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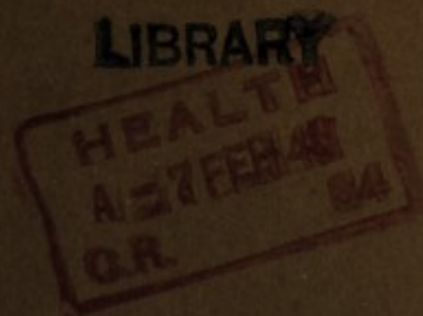
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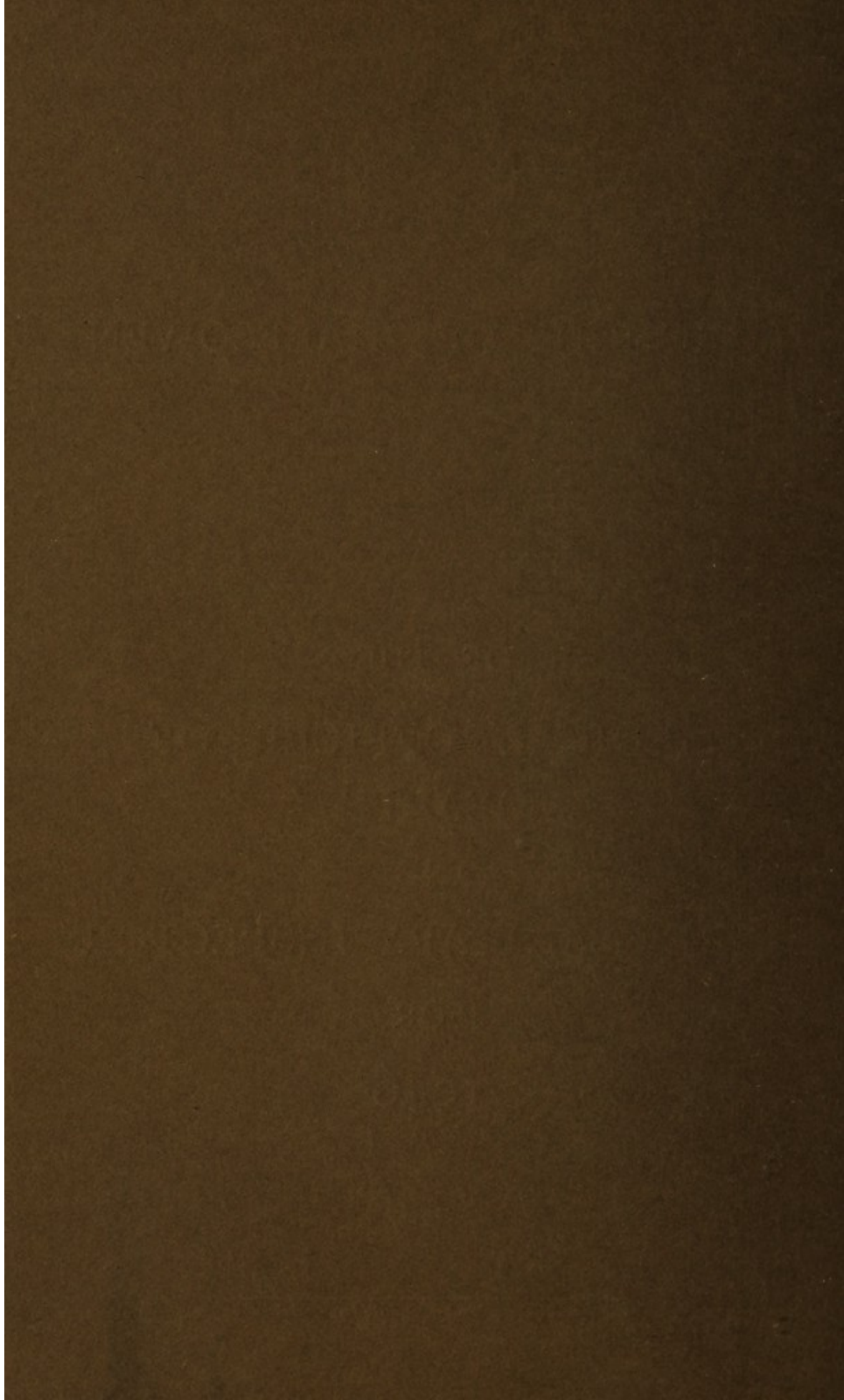
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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH  
AND  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR  
1946





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OF THE

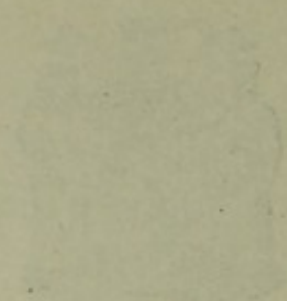
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1946



BOROUGH OF HALLOWEEN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HALLOWEEN

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1910

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
HALESOWEN.

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**Mayor:**

ALDERMAN FRANCIS LIONEL ROSE, J.P., C.C.

**Deputy Mayor:**

ALDERMAN H. PARKES, J.P., C.C.

**Aldermen:**

HERBERT JOHN COX, J. P., WALTER HODGETTS,  
HERBERT PARKES, J.P., C.C.,  
FRANCIS LIONEL ROSE, J.P., C.C., THOMAS SMITH.

**Councillors:**

CENTRAL WARD—

Councillor Thomas Craddock, Councillor Alfred George Rudge,  
Councillor Daniel Wellings.

