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Borough of Kidderminster.

REPORTS

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

❖ 1904. ❖

KIDDERMINSTER :

THOMAS BROOKE, GENERAL PRINTER, 6 AND 7 PITT'S LANE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(KIDDERMINSTER CORPORATION).



The Mayor :

COUNCILLOR W. ADAM.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN T. PENSOTTI.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR T. GRIFFIN.

ALDERMAN W. TAYLOR,	COUNCILLOR E. A. C. PHIPPS,
COUNCILLOR J. BOYLE,	„ J. RAY,
„ M. COLE,	„ E. W. TALBOT,
„ W. H. MOORE,	„ R. WOODWARD.

Medical Officer of Health :

DAVID CORBET, M.R.C.S.

Public Analyst :

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.

Sanitary Inspector :

J. T. COWDEROY, C.S.I.

Clerk :

L. PATON.

❖|| Annual Report ||❖

FOR THE YEAR 1904.



TOWN HALL,

FEBRUARY 6TH, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the following report upon the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Kidderminster for the Year 1904.

The returns of Deaths and of new cases of infectious sickness I herewith hand you duly completed.

During the year there have been 627 Births, or 25·38 in the thousand :—Males, 312 ; Females, 315.

The total number of deaths from all causes, diseases, and ages, which have been registered, is 469 ; the number in each sex being 248 Males and 221 Females.

Deaths in the Workhouse 88—Residents, 52 ; Non-Residents, 26.

Deaths in the Infirmary 39—Residents 21 ; Non-Residents, 18.

The ages at which the deaths have taken place during the year are as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	96
Between 1 and 5 years	...	29
" 5 " 15 "	...	12
" 15 " 25 "	...	27
" 25 " 65 "	...	144
From 65 and upwards	...	161
		<hr/> 469 <hr/>

The Death Rate per thousand for the year is 18·98.

NOTE.—If we subtract the deaths of non-residents registered as occurring in the Workhouse and Infirmary, the Death Rate would be 17·20.

The Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases during the last year and nine previous years have been as follows :—

DISEASES.	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	2
Typhoid Fever...	...	2	3	2	4	1	2	...	...	1
Measles ...	1	1	22	1	...	16	3	12	2	...
Diphtheria ...	2	3	2	7	4	17	6	2	3	1
Diarrhœa ...	11	9	6	10	16	7	15	12	7	11
Whooping Cough	4	2	11	1	4	3	15	...	1	4
Totals...	18	17	45	21	28	46	41	27	14	19

Scarlet Fever.

We have had 299 Notifications of this Disease for 1904, and 2 deaths against 590 cases and 1 death in 1903.

BOROUGH CASES ONLY.

MONTH.	Notifica- tions.	Removed to Hospital.	Nursed at Home.	Deaths in Hospital.	Deaths at Home.
January ...	43	23	20	1	...
February ...	44	33	11	1	1
March ...	32	26	6	...	1
April ...	24	18	6	...	...
May ...	11	10	1	1	...
June ...	18	12	6	...	...
July ...	21	12	9	...	...
August ...	19	14	5	2	...
September ...	28	23	5	...	...
October ...	30	21	9	...	...
November ...	16	11	5	...	...
December ...	13	11	2	1	...
Totals ...	299	214	85	6	2

NOTE.—The Deaths occurring in the Borough Hospital are not included in the Borough Zymotic Death Rate, as the Institution is outside the Borough, therefore is not included in the Borough Registration District.

STATISTICS OF BOROUGH HOSPITAL.

TABLE A.

Showing Monthly Admissions of Scarlet Fever Cases from the following localities during the year 1904.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Borough Cases ...	23	33	20	18	9	12	12	13	22	21	11	11	205
Workhouse Cases ...			6		1			1	1				7
Infirmary Cases ...													2
Rural District Council Cases ...	1			4	1	4	2	2		2	1	1	18
Stourport Urban District Council Cases ...	1	1											2
Bewdley Urban District Council Cases ...								1					1
Droitwich Rural District Council Cases ...													
Martley Rural District Council Cases ...											1		1
Monthly Totals ...	25	34	26	22	11	16	14	17	23	23	13	12	236

Borough Hospital.

Number in Hospital on December 31st, 1903...	...	...	99
Number of Scarlet Fever Cases admitted from January 1st, 1904, to December 31st, 1904	...	...	236
Number of Small Pox ditto ditto	...	...	2
Number of Scarlet Fever (discharged cured)	...	...	312
Number of Small Pox ditto	...	...	2
Number of Deaths from Scarlet Fever	...	...	6
Average number of days (each patient discharged) remained in Hospital	...	...	45
Remaining in Hospital on December 31st, 1904	...	...	18

Scarlet Fever.—

We have had two hundred and ninety-one less cases than last year. Although the amount of Hospital isolation practiced in this Town has failed to stamp out Scarlet Fever, it cannot be denied that the Isolation Hospital has diminished the amount of Scarlet Fever. The immense good the Hospital is to the patients, and to the inmates of the homes from which they are removed, cannot be measured or put down in figures. The majority of the houses in Kidderminster have only three bedrooms, many have only two bedrooms, and also in many instances the back yards, water closets, and wash-houses are common to more than one house. I ask how is it possible under such conditions to nurse and isolate cases of Scarlet Fever at home.

