## [Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Halesowen Borough.

#### **Contributors**

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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

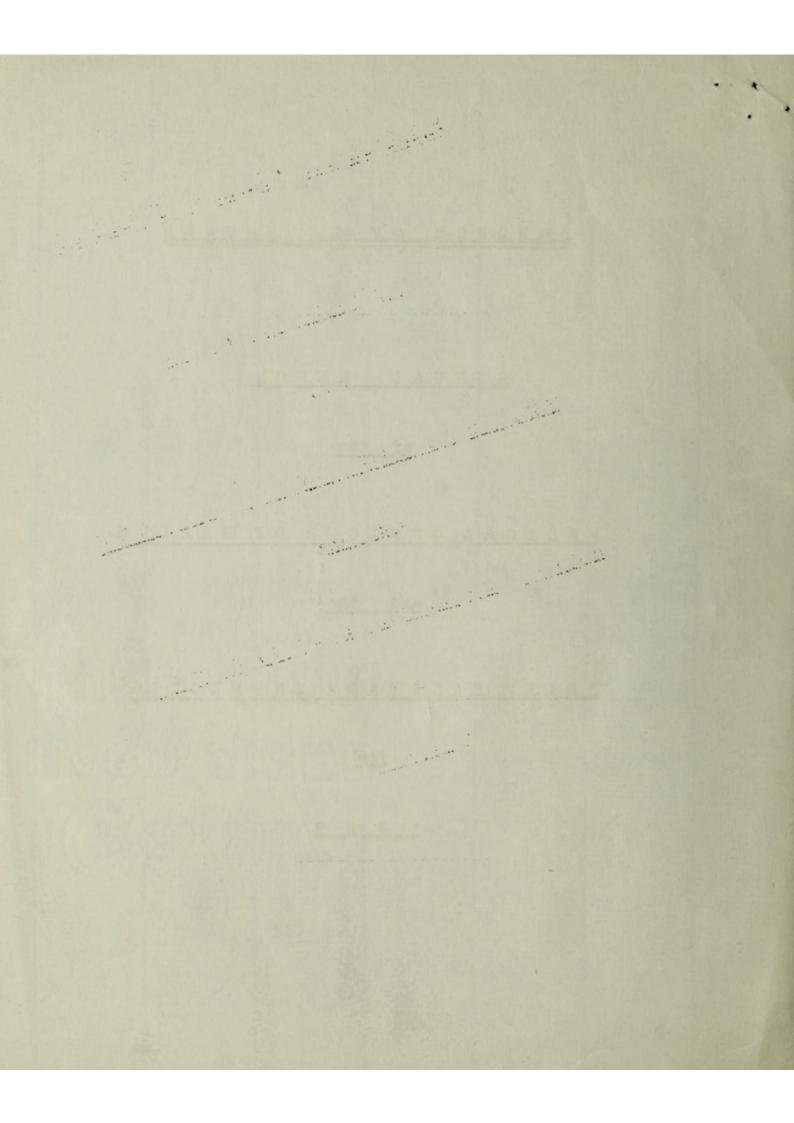
## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1 9 3 9



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Halesowen.

Mrs. Harrison, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report of the health of the Borough of Halesowen for the year 1939.

The general health of the district has been satisfactory, the death rate is lower than the average for England and Wales, while the birth rate is higher. The number of births exceeded the deaths by 332, there being more than double the number of births than deaths.

The infant mortality rate was 38.34 compared with 52.29 for the previous year.

There were staff changes during the year resulting from the resignations of Mr. H. F. O'Connor and Mr. I. G. Griffiths who obtained more lucrative appointments. The vacancies were filled by Mr. L. J. Hill, who was appointed Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector and Mr. E. W. Burrows, Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Burrows, and Mr. G. H. Stone, who was Mr. Lea's pupil, and who had recently qualified as a Sanitary Inspector, joined H. M. Forces in the Autumn.

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

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD L. CORLETT.

Medical Officer of Health.

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Mayor:
Alderman H. J. Cox, J. P.

Deputy-Mayor:
Alderman J. B. Downing, O. B. E., J. P., C. C..

The remaining eighteen members were the same as set out in the report of 1938.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. Corlett, M. D., D. P. H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector; Cleansing Superintendent: Inspector under the Shops and Petroleum Acts.

