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Contributors

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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

f o r t h e y e a r

1973



THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND LICENSING COMMITTEE, 1973.

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A.R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.o.) (from 1.10.73)

Deputy Chief Public Health Insps Chairman

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D. SPURRIER (a.b.o.) (from 1.10.73)

Senior Public Health Inspectors:

D. SPURRIER (a.b.o.) (until 30.9.73)

District Public Health Inspectors:

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J.E. IVANS, B.Sc. (a) Councillor N.G. ROUND
M.S. WILLIAMS, B.Sc. (a) (until 29.4.73)
R.C. BRACEY (a.)
A. BOWLEY, B.Sc. (a) (from 16.7.73)

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- (b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
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Council House,
Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1973

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

Infectious Disease

No major outbreak of infectious disease occurred in 1973.

Epidemics of cholera in Italy and Tunisia necessitated the surveillance of travellers returning from these countries at some periods of the year. Two such persons with suspicious symptoms were admitted to Hayley Green Hospital for investigation: fortunately tests proved negative in both cases.

For a time there was concern regarding psittacosis. I was informed by the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that a parrot purchased in a pet shop in the Borough had died and at post mortem examination was found to have suffered from this disease. This raised the possibility of other infected birds from the same premises: unfortunately pet shops do not keep a register of the names and addresses of purchasers and it was not possible to trace all the birds which had been in contact with the dead parrot.

The public were alerted through the news media of the dangers in the case of birds purchased at the shop in question especially if they became ill and also of the common symptoms of psittacosis in humans. A circular letter was sent to the doctors of the area letting them know the particulars. Unsold birds at the pet shop in question were given a course of antibiotics and were supervised by the Divisional Veterinary Officer.

Halesowen Home Safety Committee

A joint home safety and road safety exhibition was held in the Caslon Hall of the library for a week in May. This was well attended, especially by parties of school children.

In conjunction with the Public Health Departments of Dudley and Stourbridge a collection of unused medicines and poisons was carried out for two weeks in October. Among the items collected were 140,605 tablets of which 200 were thalidomide and quantities of arsenic, cyanide, lead salts and strychnine.

The usual advice on home safety was given at clinics and elsewhere. The publication of a monthly column on the subject in the Circular, first started in 1966, was continued.

Vital Statistics

These are not available at the time of writing.

Looking Backward

In this, the final Annual Report of a Halesowen Medical Officer of Health, in order to mark the end of an era I have considered it fitting to look backwards and pay tribute to my predecessors.

Since Victorian times when the first Annual Reports were written tremendous improvements have been made in eliminating health hazards at all ages and improving the quality of life. Medical Officers of Health have played a significant and honourable part in bringing these changes about. In the following pages, extracts culled from Annual Reports dating back to 1894 tell much of this fascinating story in which Halesowen is, in many ways, a microcosm of the nation as a whole. We find Dr. Brett Young tirelessly urging the importance of sanitation and clean water supplies as other pioneers were doing in different parts of the country at the same time. Later Dr. Corlett staunchly presses for immunisation against diphtheria in the face of ill-informed opposition, and still later he records the success of a campaign for vaccination against poliomyelitis.

Time has amply vindicated all these activities. In the nineteen sixties Dr. Hingston's comments reflect the growing national concern for the elderly, as the proportion of that age-group in the community has increased. I have included abstracts from my own reports only because it would be illogical to do otherwise and I find myself in the position of the biblical labourer who wrought for one hour only in the vineyard and even that after the burden and heat of the day had passed.

Dr. Brett Young wrote voluminously and with evident sincerity. His detective work as recorded for example in the investigation of the enteric fever outbreak of 1907, was of a high order.

Dr. Corlett's many friends in the area will recognise his humour and laconic style: it is to be hoped that he himself, in the well-deserved leisure of his retirement on the Isle of Man, will enjoy reading these abstracts which will undoubtedly also be of interest to Dr. Hingston, now working in his native Cornwall.

When the first Halesowen Annual Report was written 150 out of every 1,000 babies born died before reaching their first birthday: in 1972 the figure was 9 per 1,000. This change for the better symbolises the tremendous advances that have taken place and is attributable to many causes which include improved standards of living, better general education and developments in medical science. They also include, and it is appropriate to remind ourselves at this time, the unremitting efforts of the men I have the honour to succeed as Medical Officer of Health of this Borough.