Measles.—We have been very free from this disease during 1904. No death has been reported, and only a very few cases of sickness have come to our knowledge. I have issued printed instructions to parents on the care and treatment of Measles, a copy of which I herewith append.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Instructions to heads of families, school teachers, and others, for preventing the spread of Measles.

Measles is a dangerous disease, one of the most dangerous with which a child under five years of age can be attacked. It is especially apt to be fatal to teething children. It tends to kill by producing inflammation of the lungs. It prepares the way for Consumption. It tends to maim by producing inflammation of the eyes and ears.

Measles causes more deaths than Scarlet Fever.

Measles carries off more persons than Enteric Fever (Typhoid).

It is therefore a great mistake to look upon Measles as a trifling disease.

The older a child is, the less likely it is to catch Measles ; and if it does, the less likely is it to die.

If every child could be protected from Measles until it had passed its fifth year, the mortality from Measles would be enormously decreased.

It is therefore a great mistake—because, as a rule, children sooner or later have Measles—to say “the sooner the better,” and to take no means to protect them, or even deliberately to expose them to infection.

It is wrong for mothers with children in arms to go into houses where Measles exist.

Every child with Measles ought at once to be put to bed and kept warm. The mildest cases may be made serious by a chill. Measles is for this reason most dangerous in winter and spring.

A case of Measles continues infectious for at least three weeks after the appearance of the rash. During that time separation from the healthy ought to be secured either by removal of the sick to Hospital or by isolation at home.

Isolation means not merely a separate room for the sick, but the withdrawal of apparently healthy children from school (day and Sunday), and the exclusion of strange children from the house.

The isolation, as far as possible, from other children, and of all children belonging to the same family, is more necessary in the case of Measles than of any other infectious disease, because of this peculiarity—for days before the rash comes out, the child is highly infectious.

School teachers, especially, ought to be familiar with the appearance of children in this stage of Measles.

The eyes are watery, glistening, and sensitive to light ; there is a hoarse cough, sneezing, and running from the nose, with flushed face ; in short, all the signs of a bad cold in the head.

No child showing these symptoms ought to be allowed to go to school.

Any child observed at school with these symptoms ought to be sent home at once. Such children are to be looked for more particularly in the Infant Department.

Parents and school teachers, notifying cases to the Health Department, will be supplied with notices authorizing the children to be kept from attending school.

Disinfectants are supplied by the department free.

Whooping Cough.—Four Deaths from this disease have occurred during the year. Though it has been somewhat prevalent, I have not thought it necessary to advise the closing of any of our Elementary Schools. We have prohibited children from attending school.

Respiratory Diseases.—Under this heading are included Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Pleurisy, and during the year 98 deaths have been registered.

Infant Mortality.—During the year there died 95 Infants under 1 year of age; this is one below the average of the past ten years. We still continue to supply the Registrar with copies of instructions on the care and feeding of Infants, which are handed to every person who registers a birth.

Small Pox.—We have only had two cases during the year. One a Female, taken from a common Lodging-house in the Borough, said to have been contracted from a tramp who slept one night in the house fifteen days previously, and was said to have had Small Pox marks upon him.

The second case was one of the men (an old soldier) from our ashpit cleansing department, who was sent to mind a delirious patient in the Small Pox Hospital. Both cases were mild and recovered.

Diphtheria.—22 Cases; 3 Deaths. This is the lowest number of cases for any one year since the year 1890, when we had seven cases and one death.

Phthisis.—During the year Phthisis caused 24 deaths within the Borough, the same number as last year. We still in every case on becoming aware of a death, supply the householder with printed instructions how to act.

Typhoid Fever.—Only one case during the year which died. Patient, a young man, who worked at Birmingham; he came to Kidderminster on May 21st and died the following day in the Kidderminster Infirmary.

Births.—During the year 627 Births were registered within the Borough, of which 312 were Males and 315 Females.

Deaths.—During the year 469 Deaths occurred within the Borough, of which 248 were Males and 221 Females.

The Weather in relation to Public Health.—The importance of this subject is shown by the following extract from the *Sanitary Record*, May 25th, 1900, Pages 4—46.

A record of the changes in temperature, pressure, direction, and velocity of wind, humidity, precipitation and sunshine, and cloudiness, is invaluable in connection with questions of Public Health, Sanitary Improvements and Regulations. No Health Department should be without a thorough Meteorological equipment. The following propositions are generally held to be true:—

A preternaturally dry air with a high temperature predisposes to the development of fevers and intestinal disorders.

A very moist atmosphere, accompanied by a low temperature, is likely to induce bronchial and rheumatic disorders.

In summer and autumn the tendency to sickness and death is chiefly connected with the digestive organs.

