[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Halesowen Borough.

Contributors

Halesowen (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/svnmw3ba

License and attribution

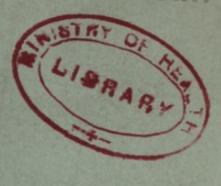
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.







BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

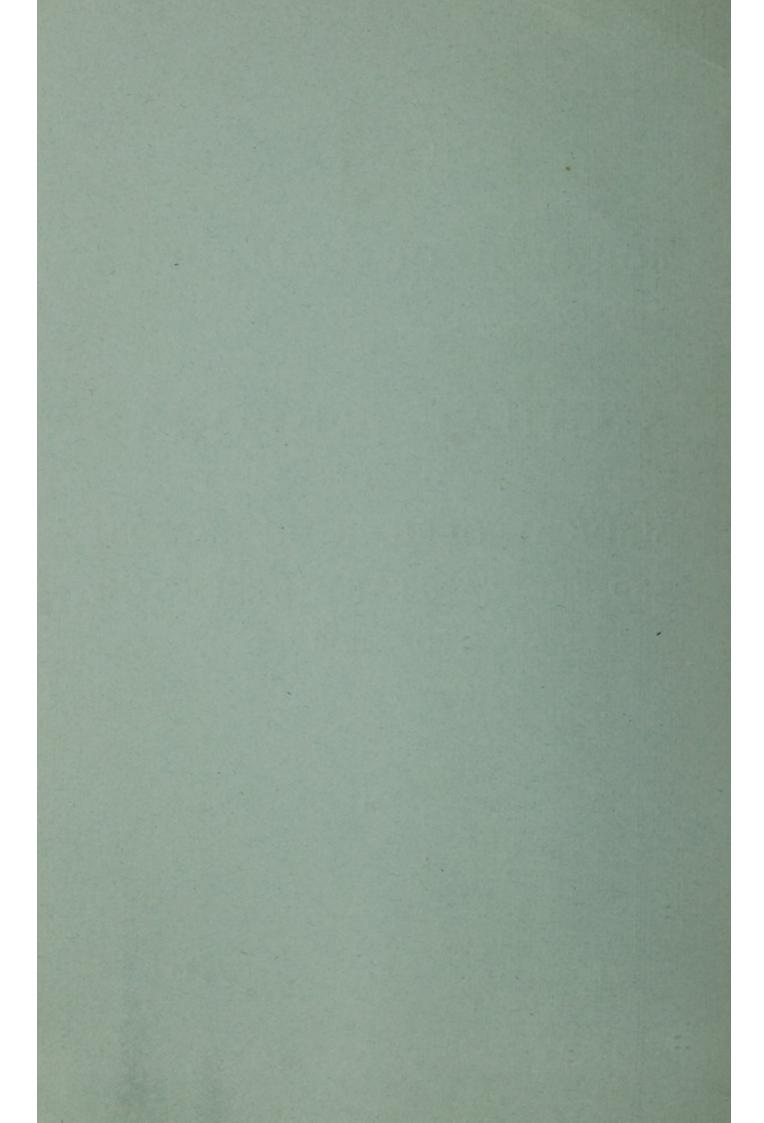
ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR 1938

Medical Officer of Health:
R. L. CORLETT.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: ERNEST LEA.





BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

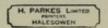
ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938

Medical Officer of Health: Senior Sanitary Inspector: R. L. CORLETT.

ERNEST LEA.



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN.

Mayor:

ALDERMAN HERBERT JOHN COX, J.P.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN JOHN BENJAMIN DOWNING, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Aldermen:

WILLIAM GREEN, J.P.; CHARLES HENRY HEAD; NORMAN KNOWLES.

Councillors:

CENTRAL WARD:

Councillor Mrs. Ethel May Harrison; Councillors Francis Lionel Rose; Alfred George Rudge.

NORTH WARD:

Councillors Herbert Parkes, c.c.; James Siviter; Thomas Smith, c.c.

SOUTH WARD:

Councillors John Henry Green; Leonard Harper; Fred Smart.

EAST WARD:

Councillors William Edward Vernon Hewin Guest; Arthur Marshall Harris; William Payne.

WEST WARD:

Councillors Richard Green, J.P.; Walter Hodgetts; Clifford Willetts.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (From 9th May, 1939)	T. BRETT YOUNG, M.D., BRUX., M.R.C.S., ENG., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.ED. R. L. CORLETT, M.D., D.P.H.
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR SHOPS ACT INSPECTOR, CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT	E. LEA, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C. (Certified Meat & Food Inspector).
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	G. V. POWELL, A.R.S.I. (Resigned 20/3/38). H. F. O'CONNOR, A.R.S.I. I. G. GRIFFITHS, A.R.S.I. (Appointed 6/7/38).
SENIOR CLERK	W. R. SOUTHALL. (Resigned 16/3/38). F. D. HIPKISS.
Clerk	A. R. HUMPHRIES (Appointed 1/6/38).
PUPIL	G. H. STONE.
COUNTY ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR TUBERCULOSIS	DR. S. DEANER.

Health Visitors, School Nurses, Tuberculosis Nurses, etc.

Administered by the County of Worcester.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE HALESOWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1938.

It was with deep regret that the inhabitants of the Town learned of the death of Dr. T. Brett Young, who for forty-three years had been Medical Officer of Health, and during whose term of office Halesowen had grown from a Rural District to a Borough. In addition to being Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brett Young had for many years been engaged in general practice here. He will be greatly missed.