Ernest Lea, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C. (Certified Meat and Foods Inspector)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

H. F. O'Connor, A.R.S.I. (Resigned 31. 1. 39)

I. G. Griffiths, A.R.S.I. (Resigned 12. 2. 39)

L. J. Hill, M.S.I.A. (Certified Meat and Foods Inspector: Certified Smoke Inspector) (Appointed 20. 2. 39)

E. W. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B. (Appointed 20. 2. 39)
Commenced military service
16. 10. 39.

Senior Clerk:

F. D. Hipkiss.

Clerk:

A. R. Humphries.

Pupil:

G. H. Stone, Cert. S.I.B. Commenced military service 20. 9. 39.

designation of the Serough of Balesowen, Chief Sentiery Inspector: Cleanuas Superintendents And triong of the Sent Land of the Sent Land Thomas 0'Common! (Appointed 20. 2. 3 SCHE BUTTOWS, D. Occasionate activities activities

### STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area of the Borough is 5,247 acres. The population at the Census 1921 was 31,058, and estimated to 1939 was 36,800. The number of inhabited houses 1939 was 10,910; the rateable value was £145,530, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £512. These figures give an increase in population of 930 over the 1938 figure.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The comments contained in reports of previous years on this subject need no further explanation this year.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

## BIRTHS.

## (a) Live Births.

•					
			Males	Females	Total
		Legitimate Illegitimate	317	297 6	614
			323	303	626
		r 1,000 e.r.p. England and Wa			7.05 5.0
(b	)	Still Births.			
		36 3	Males.	Females.	Total.
		Legitimate Illegitimate	21_	14	35
		Marine Property	21	14	35
		,	1760 102	- \	

The population at the Constant and Sales and S

Strin Mate ger 1,000 e/r.p. ... .. 17.05 Strin Rate for Rogland and Jales ... .. 15.0

Telegitimate... 21 15 35

35 · 41

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Males Female		· 158 · 136	
		294	
Crude Death Rate per Adjusted Death Rate Death Rate for Englan			8.01 9.29 12.10
Deaths from Puerperal	Causes.		
	Deaths.		r 1,000 till births)
Puerperal sepsi Other puerperal causes		0.45	
Total	3	0.45	
The Maternal Mortalit	y Rates for	England an	d Wales were:
Puerperal sepsi Other puerperal causes			
Total	2.93		
Deaths of Infants und	er 1 year o	f Age.	
	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate	11	12	23
	11	13	24
Death Rates of Infant	s under 1 y	ear of Age.	
All infants per Legitimate infa live births Illegitimate in illegitimate li	nts per 1,0	,000 legitima	38.34 te 37.46 83.33
Deaths from Mea Deaths from Who Deaths from Dia	oping Cough	(all ages)	1 female.

BED water or see the WEST 19 A region of the Company of the Co 0.00000 200 ---and the beauty account to their Carle and a second of the contract of the cont 

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever. 2. Measles 3. Scarlet Fever 4. Whooping Cough 5. Diphtheria 6. Influenza 7. Encepphalitis lethargica 8. Cerebro-spinal fever 9. Tuberculosis Respiratory system. 10. Other tuberculosis 11. Syphilis 12. G. P. I. tabes dorsalis 13. Cancer 14. Diabetes 15. Cerebral haemorrhage 16. Heart Disease 17. Aneurysm 18. Other circulatory diseases 19. Bronchitis 20. Pneumonia (all forms) 21. Other respiratory diseases 22. Peptic ulcer 23. Diarrhoea under 2 years 24. Appendicitis 25. Cirrhosis of liver 26. Other liver diseases 27. Other digestive diseases 28. Acute and chronic nephritis 29. Puerperal sepsis 30. Other puerperal causes 31. Congenital debility, Premature b 32. Senility 33. Suicide 34. Other violence 35. Other defined diseases 36. Causes ill-defined or unknown		
	158	136

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### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

The public health services were not altered throughout the year, and remained as in my report of 1938. They were quite satisfactory.

Hospital services remained unchanged generally, though toward the latter part of the year the continuance of the Cottage hospital was discussed. The decision arrived at will be announced in the report for 1940.

Maternity and Child Welfare continued uninterruptedly under the supervision of the County Council.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water supply, drainage and sewerage, the pollution of rivers and streams, closet accommodation etc. were all as in my report for 1938. There were no outstanding actions nor results which would call for comment in what is intended to be a very much abbreviated report.

## Smoke Abatement.

As a result of representations by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Council decided to make smoke byelaws in the middle of the year. With the outbreak of war in September, the Minister of Health indicated his unwillingness for the Council to proceed, and the byelaws were consequently held in abeyance until the cessation of hostilities. The report for 1940 will contain some interesting comments on this subject.