In summer and autumn a rise of mean temperature above the average increases the number of cases of, and mortality from, diseases of the digestive organs.

A cold and rainy summer controls the prevalence and fatality of diarrhoeal diseases.

Diarrhoeal diseases become epidemic when the subsoil temperature at a depth of four feet below the surface reaches 56 deg. fah. for the season.

The physiological effects of the climate embrace the degree of humidity, fogs, cloudiness, sunshine, force and direction of wind, purity of atmosphere, and the quality of all the meteorological influences.

There are injurious climatic influences in the locality where an individual is obliged to reside to which he is physically more or less susceptible. If his health becomes impaired, a change in climate may do him good. The locality which will afford the natural qualities to which the vital processes will respond most readily is the one he wants. His physician should be most thoroughly posted, not only as to the meteorological influences of other places, but equally as important is an accurate statistical knowledge of the climate influences which have operated to reduce the patient's vitality.

Climato—Therapy cannot become an exact science until the statistical knowledge of vitality, morbidity, mortality and meteorology has accumulated, and its correct interpretation is understood. Local Boards of Health should champion this work. No goal is more worthy of attainment than the prevention of disease.

Extracts from my Monthly Report Book.

Sore Throats.

May 2nd, 1904.

During the month of April sore throats have been very prevalent in the Borough in the form of Tonsillitis and Quinsy. A general investigation has been made through the Borough, and a special inspection through Blakebrook, but no specific cause has been detected to account for the outbreaks; in my own mind the cause is atmospheric.

Scarlet Fever.

October 17th, 1904.

I regret to say there are still a number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurring within the Borough; more so since the opening of the schools.

As a typical case showing the way in which Scarlet Fever is spread, I would mention the following:—

On October 11th, 1904, a child was found attending St. George's Girls' School desquamating and discharging from one ear, as a result of Scarlet Fever; the consequence is, we have had other cases from that school. At the present time there are seven girls in the Hospital, scholars of this school.

The said school I have had disinfected twice since.

We have seen the parents of the child in question, in reference to them sending it to school in the condition it was found. They state no doctor had seen it, they themselves took it to be nettlerash, as the child did not appear very ill. They informed us they would not have sent it to school if they had had the least suspicion the child had had Scarlet Fever.

Cases of this kind appear to be unavoidable, at the same time we pointed out to the parents the danger of such an unfortunate occurrence, and the importance when a child is ill of always calling in a medical man.

I have had notices printed and circulated calling attention to the requirements of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

St. George's Churchyard.

Nov. 14th, 1904.

In accordance with instructions, the Sanitary Inspector and myself have given this matter our attention, and now beg to present our report as follows :—

In 1882 an enquiry was held by Dr. Hoffman, an Inspector under the Burial Act, as to the state of St. George's Churchyard.

After inspecting the ground and hearing evidence he said that the point he had to determine was whether the churchyard was in an insanitary condition and injurious to health, and the conclusion he came to was that from its surroundings he did not think any injury could arise to the Public Health in its then condition, and he thought there remained considerable room for interments.

The area of the Churchyard is 15,913 square yards, but from this has to be deducted 3,100 square yards for the site of the church footpaths, &c., leaving 12,812 square yards available for interments.

The ground was opened in 1824, and between that time and the date of enquiry, there had been 10,891 interments therein, and since then there have been as nearly as can be ascertained, 3,056 interments, which gives a total of 13,947. The interments at the present time are at the rate of about 100 per annum.

During the last two months we have inspected this graveyard on several occasions, and on one occasion we met the Vicar when he kindly accompanied us round.

He pointed out several spaces of ground between the graves in which there had been no burial in his time (about 17 years), but we were suspicious of this being virgin soil. A grave was being dug which appeared to be satisfactory. He also pointed out some ground running along the outside edge towards Elderfield as virgin ground. On the Coventry Street side the graves are packed. No complaints have been received by the Health Department previous to the present one, neither have we ourselves noticed any nuisance arising; but, looking at the size of the churchyard and the number of burials, although up to the present there has been no nuisance, there is a danger in the near future, and we feel another enquiry should be now held.

Through the kindness of the Vicar a plan of the churchyard and graves made in the year 1883 has been shown to us, and a tracing of it made for use and reference.

Worcester Street.—I am pleased that the Council has come to the decision to pull down the three old dilapidated shops adjoining the Retail Market, and so make a better entrance to the Market and lessen the obstruction in Worcester Street on Market Days.

Queen Street.—The opening up of this street by the Council purchasing a strip of land at the Broad Street end will affect a great sanitary improvement in this locality.

Water Supply.—We have been very fortunate during the year in our supply, in no instance has the Health Department received complaints of shortage. A new rising main has been laid, and steps are in progress for erecting new engines for use at the lower well.

Trams.—I do not like complaining of our Trams, but several of the cars make an unnecessary noise; the vehicles in passing over the stone setts make a worse noise. If ever the tram lines are to be laid through the Bull Ring, wooden blocks should be used; if stone setts, it will be an intolerable nuisance to the residents.

