March 22nd ; Died April 1st. Age 25 ; Married. First pregnancy, about $8\frac{1}{2}$ months. Attended by midwife. Ante-partum hæmorrhage for 3—4 days before patient sent for midwife—baby born within a few minutes of arrival of midwife. Patient collapsed immediately after. Doctor sent for—he found her “in a comatose and collapsed condition, almost bloodless and pulse scarcely perceptible, but she was not losing. Under treatment she rallied and improved for 3 or 4 days but changed for the worse, gradually sank and died.” No Ante-Natal examination was made or any special Ante-Natal care given to the patient.

CASE III.—Mrs. H. ; Confined March 25th ; Died March 27th. Married ; Fifth pregnancy, full time. Natural birth. Handy-woman. Doctor writes:—“In my opinion the direct cause of death was Eclampsia. I attended during pregnancy, she had albumen in her urine and general anasarca. I was present at the confinement which was normal in every way.”

CASE IV.—Mrs. M. ; Confined March 29th ; Died April 14th. Age 28 ; Married. Third pregnancy, full time. Attended by Midwife. Severe Post-partum hæmorrhage ; doctor sent for. He writes:—“When I saw her, her condition was distinctly grave, but she gradually came round and practically got well again. I told her I would not allow her out of bed at least for 14 days. Apart from general weakness she went on alright, but on the 9th or 10th day she got up and came downstairs into a cold, comfortless room. She got a chill and developed Acute Pneumonia, and in her weak condition her heart simply failed to respond.”

CASE V.—Mrs. C. ; Confined April 4th ; Died May 1st. Age 39 ; Married. Third pregnancy, full time. Forceps delivery ; attended by Handy-woman. Doctor writes with regard to this case:—“Case of old Recto-vaginal fistula, dating from 14—15 years ago. Soon after confinement she developed rigors and temperature with swelling of left leg. She was seen by Specialist.”

CASE VI.—Mrs. P. ; Confined April 8th ; Died April 9th. Age 20 ; Only married a few weeks before this confinement ; has one other illegitimate child. Full time ; attended by Mid-

wife. Urine was examined twice at the Clinic before confinement and found to contain abundance of albumen. Was advised to call in doctor which was not done. Confinement was natural and patient seemed comfortable after. At about noon patient had two fits and next day she was continually fitting. The doctor was immediately sent for. She died at 4-40 p.m. the day after confinement.

CASE VII.—Mrs. R. A. M. H. ; Confined May 6th ; Died July 1st. Age 24 ; Married. Second pregnancy, full time. Attended by Midwife. Doctor of patient writes:—" That Mrs. H. fell ill 14 days before confinement with temperature of 101°F in the afternoons and 99° in the mornings ; pains in joints and endo-carditis. Confinement did not improve matters—an abscess formed in *some* part of the body and a "locum" sent the patient to hospital. The husband came to see the doctor before his wife fell ill and he was suffering from an acute attack of gonorrhœa." The House Doctor at the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, where the patient was admitted in a letter stated that death was due to Puerperal Pyæmia. No post-mortem examination was consented to.

CASE VIII.—Mrs. E. ; Confined May 23rd ; Died May 23rd. Unmarried ; Deaf Mute. First pregnancy, premature. Handy-woman. Doctor writes:—" She had been under constant treatment since August last with Mitral Stenosis with gradually increasing heart failure and Oedema. Latterly she had Hæmaturia also. . . . For the last four months she has been unable to leave the house."

CASE IX.—Mrs. S. ; Confined July 30th ; Died August 18th. Age 36 ; Married. Second pregnancy, full time. Handy-woman. No answer to letter from me to doctor. Said to have died from Heart Failure. Suffered from Dropsy.

CASE X.—Mrs. W. ; Confined Sept. 7th ; Died October 3rd. Age 28 ; Married. First pregnancy, full time. Forceps delivery. Ruptured perinæum. Several vaginal examinations were made by doctor (a locum tenens). Patient was douched by handy-woman on Sept. 9th and on Sept. 12th the stitches were removed, and the patient removed to Women's Hospital, Birmingham, where she died on Oct. 3rd. The House Surgeon

at the Hospital stated in a letter to me that no Post-mortem examination was made (consent not being given) "but the anti-mortem findings were typical of Puerperal Pyæmia, with multiple abscesses in the lungs."

CASE XI.—Mrs. A. M. W.; Confined October 17th; Died October 23rd. Age 30; Widow for two years. Second pregnancy, full time. Handy-woman. Doctor not present at birth and did not see patient till next day. This patient was admitted into a private Maternity Home, run by an unqualified woman, two weeks previous to confinement. Apparently healthy baby found dead in bed next day. The mother was apparently doing well till the morning of Oct. 23rd, when "she went to get out of bed and suddenly collapsed and died." Doctor in a letter states that the "immediate cause of death was Pulmonary Embolism."

CASE XII.—Mrs. M. W.; Confined November 18th; Died November 25th. Married. First pregnancy, full time. Handy-woman. The ascertained facts in connection with this case are:—speedy delivery, natural birth, placenta expressed. "The amnion, however, remained attached at one corner and had to be removed manually. This was done at once and the patient well douched. A day or so later the patient developed a rapid pulse and a swinging temperature (99° — 103°). On the 25th inst., she had fæcal vomiting and was removed to the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, but she died almost immediately. No Post-mortem examination was made as "the doctor who gave the death certificate said it was an obvious case of Puerperal Septicæmia."

CASE XIII.—Mrs. N. F.; Confined November 22nd; Died December 9th. Age 29; Married. Third pregnancy, full time. Midwife. Natural birth. Patient was doing very well. On December 3rd Midwife sent for doctor because of secondary post-partum hæmorrhage. This was the cause of death.

CASE XIV.—Mrs. J. L.; Confined November 23rd; Died November 27th. Age 26; Married. Fourth pregnancy, all still born. Full time. Handy-woman. Delivery difficult. Fœtus macerated. Attended V.D. Clinic very irregularly. Cause of death: Puerperal Septicæmia.

	Age	No. of Pregnancy	Day of Death after confinement	Attended by Midwife	Attended by Handy- woman	Instru- mental	CAUSE OF DEATH.
1	29	1	5th	—	1	1	Attributed to "Anaemia and Heart Failure"
2	25	1	10th	1	—	—	Ante-Partum Haemorrhage
3	35	5	2nd	—	1	—	Eclampsia
4	28	3	16th	1	—	—	Post-partum Haemorrhage—Pneumonia
5	39	3	27th	—	1	1	Old Recto-Vaginal Fistula—Pyæmia
6	20	2	2nd	1	—	—	Eclampsia
7	24	2	56th	1	—	—	Puerperal Pyæmia
8	—	1 Illegitimate	1st	—	1	—	Heart Failure—Mitral Stenosis (Deaf Mute)
9	36	2	19th	—	1	—	Heart Failure—Dropsy
10	28	1	26th	—	1	—	Puerperal Pyæmia—Ruptured Perineum
11	30	2 Illegitimate	6th	—	1	—	Pulmonary Embolism (?)
12	28	1	7th	—	1	—	Puerperal Septicæmia
13	29	3	17th	1	—	—	Secondary Post-Partum Haemorrhage
14	26	4 All Still-born	4th	—	1	—	Puerperal Septicæmia

THE HANDY-WOMAN.