In presenting passages out of their context there is the obvious and inevitable risk of misinterpretation or change of emphasis and I can only say that I am sorry if this has occurred at any point. I have supplied headings for some abstracts where these do not feature in the original reports but apart from this have made no alteration or even corrected misprints.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

This post was not filled during the year.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I received from the Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Alderman K.W. Johnson, the members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. J.B. McCooke, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Borough Council, for having made himself available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. Twomey.

Medical Officer of Health.

1894 - 1972

Dr. Edwin Turner	1894
Dr. T. Brett Young	1895 - 1938
Dr. R.L. Corlett	1939 - 1962
Dr. C.W.J. Hingston	1962 - 1966
Dr. J. Twomey	1966 - 1974

1894

Deaths reported due to zymotic diseases*

Measles	65
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	13
Enteric Fever	5
Diarrhoea	17
Small-pox	1
Diphtheria	1
Membranous Croup	2
Erysipelas	1

1895

Removal of Upper Swinford and Wollaston

As Upper Swinford and Wollaston have now been removed from this district to the Stourbridge Urban, comparative statistics are of much less value than they would otherwise be.

1896

Work on Sewerage Scheme

I am glad to be able to note that the main sewerage scheme is rapidly approaching completion and the work for the internal sewerage of the most populous parts will soon be in active progress.

* Zymotic diseases is an old-fashioned term for infectious diseases. Enteric fever includes typhoid and the paratyphoid fevers. Note the terrible total of 110 deaths from this group of diseases in 1894.

1897

Separation of Lye and Wollescote

On account of the separation of Lye and Wollescote from the Halesowen Rural District it becomes necessary for accuracy of comparative statistics to compare the figures for this year with that part of the old district which now forms the Halesowen Rural District.

Diarrhoea

In the parts of the district served by sewers and a good supply of water, there is no reason why privy-middens should not be completely abolished, and their place taken by some good type of slop, or other water-closet. This could not fail, in time, to reduce the number of cases of disease which are caused by a filth-polluted soil.

Water Supply

For most parts of the district this is very good. Long Lane, Hill, and The Quinton, although becoming populous places are still dependent for their water for the most part upon shallow wells. I trust that the efforts which you are making to induce the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company to extend their mains to these places will soon be crowned with success.

1898

Enteric Fever

91 cases of this disease have been notified for the year, of which 11 proved fatal. 6 of the deaths were of patients remaining at home and 6 of those removed to the Isolation Hospital. The distribution of the disease was as follows:-
Cakemore 12 cases; Cradley 7 cases; Halesowen 27 cases; Hasbury 17 cases; Hawne 3 cases; Hill 24 cases; and Lutley 1 case.
29 of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Water Supply

Each year, a great improvement takes place in the matter of water supply. New England, Hill, which, until lately, depended upon doubtful shallow wells, is now completely supplied from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Quinton is also getting its supply largely from the same source.

Appointment of Health Missioner

The infantile mortality is slightly larger than last year. In connection with this, I note with much satisfaction, the appointment of a Health Missioner* by the Council. Miss Stewart, who has taken up this important work, came to it with excellent credentials of previous training and what is still more important, shows in the performance of her necessarily difficult duties, much good sense and tact.

1900

Building of Hayley Green Hospital

I am glad to be able to note the progress towards completion of the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital. Once finished and properly equipped, much of the difficulty at present experienced with regard to isolation ought to be completely removed.

1901

Designation of District

Your District although still called Rural is essentially Urban in character, and for statistical, and every other comparison, it ought certainly to be considered Urban.

Birth-rate and Infantile Mortality

A high birth-rate in populous working-class localities is accompanied by a high infantile mortality.

* Later known as Health Visitors.