The general health of the District was good; the Death Rate was 10.71 compared with that of 11.6 for England and Wales as a whole. The Infant Mortality Rate of 52.29 is practically the same as the average for England and Wales which is 53.00. It is satisfactory to note that the infant mortality rate for Halesowen continues to fall being 63.03 in 1936 and 57.00 in 1937.

The birth rate showed a welcome increase; it was 17.09 compared with 15.73 for 1937 and was above the average for England and Wales which was 15.1. There were 283 more births than deaths.

During the year there were 12 cases of Diphtheria notified, equivalent to an incidence of 0.33 per thousand population. We can consider ourselves very fortunate

Scarlet Fever showed a slight increase, there were 34 cases as against 25 in 1937 giving an incidence of 0.95 per thousand.

I would like to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their willing co-operation and help at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

1st September, 1939.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area of the Borough is	 5,247 acres
The population at Census 1921	 28,212
The population at Census 1931	 31,058
The population estimated to 1938	 35,970
Number of inhabited houses 1938	 10,586
Rateable value	 £138,429
Sum represented by a penny rate	 £476/6/0

These figures show an increase in the population of 820 over the 1937 figure and an increase of 1600 over the 1936 total. The number of inhabited houses has risen accordingly, being 10,201 in 1937 and 9,700 in 1936.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough is situated generally in the valley of the River Stour, and rises northward up Mucklow Hill to the Birmingham Boundary. The Borough is bounded by Stourbridge Borough on the west, the Boroughs of Rowley Regis and Oldbury on the North West, by the City of Birmingham and Bromsgrove Rural District on the South and East.

The town is largely industrial but is partly residential. The industrial portions are principally North and Central; the South and East portions being rural in character. The principal industries are brickmaking, fireclay and terracotta; chain and spike making; tube and tube fittings; steel making; gun barrel making; spade and shovel forgings; bedstead and mattress making; bicycles; perambulators; iron casting; shoe, heel and tip making; wall tie making; spelter refining; paint and varnish making; coal mining and some electrical work.

No particular diseases are attributable to the occupations carried on in the district.

The estimated number of persons unemployed at the end of 1938 was 750.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

1	Y .	D		
(a)) L1V	ve B	irti	ıs.
				_

(4)	Legitimate Illegitimate	 	Males 289 5	Females 317 4	Total 606 9
			294	321	615
	Rate per 1,000 of Rate for England		resident p	opulation	17.09 15.1

The Birth Rate increased during the year from 15.73 to 17.09, due to there being 53 more births in 1938 than 1937. The number of illegitimate births remained the same as 1937, being 4 fewer than 1936.

The Birth Rate given here includes all births to Halesowen parents, whether or not the confinement took place in the Borough or elsewhere.

(b) Still Births.

Legitimate			Males 20	Females 4	Total 24
Illegitimate			-	1	1
			20	5	25
Rate per 1,000 bir	ths (live a	and still)			40.65

The number of still births was 2 less than 1937 and the same number as 1936.

D	F	Δ	T	T.	1	C	
D	L.	7		1	1	0	۰

de Death	Rate per	1,000 o	f the es	timated	resident	
Total					332	
Females	*****				156	
Males					176	

Crude Death Rate per 1,000	of the	estimated	resident	
population				9.23
Adjusted Death Rate				10.71
Death Rate for England and	Wales			11.6

The Adjusted Death Rate is obtained by multiplication of the Crude Death Rate by an area comparability factor (1.16) supplied by the Registrar General.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Deauis from Fuer	perai Caus	es.					
	Deaths	Rate per	1,000				
		(Live and Stil	l Births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	-	0.00					
Other Puerperal causes	1	0.64					
Total	1	0.64					
	_						
The Maternal Mortality Rates	for Englan	d and Wales	were:				
Puerperal Sepsis		0.86					
Other Puerperal Causes		2.11					
Total		2.97					
It will be seen that the death rate for the borough is as low as is possible.							
Deaths of Infants under	One Year	of Age.					
	Mal	es Females	Total				
Legitimate	14	4 19	33				
Illegitimate		_	_				
		_	_				
	14	19	33				
	L. Sports		-				
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1	YEAR OF A	GE:					
All infants per 1,000 live	births		52.29				
Legitimate infants per 1,00							
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births —							
The Infantile Mortality Rate country's figure of 53.00	of 52.29 i	s very close	to the				
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		1	male				
Deaths from Whooping cough (all a			female				
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 year			il				
	and the second	A ALL DE STATE OF THE SECOND					

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1	I THE WAR SHOW SHOW SHOW			Male.	Female
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Feve	r		_	_
2.	Measles			1	
3.	Scarlet Fever			-	_
4.	Whooping Cough			-	1
5.	Diphtheria			1	_
6.	Influenza			6	3
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica			- 166	-
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever			1	1
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory Sys	tem		6	2
10.	Other Tuberculosis			-	_
11.	Syphilis				_
12.	G.P.I. tabes dorsalis			1	_
13.	Cancer			23	19
14.	Diabetes			_	2
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage			14	9
16.	Heart Disease ,			40	43
17.	Aneurysm			-	1
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases			8	11
19.	Bronchitis			7	4
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)			10	9
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases			1	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer			3	1
23.	Diarrhœa etc. (under 2 years)			_	_
24.	Appendicitis			3	- 1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver			2	1
26.	Other Diseases of Liver			1	_
27.	Other Digestive Diseases			3	3
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis			5	-
29.	Puerperal Sepsis			-	_
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases			-	1
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature	Births,			
	Malformations, etc			12	14
32.				6	11
33.				4	1
34.	Other Violence			9	5
35.	Other Defined Diseases			9	12
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown			_	
SPE	CIAL CAUSES (included under	35 above	2)	-	-
	Smallpox			-	_
	Poliomyelitis			_	1
	Polioencephalitis				
				176	156
-					the latest terminal and the la

Comments on Causes of Death.