Again this year I want to emphasise the importance of replacing the Handy-woman by properly trained and qualified Midwives. There was a time when the Handy-woman was practically the only person apart from the doctor who had any experience other than that of a scientific nature, who could be useful to a woman in her confinement. But in these days of enlightened medicine, no one but those with modern training should be allowed to have anything to do with a parturient woman. The whole medical world is now talking of the importance of ante-natal care of the expectant mother. Sound ante-natal advice is of the utmost importance, not only to the mother, but also to the developing baby, and it is this factor above all others that is going to reduce the large number of maternal deaths, neo-natal deaths and still-born babies to a minimum of unavoidable cases. But what ante-natal advice can a woman without any training give?

As I pointed out last year, the handy-woman is not permitted by law to undertake a confinement unless under the direct and personal supervision of a doctor, and then the law goes on to say "Except in emergency." It is this "Emergency Clause" under which the habitual handy-woman shelters.

Maternal Deaths, Neo-Natal Deaths and Still-Borns are all three very closely related together, and any measures directed towards ameliorating any one of them will significantly effect the others. An analysis of the cases shows that the handy-woman was responsible for the birth of 34 out of 67 babies who died in the first month of their life; they were present when 15 still-born infants were born and they were in attendance on 9 of the 14 maternal deaths.

The handy-woman may have her place in the house as a help to keep the house going while the mother is ill, but she should have nothing to do with the confinement. In the majority of cases the confinement is a perfectly normal occurrence and in such cases the mother would probably be alright if no one were present. But let the slightest deviation from the normal occur and the handy-woman is at a loss and the poor patient and the baby are left to take their chances. Apart from not being able to give any assistance herself in abnormal cases, she is not in a position to be able to

appreciate the moment when she should send for medical aid. Thus the precious moments slip by in complete ignorance of the urgency of the case until it is too late to save one or both lives.

Why cannot the trained and qualified midwife supplant the handy-woman? In a poor and industrial town the handy-woman will do the "job" for a much smaller fee than a trained midwife. Further, in an industrial town the midwife has no guarantee of receiving her fee, so taken altogether, she has no desire to settle in such a place and, unless some definite inducements are offered to her, midwives with the C.M.B. qualifications will always be scarce in poor districts, and, in consequence, the poor will always suffer for want of the proper attention that all women are entitled to.

The remedy is this:—That a sufficient number of fully trained and qualified midwives must be brought into the area, and this can only be done by guaranteeing the midwives a living. If the midwives are not present in the area, then the handy-woman must flourish, and, I fear, that mothers and babies will still die or suffer morbidity afterwards as the result of unscientific care and attention. In poor areas the midwife must be subsidised until such time as she is established in a practice. Secondly, some guarantee must be given her that she will be paid for her attendance in every case. The Local Authority guarantees the fee of a doctor when he is sent for by a midwife, then why should the latter be left to recover her fee as best she can? The doctor is in a far better financial position than the midwife, who can, in most cases, ill afford to lose even a few shillings. The usual fee a midwife gets is 25/- for a case including daily attendance for ten days after confinement. Many midwives have told me that they often have to collect their fees in a shilling or two weekly. In my opinion, this should not be and it is more important to guarantee the fee of the midwife than that of the doctor. Why should not the Local Authority have the administration of the Maternity Benefit and why should not the midwife's fee be guaranteed from this amount? I wonder how much of the Maternity Benefit is actually used for the purpose for which it is meant? I wonder how much of it is appropriated by the husband?

The securing of a sufficiency of trained and qualified midwives is above all other factors the most important step in the campaign to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and the slaughter of the new-born infants.

The second important consideration is the provision of maternity beds. Take just the following few instances from particulars of 56 which I have in my file, and the number of these latter could easily be increased.

1.	One Bedroom	...	8 in family.
2.	One bedroom	...	7 „
3.	One bedroom	...	8 „
4.	One bedroom	...	7 „
5.	One bedroom	...	8 „
6.	One bedroom	...	11 „

and sometimes 10 in family.

Apart from the moral aspect and the indecency of such conditions, the great wonder is that many more deaths do not occur during child birth, considering that the majority of such dwellings are in most insanitary conditions from overcrowding, dilapidation and dirt.

A certain amount of ante-natal work is done at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, but this part of the work could be very much extended when conducted in connection with a Maternity Home.

Nine lectures on Maternal Mortality were given by me to various gatherings of women in connection with Churches and Political Clubs. Leaflets on the Care of the Expectant Mother have been distributed at all Clinics. All Midwives have had talks on the subject at my inspections.

306 specimens of urine of Expectant Mothers have been examined at the Borough Laboratory and the results notified to the Midwives in writing, with advice in special cases.

MORTALITY OF TODDLERS.

Toddlers include all children from one to five years of age, *i.e.*, the pre-school child.

There were 122 children of this class that died in the Borough.

Tabulated according to age, the figures work out as follows:—

From 1 to 2 years	...	70
„ 2 „ 3 „	...	30
„ 3 „ 4 „	...	10
„ 4 „ 5 „	...	12
		<hr/>
	<i>Total</i>	122
		<hr/>

The following Table shows the Diseases from which the toddlers died in the two age groups, *viz.*, 1 to 5 years and 1 to 2 years:—

Disease	1 to 5 years	1 to 2 years
Scarlet Fever	2	—
Penumonia	35	20
Bronchitis	7	4
Whooping Cough	4	3
Measles	31	21
Dentition	4	2
Meningitis	7	3
Gastro-Enteritis	10	7
Other Causes	15	4
Diphtheria	2	—
Tuberculosis	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	122	69
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In 1924 the number of deaths of children of this age was 56—last year this number was more than doubled, *viz.*, 122. Of this number 69 children were between the ages of 1 and 2 years, being more than half of the total, 122. In 1924, there were only 33 of this age group.

The Table above shows the causes of death, Pneumonia and Measles (both diseases being much more prevalent in 1925 than in 1924), claiming 41 of the 69 deaths.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

During the month of May, Dr. Glover (from the Ministry of Health) visited the Borough and made a general sanitary survey of the district.

WATER. The supply generally has been ample. Samples taken have been found to be pure, though the degree of hardness in the water supplying the West end of the town and which comes from Baggeridge has a very high degree of hardness. This, however, has been better.

In 1922 a new reservoir was constructed on the top of Cawney Hill and it was put into use at the beginning of 1923. The capacity of this reservoir is 1,031,650 gallons and the source of supply is at Lichfield. This supplies an area of over 20,000 people. Further facts in connection with this reservoir were noted by me in my Annual Report for 1922.

HOUSE REFUSE. The scavenging of the refuse of the Borough is carried out by contract. The household refuse is collected by the Corporation workmen. Further instances have again come under my personal observation during the year which go to show that the method of collecting household refuse in Ashpits, some of them close to and adjoining the houses, and the method employed of emptying them, is a most insanitary proceeding. No one in justice could possibly say that the process is a satisfactory one. I would urge the Health Committee to have the Ashpits (if we must still have them) emptied direct into the carts and not into the street first. Apart from the insanitary aspect of this practice it is not a pleasing sight to see a disgusting mass of filth dumped in the street with the wind carrying dirty pieces of paper up and down the street.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

I am informed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector that all the workshops on the Register have been visited during the year and what defects have been found have been remedied.