Streets.—For several years our streets have been out of repair. After rain in places the water stands in puddles. At the Lower Pumping Station a great deal of stone breaking is going on by the unemployed. I trust our streets will at once receive the benefits of it.

Sewers.—Last year I complained of the flooding of the basements of houses at Worcester Cross and Oxford Street. I am now able to report the construction during the past year of a Sewer to receive the storm overflow in this locality, which I hope will abate the nuisance.

Inquests.—The number of Inquests for 1904 is 23, against 19 in 1903. The following verdicts have been recorded.

Natural Causes ...	3
Accidents—Found Drowned ...	2
Temporary Insanity	7
Suicides	
Wilful Murder ...	1
Accidental Deaths	9
Misadventure ...	1
	<hr/> 23 <hr/>

Coroner certified in 9 cases.

Court Sweeping.—The Court Sweeping is still carried on satisfactorily. This work is most valuable in contributing to the sanitary condition of the Borough.

Dirty Houses.—I have certified 182 houses that required cleansing and whitewashing, as per Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and 72 under Section 5 of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. 181 notices have been served and complied with.

Household Ashes and Refuse Disposal.—We are still able to dispose of our household ashes and refuse without difficulty.

Underground Bakehouses.—In accordance with Section 101 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, your Committee have certified the following Bakehouses as being suitable for use :—

Bakehouse, situate in No. 3 Court, Worcester Street.

Bakehouse, situate at rear of No. 9, Comberton Hill.

Bakehouse, situate at rear of No. 19, Church Street.

Bakehouse, situate at rear of No. 6, Bridge Street.

Slaughterhouses.—These are regularly inspected and kept clean.

The Factory and Workshops Act.—These places are regularly inspected. Nothing has occurred calling for special attention. As I said last year, our workshops are on the whole in a satisfactory condition.

Anthrax.—There have been two cases, both recovered, against six reported for 1903, of which three proved fatal and three recovered.

Hospital.—During the year the work has gone on satisfactorily. The outside authorities have ceased to send in their Scarlet Fever Cases, except in very special instances. No doubt the expense has been the reason for such action.

Illegitimacy.—Twenty-four illegitimate births were registered during the year. 12 males, 12 females.

Marriages.—The number of marriages which took place within the Borough during 1904 was 248.

General Remarks.—It will be seen by perusing the Sanitary Inspector's Report which follows mine, that a large amount of satisfactory work has been done in the Health Department. C. M. Robinson, the Assistant Inspector, has received a similar appointment in the Health Department of the City of York. We are at the present time without a certificated assistant.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID CORBET,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 4.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Deaths in Public Insti- tutions
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small Pox ...								
Measles ...								
Scarlet Fever ...	2		1	1				
Whooping Cough ...	4	3	1					
Diphtheria & Membran- ous Croup ...	3		3					1
Croup ...								
Fever { Typhus ...								
Enteric ...	1					1		1
Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza ...								
Cholera ...								
Plague ...								
Diarrhœa ...	9	8					1	
Enteritis ...	12	11					1	1
Puerperal Fever ...								
Erysipelas ...	3	2				1		
Other Septic Diseases... 2						2		1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	20		1	2	8	9		5
Other Tubercular Dis- eases ...	23	3	4	1	2	13		8
Cancer, Malignant Disease	26					18	8	14
Bronchitis ...	67	16	7	1	1	11	31	19
Pneumonia ...	31	8	3		2	11	7	4
Pleurisy ...	1					1		
Other Diseases of Respi- ratory Organs ...								
Alcoholism ...	4					3	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...								
Venereal Diseases ...	1					1		
Premature Birth ...	11	11						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ...	6				2	4		
Heart Diseases ...	19		1	2	2	7	7	
Accidents ...	12	1	2	2		4	3	7
Suicides ...	6					6		1
All other causes ...	206	33	6	3	10	53	101	73
All causes ...	469	96	29	12	27	145	160	135

Table 1. Vital Statistics during 1904 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of		NETT DEATHS		
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.			Non- Residents register'd in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Residents register'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births register'd	Number	Rate*		10	11	Number	Rate*	
													3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2							9				12	13
1894	25,000	641	25.64	78	121.68	391	15.64	86				440	17.60
1895	25,000	637	25.48	104	163.26	471	18.84	107		32	1	385	15.40
1896	25,000	614	24.56	108	175.89	398	15.92	80		14	1	406	16.24
1897	25,000	617	24.68	111	179.90	427	17.08	82		23	2	370	14.80
1898	25,000	568	22.72	89	156.69	394	15.76	90		24	0	401	16.04
1899	25,000	571	22.84	87	152.36	436	17.44	97		37	2	499	19.96
1900	25,000	600	24.00	103	171.66	542	21.68	133		43	0	457	18.51
1901	24,681	622	25.20	128	205.78	496	20.08	105		40	1	396	16.03
1902	24,700	622	25.18	88	141.47	433	17.53	115		44	7	379	15.34
1903	24,700	637	25.78	70	109.89	414	16.76	129		54	19		
Averages for years 1894-1903		612	24.60	96	157.85	440	17.67	102		34	4	414	16.95
1904	24,700	627	25.38	95	151.51	469	18.98	135		39	6	436	17.65