Smallpox

In connection with this subject a matter of much interest and concern was an outbreak of Smallpox which occurred at Hill in August 1901. In the afternoon of August 7th, I received a telegram from Dr. Beasley, of Rowley Regis, telling me of two supposed cases of Smallpox at Malt Mill Lane, Hill. I went to the place the same afternoon and found the cases to be really Smallpox. On enquiry, I elicited the fact that two other members of one of the families had been previously attacked and were then getting better. I also found that a girl named Eva Jones had come to one of the infected homes about two months before, from 36 Chatworth Street, Barrow-in-Furness, and about a fortnight after her arrival was attacked by a disease which was probably Smallpox. She subsequently admitted that nine members of her family had been taken to hospital with Smallpox shortly before she left home. There is thus no doubt, I think, that the infection was brought from Barrow-in-Furness by this girl. Although prompt isolation and destruction of infected bedding and clothing were secured, the disease was not stamped out until nine other cases had occurred. The whole of the cases were promptly removed to the Halesowen and Kingswinford Isolation Hospital. The thanks of the Halesowen Rural District Council are due to the Rowley Regis Urban District Council for their ready offer of the means for the disinfection of the infected clothing and bedding. The first cases were notified on August 7th, and the last case on August 29th, so that the outbreak after it became known - was suppressed in 22 days. No death occurred from the disease. The ages of the patients affected varied from 12 to 67 years. As far as could be ascertained there was insufficient primary vaccination in all cases, and none of the cases had been re-vaccinated. Whilst upon this subject, I should like to urgently impress upon the Council the need for the provision of the means for the isolation of Small-pox - as I understand that the accommodation which was available in August no longer exists.

River Pollution

It is probable that very little sewage now finds its way into the River Stour, but there is no doubt that acid waste from various works does get into the river.

1902

Housing Accommodation

126 new houses have been erected during the year, and there is now no lack of house accommodation in the district especially for the working classes. In bad times there is a tendency for cottages to be occupied by more than one family, and thus to produce overcrowding.

Hayley Green Hospital

The Isolation Hospital, at Hayley Green, is proving a great help in dealing with Infectious Disease, more especially with Scarlet Fever, and as no cases have been refused admission, it is to be presumed that the accommodation is sufficient to meet the needs of the united district.

The Hospital is provided with efficient Disinfecting Apparatus, which is available also for the district, as well as for the Hospital itself.

1903

Removal and disposal of House refuse

The ashpit in connection with the privy midden is a common receptacle for this, and its removal takes place with nightsoil. Public opinion in poor populous localities very much needs educating in this matter as there is no doubt that the proper way of dealing with the main bulk of house refuse, when it is of a combustible nature, is to burn it.

1904

Scarlet Fever

There were five deaths, three of which occurred at Hill, and two at the Isolation Hospital, Hayley Green - one of a patient from Cakemore and one from Hasbury.

1905

Absence of Smallpox

For the third year in succession there has been an entire absence of Smallpox, which, considering the fact that there is no provision for its isolation, is fortunate.

1906

Special Report on Cases of Enteric Fever

The circumstances connected with the six cases occurring at the house of Alfred Bills, of Colley Lane, Cradley, are very peculiar, and exhibit in a striking manner the difficulty sometimes experienced in forming a correct diagnosis in some obscure cases of this disease. The history is as follows:-

Ezra Perks, whose wife died from Enteric Fever, at Netherton, near Dudley, on January 21st, 1906, came to live shortly after, with the Bills' family, at Colley Lane, Cradley, bringing with him bedding and other things, which were said, however, to have been disinfected. Shortly after Perks' arrival at Cradley, members of the Bills' family fell ill with an obscure form of illness, which was considered to be Influenza, but which, in the light of future developments, is now believed by the Medical men who were in attendance, to be Enteric Fever.

The first batch of three notifications reached me on April 8th, and the second batch of three cases on April 11th, one of which had been recently attacked, and two others which were said to be convalescent.

Four of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital; the two others being so far recovered as not to be considered a source of

danger. What might have proved a serious source of danger in connection with the matter, but which so far, fortunately, does not appear to have been so, is the fact that Bills keeps a Grocer's shop, which is a source of food supply to a large number of poorer people in its vicinity.

There were no insanitary conditions found in connection with the house or its surroundings. The drainage and water supply were quite satisfactory.

Since the removal of the patients to Hospital, all necessary precautions have been taken in the way of disinfecting and cleansing.

There is no doubt, I think, that the Infection was brought from Netherton, by Perks, and that gradually, nearly all the members of the family were attacked by the disease. One member of the family, a boy of nine, died after removal to Hospital.