Inspections have been carried out by the Sanitary staff throughout the district. Dilapidations chiefly prevail and I receive frequent reports from the Health Visitors of houses requiring repair. In many instances it is very difficult to get the landlords to do anything and there are scores of houses which are beyond repair, at least to make it worth while to the landlord to spend the money. Thus the number of these houses increases to a big and alarming degree.

I am also informed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector that Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, etc., have all been visited regularly.

SCHOOLS. There has been no reason during the year to close any of the schools on account of infectious disease.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. Apparently the supply of this very important food product continues to be good as far as the fat content is estimated. No bacteriological examinations are made of samples nor has any analysis been made of the sediment found in milk sold from the churns in Dudley.

Altogether 31 samples of milk were taken and subjected to analysis.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Since the adoption of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, 230 licences have been granted for the sale of milk. This, to my mind, seems to be too many. I am not aware that any of these licences have been withdrawn. All milk shops need supervision and this becomes difficult if there are too many possessing licences.

Up to the end of 1925 there were in Dudley 233 Retail Purveyors of Milk, *i.e.*, one to about every 250 of the population on the last estimated population—and the numbers of these seem to be ever increasing. Of this number 134 sell bottled milk and 99 loose

milk. Most of these vendors are small shop people who sell all manner of stuff, with no semblance of a proper place for the storage of milk. Very few of these people have any real interest in the milk trade and their unlimited numbers only make it very difficult to exercise proper and efficient supervision.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1922.

None of the graded milks are sold in the Borough. As far as I am aware none of the cows in the Borough have ever been tested with Tuberculine tests.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912-1917.

The information required by these Regulations has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health. Particulars of them will be found elsewhere.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1919.

During the year 1925 2,252 packets of Dried Milk have been issued to necessitous cases, *viz.* :—

At Dudley	...	1599	1-lb. packets
At Netherton	...	417	"
At Holly Hall	...	236	"

The total cost for this quantity amounted to £157. 2s. od., half of which amount is borne by the Ministry of Health. In 1924 the total cost was £168. 9s. 5d., and in 1923, £232. 18s. od. Every necessitous case now is required to complete a form, setting forth the number of children in the family, with ages, and a complete statement of the financial position. This form is filled in every week and checked. If the father happens to be at work, a letter is sent to the employer for corroboration of his statement. This is done in every case without exception. Whenever possible the parents have to pay cost price (*i.e.*, if they cannot afford the retail price) or half cost price for the milk. A report on the distribution of milk is submitted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee every month.

MEAT.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector carries out the duties of Meat Inspection and also of the Slaughter Houses in the Borough.

The new Meat Regulations of 1924 came into operation on April 1st.

My only comment on the new Regulations is that they are not definite and precise enough. For instance, if some butchers (and there are several in Dudley) can keep their shop windows permanently closed in, why cannot all of them be made to do so? Such Regulations should be capable of only one interpretation, so that all Local Authorities must conform to a uniformity of their execution.

A great advance will be made in Meat Inspection when Public Abattoirs are established throughout the country under qualified Veterinary Surgeons as Meat Inspectors.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The Report of the work done under this heading is contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report appended.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.**Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917.**

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

1.—Milk ; and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative.	(b) Number in which a preservative was reported to be present.
Milk	31	—
Cream	5	—

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 preservative were correct—Nil.
- (b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream—Nil.
- (c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved Cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed—No samples taken.
- (d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken.

Thickening Substances.—Any evidence of their addition to cream or to preserved cream. Action taken where found.

Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

PARTICULARS OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF MILK FOR THE YEAR
1925.

<i>March</i>	11 Milk, all genuine, preservatives absent.
<i>Quarter.</i>	
<i>June</i>	6 Milk, all genuine, preservatives absent.
<i>Quarter.</i>	1 Cream, genuine, preservatives absent.
	2 Condensed Milk, genuine, preservatives absent.
<i>September</i>	4 Milk, all genuine, preservatives absent.
<i>Quarter.</i>	1 Cream, genuine, preservatives absent.
	1 Condensed Milk, genuine, preservatives absent.
<i>December</i>	10 Milk, all genuine, preservatives absent.
<i>Quarter.</i>	3 Cream, all genuine, preservatives absent.
	6 Condensed Milk, genuine, preservatives absent.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	152 (5 cases notified from Guest Hospital).
Diphtheria	32 (6 cases notified from Guest Hospital.)
Erysipelas	14
Puerperal Fever	2
Ophthalmia	
Neonatorum	2

SCARLET FEVER.—152 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year 1925, a large increase over the previous year when there were only 63. Some of the cases were of quite a severe character. With the exception of a very few cases, all the patients were treated at home. Three patients died from this disease.

DIPHTHERIA.—32 cases were notified to me. Most of these occurred during the earlier part of the year. In 1924 there were 33, and in 1923 there were only 7. Three cases were admitted to the Borough Hospital and about half a dozen, mostly Laryngeal cases, were treated at the West Bromwich Fever Hospital. Five cases died of this disease.

PUERPERAL SEPTICAEMIA.—Two cases were notified to me, though four were admitted into the Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham, and died there of either Septicaemia or Pyaemia. Notes of these cases will be found elsewhere.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—The two cases notified were mild. No damage was done to the eyes in either of these cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This work is carried out by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee.

In 1925 altogether 99 cases were notified to me—81 on "A" Form (67 Pulmonary and 14 Non-Pulmonary) and 18 on "B" Form (3 Pulmonary and 15 Non-Pulmonary).

47 cases (27 males and 20 females) were admitted to different Sanatoria during the year—only one child was admitted to Himley.

The total number of deaths recorded as being due to Tuberculosis was 50, 24 males and 26 females.

TABLE showing in Dudley:—

THE TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.

THE GENERAL DEATH RATE.

THE INFANTILE DEATH RATE.

Year	Number of Tuberculosis Notifications	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis Death Rate	General Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1904	Not Notifiable	43	.8	18.82	179
1905	"	45	.9	17.52	173
1906	"	41	.7	17.32	159
1907	"	42	.7	16.23	152
1908	"	46	.8	15.28	141
1909	36	47	.8	15.24	136
1910	Not available	38	.6	14.25	130
1911	131	24	.46	15.69	151
1912	57	28	.5	15.48	113
1913	195	49	.9	17.53	148
1914	126	36	.6	16.0	139
1915	86	52	.98	16.31	124
1916	97	50	.95	14.97	118.7
1917	67	62	1.14	13.70	109
1918	58	50	.95	18.25	132
1919	27	48	.89	13.44	105
1920	60	46	.69	14.77	106
1921	59	55	.96	11.66	84.5
1922	69	67	1.15	12.77	87.89
1923	95	51	.87	12.616	86.00
1924	95	59	1.00	12.45	92.24
1925	99	50	.86	13.5	106.2

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1925, to 31st December, 1925.

	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED ON FORM A.											NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM B.			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	Primary Notifications	5 to 10	10 to 15	Total primary Notifications.	Poor Law Institutions.	Sanatoria
Age Periods	—	—	1	—	8	4	9	10	8	3	—	1	1	2	—	27
Pulmonary Males ...	—	—	1	—	3	6	7	5	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	20
Females	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	2	5	—	—
Non-Pulmonary M.	—	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	7	3	7	10	—	—
Females	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	3	6	4	14	10	17	15	9	3	81	7	11	18	—	47

SMALL-POX.