Heart disease was again the cause of the largest number of deaths, namely 83 out of 332, being 1 in 4. If the number of Circulatory Diseases deaths (19) be added to this number the total becomes 102 or 30.72% of the total number of deaths. The deaths due to Cancer showed a marked decline being 42 as against 61 in 1937. The deaths due to Tuberculosis, 8, were considerably less than the 1937 total of 23 and lower than the 1936 figure of 27. Old age accounted for 5% of the total deaths.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

(i) Public Health Officers.

The Staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of water, milk and foodstuffs generally, as well as the examination of swabs, sputum etc. is carried out by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The Council maintain two ambulances for use in cases of accident or for conveying non-infectious cases to and from hospital. During the year under review these ambulances carried 2,720 cases (including 72 maternity cases) and were called to 45 accidents, travelling a total distance of 24,836 miles. Several of the larger firms in the Borough also maintain ambulances of their own for the use of their work people.

For infectious disease ambulance services are provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital.

The facilities are adequate for the district.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The nursing of patients in the home is carried out by entirely voluntary committees who maintain 5 nurses in various parts of the Borough.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The County Council provide three School Clinics, three Infant Welfares and three Ante-Natal Clinics in the Borough as set out in the table overleaf.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

SESSIONS	Monday 10 a.m.	Monday 2 p.m. Tuesday 10 a.m.	Friday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays.	Tuesday 2 p.m.	Friday 10 a.m.	Wednesday 10 a.m.	Wednesday 2 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m.	Wednesday 10 a.m.	
SITUATION	Wesleyan Schools, Cradley.	Wesleyan Schools, Cradley. Wesleyan Schools, Cradley.	Congregational Hall, Halesowen.	Congregational Hall, Halesowen.	Congregational Hall, Halesowen.	Primitive Methodist Chapel, Long Lane, Blackheath.	Primitive Methodist Chapel, Long Lane, Blackheath.	Primitive Methodist Chapel, Long Lane, Blackheath.	
NAME	Cradley Ante-Natal Centre.	Cradley Intant Weltare Centre. Cradley School Clinic.	Halesowen Ante-Natal Centre.	Halesowen Infant Welfare Centre.	Halesowen School Clinic.	Blackheath Ante-Natal Centre	Blackheath Infant Welfare Centre.	Blackheath School Clinic.	

(e) Hospitals; Public and Voluntary.

The hospital services for the area remained the same during the year namely:—

Name.	Situation.	Туре.	Accomm.
North Worcs. Joint Hospital.	Hayley Green.	Isolation.	42 beds, 6 cots
,, ,,	Hayley Green.	Tuberculosis.	20 beds.
,, ,,	Lutley.	Smallpox.	12 beds.
Cottage Hospital.	Halesowen.	General.	28 beds.

All infectious cases are admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital, which also serves five other local authorities.

The Smallpox Hospital at Lutley was not used during the year.

The Cottage Hospital is used by the inhabitants of the Borough and is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

Maternity Cases are admitted to the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, Stourbridge. The County Council have also made arrangements for admission of patients to the Birmingham Hospitals.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum requiring hospital treatment are sent through the County Medical Officer to the Birmingham Eye Hospital and to the Dudley Guest Hospital. (In other cases arrangements are made for home treatment).

The County Council have made arrangements for cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia to be treated of the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham.

The Hospitals of Birmingham are widely used by the inhabitants of this Borough for all purposes.

Tuberculosis work is undertaken by the Worcestershire County Council, and patients requiring sanatorium treatment are sent to:

- (i) King Edward VII Memorial Sanatorium, Knightwick.
- (ii) Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove.
- (iii) Hayley Green Hospital.

Non-pulmonary cases are admitted to one of the above institutions or the County Council make arrangements for their admission to the Birmingham Royal Cripples Hospital.

The County Council provide a Tuberculosis Dispensary at 14, Laurel Lane, at which Dr. S. Deaner attends every Wednesday at 5 p.m. Patients attend not only for treatment and observation but doubtful cases also are referred there for diagnosis.

(iii) Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work of Maternity and Child Welfare is carried on under tne supervision of the County Council who provide and maintain three clinics in the Borough, at Halesowen, at Cradley, and at Blackheath.

These centres are open weekly and Dr. Eileen Bulmer, Assistant County Medical Officer, is in attendance with two Health Visitors and Voluntary Helpers. All new cases are examined by the Medical Officer and surgical cases are referred to hospital.

The attendances during the year under review are set out below and a heartening feature is the high averages.

	No. of	Attendances	Attendance	S .	Average
	Sessions	unto 1 yr.	over 1 yr.	Total	per Session
HALESOWEN CLINIC	48	2,831	2,831	5,662	118
BLACKHEATH CLINIC	102	4,315	3,656	7,971	78
CRADLEY CLINIC	47	1,555	1,171	2,726	58

Ante-Natal Clinics, also provided and maintained by the County Council, are held at the same centres and the attendances are set out below:

	No. of Session	First Attendances	Total Attendances	Average per Session
HALESOWEN	24	99	491	20
BLACKHEATH	46	115	556	12
CRADLEY	38	110	493	13

In addition to the clinics mentioned above the County Council also provide three School Clinics and one Tuberculosis Dispensary.