#### Schools.

The schools in the Borough are quite satisfactory, several being new buildings, some of which were only completed in the early part of the year.

Materialty and Child Welfper continued uninterrup ARRA BHT TO ENDMANDE The pollution of the manage and sewering, the pollution of the pollution o Visting Told (as the conference of the calcast of the case of the stat do atmemos putternestar some sigtion tita quet non The cohocis in the serough are guils estimenter, several soing personal soing new inilitings, sens of which were only compile, the care, part of the goar.

## HOUSING.

Particulars	of	wonle	connica	out in	nonnat	of House	ina
Par ticulars	OI	WOPK	carried	out in	respect	or hous	ing:

rar	ciculars of	work carried out in respect of housing:
1.	Inspection	of dwelling houses during the year:-
	(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 138
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose 254
	(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1935 and 1932 67
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose 74
	(3)	Number of dwelling houses found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 46
	(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation 21
2.	formal Number	defects during the year without service of notices:- of defective houses rendered fit in consequence ormal action by the Local Authority of their
3.	A - Pro	er Statutory Powers during the year:- oceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the g Act, 1936.
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 64.
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
	(a) (b)	By owners

Contents Fathering of the Content of . . . SINGLE ON STATE OF BUILDING SELECTION SELECTIO Sanitary are at the way Ser Carlotte distance de la company de la co The second to describe at Margarite Senat we de-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
(a) (b)	By owners
	oceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the using Act, 1936.
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 60.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
	oceedings under section 12 of the Housing
(1)	Number of seperate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1.
(2)	Number of seperate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.
4. HOUSING AC	T, 1936, PART 4 OVERCROWDING.
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 10 Number of persons concerned in such cases . 56
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to over- crowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report Nil.

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

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### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## A. Milk Supply.

No comments worthy of recording are necessary on the milk supply for the year under review.

### B. Meat and Other Foods.

Routine visits were paid to slaughterhouses and shops until the introduction of the Government Meat Scheme precluding the local slaughtering of animals. Since then the inspection of meat delivered from Birmingham was carried on, particularly as in the early stages some genuine causes of dissatisfaction came to the notice of the department. It was possible to clear up all of these complaints, though it was felt that a stricter control of the transport was necessary.

Sections C. D. E. and F. have not been the subject of any conditions worthy of note in this report.

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

### Smallpox.

No case occurred during the year 1939.

## Diphtheria.

Eleven cases of this disease were reported, though there were no deaths from diphtheria during the year.

365 children were fully immunised during the year and a further 47 were partly treated.

## Scarlet Fever.

35 cases of scarlet fever were reported during 1939, of which 17 were isolated in hospital; there were no deaths.

## Erysipelas.

12 cases occurred during the year; a further increase of 3 on the preceeding years.

## Pneumonia.

37 cases of pneumonia of all forms were reported during the year, and 12 deaths were reported.

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## Puerperal Pyrexia.

Six cases of this condition were reported to the County Medical Officer; three deaths due to "other puerperal causes" were recorded.

## Paratyphoid.

One case was notified as paratyphoid B. after diagnosis in a Birmingham Hospital. The patient was treated in the hospital and recovered.

## Cerebro Spinal Fever (Spotted Fever).

One case was reported and was removed to the Dudley Guest Hospital for treatment. The patient made a good recovery.

## Food Poisoning.

One case was reported under the new provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. The patient recovered in two days and subsequent investigation failed to show any obvious cause of infection.

## Tuberculosis.

29 cases were notified during the year of which 25 were pulmonary. The analysis table of new cases has been omitted from this report but will be available after the war.

13 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded and one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

No cases of Encephalitis lethargica, or Enteric Fever were reported and no information is available as to the number of cases of Influenza which occurred during the year. 5 deaths from Influenza were recorded.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST, DECEMBER, 1939.

Lady and Gentlemen.

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

During the early part of the year the work of the department proceeded on a fairly normal course in spite of the resignations of two menters of the staff and the increasing pressure of A.R.P. duties.

Following the outbreak of war in September, however, the character of the work underwent a drastic change. The greater proportion of the time was spent on helping to place the Borough on a wartime footing; the equiping of the First Aid Posts, Decontamination stations, etc. occupying the major portion of the time.

In addition an order was received requiring the concentration on the salvage of all "waste" materials, and this entailed the virtual re-organisation of the Cleansing Department.