There were no cases during the year. Two suspected cases which were referred to me by private practitioners were seen by Consultants of the Ministry of Health and were pronounced to be negative. The state of vaccination in the Borough is about the same, *i.e.*, only about 30% of the babies born are vaccinated.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is carried out at the Venereal Diseases Clinic held at the Guest Hospital on three days a week. *viz.*, Tuesdays and Fridays for men from 7 p.m. and on Wednesdays for women and children at 3 p.m. These Clinics are under the direction of Dr. Menton, the Venereal Diseases expert, who is attached to the Staffordshire County Council, and through the kindness of the latter is permitted to undertake this work in Dudley.

This work, though it is carried out at the Guest Hospital, is entirely the responsibility of the local Borough Council.

The work during the year 1925 has enormously increased, the total attendances being over 8,000.

The reason of this is to be found in the fact that the Clinics have been made popular under the expert hand of Dr. Menton—patients have realised that they are being thoroughly well treated and cared for.

All this work is being done in the Out-Patients' Department of the Hospital when the latter is not being used for other purposes. I must again state that this accommodation is totally inadequate, especially as the quantity of work is rapidly increasing each year. Under such cramped conditions the work becomes very irksome and it cannot be done in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

Below is a Report on the work from Dr. Menton.—

REPORT OF DR. MENTON.

The Venereal Diseases Clinic at present held at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, continues to show an increase all round as shown in the following Table:—

New Cases:	1924	1925	Increase
Males	153	164	11
Females	97	113	16
In-Patient Days:			
Males	8	155	147
Females	34	177	143
Total attendances	6023	8686	2663

The necessity for a separate department in which these patients can be efficiently treated is more urgent than ever, and one cannot help but feel that with a separate building the efficiency of the work would be improved and the number seeking treatment and advice would be greatly increased, for although the building in which the Clinic is at present held is an excellent Out-Patient Department it is unsuitable for a Venereal Diseases Clinic and exposes the patients to a certain amount of publicity, and at times it may be needed for other purposes when the Clinic or Intermediate Treatment is in progress.

The Intermediate Treatment for men held every evening is now well attended, but certain cases ought to have intermediate treatment twice daily, but owing to the building being occupied with other work in the mornings this is at present not feasible.

The arrangements for Intermediate Treatment for women leaves much to be desired and one of the essential factors in securing success in this direction is the appointment of a nurse who has had *special training and experience* in this branch of the work. I hope that the Authorities will see their way to secure the services of such a trained person without delay.

J. MENTON,

Director of the V.D. Clinic.
Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1902 and 1918.

During the year there were 11 Certified Midwives residing in the Borough. Two of these, however, do not practice. There are also 5 Midwives who reside outside the limits of the Borough, but who also attend a certain number of cases within the boundary. These are under the Staffordshire County Council. Only one Midwife was receiving a subsidy of £40.

One Midwife was deprived of her Certificate by the Central Midwives' Board. She appeared before the Board on November 5th on two main charges, *viz.* :—

1. For failing to notify to me a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and failing to send for medical aid for same ;
2. Misconduct.

Both charges were proved and her name was removed from the Roll of Midwives.

Nine Midwives are not enough for a town of over 58,000 inhabitants and I trust that some inducement will be given for a few more well qualified Midwives to settle in the town, especially in areas inadequately provided for. During the year all the Midwives have been inspected by me and on many occasions by the Health Visitors.

Under the Notification of Births Act, 763 births were notified by Midwives, 304 by doctors, 34 by Health Visitors, and 219 by Registrar, total 1,320, practically all in the last group being cases attended by Medical Practitioners.

In 97 cases a Midwife called in the help of a doctor, sending to me the duplicate of the Medical Help Form. In 1924 there were 87 such calls. The reasons on account of which medical help was called in are classified as follows :—

On account of the Mother—

Difficult and prolonged labour	...	28
Ruptured Perinæum	... ..	13
Ante and Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	8
Retained Placenta	... ..	2
Pyrexia, Chills, etc.	... ..	11
Abortion	... ..	5
Twins	... ..	1
Eclampsia and Fits	... ..	3
Transverse presentation	... ..	2
		<hr/> 73 <hr/>

On account of Infant—

Prematurity and Feebleness...	...	15
Ophthalmia	... ..	1
Deformities	... ..	7
Pemphigus	... ..	1
		<hr/> 24 <hr/>

During the year 1925 £87 was paid in fees to doctors for attendance on being summoned by a Midwife. Of this amount £32 was recovered from patients, leaving a net payment of £55. made by the Corporation, of which amount half is recovered by Grant from the Ministry. There were nine more summonses for Medical help than in 1924.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work forms a very important branch of the Public Health work of the Borough. Apart from its direct value to mother and child, it has a very great educational value which is slowly, but surely, making all the difference in the world in the matter of the care of the mother and child. Especially is this the case with the young mothers, who form a very large proportion of the attendance at the Clinic.

ATTENDANCES AT THE WELFARE CENTRES.

In Dudley 5 Baby Clinics are held each week and they are all conducted by one or other of the Medical Officers.

1. *Sir George Bean Child Welfare Institution (The Firs).*

		1922	1923	1924	1925
Babies	(New Cases)	494	510	492	538
"	(Old Cases)	4949	5345	5646	6512
	TOTAL	5443	5855	6138	7050

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

		1922	1923	1924	1925
Mothers	(New Cases)	17	24	41	53
"	(Old Cases)	107	124	128	119
	TOTAL	124	148	169	172

2. *Netherton Centre (Public Hall, Netherton).*

		1922	1923	1924	1925
Babies	(New Cases)	233	199	207	224
"	(Old Cases)	2419	2408	2317	2562
	TOTAL	2652	2607	2524	2786

3. *Holly Hall Centre (Free Library, Holly Hall).*

		1922	1923	1924	1925
Babies	(New Cases)	635	106	103	105
"	(Old Cases)	517	1783	1085	1183
	TOTAL	1152	1889	1188	1288

Grand Totals—	1922	1923	1924	1925
New Cases	1362	815	843	920
Old Cases	7885	9526	9176	10376
Total attendances	9247	10341	10019	11296

BADLEY MEMORIAL HOME.

During the year the agreement with the Badley Memorial Home for providing a part-time Nurse for Maternity and Child Welfare work was terminated.

LADIES' VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE.

Mrs. T. W. Adshead was the President during the year. Each Centre (Dudley, Netherton and Woodside) have their own workers and are entirely responsible for the work done at the Centre under their own management.

The ladies help with the Record Cards and in giving mothers teas (at a cost of 1d. per cup, with a biscuit) at all three Centres.

I am, indeed, very much indebted to Mrs. Adshead, the President, the two Secretaries, Mrs. Bryan-Smith and Mrs. Young, and all the ladies who so willingly help with the good work. I can assure them all that their help is of immense value to me and very materially lightens the work of the doctors and nurses.

I tender them all my very best thanks.

COST OF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

ALL THIS ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GOOD WORK FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES, INCLUDING SALARIES OF OFFICIALS, THE COST OF FREE MILK AND DOCTORS' FEES, WAS DONE AT AN APPROXIMATE NET COST TO THE RATES OF ABOUT £630.