NORTH WARD—

Councillor Alfred Parkes, Councillor John William Parkes,  
Councillor William Parkes.

SOUTH WARD—

Councillor John Henry Green, Councillor Leonard Harper,  
Councillor George Albert Southall.

EAST WARD—

Councillor William Edward Vernon Hewin Guest,  
Councillor Albert Spring, Councillor Raymond Wright.

WEST WARD—

Councillor Karl Kirton, Councillor John James Shakespeare,  
Councillor Clifford Willetts.

## **STAFF.**

### **Medical Officer of Health:**

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:**

A. ARCHER, M.S.I.A.

### **Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:**

L. J. HILL, M.R.S.I. (resumed duties 25/2/46).

### **Additional Sanitary Inspectors:**

E. W. BURROWS, M.S.I.A. (resumed duties 3/4/46).

MISS M. I. DUGGAN, M.S.I.A.

G. H. STONE, M.S.I.A. (appointed 1/3/46).

### **Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:**

MISS J. PRICE.

### **Clerks:**

F. D. HIPKISS (resumed duties 6/8/46).

A. R. HUMPHRIES (resumed duties 1/11/46).

MRS. H. DEELEY.

MISS M. PERKS (until 31/7/46).

Council House,  
Halesowen.

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

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the health of the Borough of  
Halesowen for the year 1946.

The health of the district continues, on the whole, to be  
satisfactory. There were 362 deaths. The death rate was 9.4 per  
thousand, whilst the average for England and Wales was 11.5.  
The birth rate was 16.47 whilst that for England and Wales was  
19.1. This is the first time since 1941 that the birth rate has been  
below the average for the country. As there were 630 live births,  
the births exceeded the number of deaths by 268.

The number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis  
remained the same as last year, namely 27. There were 33 cases  
of diphtheria. Up to the end of November, we had only 6 cases  
of measles notified; in December, however, we had 16 notifications.  
Seventy-eight per cent. of the child population up to fifteen years  
of age are immunised against diphtheria.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public  
Health Committee for their support and help, and to express my  
appreciation to Mr. Archer and his staff, and to Miss Price, for  
their help and willing co-operation at all times. I also wish to  
acknowledge the prompt assistance I have received from the County  
Analyst and his staff.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions.

|                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| The area of the district is .....         | 5,247 acres |
| Population, Census 1931 .....             | 31,058      |
| Population, mid-1946 .....                | 38,240      |
| Rateable value, December, 1946 .....      | £156,730    |
| The sum represented by a penny rate ..... | £585/3/5    |

The district is bounded on the north by the Borough of Rowley Regis, on the east partly by the Borough of Oldbury and partly by the City and County Borough of Birmingham, on the South by the Rural District of Bromsgrove, and on the west partly by the Borough of Stourbridge and partly by the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

It is approximately 7 miles from the Birmingham City Centre borders and is easily accessible for industrial purposes to the Black Country but fortunately, however, forms part of the northern area of the beautiful County of Worcester. It is, therefore, partly industrial, partly residential, and partly agricultural. We are very favourably situated from the point of view of further industrial and housing development, and the town is capable of being made into a beautiful one. The prevailing wind comes from the rural belt surrounding the Borough.

Prior to the War, the growth of the district was very rapid. The number of houses in 1921 was 5,843; in 1931 was 7,324; in 1935 was 9,324; in 1936 was 9,700; in 1937 was 10,201; in 1938 was 10,596 and in 1939 was 10,909. The Council have erected 1,916 houses.

The principal industries are: brickmaking, button manufacture, clothing manufacture, fireclay and terra-cotta, chain and spike making, tube and tube fittings, steel making, gun barrel making, perambulators, iron casting, shoe, heel and tip making, wall tie making, spelter refining, coal mining, electrical work and agriculture.

A large majority of the population work in the Borough in the industries mentioned above.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

|     |                    | BIRTHS. |      |       |          |
|-----|--------------------|---------|------|-------|----------|
| (a) | Live Births        | M.      |      | F.    | Total    |
|     | Legitimate .....   | 301     | .... | 315   | .... 616 |
|     | Illegitimate ..... | 6       | .... | 8     | .... 14  |
|     |                    | <hr/>   |      | <hr/> | <hr/>    |
|     |                    | 307     |      | 323   | 630      |
|     |                    | <hr/>   |      | <hr/> | <hr/>    |

|                    |          |      |         |          |
|--------------------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| (b) Still Births.  | M.       |      | F.      | Total    |
| Legitimate .....   | 10       | .... | 7       | 17       |
| Illegitimate ..... | —        | .... | —       | —        |
|                    | <hr/> 10 |      | <hr/> 7 | <hr/> 17 |

|                                                          |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..... | 16.47 |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales .....                   | 19.1  |

Below is a table giving the Birth Rate in the Borough for the past ten years.

|            | Halesowen. | England & Wales. |
|------------|------------|------------------|
| 1936 ..... | 16.77      | 14.8             |
| 1937 ..... | 15.73      | 14.9             |
| 1938 ..... | 17.09      | 15.1             |
| 1939 ..... | 17.05      | 15.0             |
| 1940 ..... | 15.9       | 14.6             |
| 1941 ..... | 13.2       | 14.2             |
| 1942 ..... | 17.56      | 15.8             |
| 1943 ..... | 19.29      | 16.5             |
| 1944 ..... | 20.9       | 17.6             |
| 1945 ..... | 18.44      | 16.1             |

#### DEATHS.

|                                                               | M.  |      | F.  |      | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|
|                                                               | 207 | .... | 155 | .... | 362   |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .... |     |      |     |      | 9.4   |
| Death Rate for England and Wales .....                        |     |      |     |      | 11.5  |
| Death Rate for 148 towns estimated resident population        |     |      |     |      |       |
| 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census .....                         |     |      |     |      | 11.7  |

#### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were recorded during the year from puerperal causes.