1907 Enteric Fever in Halesowen Rural District (Further Report)

In all, 42 cases have been notified to-date, and I have reason to think that the outbreak is now practically to an end. The incidence of the disease has been chiefly in Hasbury -- 32 of the cases having occurred there, and chiefly over a very limited area in the Spring Hill neighbourhood; 9 cases occurred at Halesowen and of these at least three were proved to have drunk water from the supposed contaminated Hasbury source of supply. One case was notified from Hill, but had no connection with the Hasbury and Halesowen cases, and could be accounted for by insanitary conditions of the locality in which it occurred.

My investigations go fairly conclusively to prove that the infection was spread in the following way:- In the early part of October, I have ascertained that a woman living in Spring Hill, Hasbury suffered from an indefinite illness of several weeks duration, but was not medically attended, this illness was probably

Enteric Fever; about the same time there was something wrong with the Spring Hill pump which is a source of supply for most of the area over which the cases have occurred. In consequence of being unable to use the pump the people were obliged to dip their buckets and other vessels into the well, which was only shut off by an unsecured trap door. Thus I think a temporary contamination of the water with Enteric Fever infection took place. This is confirmed in a somewhat circumstantial way. Two cases occurred at some distance from the area mainly affected, and could not be accounted for, but it was subsequently ascertained that they had drunk water at the suspected pump in passing.

It is a remarkable fact too, that 28 of the 42 cases occurred in the 5 to 15 age period. This is account for I think, by the fact that the children in the locality largely use the water, in passing, by drinking directly from the pump, using the hollow of the hands as a make-shift cup.

1907

Premature Births

From this cause 21 deaths were registered compared with 18 for the previous year. Of these, 4 occurred at Cakemore, 12 at Cradley, 1 each at Halesowen, Hasbury, Hawne, Lutley and Quinton.

It will be noticed as in the report of the previous year that a large proportion 12 of the cases occurred at Cradley, this I cannot help thinking, may be due to too laborious work on the part of the mother continued up to within a short time of the child's birth.

1908

Scarlet Fever

There is no doubt that some mild cases are overlooked and never notified.*

* As Council members are aware, this is still true.

1909

Measles

There were 29 deaths from Measles. The ages were:- under one year, 3; one to five, 22; five to fifteen, 4. 6 occurred at Cakemore, 16 at Cradley, 5 at Hill, and 2 at the Isolation Hospital, Hayley Green.

This disease was epidemic at Cakemore and Hill in May, June and July, at Halesowen in July, and at Cradley in November and December. Schools were closed in all the localities where the disease occurred.

The Health Missioner paid a large number of visits and gave instructions to parents in the affected parts of the district.

It is very difficult to get poor people to realize that Measles, with its complications, is the most fatal of children's diseases.

1910

Milk Supply

This is obtained from various sources, some being produced within the district and some being brought in from without. There is no doubt that the conditions of the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, is quite up to the standard usually obtainable; that a more rigid system of cleanliness will be enforced sooner or later, is I think, certain and desirable.

1913

Closet Accommodation

This is a matter which is receiving very close attention, and continued progress is being made in the direction of the conversion of privy middens into W.C's. During the year 142 privies were converted into W.C's. 6 new W.C's. were erected and 127 sanitary dustbins provided.

1914

Scavenging

This is done by contract, and with the exception of Cradley where the contractor works whole time, needs constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector.

The contracts are for the quarterly emptying of ashpits and weekly emptying of dustbins.

During the year refuse was removed from 10,796 houses.

13,497 privies and ashpits were cleansed.

53,015 portable receptacles were cleansed.

13,221 loads of ashes and excrement were removed.

1916

Diphtheria

Twenty-nine cases of Diphtheria were reported in 1916 compared with 25 for 1915 and 30 for 1914.

1917

Infant Welfare Work

The Child Welfare Consultation Centre is proving a decided success and is a great benefit to both Mothers and children. The increase in attendances shows that it is undoubtedly appreciated by the Mothers.

1918

Influenza

During the month of July and again in November and December the District suffered from an epidemic of Influenza which in the majority of cases was accompanied by pneumonia or bronchopneumonia. In July there were 20 deaths from this cause, 42 deaths in November and 23 in December.