REPORT OF HEALTH VISITORS.

DUDLEY AND KATE'S HILL DISTRICT.

(Nurse Evans).

BIRTHS, 1925.

BIRTHS	Males	Fe- males	Total	BY WHOM NOTIFIED	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	436	412	848	Medical Practitioners	167
				Midwives	482
				Registrar	167
				Health Visitor	32
STILL-BIRTHS	17	16	33	Medical Practitioners	13
				Midwives	20
ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN (included above).	3	3	6		
<i>Total</i>	453	428	881	<i>Total</i>	881

VISITS.	No.	FEEDING.	No.
1 First Visits to Babies	780	Breast Fed	593
2 Re-visits to Babies	2160	Bottle Fed	70
3 Visits over 1 year	3062	Breast and Bottle Fed ...	90
4 General Advice	355	Died shortly after Birth	27
5 Visits to Midwives	85		
6 Ophthalmia	2	<i>Total</i>	780
7 Ante-Natal	392		
8 Re-visits to Ante-Natal ...	142		
9 House Inspection	221		
10 Common Yards	126		
11 Measles Cases	153		
12 Visits to Still-Births	34		
13 Special Visits	97		
14 Re-visits to Ophthalmia	18		
15 Visits to Blind	63		
16 Visits to Puerperal Sept.....	10		
17 Visits to T.B. Cases	3		
<i>Total</i>	7703		

NETHERTON AND WOODSIDE DISTRICT.

(Nurse Black).

BIRTHS, 1925.

BIRTHS	Males	Fe- males	Total	BY WHOM NOTIFIED	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	245	227	472	Medical Practitioners	137
				Midwives	281
				Health Visitor	2
				Registrar	52
				Parent	—
STILL-BIRTHS	3	4	7	Medical Practitioners	4
				Midwives	3
ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN (included above)	7	2	9		
<i>Total</i>	248	231	479	<i>Total</i>	479

VISITS.		No.	FEEDING.		No.
1	First Visits to Babies	473	Breast Fed	441	
2	Re-visits to Babies	1810	Bottle Fed	10	
3	Visits over 1 year	2654	Breast and Bottle Fed	5	
4	General Advice	287	Died shortly after Birth	17	
5	Visits to Midwives	20	Still-Births	—	
6	Ophthalmia	10	<i>Total</i>	473	
7	Ante-Natal First Visits	72			
8	Ante-Natal Re-visits	77			
9	House Inspection	33			
10	Common Yards	15			
11	Tuberculosis	1			
12	Tuberculosis Re-visits	9			
13	Visits to Still-Births	9			
14	Visits to Blind	74			
15	Special Visits	88			
16	Whooping Cough	24			
17	Measles	12			
18	Ophthalmia Re-visits	9			
<i>Total</i>		5677			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

During the year the present small building was re-decorated and repaired. Six of the old bedsteads have been renovated and six new ones purchased. Also two adjustable easy chairs have been provided and linoleum laid in three rooms, kitchen and hall. Special cases of one disease will be admitted here as occasion requires.

Arrangements have also been made with three outside Hospitals to take in any patients from the Borough that for some reason or other cannot be admitted into our own Hospital. These three Hospitals are as follows:—

West Bromwich Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Oldbury and Smethwick (Joint) Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Hayley Green Infectious Diseases Hospital.

These arrangements are only of a temporary nature. The necessity for a properly equipped Hospital for the needs of the Borough is still a very urgent requirement.

People are apt to think that the only function of an Infectious Diseases Hospital is to remove the patient so that he ceases to be a source of further dissemination of the disease. This is indeed one reason for which such Hospitals were built, but, like all Hospitals, they are meant to be institutions where these particular patients can be treated in order, not only to pull them through the acute stages of the disease, but also to minimise the chances of complications whose name is legion, in all cases of Infectious Disease.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The following examinations were made at the Laboratory at "The Firs" during the year 1925:—

Diphtheria Nose and Throat Swabs ...	140
Sputums for Tubercle Baccilli ...	35
Hairs for Ringworm Spores ...	34
Urine Analysis (Ante-Natal and others)	306

Welfare of the Blind.

BLIND PERSONS' ACT, 1920.

Report as from April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926.

There are 59 Blind people in the Borough, as defined by the Act. According to Age Groups, they are classified as follows:—

0— 5 years	...	...	...	1
5—16 „	...	...	...	6
16—21 „	...	...	...	2
21—30 „	...	...	...	4
30—40 „	...	...	...	7
40—50 „	...	...	...	4
50—60 „	...	...	...	12
60—70 „	...	...	...	9
70 „	...	...	...	14
				59

Only two of this number are employed.

Five (over the age of 16) are under training—3 at Residential Blind Schools at Nottingham and 2 are receiving home training. Two are trained but have no employment. Eight people are trainable but are receiving no training and 34 are unemployable. Under the age of 16 there are seven children—four are at Birmingham Blind Institution receiving instructions, and three are at home, two boys and one girl (one boy and one girl being idiots and one boy feeble-minded with a large head—Hydrocephalic).

All these Blind people are seen by me as occasion requires, but they are regularly visited by the Health Visitors, who make a Weekly Report to me of the cases visited for entry of the fact in the Blind Persons' Register.

Last year an arrangement was made with the Wolverhampton Society for one of their Visitors to give two days per week of his time for visiting and instructing the Blind people of Dudley.

HOUSING.

As has already been pointed out, the housing conditions in Dudley are very bad. There is an appalling amount of dense overcrowding, which is bad for health and morals alike. In addition there are hundreds of houses in the Borough which are quite unfit for human habitation owing to dilapidations. Very little relief has so far been effected in the housing problem amongst the poorer population of the town.

SITE.	TYPE "A"				
	Living Room and 3 Bedrooms.				
	Erected under 1919 Act	Erected under 1923 and 1924 Acts during years			
		1923	1924	1925	Total
RED HILL	46	—	—	—	46
BLOWERS GREEN	60	—	—	—	60
NORTHFIELD ROAD	50	—	—	—	50
BURNT TREE	20	—	—	—	20
WOODSIDE	20	—	16	94	130
BUNNS LANE	—	—	—	48	48
WHITE NOBS	—	—	—	24	24
CRADLEY ROAD... ..	—	—	—	42	42
BREWERY FIELDS	—	—	—	14	14
TANFIELD ROAD	—	—	—	18	18
	196	—	16	240	452

SITE.	TYPE "B."				
	Living Room, Parlour and 3 Bedrooms.				
	Erected under 1919 Act.	Erected under 1923 and 1924 Acts during years			
		1923	1924	1925	Total
RED HILL	12	—	—	—	12
BLOWERS GREEN	44	—	—	—	44
NORTHFIELD ROAD	14	—	—	—	14
BURNT TREE	18	—	—	—	18
WOODSIDE	—	—	—	—	—
BUNNS LANE	—	—	—	—	—
WHITE NOBS	—	—	—	—	—
CRADLEY ROAD... ..	—	—	—	—	—
BREWERY FIELDS	—	—	—	—	—
TANFIELD ROAD	—	—	—	—	—
	88	—	—	—	88

As will be seen by the accompanying Table (furnished by the Borough Engineer) during the past year the Council have concentrated upon the erection of Type "A" houses, 240 of which have been completed on various sites in the Borough. In addition to these, 236 houses are in course of construction.