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

|                    |          |      |         |          |
|--------------------|----------|------|---------|----------|
|                    | M.       |      | F.      | Total    |
| Legitimate .....   | 11       | .... | 7       | 18       |
| Illegitimate ..... | 1        | .... | 1       | 2        |
|                    | <hr/> 12 |      | <hr/> 8 | <hr/> 20 |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

|                                         |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 Live Births ..... | 31.74 |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|

|                                                     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was |       |
| per 1,000 Live Births .....                         | 43.00 |

# CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

| Causes of Death                        | Total Deaths | Under 1 Month |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Prematurity .....                      | 5            | 5             |
| Congenital abnormalities .....         | 3            | 2             |
| Peritonitis .....                      | 1            | 1             |
| Myocardial degeneration .....          | 1            | 1             |
| Haemorrhagic cortical meningitis ..... | 1            | —             |
| Cardiac muscle failure .....           | 1            | —             |
| Cerebral birth trauma .....            | 1            | 1             |
| Marasmus .....                         | 1            | 1             |
| Acute Bronchitis .....                 | 2            | 1             |
| Broncho Pneumonia .....                | 1            | —             |
| Acute infectious jaundice .....        | 1            | —             |
| Spinal Meningococcal .....             | 1            | —             |
| Debility .....                         | 1            | 1             |
|                                        | —            | —             |
|                                        | 20           | 13            |
|                                        | —            | —             |

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

|                                                    | Male | Female |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers .....            | —    | —      |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal fever .....                      | 1    | —      |
| 3. Scarlet Fever .....                             | —    | —      |
| 4. Whooping Cough .....                            | 1    | 1      |
| 5. Diphtheria .....                                | —    | 1      |
| 6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....        | 14   | 5      |
| 7. Other forms of Tuberculosis .....               | —    | —      |
| 8. Syphilitic diseases .....                       | 1    | 1      |
| 9. Influenza .....                                 | 2    | —      |
| 10. Measles .....                                  | —    | —      |
| 11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis .... | —    | —      |
| 12. Acute infectious encephalitis .....            | —    | 1      |
| 13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M)      | 1    | —      |
| Cancer of uterus (F) .....                         | —    | 1      |
| 14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....           | 13   | 6      |
| 15. Cancer of breast .....                         | —    | 11     |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites .....                | 28   | 5      |
| 17. Diabetes .....                                 | 1    | 1      |
| 18. Intracranial vascular lesions .....            | 14   | 20     |
| 19. Heart disease .....                            | 47   | 45     |
| 20. Other diseases of the circulatory system ....  | 3    | 6      |
| 21. Bronchitis .....                               | 21   | 7      |
| 22. Pneumonia .....                                | 11   | 4      |
| 23. Other respiratory diseases .....               | 3    | 1      |
| 24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....             | 2    | 3      |
| 25. Diarrhœa (under 2 years) .....                 | —    | —      |

|                                                                               |           |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 26. Appendicitis .....                                                        | —         | —         |
| 27. Other digestive diseases .....                                            | 4         | 5         |
| 28. Nephritis .....                                                           | 7         | 3         |
| 29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis .....                                  | —         | —         |
| 30. Other maternal causes .....                                               | —         | —         |
| 31. Premature birth .....                                                     | 4         | 1         |
| 32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries,<br>and infantile diseases ..... | 5         | 4         |
| 33. Suicide .....                                                             | 4         | 2         |
| 34. Road Traffic accidents .....                                              | 2         | —         |
| 35. Other violent causes .....                                                | 4         | 1         |
| 36. All other causes .....                                                    | 14        | 20        |
|                                                                               | <hr/> 207 | <hr/> 155 |

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM CANCER FOR 1946.

| AGE GROUP. | SITE.   |          |         |         |                |                 | Total.   |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------------|-----------------|----------|
|            | Rectum. | Stomach. | Colon.  | Lungs.  | Breast<br>(F). | Other<br>sites. |          |
| 0—25       | —       | —        | —       | —       | —              | 1               | 1        |
| 25—35      | —       | —        | —       | —       | —              | —               | —        |
| 35—45      | 2       | 3        | 1       | —       | 1              | 1               | 8        |
| 45—55      | —       | 1        | —       | 2       | 1              | 3               | 7        |
| 55—65      | 2       | 6        | —       | 1       | 4              | 3               | 16       |
| 65—75      | 2       | 7        | 3       | —       | 2              | 4               | 18       |
| 75—85      | 2       | 1        | 2       | —       | 3              | 5               | 13       |
| 85—95      | 1       | 1        | —       | —       | —              | —               | 2        |
|            | <hr/> 9 | <hr/> 19 | <hr/> 6 | <hr/> 3 | <hr/> 11       | <hr/> 17        | <hr/> 65 |

DEATHS FROM CANCER FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

|            | Male | Female |
|------------|------|--------|
| 1939 ..... | 20   | 15     |
| 1940 ..... | 29   | 27     |
| 1941 ..... | 37   | 36     |
| 1942 ..... | 42   | 28     |
| 1943 ..... | 25   | 27     |
| 1944 ..... | 22   | 31     |
| 1945 ..... | 36   | 20     |

## SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

### (i) Public Health Officers.

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

(ii) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.*

The Council provides two ambulances for taking non-infectious cases to and from hospitals and nursing homes. No charge is made for this service which is very much used by inhabitants. During 1946, 2,311 cases were taken to and from hospitals, the distance travelled by the ambulances being approximately 28,374 miles.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough are the hospitals in the City of Birmingham, the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley. Maternity cases are also taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, Stourbridge, and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Stourport.