1919

Infant and Child Welfare Work

The greatest efforts are used to encourage and secure breast-feeding, and to do this in a perfectly regular and methodical way. Unfortunately, however early the infant is visited after birth, in a large number of cases it is found to be already "on the bottle". It would seem that the only way to secure this undoubtedly great boon for the infant would be to get hold of the expectant mother and endeavour to convince her of the possibility and the great advantage to the infant of natural feeding and to give her such definite and specific instructions as shall secure its success.

The Home visiting by the Health Visitors is a very important part of the work as it is largely by this means that the mothers are induced to attend the Consultation Centres. It is energetically carried out in the Halesowen District, to the very great advantage of the mothers and children. The mothers are willing in most cases to act upon the advice given and to try better methods of feeding and general management for their children. They are not so bound by tradition as formerly, and bring their children to the Centre at a much earlier age.

1921

Encephalitis Lethargica*

There were 3 cases of this disease in 1921, 1 at Hasbury, 1 at Cradley, 1 at Hill. One case proved fatal.

1922

Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis

30 cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1922:- 23 Pulmonary and 7 other forms. They were distributed as follows: 8 at Hill and Cakemore, 6 at Cradley, 6 at Halesowen, 2 at Hawne, 7 at Hasbury and 1 at Lapal. In 1921, 42 cases were reported, in 1920 51.

*Also known as sleeping sickness.

47 in 1919, 54 in 1918, and 43 in 1917. Various measures are taken to control this disease. In suspicious cases, specimens of the sputum are sent to the County Bacteriologist for examination. Those patients who are able to do so attend weekly at the Dispensary and receive treatment and advice from the Tuberculosis Officer in attendance there. If advisable, they are sent to a Sanatorium for varying periods. Shelters are also provided for those who remain at home. All cases are visited by the Health Visitor, at their homes, periodically.

1923

Infant and Child Welfare

The Health Visitors make a point of visiting infants under 1 year of age as often as possible, as the first year of a child's life is most important.

1925

Conversion to Urban District

The outstanding event of the year has been the conversion of the Halesowen Rural District into an Urban District.

Vaccination

During the four years 1921 - 1924, 1,954 primary vaccinations were done, and 387 re-vaccinations.

During the year 1925, the figures were 209 primary and 3 re-vaccinations.

A very large portion of these vaccinations were done in 1923, 738 primary and 357 re-vaccinations. These large numbers were got through in a few weeks, thanks to the able organisation and assistance of Dr. C.W. Sharpley, one of the Assistance Medical Officers of the Worcestershire County Council.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

So far as I know, no use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, nor of the recently developed artificial methods of immunisation against these diseases.

Smoke Abatement

Two cases of Smoke Nuisances were dealt with informally. No readings of atmospheric impurity were taken.*

1926

Ambulance Facilities

A Motor Ambulance has been provided by the Stourbridge and Halesowen Joint Hospital Committee to convey infectious cases to Isolation Hospital. There is also a Motor Ambulance maintained by the Urban District Council at the Fire Station for use of Accidents and Non-Infectious cases.

1927

Water

The greater part of the district is supplied by South Staffordshire Waterworks Company Limited, and is constant and sufficient. The only parts not supplied are the outlying wards of Illey and Lapal. During the past year water has been connected to 156 dwelling houses.

1928

Diphtheria

21 cases of diphtheria were notified.

1929

Worcestershire County Council Venereal Diseases

Arrangements have been made for FREE TREATMENT FOR ALL.

* It is interesting that even in 1925 Halesowen was a pace-setter in smoke control, a position which it has never relinquished.

Midwives

There are six Midwives practising in the area - four trained and two untrained.

1930

Water

The only part now not properly supplied by a public supply is the outlying Ward of Illey. During the year water has been connected to 407 dwelling houses.

1931

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year a sewerage system has been laid down in the Lapal Ward and portions of Hill and Cakemore district at a cost of £11,800.

1932

Maternity

During the year the Ernest Stevens' Maternity Hospital was opened at Stourbridge, and all Halesowen cases are now treated at this hospital.

1933

Drainage and Sewerage

The whole of the district is efficiently sewered, and over 98% of the houses have Water-closets.

1934

Sanitation

Few Privy Middens now remain in the District and in the village of Illey water has been connected to most of the houses during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

In connection with Infectious Disease a considerable advance was made when the Council decided to commence Diphtheria Immunisation. This will take some time to develop into a general practice, but should eventually do a great deal to reduce the incidence and mortality of this very dangerous disease of childhood.