Since the inauguration of the State-aided schemes to date (1919—1924) 610 houses have been erected by the Council and 157 by private enterprise, making a grand total of 767.

SITE.	TYPE " B 4."				
	Living Room, Parlour and 4 Bedrooms.				
	Erected under 1919 Act	Erected under 1923 and 1924 Acts during years			
1923		1924	1925	Total	
RED HILL	8	—	—	—	8
BLOWERS GREEN	—	—	—	—	—
NORTHFIELD ROAD	6	—	—	—	6
BURNT TREE	—	—	—	—	—
WOODSIDE	—	—	—	—	—
BUNNS LANE	—	—	—	—	—
WHITE NOBS	—	—	—	—	—
CRADLEY ROAD... ..	—	—	—	—	—
BREWERY FIELDS	—	—	—	—	—
TANFIELD ROAD	—	—	—	—	—
	14	—	—	—	14

SITE.	TYPE " C "					Total per Site to Date
	Living Room, Kitchen and 3 Bedrooms.					
	Erected under 1919 Act	Erected under 1923 and 1924 Acts during years				
1923		1924	1925	Total		
RED HILL	24	32	—	—	56	122
BLOWERS GREEN	—	—	—	—	—	104
NORTHFIELD RD.	—	—	—	—	—	70
BURNT TREE	—	—	—	—	—	38
WOODSIDE	—	—	—	—	—	130
BUNNS LANE	—	—	—	—	—	48
WHITE NOBS	—	—	—	—	—	24
CRADLEY ROAD... ..	—	—	—	—	—	42
BREWERY FIELDS	—	—	—	—	—	14
TANFIELD ROAD	—	—	—	—	—	18
	24	32	—	—	56	
				Grand	Total ...	610

In addition to the foregoing, 236 houses approved under the Housing Act, 1924, are in course of erection, making a total of 846 houses complete or under construction.

Houses Erected by Private Enterprise.

Year	Subsidised	Not Subsidised
1919—1923	—	37
1924	71	17
1925	20	12
TOTAL ...	91	66

Grand Total ... 157.

Education in Public Health.

Health Week was celebrated from October 11th—17th.

1.—Talks on Health matters were given in all the Elementary Schools by the Teachers.

2.—Lecturettes on the "Care of the Teeth" were given by Mr. Bingay in all Senior Departments of the Elementary Schools.

3.—Health Sermons were preached in all Churches on Sunday, October 11th.

4.—*The Dudley Herald* published on October 17th, devoted a considerable amount of space to Health Week propaganda. Short articles on the following subjects were published:—

Whooping Cough and Measles.	Maternal Mortality.
Tuberculosis.	Rickets.
The Expectant Mother.	The Care of the Teeth.
Milk.	Meat Regulations.
Smoke Nuisance.	

A Baby Day was organised by the ladies of the Voluntary Committee on July 6th. This was held in the grounds of "The Firs" (The Sir George Bean Child Welfare Institution). The weather was favourable and the attendance was very good from all three Centres in the Borough. The programme included the following:—

- 1.—An Address on Maternal Mortality.
- 2.—An Exhibition of Baby Garments, Furniture, Charts and Models, etc.
- 3.—Distribution of Literature.
- 4.—Folk Dancing by girls of the Dudley High School and a free Tea.

During Health Week and on Baby Day leaflets were freely distributed by School Nurses and Health Visitors, both at the School and Baby Clinics and also on their visits to homes all through the year. The leaflets related to the following:—

At the School Clinics—

"Care of the Teeth."	"Tonsils and Adenoids."
"Care of the Eyes."	"Influenza."
"Ringworm."	"Scabies."

At the Baby Clinics—

"Care of the Expectant Mother."	"Feeding of Babies."
"Care of the Toddler."	"Treatment of Measles."
"Treatment of Whooping Cough."	

Booklets "To Wives and Mothers" and "The Mother's Cookery Book" were sold at a small nominal cost.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Council for their support. The Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have given me valuable assistance, advice and support, for which I am grateful.

I heartily thank all the ladies of the Voluntary Committee for all their good work and co-operation.

Dr. Spong, my colleague, has helped me very much in all my efforts. Nurse Evans and Nurse Black, the two Health Visitors, have worked very hard indeed. Over 1,300 births in the Borough means an enormous amount of visiting for two nurses to do in addition to all their other duties. I thank them heartily for their support.

Miss Tomlinson and Miss Bradley have had an increasing amount of work to do in connection with the Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services. They have done this willingly and agreeably.

To all I extend my best thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. STANLEY BLAKER.

May, 1926.

1. TABLE SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE MORTALITY OF CERTAIN TOWNS IN 1925
AND THEIR BIRTH RATES, ETC.

Town.	Popula- tion.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Respira- tory Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Infantile Death Rate.
England and Wales ...	—	18.3	12.2	.71	—	—	75
Burton-on-Trent ...	49,530	19.14	14.7	0.87	2.3	1.07	78
Wolverhampton	108,800	19.2	12.2	0.28	2.34	0.91	89
D U D L E Y	58,810	22.02	13.5	0.89	3.5	.86	106.
Worcester	50,230	18.4	12.8	.2	2.0	1.0	63.6
Birmingham	952,766	18.8	11.7	0.77	1.97	0.98	78

II. Deaths from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (including Diarrhoea) were :—

Diseases.	Total Deaths.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and upwards.
Scarlet Fever... ..	3	2	1
Measles	34	31	3
Diphtheria	5	3	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	13	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	27	25	2
<i>Totals</i>	82	74	8

III. The Numbers of Deaths from the Principal Zymotic Diseases in the various Wards were :—

Diseases.	St. Thomas	Castle	St. Edmund	St. James	St. John	Nether-ton	Wood-side	Guest Hospital	Boro' Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	I	I	—	I	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	I	—	I	I	2	I
Measles ...	4	5	—	3	II	6	3	2	—
Enteric Fever ...	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	I	—	2	I	3	3	I	4	—
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ...	4	2	I	I	6	8	2	4	—
Influenza ...	3	2	—	—	4	6	3	2	—

Two Deaths due to Diphtheria apply to residents of the Borough who died away from home.
They are not included in the above.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

IV. Causes of Death at Different Periods during the year 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Civilians only).	Sex	AGGREGATE.									
		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 under 75	75 and up- wards
ALL CAUSES ...	M ... F ...	415 378	85 54	30 30	23 27	17 20	12 19	45 43	82 63	70 63	51 59
1. Enteric Fever ...	M ... F ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Small-pox ...	M ... F ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
3. Measles ...	M ... F ...	17 17	3 1	6 8	6 7	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
4. Scarlet Fever ...	M ... F ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Whooping Cough ...	M ... F ...	3 7	— 2	— 2	2 3	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Diphtheria...	M ... F ...	6 4	3 —	1 2	2 —	— 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7. Influenza ...	M ... F ...	13 7	— 1	— —	1 —	— —	1 1	5 1	3 2	3 1	1 —
8. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	M ... F ...	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
9. Meningococcal meningitis	M ... F ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M ... F ...	18 19	— —	— —	1 —	— —	3 8	7 9	5 1	2 1	— —
11. Other Tuberculous diseases	M ... F ...	6 7	— —	— 2	2 1	— 1	2 1	2 2	— —	— —	— —
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	M ... F ...	25 22	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 4	10 11	10 6	4 —

V. DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

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

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Under 1 year ...	162	218	209	181	154	153	179	135	184	143	127	113	119	145
Between 1 and 5 yrs. ...	65	145	103	102	89	118	140	77	71	67	83	110	55	115
Between 5 and 15 yrs....	34	38	37	32	36	50	71	28	41	35	36	37	65	41
Between 15 and 25 yrs.	33	37	32	25	42	30	53	35	29	25	39	40	97	36
Between 25 and 65 yrs.	265	277	260	271	240	254	341	228	262	205	247	213	160	223
Over 65 years ...	238	196	205	247	226	182	175	222	243	191	207	217	234	233

TABLE VI.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Home Work.