Two ambulance drivers are employed and the vehicles are maintained and repaired in the Public Health Department garage. Infectious disease cases are conveyed to hospital by one of the two ambulances belonging to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Board.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.*

Three Nursing Associations at present operate in the district.

The County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the district.

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

The work is carried out by the County Council.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Thursday at No. 14, Laurel Lane, Halesowen, at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Pavilion at the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green consists of a block containing 19 beds for males.

(e) *Infectious Disease.*

The cases of infectious disease are admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital, situated at Hayley Green, Halesowen.

(f) *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal sessions are provided by the County Council. There are three centres, namely: Cradley, Halesowen and Hill and Cakemore. The district is well catered for.

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### WATER.

The water supplied to the Borough is a constant supply and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

It is drawn from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's Shavers End reservoir system which is supplied from pumping stations at Ashwood, Hinksford, Prestwood and Kinver, all located in the Smestow Valley where underground water is pumped from the new red sandstone formation. A further supply to this system is obtained from surface water impounded in storage reservoirs near Lichfield.

At the pumping stations where treatment is carried out, bacteriological samples are taken at frequent intervals, both of the raw water and of the water pumped to supply. Chemical analyses are carried out at monthly intervals from all pumping stations, in addition to the monthly samples taken in the Borough. Of thirteen such samples taken during 1946, twelve were free from coliform bacteria in 100 ml., and one contained coliform bacteria of the intermediate type in 50 ml. Physically colour averaged 3 mm. on the Burgess Scale, and all samples had a normal taste and were free from odour. The pH value averaged 6.7. The average chemical results were as follows:—

|                                                  | Parts per 100,000. |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alkalinity ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ )                   | 7.1                |
| Chlorides (Cl)                                   | 3.02               |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen                              | Trace              |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen                              | Trace              |
| Oxidised Nitrogen                                | 0.25               |
| Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at $27^\circ\text{C}.$ ) | 0.012              |
| Temporary hardness                               | 6.7                |
| Permanent hardness                               | 4.9                |
| Total hardness                                   | 11.6               |
| Iron (Fe)                                        | 0.004              |
| Manganese (Mn)                                   | Nil                |
| Poisonous metals                                 | Nil                |
| Zinc (Zn)                                        | Nil                |
| Free Chlorine                                    | Nil                |

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvency, but periodic samples are examined for lead.

Sterilisation of the supply is carried out where possible at the pumping stations. Contamination of main following bursts, or the laying of new mains, and of reservoirs following emptying is safeguarded by chlorination at site. Special apparatus and staff are

available for this purpose. The mains or reservoirs are not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

The number of houses in the Borough is 11,084, and of these 11,046 are supplied with mains water. Of this number, 769 houses have taps outside the house, usually in wash houses.

During the year provision was made for the connection of nine houses to the mains where the supply was previously from wells. Apart from isolated farm dwellings only some twelve houses are supplied with water other than from the mains.

The department is indebted to R. A. Robertson, Esq., B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for most of the information given above.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is a separate system of sewers in the district, one being for foul water and the other for surface water. The main trunk sewers are owned and maintained by the Upper Stour Valley Main Drainage Board.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING AND TRANSPORT.

The removal of refuse and its disposal, and the repair and maintenance of Council vehicles is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Insepctor.

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

Details of inspection of houses are referred to later in the report.

Although the provision of new houses is still necessarily on a small scale, the Council has made arrangements for special priority to be given to those cases where tuberculosis exists in the applicant's family. There is much overcrowding in the Borough, which is bound to take some years to alleviate.

### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details of this work will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

### NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.**

|                            | England & Wales | Halesowen |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Typhoid .....              | 0.01            | 0.00      |
| Paratyphoid .....          | 0.02            | 0.07      |
| Scarlet Fever .....        | 1.38            | 0.94      |
| Whooping Cough .....       | 2.28            | 4.26      |
| Diphtheria .....           | 0.28            | 0.86      |
| Measles .....              | 3.92            | 0.57      |
| Smallpox .....             | 0.00            | 0.00      |
| Erysipelas .....           | 0.22            | 0.05      |
| Pneumonia .....            | 0.89            | 0.44      |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ..... | 0.05            | 0.07      |

### SMALLPOX.

No case was reported during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-six cases of scarlet fever were reported during the year, twenty-one of them in the age group 5—10 years. The incidence as in 1945 was low and the type of disease was mild.

|            | Cases | Deaths |
|------------|-------|--------|
| 1944 ..... | 70    | —      |
| 1945 ..... | 32    | —      |
| 1946 ..... | 36    | —      |

### DIPHTHERIA.

There were thirty-three cases during the year, seven of these being adults. There was one death. There were seven cases notified in June, nine in July, and ten in August. In the non-immunised, it was generally of a severe type.