Two members of the staff joined H.M. Forces during the latter part of the year.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and also the members of the staff of the department for their continued support during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. LEA,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

working the department proceeded on a Intrity normal course Pullowing the citizensk of war in bestem or, dowever, the character of the west and the state of the continue of the continue of the first one case of the foreign on a vertine forther the farther of the first and from the their of the first of the farther of the their anivisures besieved has reply de noithbe di I wish remitte Health Considers and also the desires of the

### Housing.

The work of clearing the town of houses unfit for human habitation was proceeding satisfactorily, the majority of the worst class of houses having been dealt with in the Autumn of the year when the declaration of war was made.

46 houses were reported during the year, and with the 42 carried over from 1938, 88 premises were thus requiring decisions. In 60 instances demolition orders were made, and 1 closing order; 26 undertakings to repair were accepted by the Council and 1 undertaking not to let for human habitation, thus leaving no houses outstanding at the end of the year.

There were no court proceedings nor appeals during 1939.

### Infectious Diseases.

The routine subsequent to the reporting of cases of notifiable infectious diseases was carried on as usual, and no epidemics or similar occurrences were experienced during the year.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

## (a) Milk.

The general supply of milk in the district continued satisfactory. One sample of pastuerised milk did not show the required standards at the laboratory, and an investigation proved that this milk was neither produced nor bottled in the district. Notification of this failure to conform to the standards was made to the Sanitary Authority of the district concerned by the County Public Health Department.

## (b) Meat and other Foods.

The remarks made earlier on this subject need no further comment.

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## Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Several complaints were received during the year regarding the presence of vans and sheds on unlicenced grounds, and in one case on licenced grounds.

Informal action secceeded in removing the causes of complaint, though difficulty was experienced and much time spent to achieve this result.

## Petroleum Acts.

There were 82 licences in force at the end of 1939 for the storage of 263,574 gallons of petroleum spirit, and 4 licences authorising the keeping of 28,774 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

## Public Cleansing.

The cleansing service was slightly re-organised in the spring of 1939 and resulted in the formation of one extra gang, for which a new Morris refuse collector was purchased.

The staff numbered 24 men at the end of the year.

The reclamation of waste paper was continued during the year as a normal part of the department's activities.

On the outbreak of hostilities in September, considerable dislocation of the service was experienced, and it was not until three weeks had passed that the staff were able to devote the whole of their time to their normal work.

As the war proceeded a Ministry of Supply was set up by the Government, and a Salvage Department was incorporated in it. This department pressed all local authorities to salvage from the refuse all valuable materials, or any materials which would either help the war effort of the country, or assist in reducing the quantities of raw materials imported into the country, thus releasing more ships for the transport of urgent war cargoes.

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## Public Cleansing Continued.

The department's response to the Minister's request was immediate; shops, factories and houses were issued with handbills and posters dealing with the subject of salvage, but early in December, this method of propoganda was discarded as inefficient, and was replaced by a personal letter to housewives, and a personal interview with responsible officials in larger factories and premises. The initial response to this latter method was very gratifying, though the full results will be judged in the report for 1940 and not in this one.

The collection and disposal methods continued along the same lines as formerly.

The bare essentials of costing are given below in order that comparison may be made with subsequent war years costs.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTS, 1939.

	Coll	ecti	on.	Disp	osal.
Gross expenditure Gross income Nett expenditure Nett cost per ton	3,763 6 3,757	16	9632.5		10 1 10 2 19 11 11.15
Nett cost per 1,000 houses Nett cost per 1,000 person		14	4 7	13	11 4.04

## Other Inspections.

Routine visits to bakehouses, offensive trades, farms and dairies, and all other necessary subjects of investigation were as far as possible carried out normally, but the unrest immediately prior to and consequent upon the outbreak of war, occasioned a very great dislocation of work, because of the many urgent emergency matters upon which it was necessary for the staff to concentrate.

.... 