There is no special provision made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in the Borough. The Public Assistance Institution at Kidderminster receives and deals with such cases and a Hospital for unmarried mothers is maintained by the Worcester Diocesan Rescue Association at Greenhill, Kidderminster. Admission to this Hostel is limited to first pregnancies, subsequent cases are not admitted.

The Public Assistance Institution at Wordsley is now under the control of the Stafford County Council and makes no provision for the reception of patients from this area.

Legislation in Force.

The following are the adoptive Acts and Byelaws dealing with Public Health which are in force in the Borough.

Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts II, III, IV and V) (now amended by Public Health Act, 1936)	14/9/1925
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Sections 15—18, 20, 22, 28—33) 53, 54, 95	16/4/1910
(Section 21 in the contributory places of Hill and Cakemore, Cradley, Halesowen, Hasbury	
and Hawne)	16/4/1910
Public Health Act, 1925, Part II	10/2/1926

Model Byelaws relating to Nuisances; common lodging houses; house refuse; offensive trades; slaughterhouses; tents, vans and sheds; new streets; houses let in lodgings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The public water supply continued under the supervision of the South Staffordshire Water Company. No important extension or alteration of the service occurred during the year.

The water is maintained satisfactory in both quality and quantity and no conditions have arisen during the year to demand strict sampling or give rise to suspicion.

In a few isolated cases water is still drawn from wells or other sources and these have been satisfactory during 1938.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage system of the district is under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Main Drainage Board and sewage is treated at the Board's farm at Whittington by broad irrigation.

Apart from the development of Housing Estates there has been no extension of sewers throughout the year.

Some houses have cesspools in parts of the Borough and these are emptied regularly by the Public Cleansing Staff.

Rivers and Streams.

The state of the River Stour has occasioned many visits of inspection and many consultations with the County Public Health Department during the year, and these are still continuing.

No action was taken during the year either by this Council or the County Council against pollution though investigation of cases and sampling of the river was carried out.

The Report of the Department for 1939 may show what progress has been made toward the freeing of the river from pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year under review one privy midden was converted into a water-coset and several houses using privy middens were demolished.

The number of houses remaining without water-closets is very small and is occasioned either by the inability of the sewerage authority, by reason of local contours, to provide a sewer or by lack of water supply.

Public Cleansing.

The work of the Public Cleansing Department was carried on smoothly and efficiently during the year and no outstanding change occurred to merit inclusion here.

The subject is dealt with fully in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The details of inspections and work of the Sanitary Inspectors is dealt with in detail in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops and Offices.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report sets out the work done during the year under this heading.

Camping Sites.

One site in the area is used for camping purposes and is licensed for the reception of six caravans.

One application was refused during the year and no other applications were made.

The estimated maximum number of residents in the area during the summer of 1938 is 27.

Smoke Abatement.

Complaints of smoke and grit have been received during the year and investigations carried out. In some cases the complaints related to excepted works in which case no action could be taken.

14 such complaints were received and were still under observation at the end of the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the district but one privately owned bath is available for the public use.

The condition of the water is satisfactory though untreated, being supplied by a constant spring.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No information is available at present regarding the number of Council houses infested with vermin and of other houses 25 were treated during 1938.

Houses to be disinfested are sprayed with "Zaldecide" and frequent repeat sprayings are carried out when necessary.

When tenants are notified of their allocation of a Council house, their furniture is is inspected and sprayed if necessary or disinfested by steam. I am not satisfied that these methods are the best possible to combat the bed bug nuisance and I would suggest that serious consideration be given in the future to the establishing of some efficient method of gaseous disinfestation.

The work at present done is carried out by the Local Authority.

During the year a Housing Manager was appointed to supervise Council Houses and her duties include periodical visits to tenants to prevent re-infestation.

Schools.

The conditions of schools in the Borough and the Water Supply to each is satisfactory.

During the year 30 certificates were issued excluding from school children who had been suffering from various infectious diseases, and 31 certificates were issued for the temporary exclusion of contacts.

No school closure was necessary during the year, nor was it necessary to issue certificates to cover decreased attendance below 60 per cent.

HOUSING.

629 new houses were erected during the year, 406 of them by the Local Authority. The progress made during preceding years was continued this year, though a slowing down of work was experienced due to the alterations of Staff.

Below the year's working is set out in the form drafted by the Ministry.

Particulars of Work carried out in respect of Housing.

1	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—	
1.	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected	
	for housing defects (under Public Health	
	or Housing Acts)	248
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	258
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	180
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	191
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	156
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices:—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	20
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:— A—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners (b) By local authority in default of owners	23 Nil
	(b) by room authority in delaunt of owners	TAIT

1	B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts: (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
1 Nil	(a) By owners (b) By local authority in default of owners
	C—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
114	Demolition Orders were made (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in
66	D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
NEI	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders
Nil	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders
Nil	were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit
	HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.
	(a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the
467 733	end of the year Number of families dwelling therein
2313	Number of persons dwelling therein
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported
, 5	during the year
67	(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year
337	Number of persons concerned in such cases
	(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abate-
Nil.	ment of overcrowding
	(e) Any other particulars with respect to over- crowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to
Nil	report

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A. Milk Supply.

No notable change occurred in the milk supplier's trading in the Borough during the year and the number of registered dairy farms was still 35.

Licenses under the Special Designations Orders remained as before namely:—

	Pasteurised.	Accredited.	Tuberculin Tested.
Bottlers	1	1	10 B_N
Retailers	3	5	3
Producers	1	1	

Routine visits were paid to the pasteurising plant and 17 inspections of dairies and cowsheds were carried out. 13 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the County Laboratory. The results, detailed below, show no cause for complaint.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER.