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE 4.**MONTHLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS***For the Borough of Kidderminster, as presented to the Health**Committee at each Meeting held every fourth Monday.*

BIRTHS.					DEATHS.				
Month ending	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 of the Population	Month ending	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 of the Population
1904					1904				
Jan 11	27	20	47	24.73	Jan 11	18	21	39	20.52
Feb 8	28	21	49	25.78	Feb 8	21	19	40	21.05
March 7	35	19	54	28.42	March 7	20	27	47	24.73
April 8	20	31	51	26.84	April 8	24	17	41	21.57
May 2	25	31	56	29.47	May 2	19	24	43	22.63
May 30	26	27	53	27.89	May 30	20	8	28	14.73
June 27	21	24	45	23.68	June 27	17	12	29	15.26
July 25	20	14	34	17.89	July 25	10	12	22	11.57
*Sept 19	49	48	97	25.52	*Sept 19	30	25	55	14.47
Oct 17	18	27	45	23.68	Oct 17	18	18	36	18.94
Nov 14	24	25	49	25.78	Nov 14	14	14	28	14.33
Dec 12	20	18	38	20.00	Dec 12	33	23	56	29.47
Totals ...	313	305	618	25.02	Totals ...	244	220	464	18.78

** Two Months' Report.*

Note.—The above Include all Deaths at the Workhouse and the Infirmary.

TABLE 3.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year
1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	At all Ages	CASES NOTIFIED.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small Pox ...	2					2	
Cholera ...							
Diphtheria ...	22		5	7	5	5	
Membranous Croup ...							
Erysipelas ...	30	3	1		1	22	3
Scarlet Fever ...	299		77	201	19	2	
Typhus Fever...							
Enteric Fever ...	1					1	
Relapsing Fever ...							
Continued Fever ...							
Puerperal Fever ...							
Plague ...							
Totals ...	354	3	83	208	25	32	3

A RETURN OF VACCINATION

of the Kidderminster District of the Kidderminster Union
for the Year ending December 31st, 1904.

No. Births.	Vaccinated.	Dead.	Ob-jectors.	Post-poned.	Not Found	Insus-ceptible	Re-moved.	Under Vac-cination age
704	451	60	11	29	3	4	2	144

THOMAS WALLIS, *Vaccination Officer.*

TABLE 6.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS.

17

1904	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem	Oct	Novem	Decem	Total 1904	Total 1903	Total 1902	Total 1901	Total 1900	Total 1899	Total 1898	Total 1897	Total 1896
Small Pox ...	1					1							2	5							
Cholera ...																					
Diphtheria ...	2	6	1	1	4	2	3				2	1	22	45	30	43	75	43	50	28	79
Membranous Croup																					
Erysipelas ...	2	2		7	1	3	2	3	1	3	1	5	30	30	30	46	53	45	45	37	74
Scarlet Fever ...	43	44	32	24	11	18	21	19	28	30	16	13	299	590	189	59	40	105	30	39	92
Typhus Fever ...																					
Typhoid Fever ...					1								1	3	10	8	20	18	10	12	18
Puerperal Fever ...														2			2	1		1	1
Totals ...	48	52	33	32	17	24	26	22	29	33	19	19	354	675	259	158	194	213	137	120	271



Sanitary Inspector's
Report, 1904.



Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Twentieth Annual Report on the work done in my Department for the Year ending December 31st, 1904.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Purveyors, not residing within the Borough	...	26
Purveyors residing within the Borough	...	39
Notices served to secure compliance with regulations	... ..	9

The Milkshops, Cowsheds, and Utensils, are regularly inspected as to cleanliness, &c.

Slaughter Houses.

Number under Inspection	...	23
Number Registered	...	12
Number Licensed	...	11
Number in joint use	...	5
Notices served to secure compliance with Regulations		15

Common Lodging Houses.

Number under Inspection	...	3
One house has been closed during the year.		
The houses are kept clean, and on the whole well conducted.		

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Workshops and Workplaces under inspection :

Millinery and Dressmaking	...	53
Boot Makers	...	50
Tailors	...	25
Carpenters and Builders	...	19
Painters and Plumbers	...	10
Designers	...	9
Cabinet Makers	...	8
Blacksmiths	...	6
Sugar Boilers	...	7
Coach Builders	...	4
Saddlers	...	4
Tripe Boilers	...	3
Soap Boilers	...	2
Tallow Melter	...	1
Fellmonger	...	1
Laundry	...	1
Bakehouses	...	36
Staymakers	...	1
Carpet Planner	...	1
Upholsterers	...	1

Polishers	...	...	...	1
Contractors	...	...	...	1
Muffin and Pikelet Bakers	...	...	...	3
Dentists	...	...	...	5
Tanner	...	...	...	1
Marine Stores	...	...	...	3
Stonemasons	...	...	...	1
Iron, Tin, and Wire Workers	...	...	...	6
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	4
Basket Makers	...	...	...	2
Cycle Makers and Repairers	...	...	...	5
Wine, Spirit, and Beer Bottlers	...	...	...	4
Picture Frame Makers	...	...	...	2
Cooper	...	...	...	1
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	4
Cider Maker	...	...	...	1
Taxidermist	...	...	...	1
Waste Merchant	...	...	...	1
Clog Maker	...	...	...	1
Mineral Water Manufacturer	...	...	...	1

Notices served to secure compliance with regulations, 22.