1.—INSPECTION.

Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	27	5	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	1029	7	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	1056	12	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp'tor	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	3	5	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	1	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	1	3	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	—	3	—	—
{ 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 bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	3	3	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).				
<i>Total</i> ...	12	20	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year ended December 31st, 1925.

Staff of the Sanitary Department:

FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. Inst.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

H. G. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

S. PARGETER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

H. PEACOCK, Clerk.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT and SUMMARY OF WORK carried out in my Department during the year ending December 31st, 1925, and, as requested, the report is as far as possible condensed.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

Houses provided with proper Water Closets	...	...	13
Houses provided with proper drainage	...	...	3
Water Closets or Drains cleansed, repaired or reconstructed			195
Accumulations of manure, etc., removed	...	...	14
Ashes accommodation provided	...	...	46
Dilapidated privies or ashpits re-built, repaired or abolished			17
Nuisances arising from keeping fowls, pigeons, etc. (abated)			7

Cases of overcrowding dealt with	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	3
Workshops limewashed	...	...	...	5
Workshops repaired	...	...	...	3
Workshops, overcrowding abated	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Conveniences in Factories or Workshops:—				
Repaired	...	...	...	2
Cleansed	...	...	...	2
New provided	...	...	...	3
Separate accommodation for females provided	...	...	...	1
Wash-houses re-built, repaired, or new sinks provided	...	...	...	49
Dwelling-houses repaired	...	...	...	352
Dwelling-houses cleansed	...	...	...	156
Dwelling-houses provided with sufficient water supply	...	...	...	6
Houses provided with spouting (where a nuisance)	...	...	...	90
Yard paving re-laid or repaired	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	7
Preliminary Notices issued	...	...	...	553
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	...	302

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

There are at present 507 Workshops on the Register, including 47 Bakehouses. During the year ending December 31st, 1925, 1,029 visits of inspection were made, and many minor complaints were remedied on the occupiers' notice being called thereto.

13 " Notices of Occupation " were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, with respect to Workshops within the Borough, all of which were visited and added to the Register.

The Inspector of Factories complained in 12 instances with respect to defects and defaults in Factories and Workshops, all of which were remedied during the year.

The Sanitary Conveniences of the Factories and Workshops complained of were remedied as follows:—Four conveniences were cleansed and repaired, one separate accommodation was provided for females.

Overcrowding in one workshop was abated.

Special attention was directed to the cleansing of Workshops and Bakehouses, it being necessary to serve Notices in six instances only, all of which were complied with.

OUTWORKERS.

During the year 29 Lists of Outworkers have been received from employers, containing 256 names and addresses; 153 of which were from districts outside the Borough of Dudley. These were forwarded to the respective Councils in whose district the outworkers resided; 184 visits were paid to Outworkers' premises.

I also received 9 Lists, containing 84 names and addresses from other Authorities, making a total of 340 Outworkers dealt with.

It was necessary in 37 instances to caution employers for not sending in their Lists of Outworkers as required by the Factory and Workshop Act.

There was no case of work being carried out on infected premises during the year.

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

Art Metal	4	Dyeing	1	Paints	1
Ashpans	1	Dressmaking	12	Photography	2
Breeze	4	Drugs	1	Plastering	1
Boat Building	3	Electric Engineer ...	1	Printing	1
Bellows	1	Fire Irons	1	Ropes	3
Boots	18	Fenders	3	Rivets	2
Builders	4	Galvanizing	2	Smiths.....	9
Baskets	1	Garages	4	Sheet Metal	2
Bottling	2	Gas Fittings	1	Saddlers	4
Brewing	1	Joinery	10	Scales and Weights	3
Bakehouses	47	Jeweller	1	Staples	2
Carriage Building ...	2	Knitting	1	Sweets	2
Chain	176	Lime Kilns	1	Slag	2
Curriers	1	Marine Stores.....	3	Tailoring	30
Clogs	1	Millinery	23	Tinware	1
Cabinets	2	Motor Cycles	2	Tubes	1
Cycles	2	Nails	84	Upholstering	7
Cooper	1	Plumbers	3	Umbrellas	1
Dry Soap Packing ...	1	Pictures	2	Wheelwright	5

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are at present 13 Registered Common Lodging Houses within the Borough, accommodating 263 persons.

650 visits of inspection were made of these houses, and minor defects remedied by occupiers on their attention being called thereto.

During the year nine applications for the re-registration of these houses were granted.

All the Common Lodging Houses are visited weekly, and due observation kept that the Bye-Laws are posted in each kitchen, and that sleeping rooms are ticketed showing the maximum number of lodgers allowed.

Every Lodging House is swept daily, floors washed weekly, and the premises lime-washed twice yearly.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are 12 "Registered" and 12 "Licensed" Slaughterhouses within the Borough, all of which are under daily observation.

During the year 12 applications for the renewal of the Licensed Slaughterhouses were granted.

All Slaughterhouses, shops and markets where food is sold have been regularly visited and the following mentioned foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for food:—

12 Beasts	30 lbs. Mutton
2 Sheep	3 large boxes of Fish
12 Pigs	6 Boxes of Kippers
2 Calves	24 Boxes of Grapes
264 Animals' Offals	50 Baskets of Plums
5 Quarters of Beef	36 lbs. Pears

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into operation on the 1st of April, 1925, and these Regulations have thrown a very great deal of additional work on the Sanitary Department owing to butchers being allowed to fix their own times of slaughter.

From April 1st to December 31st, 1925, notice was given to slaughter 1,198 Cattle, 4,849 Sheep and Lambs, 5,655 Pigs, 292 Calves and 4 Goats—a total of 11,998 animals in nine months.

All the above animals were inspected and no meat killed in the Borough is offered for sale until it has been examined.

I would here like to mention the loyal help I have at all times received from Inspector Pargeter with regard to this important work.

It is satisfactory to state that no proceedings were necessary with regard to the deposit or exposure of unsound food during the past year, and the butchers of this town readily call me in for advice, and for some years have accepted my decisions without exception.

The meat supply has kept up to its usual good standard.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 30 Cowkeepers and 224 purveyors on the Register, the approximate number of cows kept within the Borough being 245.

Every Cowshed and Milkshop is visited at least twice during the year and special attention directed to cleanliness, and it is very satisfactory to find from the Analyst's Reports that the quality of milk sold within the Borough continues to be of a high standard, not one sample being found adulterated.