1935

Diphtheria Notifications

During the year 30 cases of Diphtheria were notified, an increase of 2 over the previous year.

1937

Maternity and Child Welfare

With regard to the three Welfare Centres the average weekly attendances are still on the increase.

1938

Death of Dr. Brett Young

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.

1940

Staff Shortage

During the whole year the department was understaffed because of War Service.

1941

Diphtheria Immunisation

During 1941, 3,094 children were immunised.

1942

Diphtheria Immunisation

There has been a good deal of propaganda by some people presumably for reasons best known to themselves but certainly not clear to me, against diphtheria immunisation. The position as regards this Borough is that from 1935 when immunisation was commenced, up to 31st December, 1942, there have been 6,520 children immunised, and as far as we know, only nine of them have contracted diphtheria up to 3rd May 1943, and all recovered. In the same period, amongst the non-immunised population, there have been 140 cases of diphtheria with thirteen deaths.

1943

Scabies

The number of scabies cases treated* shows an increase of 83 over the previous year.

1945

Mr. A. Archer

Mr. A. Archer was appointed Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector in October and his appointment as Chief Sanitary Inspector was confirmed in 1946.

1946

Anterior Poliomyelitis

There were three cases during the year There were no deaths.

1947

New Drugs

Penicillin and M and B will undoubtedly prolong many lives, so that one of the problems that will have to be solved is how to keep the aged happy and useful members of the community.

1948

National Health Service

As you know the National Health Service Act came into operation in July and the district responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation and the Borough Ambulance Service passed to Worcestershire County Council.

1950

Poliomyelitis

The year, unfortunately, was marked by the high incidence of poliomyelitis in the Borough. It was part of an outbreak which affected the Midlands, and the incidence for the country as a whole was above average. There were three deaths out of a total of fifty-one cases in the Borough of Halesowen. Again this year there were four deaths from motor vehicle accidents. There were no deaths from diphtheria.

Situation of Halesowen

Halesowen forms part of the northern area of the County of Worcester.

1951

Situation of Halesowen

Fortunately for Halesowen it still forms part of the northern area of the beautiful County of Worcester.

1952

Planting Trees

The winter was comparatively mild and the summer wet. In view of the rather limited amount of sunshine we enjoy, I think it is important that householders should be careful when planting trees in their gardens to see that they are of a suitable type, and are so placed as not to cause any obstruction to light and sunshine entering their homes.

1954

Disease Incidence

For the second year in succession we have neither a case of diphtheria nor of poliomyelitis. There were only two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and while this continued decrease in the Tuberculosis death rate is a striking tribute to the efficiency of new methods of treatment, it is to be hoped that we may soon experience a similar fall in the incidence of what should be a preventable disease. The incidence of death due to cancer of the lung and bronchus, is below that of England and Wales, nevertheless, there were eleven deaths, ten being males.

1955

Mass Radiography Unit

From the 14th - 19th November, the Mass Radiography Unit which is stationed at Dudley and belongs to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board visited the district.

1957

Influenza

Commencing in mid-September in common with other districts we suffered from an epidemic of influenza which, because of its site or origin, was called Asian Influenza. It proved of great nuisance value, but on the whole it could be considered to be of a mild type.

1959

Cancer and Poliomyelitis

There were nineteen deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus. There is statistical evidence that cigarette smoking at all events is somehow implicated, even though it may well be not the only factor. It is hoped that the younger generation will not take up cigarette smoking which besides being, in my opinion dangerous, is an expensive habit.

No cases of poliomyelitis were recorded during the year. The response by the parents to have their children vaccinated against poliomyelitis was satisfactory, as one would expect in this Borough. This work is carried out by the Worcestershire County Council.

1961

Dr. Corlett's last Report

It is with mixed feelings that I approach the final portion of the foreword to this report which will be the last I shall present for your consideration.

1962

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

In November 1962, consideration was given to the Public Health measure of introducing fluoride into the Public Water Supply. By the 14th December, 1962, the Ministry of Health had outlinedⁱⁿ a circular the method by which all Local Health Authorities, i.e., the County Health Department might introduce this scheme under section 28 of the National Health Service Act providing technical aspects of fluoridation had prior approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Two water undertakings would be involved, the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company which provides most of the water to Halesowen, and the Birmingham City supply which provides a small quantity of water to this Borough.