Household Ashes and Refuse Collection.

Portable Receptacles emptied	...	...	94,910
Dry Ashpits emptied	...	...	3,776
Loads of Dry Refuse removed	...	...	5,402
Total...	...	...	104,088

Night Work.

Privies and Middens emptied	...	...	406
Loads of Nightsoil and Ashes removed...	...	...	325
Total	...	...	731

Refuse : How Disposed of.

Carted to Canal Boat for Oldington Farm	...	4046 loads.
Carted to Riddling Shed	...	438 „
Carted to Sand Pits, Comberton Hill	...	630 „
Carted to low lying Land, Hume Street	...	367 „
Sundry Tippings	...	276 „
Total	...	5757

Report of the Inspector of Canal Boats.

Number of Boats inspected	...	...	262
„ on Register	...	...	130
„ Registered during 1904	...	...	3
Nature of infringement—			
Notification of change of master	...	...	0
Absence of certificate	...	...	1

Certificates not identifying owner with boat	...	0
Lettering and numbering	...	2
Overcrowding	...	0
Partition separating the sexes	...	0
Females over 12 improperly occupying	...	0
Cleanliness	...	0
Painting	...	3
Ventilation	...	0
Dilapidation	...	2
Removal of bilge water	...	0
Without pump	...	0
Refusal of admittance to Inspector	...	0
No proper water vessel	...	0
Without requisite double bulkheads...	...	0
Notification of Infectious Diseases	...	0
Certificates required renewing	...	1

Seats for Shop Assistants Act 1899.

During the year I have found (in one or two instances) seats broken and others removed. I have called the proprietors' attention to the infringements, and on a second visit I have found my instructions carried out, and the law complied with.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899.

MILK ADULTERATION.

The proportion of condemned samples for the whole country for 1903 was 10·4 per cent. Kidderminster (1903) 17·24 per cent.; 1904, 9·67 per cent.

The Local Government Board, in their Annual Report on Milk Adulteration, refer to Milk from the poorly-fed Cow, and quote the report of one Analyst who writes :—

“ It has long been established by the Analyses of hundreds of thousands of samples that a herd of Cows properly fed and in healthy condition will always produce milk of a quality in excess of the required standard.”

Average quality of 31 samples of Genuine Milk taken in Kidderminster during 1904, kindly supplied by Mr. E. W. T. Jones, F.I.C., Public Analyst.

	Fat.	Solids other than Fat.	Total Solids.
Average of 31 samples ...	3·72 %	8·84 %	12·56 %
Standard ...	3·00	8·50	11·50
Above standard ...	24 %	4 %	9 %

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 & 1899.

Samples taken during the Year 1904, and results.

ARTICLE.	Genuine	Adulterated	Extent of Adulteration (if any).	Results.
Milk ...	31		Genuine ...	
Milk ...		1	14 % deficient in cream	Fined 2/6 & costs Total 20/-
Milk ...		1	8 % deficient in cream, and contains 17 % of added water	Fined 20/- & costs Total £3 4s. 0d.
Milk ...		1	Contains 11 % of added water	Fined 20/- & costs Total £2 13s. 0d.
Cream ...		1	Contains 0.17 % of boric acid	No action taken
Cream ...		1	Contains 0.31 % of boric acid	No action taken
Baking Powder	1		Genuine	
Mustard ...	1		Genuine	
White Pepper ...	1		Genuine	
Cream of Tartar	1		Genuine	
Butter ...	10		Genuine	
Cheese ...	3		Genuine	
Liquid Cascara...	3		Genuine	
Liquid Cascara...		1	Contains 40% less of extractive matter, and 35 % less alcohol	Cautioned by the Committee
Glycerine ...	1		Genuine	
Ipecacuanha Wine	3		Genuine	
Camphorated Oil	2		Genuine	
Friars Balsam...	1		Genuine	
Belladonna Plaster	1		Genuine	
Zinc Ointment...	1		Genuine	
Scotch Whiskey		1	Diluted 5.2 % beyond the statutory limit	Cautioned by the Committee
Irish Whiskey ...		1	Diluted 2.8 % beyond the statutory limit	Cautioned by the Committee
Totals ...	60	8		

Unsound Food.