I am pleased to report the continued increase of Milkshops selling milk which has been sterilised and bottled at the dairy; 132 of the purveyors selling milk in this form.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

All cases of Infectious Diseases have been visited and a printed copy of your Medical Officer's instructions left at each house, and all infected bedding and clothing was removed to the Borough Hospital where they are steam disinfected, whilst the infected rooms were fumigated or sprayed with disinfectant.

In all cases of death from Tuberculosis the house and bedding are disinfected.

During the year 172 beds, 62 pillows, 39 bolsters, 9 sheets, 206 blankets, 125 counterpanes and 19 articles of miscellaneous clothing, curtains, carpets, etc., were removed to the Hospital for disinfection and 26 rooms were fumigated for reasons other than Infectious Disease.

CANAL BOAT INSPECTION.

Periodical inspection was made of canal boats passing through the district. Three boats were inspected during the year. No cases of Infectious Disease were found on any Canal Boat, nor was it found necessary to detain any boat for cleansing or disinfection. No legal proceedings were necessary.

DESTRUCTOR.

The Destructor during the year has maintained its beneficial work by consuming light and perishable matter which otherwise would have to be buried on the tips.

The following mentioned refuse has been consumed during the past twelve months:—

2,776 tubs fish offal, 4,140 loads ashpit and dust bin refuse, 394 loads trade refuse, 83 loads butchers' offal, 215 loads fruiterers' refuse, 339 loads market garbage, 62 pigs, 87 dogs, 2 sheep, 1 goat, 12 beasts and 5 calves; also a very large quantity of diseased meat and unsound fruit and fish, and miscellaneous tinned goods, which have been surrendered as unfit for food.

No complaints were received as regards any nuisance arising from the destructor.

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACTS, 1877 and 1917.

No case of infection was reported within the Borough.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Your Committee have not sanctioned any expenditure under this Act, other than continuing to pay for rats destroyed.

Every assistance is given to occupiers whose premises are infested with rats, such as laying of baits and the most efficient poisons to be used.

Since your Committee commenced to pay 2d. per dead rat, 22,107 have been brought to the Sanitary Department,

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT, 1913.

All cases of alleged Mental Deficiency have been investigated by me, and in one case only was it found advisable to obtain an order.

There are now 17 cases under Orders at the Dudley Poor Law Institution.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACTS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	298
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	240

1. *Unfit Dwelling-Houses.*

INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	369
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	143
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human 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	...	...	...	...	...	—

2. *Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	—
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

3. *Action under Statutory Powers:—*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

- | | |
|---|---|
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit | |
| (a) By Owners | — |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close ... | — |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 369 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied : | |
| (a) By Owners | 231 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | — |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | — |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — |

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

Frequent visits are paid to the few manufacturers of bedding and upholstery in the town, and when thought advisable samples are taken for examination.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

I beg to report as follows on the work carried out under these Acts during the year ending December 31st, 1925:—

121 samples were taken, consisting of 30 articles, by your Inspector for analysis ; of these only 3 were adulterated, *i.e.*,—

- 1.—Seidlitz Powder ... White papers contained excess by weight of 24% and 30.2% respectively Unofficial vendor cautioned.
- 2.—Medical Prescription. Deficient of Active Chlorine Unofficial vendor cautioned.
Boric Acid and equal to 38%
Chlorinated Soda)
- 3.—Magnesia ... Carbonate substituted for Oxide Unofficial vendor cautioned.

Of the 31 samples of milk submitted for analysis, all were found to be genuine.

With the exception of 1 Seidlitz Powder, 1 Medical Prescription and 1 Magnesia, all the samples were found to be genuine, drugs being in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia, and all the milks and butters free from preservatives.

The South Staffordshire Water has been chemically analysed four times during the year, and in all cases was found to be of a high degree of purity and satisfactory for drinking purposes, but in two cases the water was found to be very hard.

The samples taken for analysis were:—

Milk ...	...	31	Sponge Cakes ...	...	5
Condensed Milk ...	...	9	Pikelets ...	...	1
Cream ...	...	5	Dressed Crab ...	...	1
Butter ...	...	11	Fish Paste ...	...	6
Margarine ...	...	14	Sausages ...	...	2
Coffee ...	...	7	Liquorice Powder ...	...	1
Cocoa ...	...	1	Magnesia ...	...	1
Cheese ...	...	5	Magnesia (Carbonate of) ...	...	1
Lard ...	...	3	Glycerine ...	...	2
Pepper ...	...	2	Camphorated Oil ...	...	2
Bread ...	...	1	Seidlitz Powder ...	...	1
Corn Flour ...	...	2	Epsom Salts ...	...	1
Borax ...	...	1	Rice ...	...	1
Pearl Barley ...	...	1	Coffee and Chicory ...	...	1
Custard Powder ...	...	1	Medical Prescription ...	...	1

GENERAL REMARKS.

It will be seen from the "Summary of Work carried out" at the beginning of the Report that 855 Notices have been served during the past year for the abatement of nuisances, in addition to a large number of letters of intimation.

Overcrowding is still very serious within the Borough, and we are practically helpless in this matter owing to the continued shortage of houses.

There are a great many dwellings unfit for habitation and not capable of being made reasonably fit, but until we have more new houses it is useless to recommend the closure and demolition of the existing unfit dwelling-houses because the people have nowhere to go.

As mentioned in previous Reports, Dudley is now a water carriage town, very few houses being supplied with privy middens, and these are situate in outlying districts where there are no sewers.

The most urgent need, from a sanitary point of view, is the provision of a large number of new houses so that hundreds of our miserable habitations could be closed and demolished.

In concluding my Twenty-Second Annual Report I wish to be permitted to express my thanks to the Chraiman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence, to acknowledge assistance received from Officials of 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.,

Cert. R. San. Inst.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL

:: :: for the Year 1925. :: ::

To the Chairman and Members of the Team Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my ANNUAL REPORT on House Refuse Removal for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

HORSES.

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

CARTS.

The number of carts used in the Sanitary Department is 13, of which 6 are used by the contractor. Two carts are covered with a light tarpaulin sheet to prevent the scattering of light refuse during the cartage to the Destructor. This method has proved very satisfactory.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

Six teams are wholly employed (assisted by the contractor in the Netherton Ward) with the collection of dust bin refuse throughout the Borough.

The collection is now a weekly one, and the principal streets, whenever possible, receive more frequent attention.

The ashpits in the whole of the Borough are dealt with by contract.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

TOWN & KATE'S HILL		NETHERTON		WOODSIDE	
Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1925	Dust Bins emptied once or twice weekly, Dec. 31st, 1925	Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1925	Dust Bins emptied weekly Dec. 31st, 1925	Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1925	Dust Bins emptied weekly Dec. 31st, 1925
7,391	3,846	4,266	1,320	14,00	926

The number of loads removed during the year from dust bins by the Corporation workmen were 12,110. In addition to the above refuse, 999 loads of clinker were removed from the Destructor.

REMARKS.

The number of dust bins emptied was increased by 571 during the year.

The policy of emptying ashpits by contract has again justified itself, the present contractor carrying out his duties with every satisfaction.

Very little nuisance is now caused by the removal of house refuse, which is no doubt due to the present water carriage system.

I again wish to be permitted to 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.,

Cert. R. San. Inst.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