The cases were distributed as follows:—

|             |      |               |     |
|-------------|------|---------------|-----|
| North ..... | 1.   | West .....    | 3.  |
| South ..... | 18.  | Central ..... | 11. |
| East .....  | Nil. |               |     |

## INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF DIPHTHERIA.

| Year. |                |        | Mortality<br>Rate | Immunised Children |        | Percentage<br>of children<br>under 15<br>years<br>Immunised |
|-------|----------------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|       | Total<br>Cases | Deaths |                   | Cases              | Deaths |                                                             |
| 1936  | 30             | 3      | 10.0              | —                  | —      | —                                                           |
| 1937  | 15             | 3      | 20.0              | —                  | —      | —                                                           |
| 1938  | 12             | 1      | 8.33              | —                  | —      | —                                                           |
| 1939  | 11             | 0      | —                 | —                  | —      | —                                                           |
| 1940  | 10             | 1      | 10.0              | —                  | —      | 21.49                                                       |
| 1941  | 37             | 1      | 2.7               | 1                  | —      | 57.0                                                        |
| 1942  | 30             | 1      | 3.33              | 5                  | —      | 65.9                                                        |
| 1943  | 45             | 2      | 4.44              | 8                  | —      | 76.17                                                       |
| 1944  | 40             | 3      | 7.5               | 17                 | —      | 76.31                                                       |
| 1945  | 30             | 1      | 3.33              | 18                 | —      | 76.25                                                       |
| 1946  | 33             | 1      | 3.03              | 20                 | —      | 78.7                                                        |

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Free diphtheria immunisation was provided here first in 1935, and by 1939 approximately 25 per cent. of the children had been treated; now over 78 per cent. of the children under the age of 15 have been immunised in the Borough. We hope to raise this figure. During the year advertisements were inserted in the local paper giving the time and place of the Immunisation Clinics. They are held each month at Cradley, Halesowen, and Hill and Cakemore. Below is given a list of these:—

Tenter Street Clinic, Halesowen: 1st Wednesday each month, 2.15 p.m.—3.30 p.m.

Cradley Infant Welfare Clinic: 2nd Friday each month, 2.15 p.m.—3.30 p.m.

Hill Top School Clinic, Long Lane, Hill and Cakemore: 3rd Tuesday each month, 2.15 p.m.—3.30 p.m.

On the first birthday of each baby, if the baby has not already been immunised, the parent is sent a birthday card, issued by the Central Council for Health Education, pointing out the advantages of immunisation.

The schools are circularised where necessary and special immunisation sessions are held at a school; where there are only a few requiring treatment they attend one of the clinics held for the Infant Welfare Children.

I tender my grateful thanks to Dr. Eileen Bulmer and the County Nurses for their efficient propaganda work at the Welfare Centres and during their home visits. We have worked in close co-operation ever since the scheme commenced. The nurses also

assist at the immunisation sessions and follow up the defaulters. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Head Teachers and their staffs for their help and co-operation at all times.

The percentages of the child population immunised at 31/12/46 were:—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Under 5 years ..... | 59.6% |
| 5—15 years .....    | 90.7% |

Estimated mid-year population, 1946, being:—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Under 5 years ..... | 3,350 |
| 5—15 years .....    | 5,340 |

The numbers of children who were treated in 1946 were as follows:—

|                     | Primary Treatment. |             | Boosting Doses. |           |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
|                     | Completed.         | Injected.   | Completed.      | Injected. |
| Under 5 years ..... | 639                | 1,281       | 4               | 4         |
| 5—15 years .....    | 103                | 215         | 297             | 306       |
|                     | <hr/> 742          | <hr/> 1,496 | <hr/> 301       | <hr/> 310 |

#### ERYSIPELAS.

Two cases were notified during the year with no deaths.

#### PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Three cases were reported to the County Medical Officer. There were no deaths.

#### MENINGITIS.

There were three cases notified, one being fatal. They occurred—one in January, one in February, and one in March, in different parts of the Borough.

#### WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were one hundred and sixty-three cases notified, with two deaths.

#### MEASLES.

There were twenty-two cases notified, with no deaths. Sixteen of these cases occurred in December, in the following wards:—

|            |      |      |   |
|------------|------|------|---|
| West Ward  | .... | .... | 8 |
| North Ward | .... | .... | 5 |
| South Ward | .... | .... | 3 |

### SONNE DYSENTERY.

Sonne Dysentery showed a welcome decline in notified cases from seventeen in the previous year to nine in this year.

### PARATYPHOID B.

Three cases treated at the Isolation Hospital made satisfactory recovery. They were mild cases who contracted the illness whilst on holiday.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified during the year. No impairment of vision resulted.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-two cases were notified during the year; 27 of these were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 were non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

#### CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT END OF 1946.

| Pulmonary. |          | Non-Pulmonary. |          |
|------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Males.     | Females. | Males.         | Females. |
| 73         | 72       | 12             | 20       |

#### NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1946.

|                         | Pulmonary. |          | Non-Pulmonary. |          |
|-------------------------|------------|----------|----------------|----------|
|                         | Males.     | Females. | Males.         | Females. |
| 0—5 years .....         | 1          | —        | —              | —        |
| 5—10 „ .....            | —          | —        | —              | —        |
| 10—15 „ .....           | —          | —        | —              | —        |
| 15—20 „ .....           | —          | 3        | 1              | 2        |
| 20—25 „ .....           | 1          | 5        | —              | —        |
| 25—30 „ .....           | 5          | 1        | —              | 1        |
| 30—35 „ .....           | 2          | —        | 1              | —        |
| 35—40 „ .....           | 1          | —        | —              | —        |
| 40—45 „ .....           | 3          | —        | —              | —        |
| 45—50 „ .....           | 1          | 1        | —              | —        |
| 50—55 „ .....           | 1          | —        | —              | —        |
| 55—60 „ .....           | 1          | —        | —              | —        |
| 60—65 „ .....           | 1          | —        | —              | —        |
| 65 years and over ..... | —          | —        | —              | —        |
|                         | 17         | 10       | 2              | 3        |
|                         | —          | —        | —              | —        |

The Housing Committee re-housed seven families for us this year, where the housing conditions were unsatisfactory either from the point of view of bedroom accommodation, or where the house, owing to its age, situation and general structure was unlikely to be repairable.

### SCABIES.

#### CASES TREATED IN 1946

|                        | Cases. | Families. | Treatments. | Cured. |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| 1st Jan. to 31st March | 45     | 27        | 78          | 43     |
| 1st April to 30th June | 23     | 15        | 42          | 24     |
| 1st July to 30th Sept. | 10     | 8         | 16          | 9      |
| 1st Oct. to 31st Dec.  | 14     | 7         | 29          | 14     |
|                        | —      | —         | —           | —      |
|                        | 92     | 57        | 165         | 90     |
|                        | —      | —         | —           | —      |

The cases were distributed as follows:—

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Cradley .....         | 15 |
| Halesowen .....       | 29 |
| Hill & Cakemore ..... | 48 |
|                       | —  |
|                       | 92 |
|                       | —  |

The number treated in 1942 was 187

|   |   |   |      |   |     |
|---|---|---|------|---|-----|
| „ | „ | „ | 1943 | „ | 270 |
| „ | „ | „ | 1944 | „ | 197 |
| „ | „ | „ | 1945 | „ | 101 |

There was a slight drop in the number of patients treated this year. It will be seen that only 24 cases were treated in the last six months of the year, and up to the present, 1947 continues to show a welcome decline. I feel confident that this decline is real, and I hope that cases will soon be as rare as pre-war when the incidence, judging from school children, was almost negligible here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Robson, S.R.N., Miss Knowles and Mrs. Whitehurst for their work at these Scabies Clinics, and also Miss O'Grady, S.R.N., for her interest in following up contacts.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR THE YEAR, 1946.

| Disease.             | Under 1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | Over 65 | Total | Deaths |
|----------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever ....   | —       | —   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 21   | 7     | 2     | 1     | —     | —     | —       | 36    | —      |
| Diphtheria ....      | —       | 1   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 13   | 3     | 2     | 4     | 2     | 1     | —       | 33    | 1      |
| Whooping Cough....   | 14      | 21  | 29  | 27  | 23  | 43   | 4     | 1     | 1     | —     | —     | —       | 163   | 2      |
| Pneumonia ....       | —       | —   | 2   | —   | —   | 2    | —     | 1     | 2     | 4     | 4     | 2       | 17    | 15     |
| Erysipelas ....      | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | 2     | —       | 2     | —      |
| Measles ....         | 2       | 4   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 9    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —       | 22    | —      |
| Sonne Dysentery .... | —       | 2   | 1   | 1   | —   | 2    | 1     | —     | 1     | 1     | —     | —       | 9     | —      |
| Paratyphoid B. ....  | ....    | —   | —   | —   | —   | 2    | —     | —     | 1     | —     | —     | —       | 3     | —      |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | —       | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —    | —     | —     | 1     | —     | 1     | —       | 3     | 1      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia..  | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | 3     | —     | —     | —       | 3     | —      |
| Ophthalmia           | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —       | —     | —      |
| Neonatorum           | 1       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —       | 1     | —      |
| TOTALS               | 17      | 28  | 39  | 34  | 30  | 92   | 15    | 6     | 14    | 7     | 8     | 2       | 292   | 19     |
| Tuberculosis.        |         |     |     |     |     |      |       |       |       |       |       |         |       |        |
| Pulmonary ....       | —       | —   | 1   | —   | —   | —    | —     | 3     | 14    | 4     | 5     | —       | 27    | 17     |
| Non-Pulmonary ....   | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | 3     | 2     | —     | —     | —       | 5     | —      |

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

The year 1946 marked the end of a period in which the main purpose was to keep the Public Health Department functioning without attempting a great deal of long term work. Staff gradually returned from service in the Forces and by the end of the year had settled down to playing a part in the team work which is the essence of first class local government administration.

Many of the problems which come within the province of the public health department are clearly obvious to members of the Council, the public, and not least to the staff. On every hand, can be seen houses in various stages of disrepair, pollution of the atmosphere is far too prevalent, and our streams are too often the ready means of receiving trade waste.

It will be a long time before there is room for complacency with regard to public health. There is far too much to be done and there is the knowledge that given adequate and sufficient staff a department can materially effect the environmental conditions under which people live.

In presenting the report on behalf of the Public Health Department Staff, I am grateful in particular to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor W. H. Guest, and to the Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, and I wish to acknowledge the help afforded by the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., Dr. R. L. Corlett, Medical Officer of Health, and other Officers of the Council.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—
  - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .... 476
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1788
  - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .... 6
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 17
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in the state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... 6
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .... 429
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 .... 299
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
  - (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
      - (a) By Owners .... Nil
      - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .... Nil
  - (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. .... 189
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—

(a) By Owners ..... 71

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .... Nil

(Outstanding notices will be dealt with during 1947).