The following Food has been condemned and destroyed :—

Mutton	...	...	6 pieces	Pickled Onions	...	10 lbs.
Sheep	...	...	3 carcasses	Bacon	...	9 "
Fish	...	...	36 lbs.	Rabbits	...	27 "
Pears	...	...	31 lbs.	Preserved Rabbit	...	2½ lbs.
Pigs	...	...	2 carcasses	Pork	...	32 "

Disinfection.

Gallons of Fluid given away	...	...	936
Packets of Powder given away	...	...	670
Dwelling-houses disinfected	..	...	246
Schools disinfected	...	...	14

Drain Testing.

The drain testing apparatus has been used 108 times on old drainage, and 56 times on new drainage.

Public Urinals and Cabstands.

The urinals are cleansed daily (including Sundays and holidays) and are also disinfected.

The cabstands are constantly flushed with the hose pipe and disinfected. During the summer months they receive attention twice daily.

Court Sweeping.

This work has had constant attention during the year, the sweeper when on his round has opened with his plunger 187 drains and 390 water closets which he found blocked.

Notices to School Teachers and others.

1,071 prohibition notices have been served on parents and school teachers to keep children from attending school from houses where infectious diseases occurred.

Sixty-eight Carcasses of Dogs have been handed over to us by the Police for burning.

Magisterial Proceedings.

NATURE OF OFFENCE.	RESULTS.
Selling Milk 14 % deficient in cream	Fined 2/6 and costs.
...	Total, 20/-
Preparing unsound Meat for sale	Fined £10 0s. 0d. and costs.
...	Total, £12 5s. 0d.
Selling unsound Tinned Rabbit	Fined £1 0s. 0d. and costs.
...	Total, £3 14s. 0d.
Selling Milk containing 17 % of added Water, and 8 % deficient in cream	Fined £1 0s. 0d. and costs.
...	Total, £3 4s. 6d.
Selling Milk containing 11 % of added Water	Fined £1 0s. 0d. and costs.
...	Total, £2 13s. 0d.

Disinfection.

Disinfection has been carried out in all cases of Infectious Disease, and the infected houses cleansed.

Refuse Sorting.

Receipts.				Expenditure.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Sale of Embers ...	16	14	2	By Wages paid ...	23	7	11
„ 438 Tons of Refuse saved from Boatage to Farm at 1/- per Ton ...	21	18	0	By Balance ...	15	4	3
	£38	12	2		£38	12	2

The Thresh Steam Disinfector.

3,116 Articles of clothing have been taken to the apparatus and disinfected.

Remarks.

The other details of the work of my department are tabulated on the accompanying tables.

I have to thank your Committee for the support they have given me in the work of my department.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T. COWDEROY,

Sanitary Inspector.

*To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and
Members of the Health Committee.*

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NUISANCES.

Found and Reported on during the Year 1904.

NATURE OF NUISANCE.	TOTALS.
Ashpits and Privies out of repair	73
Water Closets and Flushing Cisterns out of repair ...	129
Stoppages in Drain Pipes	37
Drains imperfectly trapped and out of repair ...	165
Wash-houses, Sinks, &c., out of repair	103
Dwelling-houses require whitewashing	254
Premises require limewashing	195
Dwelling-houses out of repair	81
Overcrowding dwelling-houses	4
Houses and premises in a dirty condition	14
Defective rain-water spouting	59
Defective yard and wash-house paving	70
Poultry kept as a nuisance	9
Animals kept as a nuisance	13
Offensive accumulations	19
No ash receptacles	16
Slaughter-houses require limewashing	7
Workshops and Bakehouses require limewashing ...	27
No ventilation to living rooms	12
Cowkeepers not complying with Bye-laws	2
Insufficient water-closet accommodation	2
Miscellaneous	106
Total	1497

Notices served for their abatement :—

Preliminary	637
Statutory	400
Reminders	71
Total	1108

Notices complied with	1079
Notices on Books December 31st, 1904	29

RAINFALL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1904.

Rain Gauge—Height on top of Ground, 4 feet.

		Total Depth	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours		No. of days on which .01 or more rain fell.
		Inches	Depth	Date	
1904					
January	...	2.10	0.25	13	22
February	...	3.02	0.40	12	21
March	...	1.17	0.24	28	15
April	...	1.08	0.25	14	9
May	...	3.32	1.70	27	15
June	...	0.43	0.18	1	4
July	...	2.51	1.80	25	11
August	...	1.97	0.56	22	15
September	...	1.75	0.52	12	12
October	...	0.58	0.18	16	12
November	...	1.02	0.29	6	8
December	...	1.59	0.45	11	14
Total	...	20.54	1.80	July 25	158

TOTAL RAINFALL—		1895	...	20.85
"		1896	...	18.08
"		1897	...	20.87
"		1898	...	16.22
"		1899	...	21.00
"		1900	...	25.49
"		1901	...	17.87
"		1902	...	17.49
"		1903	...	32.49
"		1904	...	20.54
Average Rainfall for the past Ten years,				21.09

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1904.