Designation.	Coli	Coli count.			Methylene Blue Test.			
Accredited	Absent	in	1	c.c.	Not discoloure	d in 5½	hours	
,,	,,	,,	1	c.c.	,,,	,, 51	,,	
Tuberculin Tested	,,	,,	1	c.c.	,,	$,, 5\frac{1}{2}$.,	
,, ,,	,,	,,	1	c.c.	-,,	,, 41	,,	
,, ,,	,,	,,	1	c.c.	,,	,, 41	,,	
,, ,,	,,	,,	1	c.c.	,,	,, 51	,,	
Accredited	Present	in	10	oc.c.	,,	,, 51	,,	
,,	Absent	in	1	c.c.	,,	$,, 5\frac{1}{2}$,,	
,,	,,	,,	1	C.C.	,,	,, 51	,,,	
,,	,,	,,	1	c.c.	"	$,, 5\frac{1}{2}$,,	
Tuberculin Tested	"	,,	1	c.c.	"	,, 51	,,	
,, ,,	11.	,,	1	c.c.	,,	,, 51	,,	
Accredited	,,	,,	1	c.c.	,,	$,, 5\frac{1}{2}$		
Pasteurised. Absent.				Bacteria 400. Passed the				

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT ('SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS)

Bacteria.	Coli Count	Solids Not Fat.	Fat Methylene Blue Test.
230,000	Nil	8.5	4.00 Not discoloured in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours 3.9 , , $5\frac{1}{2}$,,
per c.c.	Nil	8.6	

MILK TESTED FOR T.B.

One sample taken and examined by centrifuging and by inoculation. Negative results.

B. Meat and Other Foods.

Twelve private slaughterhouses were in use during the year, of which number 9 are registered and 3 licensed. Six defects necessitating notices were observed during the year, and a few minor repairs in addition to the routine limewashing, were carried out readily on verbal request.

561 visits were paid to slaughterhouses during the year and the results of the year's working is given below.

CARCASE INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Number killed (if known)	Cattle, excluding Cows 1122	Cows 383	Calves 153	Sheep and Lambs 7.096	Pigs 2,608
Number inspected	709	207	7	5,296	1,496
All diseases except tubercu- losis. Whole carcases condemned		-	_	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	3	-	80	30
Percentage of number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than T.B.	3.06%	1.44%	-	1.53%	2.07%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcase condemned	2	1	_	_	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	11	-	-	4
Percentage of number in- spected affected with tuberculosis	1.97%	5.80%			1.01%

The total weight of meat condemned and voluntarily surrendered was 2 ton 7 cwts. In addition 43 tins of milk were condemned as unfit.

There were no seizures of unsound food during the year.

C. Adulteration, etc.

The Borough is not an authority under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

D. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Work of these natures are carried out by the County Council at the laboratory in Worcester.

E. Nutrition.

No special work has been carried out during the year to increase the public knowledge of nutrition, other than the advice which expectant and nursing mothers are given at clinics.

F. Shell-fish.

No special trade in shell-fish exists in this district and no occasion has arisen to bring shell-fish to the notice of the Department. The supply of shell-fish to those families who feel inclined for such articles of diet are adequately met within the City of Birmingham.

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

Smallpox.

No case occurred during the year and no case has occurred in the last decade.

Diphtheria.

During the last three years the incidence of Diphtheria has shown a steady decline from 30 cases in 1936, to 15 in 1937 and 12 during the year under review. The deaths from diphtheria were lower during 1938, there being only one death against 3 last year.

All of the cases were removed to hospital. Where necessary, the General Practitioner has available a supply of "Wellcome" Diphtheria Antitoxin for prophylactic use, and for treatment.

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria continued during 1938, and 186 children under school age and 43 school children were fully immunised during the year. Immunisation is carried out by injecting 1 c.c. of T.A.M. at fortnightly intervals (for 3 injections) at clinics and schools by me.

By arrangement with Dr. Wyndham Parker, the County Council kindly allow us the services of one of the County Nurses

to assist.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Head Teachers, and the Nurses for their willing co-operation and help, and last but not least Mr. Lea and his staff, in particular Mr. Stone. I am very grateful to Dr. Eileen Bulmer for having obtained for us so many consents for immunisation amongst the pre-school children attending the Infant Welfare Centres.

The figures shown are a marked decline over the 1937 figures but this is attributable to the international situation last September and not to the response by parents, which continues to be very

satisfactory.

Cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Borough as set out in the table below:—

	Halesowen	Hasbury	Hawne	Hill and Cakemore	Cradley	Illey Lapal Lutley	Total
January	1 —	1	-	1	1	_	. 3
February		_	_	_	2	_	2
March		1		2	1	-	4
April		_		1	-	-	1
May	1	_	_	1	_	-	2
June		_	_			-	-
July		_	-	-	-	-	-
August		_				_	-
September			_	_			-
October		-	-	_	-	-	-
November		-	-	_	-	-	-
December		-	-	_	_	-	-
To	tal 1	2	_	5	4	_	12

Scarlet Fever.

During the year 34 cases of scarlet fever were reported of which 26 were isolated in hospital. The disease was mainly of a very mild nature and occasioned no deaths. The number notified during 1938 was higher by 9 than the number in 1937 and 4 higher than 1936, but no particular importance need be attached to the slightly increased incidence of the disease, as it appears to maintain itself at a yearly average of approximately 30.