(C) and (D). No action was taken during the year in respect of sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

Frequent visits were paid to the farms and dairies and they were usually found to be satisfactory. Particular attention was paid to the only pasteurising plant in the Borough which treats milk by the high temperature short time method.

Special care was taken to examine the cleanliness of utensils, especially bottles. During the year, one dairyman was convicted and fined for not keeping bottles used by him in a state of thorough cleanliness.

A total of 87 samples of milk were sent to the County Analyst for examination, and of these, 84 were considered satisfactory. Two raw samples failed to pass the test for ' accredited milk ' and one sample sold without designation was found to be partially heat-treated.

Sixty-two bottles were also submitted for examination, and although there is yet no legal standard of cleanliness this work is of very real value in encouraging dairymen to take greater care in cleansing equipment. Eleven bottles were considered unsatisfactory and eight of these were from the dairyman in respect of whom a conviction was recorded.

There are twenty-five dairymen with premises in the Borough, and of these, fifteen are milk producers. The total number of dairymen who supply milk in the Borough is fifty-three. The table below indicates approximately the types of milk sold.

|                       |      |      |      |     |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| (a) Heat treated      | .... | .... | .... | 80% |
| (b) Raw, Ungraded     | .... | .... | .... | 12% |
| (c) Tuberculin tested | .... | .... | .... | 5%  |
| (d) Accredited        | .... | .... | .... | 3%  |

## ICE CREAM.

The following registrations were in force in respect of ice-cream.

|                                                 |      |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|----|
| Registrations for manufacture, storage and sale | .... | 12 |
| Registrations for sale only                     | .... | 16 |

Some sampling was carried out, but in the main the emphasis was on advisory work in connection with handling of the product and with the construction of the premises.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughter-houses in the Borough were only used for the occasional slaughter of pigs. An increasing number of residents keep one or more pigs and every effort is made to inspect them after slaughter. The percentage found to be diseased is very small. An interesting case occurred in the early part of the year when a carcase was found to be totally unfit for human consumption by reason of phosphorous poisoning, a sequel to the attempted destruction of rats by the owner. Set out below is a list of the commodities inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption.

### MEAT.

- 3 Pig Carcases and offal (Pneumonia)  
(Pneumonia, Oedema)  
(Phosphorous Poisoning)
- 1 Pig's Heart (Valvular Endocarditis).
- 1 Pig's Pluck, Mesentery and forequarters (Tuberculosis),
- 2 Sets Pigs' Lungs (Pneumonia).
- 2½ lbs. Mutton (Simple Abcess).
- 64 lbs. Frozen Beef (Bone Taint).

### OTHER FOODS.

|                      |      |      |      |            |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------------|
| Various tinned goods | .... | .... | .... | 811 tins   |
| Eggs                 | .... | .... | .... | 116        |
| Oats                 | .... | .... | .... | 150 lbs.   |
| Dates                | .... | .... | .... | 70 lbs.    |
| Soyagetti            | .... | .... | .... | 56 lbs.    |
| Prunes               | .... | .... | .... | 55 lbs.    |
| Bacon                | .... | .... | .... | 12 lbs.    |
| Cheese               | .... | .... | .... | 7½ lbs.    |
| Margerine            | .... | .... | .... | 24 lbs.    |
| Butter               | .... | .... | .... | 10 lbs.    |
| Flour                | .... | .... | .... | 100 lbs.   |
| Raisins              | .... | .... | .... | 30 lbs.    |
| Cereals              | .... | .... | .... | 18 Packets |

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Eighteen samples of food were submitted to the County Analyst for chemical examination. These included: dried milk, vinegar, cod-liver oil and gelatine. All were satisfactory with the exception of one sample, which was slightly below the stated vitamin content.

## FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

Particular attention was paid to all establishments such as bakehouses, cafes, etc., in which food is prepared or handled, and a high standard of cleanliness is insisted upon.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The sewers were re-treated in August when a total of 152 manholes were baited and 35 showed evidence of poison bait takes. Minor infestations were dealt with, as far as possible on the block system.

## OTHER VERMIN.

Only a small number of bug infestations were reported but many complaints were received of infestation by the cockroach.

Systematic and repeated treatment with 'Gammexane' and 'D.D.T.' were carried out to some 150 houses on a Council house estate. Results were good but not entirely satisfactory in that complete clearance was not obtained.

## CONTROL OF FLIES.

Special attention was paid in the warm weather to fly control and gratifying results were obtained at a works where considerable trouble was experienced from the breeding of flies.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

An attempt was made during 1946 to carry out a complete survey of all factories and most of them were visited. The purpose of the survey was to get full details concerning such items as number of work people, number of sanitary conveniences, fuel burning equipment, canteens, rat infestations etc. During the course of the survey many contraventions of the Factories Act were observed, mostly of a minor character.

## POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

When staff difficulties are less acute it is proposed to examine carefully the River Stour and its tributaries. Undoubtedly there is avoidable pollution taking place and there is much to be done to render the water course clean and free from pollution, particularly pollution due to the discharge of trade wastes. At the end of 1946, negotiations were in progress to prevent the discharge into the River Stour of waste matters from coal washing plant.

## INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

Inspection of shops under the Shops Acts were carried out on complaint, the amount and comparative importance of other work preventing regular visits.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

It was not possible to do any systematic work on atmospheric pollution, a field in which there is ample scope. Several complaints were received and in general, satisfactorily dealt with. The complaints ranged from excessive smoke emission from boilers to grit emission from blast furnaces.