It is hoped that in the next year or two that this preventative measure to reduce the high incidence of dental decay in children, will be introduced into the public water supplies in Halesowen.*

* Unfortunately Dr. Hingston's hope has been only partly fulfilled. The Birmingham City Water is now fluoridated but not that provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

1963

Action taken under section 47 National Assistance Act

I wish to bring to your notice that under section 47 of the 1948 National Assistance Act 1951 amendment, I applied to the Magistrates' Court for an Urgency Order to be placed on a lady in Halesowen. When I visited her, she was spending most of the day alone, without being able to obtain for herself, or receive from others, adequate care and attention. She was confined to bed in a very dirty condition and was infested with lice, and refused to leave her house. The Order was granted and she was admitted to hospital. After the statutory time of 3 weeks she voluntarily wished to continue her stay in hospital, there being a marked improvement both in her mental and physical condition. After prolonged treatment she returned home and is continuing to maintain her improvement with the aid of therapy and the services of the County Health and Welfare departments, which she will continue to need in the future.

It is fortunate that most cases of this nature can usually be dealt with on a voluntary basis and there are few in number, but occasionally the Medical Officer of Health is forced to take compulsory action under this Order. I am happy to report that in this case the outcome has justified the action taken, as this lady was in urgent need of medical treatment for a chronic and serious complaint.

1964

Heart Disease

Disease of the heart remains the chief single cause of death.

1965

Work for the Elderly

I am glad to say the work with the elderly continues to expand and in 1965 we saw the appointment of a full time Health Visitor to cover this work in Halesowen and Stourbridge. The important supporting domiciliary services of Meals on Wheels and Home Helps continued under the able direction of Miss Bridge in charge of the W.V.S.

1967

Congratulations

We have had another year free of maternal deaths in childbirth and everyone connected with the maternity services is to be heartily congratulated on this.

1968

Control of Infectious Disease

Most of the problems in this field were in connection with gastro-intestinal infections i.e food poisoning and dysentery. When necessary, food-handlers who were considered to be a risk from the point of view of spreading these diseases were requested to discontinue work for a time, and compensation for financial loss was paid by the Council.

1970

Causes of Death

The pattern of mortality is similar to that of previous years, just less than half the deaths being caused by diseases of the heart and blood-vessels. As far as is known to medical science, we can best protect ourselves against this group of diseases by what I have elsewhere termed the rule of three: keep active, keep weight down, keep off cigarettes.

1971

Halesowen Home Safety Committee

As usual talks and film shows were given by Health Visitors and others. The publication of a monthly column on the subject in the Circular was continued, the space being kindly afforded free of charge by the proprietor, Mr. H. Taylor.

The main project of the year was a 'Hazard House'. A house due for demolition near the centre of the Borough was made available free

of charge by the owners and a display depicting many kinds of domestic hazards was prepared with the co-operation of the Fire Service, the police, the M.E.B., the Gas Board, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Association, Health Visitors, the staff of the Public Health Department and others.

Precautions against Typhoid and Cholera

A ten year old girl newly arrived in the country was admitted to East Birmingham Hospital from the Borough in July, 1971 and was found to be suffering from typhoid fever. She made a good recovery and laboratory tests on the girl and her family proved that there was no danger of spread of the disease in this country.

Later in the year, there was a cholera outbreak in Spain and the Public Health Department was notified of the names and addresses of returning holiday-makers from that country. They were visited, and when necessary, laboratory investigations were carried out to exclude the possibility of cholera infection: all such tests were negative.

1972

German Measles in Play Groups

When information of rubella (german measles) infection among children in play-groups is received, letters are sent to all parents in the group concerned giving advice in the case of expectant mothers coming in direct contact with the infection.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESOWEN

	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Food Poisoning	-	-	4	4	5	4	2	-	2	6	3	-	6
Measles	205	16	219	198	103	237	294	194	511	285	794	10	545
Scarlet Fever	31	27	12	25	30	17	36	29	24	19	50	25	13
Typhoid	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	3	8	5	11	33	50	11	1	23	30	-	6
Dysentery	-	2	1	-	4	26	3	-	3	2	15	50	-
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	9	6	3	7	7	2	12	7	5	10	7	7	11
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	3	11	5	4	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.1	4.7	4.8	8.9	10.4	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8
Infant Mortality Rate	17.0	24.0	24.0	17.6	9.5	8.4	11.4	19.6	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate	22.0	26.0	26.0	21.8	17.5	11.9	22.5	18.1	21.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6