Disinfection is carried out on the removal or recovery of the patient and this would appear to be satisfactory as no return cases

were notified throughout the year.

An analysis table for the year is set out below.

jan line	На	lesowen	Hasbury	Hawne	Hill and Cakemore	Cradley	Illey Lapal Lutley	Total
January		_	-	-	1	_	-	1
February		_	1	_	_	_	-	1
March		_	3	_	1	2	_	6
April			1		1	3		5
May		_		_		_	1	1
Lune		_	_		2	_	1	3
Inly		1	_	_	_	_	_	1
Angust		3	1	1		_		5
September		2	2	3	_	_		7
Ostahan		1		_	1			2
November					1		1	2
December			_		_	_		_
Tot		7	8	4	7	5	3	34

Erysipelas.

9 cases of this disease occurred, a decrease of 10 on 1937. All except one case involved elderly persons.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No cases of this disease were notified.

Enteric Fever.

No cases of this disease were notified.

Influenza.

Information as to the number of cases of this disease occurring during the year is not available as it is not notifiable. 9 deaths from this cause occurred during the year.

Pneumonia.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified was 50 compared with 48 cases notified during the previous year. Of these, 12 cases were children under five years. The number of deaths recorded was 19, this being 5 less than 1937.

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever.

The County Medical Officer is responsible for action under the Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations and all notifications are transmitted immediately to him. 7 cases of pyrexia occurred during the year, and there were again no deaths from puerperal pyrexia, a matter for congratulation.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

One case was notified during the year and proved fatal. The patient, a girl of eighteen years was removed to the City of Birmingham isolation hospital at Little Bromwich but died the day following admission.

Cerebro Spinal Fever (Spotted Fever).

Two cases of this disease were notified in 1938 and both were removed to the Corbett Hospital. Both cases were fatal.

Dysentery.

One case of this disease was notified and removed to the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. The patient, a girl of three years, made an excellent recovery.

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of tuberculosis during the year were 37 as compared with 49 for 1937 and 42 for 1936. The number of deaths from tuberculosis reached a low level, 8 only being recorded against 27 for 1937 and 26 for 1936. All deaths were due to pulmonary tuberculosis, no non-pulmonary cases proving fatal during the year.

No person employed in the milk trade notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and no occasion arose for action under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The table below sets out the notifications and deaths during 1938.

		New Cases				Deaths			
All ages	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0— 1	_	_	-		_				
1— 5	-	-	_	2	-	-			
5—15	1	_	-	3	-	-			
15—25	4	1	2	1	1	1			
25—35	3	10	1	1	3	1			
35—45	_	2	_	_		-			
45—55	2	1	1	-	1	-			
55—65	1	-	_	-	-	-			
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-			
Totals	12	14	4	7	6	2	Nil	Nil	

Tuberculosis After-Care Committee.

The After-Care Committee consists of four members from Halesowen Borough Council, four members from the County Council and three co-opted members with the local Nurse and the County's Tuberculosis Officer.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector remains Honorary Secretary.

The Committee met on six occasions during the year and the following is a summary of the year's business:—

- (a) FOOD ALLOWANCES in force 31st December, 1938 3
- (b) Special Nursing. One case during the year.
- (c) Rent Relief. No applications for rent relief were received.
- (d) Re-housing. Eight cases were recommended to the Borough Housing Committee for re-housing with the following results:—
 - (i) Four cases were re-housed (three in 1939).
 - (ii) One case left the district before the application was considered.
 - (iii) One case was relieved by the re-housing of T.B. relatives.

TABLE I.

The following Table gives the age incidence of the Notifiable Diseases.

Deaths	1	-	19	1	1	1	1	2	-	23
Removed to Hospital.	26	12	*	*	*	*	1.	2	1	42
65 yrs.	1	1	4	1	-	1	1	1	1	-ro
45-65 yrs.	1	1	15	-	3	1	1	- 1	1	19
35-45 yrs.	1	1	4	1	2	1	i	1	1	7
20-35 yrs.	2	1	4	20	2	1	1	1	1	13
15-20 yrs	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	20
10-15 yrs.	3	2	3	1	-	1	1	2	1	11
5.10 yrs.	18	4	ıo	1	1	- 1	1	1	1	27
4-5 yrs.	w	2	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	80
3-4 yrs.	3	-	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	8
2-3 yrs.	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
1-2 yrs.	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	1	32
Under 1 yr.	1	1	20	1	1	ro.	1	1	1	10
Total Cases.	34	12	50	7	6	w	1	2	is 1	121
Disease.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentry	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Totals

*No information is available as to the numbers of these cases treated in hospital.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1938.

	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	26 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	42
	Lutley.	-	-
locality.	Lapal.	0 0 - 0 4	12
each loc	Illey.	-11111111111	-
Ë	Нампе.	4 0 - 0	12
s notified	Hasbury.	8000014 0-11	37
tal Cases	Halesowen.	r-2002	28
Total	Cradley.	240 E 20 E 2	39
	Hill and Cakemore.	r n 4 - s 2 -	28
3.	.sbrawqu bas 65	4 - -	9
s, years.	45 and under 65.	12 6 - 4 -	24
at ages.	35 and under 45.	40- 0	6
District	15 and under 35.	4 1 2 2 2 8 2 1 1	41
0	5 and under 15.	208 - 8-2	42
Cases notified in whol	I and under 5.	0 9 7 1 0 1	26
s notif	Under I year.	10 10	10
Cas	At all ages.	26 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	158
	NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Scarlet Fever Diphtheria Pneumonia Erysipelas Puerperal Pyrexia Ophthalmia Neonatorum Respiratory Tuberculosis Other Tuberculous Diseases Acute Polyomyelitis Cerebro-Spinal Fever Dysentery	TOTALS 158

TABLE III.
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Deaths	0
Total	0
Vision Impaired	0
Vision Unimpaired	20
Cases Treated me In Hospital	-
Cases At Home	4
Notified	ın

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1938. Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. TABLE IV.