FROM OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 9 A.M. DAILY.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION, PROSPECT HILL.

Height above the Sea level, 161 feet.

Month.	Barom eter	Temperature.			Humi- dity.	Wind.	
1904	Mean.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean.	Av'rge Humi- dity.	Total Miles.	Prevailing Direction at 9 a.m.
January...	29.90	45.2	33.8	39.1	88	4535	s.
February	29.51	43.5	33.9	38.2	86	3885	S.E., S.W.
March ...	29.98	46.8	34.3	40.2	85	3505	s., N.
April ...	29.88	55.3	42.1	47.2	74	5338	N.W., N., S.
May ...	29.91	60.4	44.5	50.8	78	3552	N., S.W.
June ...	30.02	66.5	48.3	55.5	70	3418	NW., S., NE
July ...	29.96	73.6	54.7	62.4	69	3301	s., S.W.
August ...	29.97	68.9	51.4	58.4	77	3151	s., W.
Septemb'r	30.04	64.6	46.0	53.5	80	2770	S.S.E., N.
October...	30.10	54.4	45.7	48.5	88	2417	s., N.
November	30.08	47.4	34.1	40.7	121	2114	N.N.W., S.
December	29.91	44.0	34.1	39.1	90	3138	s., S.E.

The Highest Temperature occurred on July 10th ... 84.5

The Lowest Temperature occurred on Nov. 27th ... 11.7

The Mean Annual Temperature ... 47.8

STREET LIST OF KNOWN CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

STREETS.	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diphtheria	Membran- ous Croup.	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever
Anchor Fields ...			2					
Anchor Row ...			1					
Back Queen Street ...			3					
Baxter Avenue ...			4				1	
Bennett Street ...			2					
Bewdley Hill ...			1					
Bewdley Road ...			4				1	
Blackwell Street ...	1		2				2	
Blakebrook ...			1					
Broad Street ...			19		1		1	
Broad Street Terrace ...					1			
Brook Street ...							1	
Bromsgrove Street ...			9					
Brussell Street ...			1					
Cemetery Street ...			1					
Chapel Street ...			2					
Cherry Orchard ...			1					
Churchfields ...			3					
Church Street ...			1				1	
Church Walk ...			1					
Clarence Street ...			5					
Cloughton Street ...			1					
Clensmore ...			7		1			
Cobden Street ...			5					
Comberton Hill ...			1					
Constitution Hill ...			3					
Coventry Street ...			4		1			
Crowther Street ...							1	
Chester Road ...			2				1	
Crescent Road ...			5					
Dudley Street ...			2		1		1	
East Street ...			3					
Edward Street ...			1					
Fair Street ...			6					
Findon Street ...			3					
Franchise Street ...			8		1			
George Street ...			4					
Hall Street ...			3					
Carried forward ...	1		121		6		10	

STREET LIST—continued.

STREETS.	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever
Brought forward ...	1		121		6		10	
Hill Street ...			1					
Hoo Road ...			8		1		1	
Horsefair ...			1					
Holman Street ...			1					
Hume Street ...			1					
Hurcott Road ...			17					
Infirmary ...			4	1				
Jerusalem Walk ...			2					
Lark Hill ...			3		1			
Lea Street ...			2				1	
Lea Street Extension ...			3				1	
Leswell Lane ...			1		1		4	
Leswell Street ...			2				1	
Lion Square ...			1					
Lion Street ...			2					
Lorne Street ...			4		1			
Mason Street ...								
Mill Lane ...			1				1	
Mill Street ...			1		1		1	
New Road ...			2					
Offmore Road ...			5					
Orchard Street ...			7				1	
Oxford Street ...			2					
Paradise Row ...			3					
Park Street ...			4		1			
Park Lane ...			9					
Primrose Hill ...					1		1	
Park Butts ...					1			
Paternoster Row ...			1					
Peel Street ...			12				1	
Plimsoll Street ...			1					
Prospect Hill ...			1					
Prospect Lane ...			2					
Pleasant Harbour ...			2					
Pleasant Street ...			5		1			
Proud Cross ...			1					
Queen Street ...			3				1	
Radford Avenue ...			5				1	
Roden Avenue ...			2					
Carried forward ...	1		243	1	15		25	

STREET LIST—continued.

STREETS.	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diphtheria	Membran- ous Croup.	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever
Brought forward ...	1		243	1	15		25	
Shrubbery Street ...			1		1			
Silver Street ...			1					
South Street ...			4					
St. George's Terrace ...			1					
Stourbridge Road ...			8					
Sutton Road ...			5		1			
Summer Place ...			2					
Swan Street ...			1					
Viller's Street ...			1					
Washington Street ...			5					
Waterloo Street ...			2					
Woodfield Crescent ...			1		1		1	
Woodfield Street ...			2					
Wood Street ...			11		3		1	
Worcester Street ...	1		2				2	
Workhouse ...			7				1	
Yew Tree Road ...			1		1			
York Street ...			1					
Totals ...	2		299	1	22		30	