## NUMERICAL SUMMARY FOR 1939.

Infectiou	is disease.
8	Number of houses and schools disinfected after notifiable disease 46 Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected 29
Houses.	
F N N I	Houses inspected: General inspections
Moveable	dwellings, Caravans, etc.
	Number observed 25 Ordered to be removed from unlicenced premises 17
House Dra	ainage.
1	Number laid or relaid, trapped, ventilated or repaired 7 Number of obstructed drains dealt with
Waterclos	sets.
1	Number of slop closets converted into W.Cs with a fresh water flush
Offensive	e Trades.
I	Number under observation 6 Number improperly conducted Nil
Slaughter	r Houses.
1	Number registered (Private)

1 1 2 1

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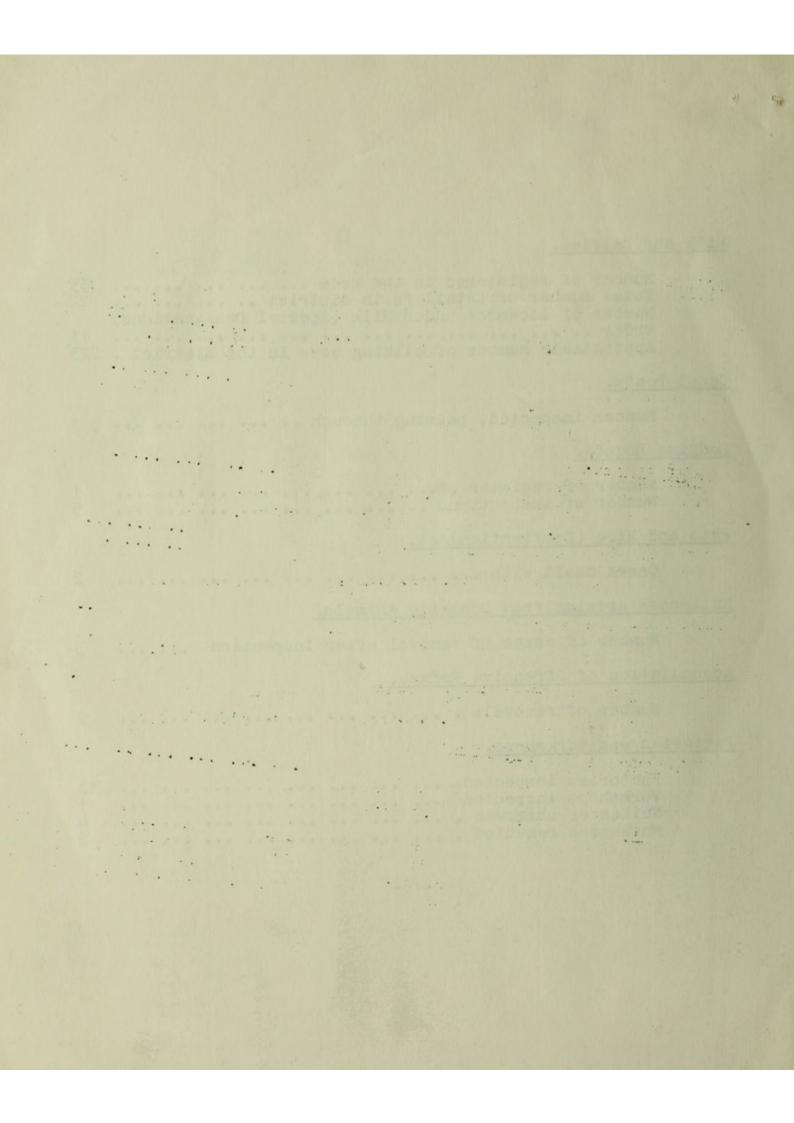
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## Milk and Dairies.

	35 122
Number of Licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order	11 223
Canal Boats.	
Number inspected, passing through	3
Lodging Houses.	
Number of register	1 5
Rats and Mice (Destruction)Act.	
Cases dealt with	2
Nuisances arising from Domestic Animals.	
Number of cases of removal after inspection	3
Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.	
Number of removals	2
Factories and Workshops.	
Factories inspected	13 1 4 2



# NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING 1939.

NATURE.	PRIMARY VISITS.	RE-VISITS.
Infectious Disease Prevention Houses (Housing Act, 1936) Ashpits Dust Bins Tents, Vans and Sheds Drains Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection) Offensive Trades Factory and Workshops Food Premises Houses let in Laggings and Lodging Houses Dirty Houses Bakehouses Dairies and Cowsheds Petroleum Stores Keeping of Animals Smoke Yards and Passages Offensive Accumulations Water Closets Verminous Houses Miscellaneous Refuse Disposal Tips Shops Acts Interviews Houses (Housing Act, 1936) Measurements of Overcrowding	41 118 16 25 24 45 6 14 3 46 5 27 7 16 3 3 10 2 16 2 14 4 14 4 14 4 14 4 14 4 14 4 14	7 273 -3 117 30 -2 30 -3 27 2 -8 12 1 2 7
	1584	424