Live	Total Deaths under one year.	53	57		51	57	52
Rates 1000 Birt	Diarrhea and Enteritis (under two years).	5.5	7.8		3.6	13.1	0.00
	Influenza.	0.11	0.10		0.11	90.0	0.25
	Diphtheria.	0.07	0.07		90.0	0.05	0.03
pulation.	Whooping Cough.	0.03	0.03		0.05	0.03	0.03
Annual Death Rate per 1000 population.	Scarlet Fever.	0.01	0.01		0.01	0.01	00.00
eath Rate	Measles.	0.04	0.05		0.03	90.0	0.03
Annual I	Small Pox.	0.00	1		0.00	1	00.00
	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	00.00
	All Causes.	11.6	11.7		11.0	11.4	10.71
r 1000 tion.	Still Births.	09.0	0.65		09.0	0.48	69.0
Rates per 1000 population.	Live Births.	15.1	15.0		15.4	13.4	17.09
	20	England & Wales	126 C ty Boroughs and Great Towns	including London J 148 Smaller Towns	(estimated resident population 25,000 > 50.000 at Census	1931) London (L.C.C.)	Borough

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth annual report of the work of my department.

The year has been one of increasing responsibility and has been difficult due to (a) the many changes in staff, and (b) the international crisis in September.

These factors and the great demands by A.R.P. have combined to lower the number of inspections and re-inspections though important work has always been kept in sight.

I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their unfailing support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. LEA,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

The work of clearing the town of its unfit houses was carried on successfully during the year. The number of inspections and re-inspections and other statistics are set out in the form required by the Ministry of Health in the report of the Medical Officer for the year, and show that the progress has been satisfactory.

The town is so arranged that clearance areas under Section 25 of the 1936 Housing Act are impracticable, and it has been found over a period of years that procedure by way of Section

11 and 12 of the Act is most suitable for the Borough.

As will be seen, 156 houses were found to be unfit during the year and 114 were the subjects of demolition orders, leaving 42 for final consideration during 1939.

There were no court proceedings nor appeals during the year.

The re-housing of persons actually dispossessed by action under the Housing Acts continued to be directed by my department during the year, though the management of such houses often initial letting, and of Council houses generally was vested in a Lady Housing Manager who was appointed for that purpose during the year.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year under review 42 visits were made to investigate conditions following notifications of infectious disease. No difficulty was experienced in removing to hospital such patients as could not be properly isolated at home, and no occasion arose during the year for action regarding contacts or patients working in the distribution or preparation of food or milk.

Disinfection after convalescence or removal of patients is done by the department's disinfector who treated 46 houses during the year after various diseases (including tuberculosis). The disinfection of bedding continues to be carried out by steam at the Isolation

Hospital.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk.

The general supply of milk in the district continues to be good and details of the analysis during the year are set out on page .

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The class of food animal slaughtered in the district continued to be excellent, and the practice of slaughtering old or moribund animals in the hope that they will be passed fit for consumption is non-existent in the Borough.

The butchers continued to co-operate in every possible way with the department during the year and in no case was formal

seizure of unsound food necessary.

There are, however, no general hours of slaughtering observed in the Borough and slaughtering at irregular hours makes it impossible for all meat in the district to be inspected, though every effort is made to insure that as much as possible is examined by the Staff.

Notification of disease in food animals was received in every case during the year when disease was suspected by the butchers and diseased or unsound food is thus retained until passed.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses in the district are visited twice a year as routine inspections. No defects were found in any of the 22 bakehouses during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one registered common lodging house in the borough and this is visited occasionally. It is conducted in an orderly manner, and its strict supervision is not essential.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Tents, vans and sheds were the subject of stricter control during the year and licenses for their use on any site are now required.

One license in force during the year was suspected of being contravened but several visits to the premises failed to discover any very serious contravention.

In one other case a license for the use of ground as a site for movable dwellings was refused.

Factories and Workshops.

294 factories and workshops continued on the register during the year. 3 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories pointing out 3 defects in various premises. 86 visits were paid during the year.

Petroleum Acts.

There were 82 licenses in force at the end of 1938 for the storage of petroleum spirit, and 5 licenses authorising the keeping of 10,374lbs. of carbide of calcium.

Strict supervision is enforced over all such places and I am satisfied that each license holder conscientiously endeavours to abide by the rules of his license.

Sale of Disinfectant.

The practise of selling disinfectant at a nominal charge was continued during the year and realised the sum of £11 17s. 10d.

Public Cleansing.

No major change was effected either in the administration or organisation of the Cleansing Department during the year. Refuse removal continued to be weekly from all premises; the emptying of cesspools and privies, and removals of trade refuse are arranged after request.

Removal is effected by the loaders carrying refuse bins direct to the refuse collector; the contents being emptied directly into the body of the vehicle thus ensuring no nuisance to occupiers and a

minimum of dust in the streets.

Collection is by five Morris Refuse Collectors of modern

pattern employing 20 men.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. The covering of the fingers is easily carried out, as a great deal of coal mining slack and ash is available on each tip and in addition clean, dry earth is used

when available as final covering.