Measles Notifications, 1973

WARDS

	Belle Vale	Cakemore	Central	Cradley	Hasbury	Hayley Green	Hill	Lapal	Total
January	2	1	9	2	-	-	1	5	20
February	4	2	3	-	-	3	-	-	12
March	-	28	3	-	2	-	1	7	41
April	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	4
May	15	-	1	5	3	2	2	2	30
June	2	5	3	22	2	-	-	2	36
July	3	3	3	6	4	10	-	-	29
August	3	2	1	2	6	3	-	1	18
September	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
October	1	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	5
November	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
December	-	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	7
	31	45	26	37	19	21	7	19	205

Где лето	Сурьмола	Сенцла	Слабел	Иварла	Ирлал	Ирлал	Ирлал	Ирлал	Ирлал	Ирлал	Ирлал
31	42	50	38	44	52	57	502	51	52	53	54
-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	5	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	5	1	5	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	2	4	2	10	10	10	10	10	10
5	2	3	55	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	1	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	50	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	2	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3

AVHDS

История Маттео Понте, 1813

Tuberculosis

Fourteen new cases were reported during the year.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	1	1	-	-
5-	-	2	-	-
15-	-	-	1	-
20-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	-	-	1
35-	1	-	1	1
45-	1	-	-	1
55-	1	-	-	-
65-	1	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	3	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register:-

Fourteen new cases were reported during the year.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1972	29	15	6	7
1973	15	10	4	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
New Notifications				
Deaths				
1958	-	18	-	2
1959	-	21	-	-
1960	-	14	-	3
1961	-	11	-	-
1962	-	7	-	3
1963	-	7	-	4
1964	-	10	-	1
1965	-	6	-	1
1966	-	7	-	-
1967	-	12	-	1
1968	-	2	-	1
1969	-	7	-	-
1970	-	7	-	-
1971	-	3	-	1
1972	-	6	-	1
1973	-	9	-	Not yet published

Notifiable Diseases, 1973

Disease	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	31	-	1	1	2	4	18	2	3	-	-	-
Measles	205	12	15	21	22	16	107	3	1	4	-	4
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Polioyelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polioyelitis Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	9	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	4	1	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-

Year	Month	Day	Time	Location	Remarks
1971	January	1	10:00	...	...
1971	January	2	10:00	...	...
1971	January	3	10:00	...	...
1971	January	4	10:00	...	...
1971	January	5	10:00	...	...
1971	January	6	10:00	...	...
1971	January	7	10:00	...	...
1971	January	8	10:00	...	...
1971	January	9	10:00	...	...
1971	January	10	10:00	...	...
1971	January	11	10:00	...	...
1971	January	12	10:00	...	...
1971	January	13	10:00	...	...
1971	January	14	10:00	...	...
1971	January	15	10:00	...	...
1971	January	16	10:00	...	...
1971	January	17	10:00	...	...
1971	January	18	10:00	...	...
1971	January	19	10:00	...	...
1971	January	20	10:00	...	...
1971	January	21	10:00	...	...
1971	January	22	10:00	...	...
1971	January	23	10:00	...	...
1971	January	24	10:00	...	...
1971	January	25	10:00	...	...
1971	January	26	10:00	...	...
1971	January	27	10:00	...	...
1971	January	28	10:00	...	...
1971	January	29	10:00	...	...
1971	January	30	10:00	...	...
1971	January	31	10:00	...	...

BENTLEY BIRCHES (11)



Date	Primary Substrates										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1912	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1913	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1914	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1915	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1917	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1918	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1919	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1920	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1921	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1922	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1923	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1925	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1926	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1927	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1928	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1929	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1930	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1931	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1932	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1933	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1934	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1935	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1936	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1937	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1938	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1939	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1940	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1941	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1942	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1944	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
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1950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
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1962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1969	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1975	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1976	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1977	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1978	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1980	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1981	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1983	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1984	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1985	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1986	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1987	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1991	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1992	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1994	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1995	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1998	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0