## INSPECTIONS.

The following table indicates the number of visits made during the year.

|                        |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Bakehouses             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 61    |
| Billeting              | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9     |
| Dairies                | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 36    |
| Drains                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 275   |
| Dustbins               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 344   |
| Factories              | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 230   |
| Farms                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 24    |
| Food Inspections       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 39    |
| Food Premises          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 58    |
| Food Sampling          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 24    |
| Housing (Complaints)   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1,788 |
| Housing (Housing Act)  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17    |
| Housing (Survey)       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 92    |
| Housing (Re-housing)   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 62    |
| Housing (Overcrowding) | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 38    |
| Ice cream Premises     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 73    |
| Ice cream sampling     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15    |
| Infectious Disease     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 329   |
| Land Charges           | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 97    |
| Meat Inspection        | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 332   |
| Milk Sampling          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 147   |
| Markets and Farms      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5     |
| Miscellaneous          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 407   |
| Offensive Trades       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 12    |
| Pigsties               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37    |
| Petroleum Acts         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11    |
| Rent Acts              | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 12    |
| Rats and mice          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 196   |
| Rivers                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7     |
| Refuse collection      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 66    |
| Salvage                | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3     |
| Shops                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 19    |

|                    |      |      |      |      |                   |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| Smoke nuisances    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 36                |
| Timber permits     | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28                |
| Tips               | .... | .... | .... | .... | 69                |
| Tents, vans, sheds | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15                |
| Vermin             | .... | .... | .... | .... | 385               |
| Water supply       | .... | .... | .... | .... | 90                |
| Water Sampling     | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8                 |
|                    |      |      |      |      | <hr/> 5,496 <hr/> |

### **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The Public Cleansing Section of the department is staffed by thirty workmen under the control of a foreman.

The work entails the collection and disposal of household refuse, the salvage of paper, rags, tins, all types of metals, bottles, bones, and kitchen waste. Street cleansing and gulley emptying is done by the Highways department.

Four teams of men consisting of a driver and three or four loaders and using modern vehicles are used on refuse collection. A light trailer is attached to each vehicle to keep separate the paper, rags and other salvageable material. A special collection of paper from shops and small business premises is carried out and is combined with the collection of kitchen waste from communal bins sited on the streets, and its delivery after treatment. One vehicle is used as a spare, and for the carting of covering material to the tips.

All the refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping, and in spite of labour and transport difficulties, every effort is made to see that the tips are controlled. They are covered with earth, road sweepings, ashes, or moulding sand, as the tipping proceeds, and very little nuisance occurs. There were no outbreaks of fire, nor was there any trouble from rats. Two tips are in operation, one in Cradley and the other in the town itself.

At the Depot, the work consists of baling tins in an electrically operated baling machine, baling paper and rags in hand presses, sterilising kitchen waste, and maintaining and repairing all Corporation vehicles.

The table below, sets out the amounts of materials salvaged from 1st April, 1946, to 31st March, 1947, together with the income received by the Council.

| Materials Salvaged. |      |      |  | Tonnage. |       |      | Value. |    |    |
|---------------------|------|------|--|----------|-------|------|--------|----|----|
|                     |      |      |  | Tons     | Cwts. | Qrs. | £      | s. | d. |
| Kitchen Waste       | .... | .... |  | 150      | 3     | 2    | 481    | 15 | 1  |
| Paper               | .... | .... |  | 150      | 10    | 2    | 1,021  | 15 | 7  |
| Scrap Metal         | .... | .... |  | 13       | 16    | 3    | 31     | 14 | 10 |
| Baled Tins          | .... | .... |  | 50       | 7     | 1    | 102    | 4  | 9  |
| Bones               | .... | .... |  | 1        | 9     | 1    | 7      | 16 | 6  |
| Other Metals        | .... | .... |  | 1        | 12    | 0    | 4      | 0  | 0  |
| Rags                | .... | .... |  | 6        | 0     | 1    | 132    | 5  | 6  |
| Non-Ferrous Metal   | .... | .... |  | 2        | 8     | 1    | 48     | 5  | 0  |
| Sacking and String  | .... | .... |  | 2        | 11    | 3    | 10     | 5  | 6  |
| Glass (183 dozen)   | .... | .... |  | —        | —     | —    | 15     | 7  | 3  |
| Condemned Meat      | .... | .... |  |          | 2     | 1½   |        | 5  | 4  |
|                     |      |      |  | 379      | 1     | 3½   | £1,855 | 15 | 4  |

To encourage the use of better type dustbins, the Council have arranged to purchase a strong tapered dustbin in large quantities, and to re-sell to owners at cost price, plus a small administrative charge. Seventy-five dustbins were supplied under this scheme.

In the early months of the year, the amount of paper being collected was falling rapidly. The department bought 10,000 sandbags, and issued them to householders with an explanatory letter. The scheme was immediately successful and resulted in a substantial increase in the tonnage of paper collected.

#### GENERAL COMMENT.

The general impression shared by the staff during 1946 was one of satisfaction at being able to tackle some of the long-standing matters concerning Public Health, coupled with a sense of frustration at not being able to get work done quickly. In particular the practice of patching old worn out sub-standard houses is one which every Sanitary Inspector finds distasteful, but it will have to be continued until the building of replacement houses is considerably increased.