Separate collection of waste paper was continued successfully during the year and the income from the resulting bales fully justified the continuance of the practice, though unfortunately the same remark is not applicable to the system of partial salvage that was inaugurated some years ago. The trouble and expense involved far exceeded the income derived and the practice was therefore discontinued during the year.

The costs of the service during 1938 are set out below.

PUBLIC CL	EANSING	Cost	s 1938.				
	Coll	Collection			Disposal		
Gross expenditure	3,530	4	11	623	13	2	
Gross income	7	16	6	61	10	2	
Nett expenditure	3,522	8	5	562	3	0	
Nett cost per ton		7	6.6		1	2.4	
Nett cost per load		11	4.7		1	9.9	
Nett cost per 1000 houses	333	6	8		1	0.7	
Nett cost per 1000 persons	97	18	4			3.8	

As will be seen from the above table the total cost of the department after deducting its income was £4,084 11s. 5d., an increase of £487 7s. 10d. over 1937; an increase due almost entirely to the development of the Borough. The increased cost during 1938 resulted in an increased cost per ton; the figure for 1938 being 8/9d. compared with $7/2\frac{1}{2}d$. for 1937. The cost per house per month showed a slight increase from 7.25d. in 1937 to 7.75d. in 1938—an increase of $\frac{1}{2}d$. per house.

The figures show that the department cost a rate of $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. in

the £ during 1938.

NUMERICAL SUMMARY FOR 1938.

Infectious Diseases.	
Number of houses and schools disinfected after	
notifiable disease	53
Lots of bedding, clothing etc., disinfected or destroyed	57
Compensation paid for destruction	Nil
Cases of illegal exposure reported (P.H. Act, 1936	
Section 148)	Nil
Houses.	
Houses inspected: General Inspections	258
Number recorded under Housing Regulations	180
Number recorded as unfit for habitation	156
Number of houses demolished	66
Number of houses in which notices were served to	
execute Repairs under Section 9 Housing Act, 1936	16
Number of houses in which the work was executed by	
the Local Authority	Nil
Dirty houses dealt with	3
Cases of overcrowding abated	67
Yards paved or re-paved	7
Movable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	
Number observed	34
Number of convictions	Nil
Number dealt with as insanitary	18
House Drainage.	
Number laid or relaid trapped, ventilated and repaired	14
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	294
Number of house drains tested	12
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals	
rectified	4
Water Closets.	
Number of privy or pail conversions including	
additional W.C's	1
Number of defective W.C.s. remedied	3
Number of slop closets converted into W.C's, with	~ ~
Number of additional water closets put in	
Number of additional water closets put in	
Offensive Trades.	
Number under observation	36
Number improperly conducted	Nil
Number newly established with consent of the Council	. 2

Water Supply.	
Number of wells sunk	Nil
Number of wells cleansed and repaired	Nil
Number of wells closed as polluted	Nil
Number of houses supplied from works during the year 10	
Number of samples of water for analysis	2
Number of samples of water for analysis	-
	NT:1
supply dealt with	Nil
Slaughter Houses.	
Public Slaughter Houses	Nil
Number registered (Private)	9
N 1 1 1 1/Directs	3
Number of contraventions of byelaws or defects found	6
	Nil
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported	
Number of Inspections	561
Milk and Dairies.	
Number of registered farms in the area	35
Total number of Datailars in district	122
Number of Licenses under Milk (Special Designations)	1 22
Order Order	11
Approximate number of milking cows in the district	223
Canal Boats.	
Number of boats on register	Nil
Number inspected	Nil
Lodging Houses.	
Number on register	1
Number of inspections	41
Number of contraventions of Bye-laws or defects found	Nil
Food.	NICE
Number of seizures as unfit for consumption	INII
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human	
consumption 2 tons 7 cwts. 0	qrs.
Amount destroyed as unfit for human consumption	
2 tons 7 cwts. 0	qrs.
Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis:	
Oxen	3
Pigs	1
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.	
Cases dealt with	Nil
Nuisances arising from Domestic Animals.	
Number of cases of removal after inspection	Nil
	1411
Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.	
Number of removals	Nil

Annual Report of the Borough of Halesowen for the year 1938 on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

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

	Number of					
Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)			
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	22	_	-			
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	61	_	_			
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises)	3	-	-			
Total	86		-			

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	N	Number of offences in			
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied		respect of which Prose cutions were instituted. (5)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—					
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	
Other nuisances	1	1	-	-	
Sanitary Accommodation:— Unsuitable or defective	1	1	_		
Total	3	3	_	-	

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING 1938.

NATURE.	Primary Visits.	Re-visits.
Infectious Disease Prevention	52	109
Houses (Housing Act, 1936)	228	726
Conversions of Privy Middens	_	_
Ashpits	7	27
Dust Bins	19	21
Tents, Vans and Sheds	24	560
Drains	57	8
Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection)	561	_
Offensive Trades	6	127
Factory and Workshops	65	54
Food Premises	31	_
Houses let in Lodgings and Lodging		
Houses	58	
Schools	_	4
Picture Houses	4	52
Dirty Houses	76	44
Bakehouses	8	16
Dairies and Cowsheds	38	_
Petroleum Stores	6	49
Keeping of Animals	_	7
Smoke	18	18
Milk Samples	13	_
Yards and Passages	_	_
Offensive Accumulations	_	2
Water Closets	_	_
Verminous Houses	9	108
Miscellaneous	205	_
Refuse Disposal Tips	76	_
Shops Acts	126	
Interviews	587	
Houses (Housing Act 1935) Measurements	03.	
for Overcrowding	151	-
TOTAL	2425	1932

