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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF
KIDDERMINSTER




ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR
1943

JAMES R. CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B., M.C.
(Medical Officer of Health)

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.
(Chief Sanitary Inspector)



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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(ALDERMAN L. TOLLEY).

THE DEPUTY MAYOR
(ALDERMAN O. W. DAVIES).

ALDERMAN E. G. EDDY, O.B.E., J.P. (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR MISS E. C. ADDENBROOKE, J.P. (Vice-Chairman).

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Alderman | G. ANTON | Councillor | J. BRISTOW |
| „ | H. W. CHESHIRE, J.P. | „ | G. N. WESTON |
| Councillor | J. DALLEY | „ | F. WILSON |
| „ | F. D. H. BURCHER | „ | F. MARTIN |
| „ | J. BROWN | „ | A. SMITH |
| „ | J. E. TALBOT | | |

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
JAMES R. CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B., M.C.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :
J. CRISP GRIFFITHS, M.D. (Lond).

MEDICAL OFFICER (INFANT WELFARE CENTRES) :
R. HILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MEDICAL OFFICER—ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS :
R. HILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

PUBLIC ANALYST :
H. E. MONK, B.Sc., F.I.C.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT :
G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTOR :
J. B. HINTON, Cert. : S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

HEALTH VISITOR :
Miss E. E. MELLOR, S.R.N., C.R.San.I.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1943 and 1942.

| | 1943 | 1942 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Area of District in Acres ... | 4694 | 4694 |
| Population at Census, 1931 | 28917 | 28917 |
| Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate | 35490 | 35860 |
| No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated | 10204 | 10201 |
| No. of Persons per House | 3.48 | 3.51 |
| Rateable Value | £189257 | £187766 |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate | £752 | £739 |
| Number of Marriages | 326 | 380 |
| Number of Live Births | 681 | 670 |
| Nett Birth Rate | 19.18 | 18.68 |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live Births) | 16.5 | 15.8 |
| Number of Illegitimate Births | 61 | 44 |
| Number of Deaths | 430 | 384 |
| Nett Death Rate | 12.11 | 10.71 |
| Death Rate for England and Wales | 12.1 | 11.6 |
| No. of Deaths under one year of age | 28 | 24 |
| Of these there were Illegitimate | 6 | 2 |
| Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births | 41.11 | 35.82 |
| Infantile Mortality for England and Wales | 49 | 49 |
| Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | 3 | 1 |
| No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuber- culosis | 25 | 24 |
| No. of Deaths from Cancer | 70 | 60 |
| No. of Deaths from Influenza | 14 | 6 |
| No. of Deaths from Measles | Nil. | Nil. |
| No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough | 1 | Nil. |
| Rainfall in inches | 23.43 | 22.01 |

| Year | Births | Deaths | Births over Deaths increase |
|------|--------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1939 | 562 | 400 | 162 |
| 1940 | 504 | 492 | 12 |
| 1941 | 577 | 471 | 106 |
| 1942 | 670 | 384 | 286 |
| 1943 | 681 | 430 | 231 |

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

TOWN HALL,
KIDDERMINSTER.

July, 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ADDENBROOKE, GENTLEMEN,

War time economy demands another abbreviated Report, confined mainly to vital statistics, the continuity of which is important for the future.

The salient features of these statistics are as follows:—

The Death-rate (12.11) is higher than in the previous year when it was a low record.

The Birth-rate for 1943 has risen again, the figure being 19.18, that for England and Wales as a whole being 16.5.

Of the 681 live-births, 61 were illegitimate. The average number in pre-war years was about 25 per annum.

The Infant Mortality rate advanced slightly to 41.11, that for England and Wales being 49.00.

During 1943, there were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Measles, and only one from Whooping-cough. This is further evidence of the satisfactory nutritional level being maintained amongst the child population. Inoculation against Diphtheria is proceeding satisfactorily. Clinics for the under fives are held from time to time at Prospect Lane Clinic. School entrants are given another opportunity of inoculation at school. The comparative freedom we have had from Diphtheria since 1939 is apt to lead people to forget the dangers of this disease and to put off having inoculation carried out. There is no guarantee that the disease may not re-appear at any time.

The table of Diphtheria Incidence and Mortality on page 9 is worthy of perusal.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1943.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Total Births (Live and Still) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 703 |
| Birth Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19.80 |
| Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Live and Still) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17.01 |
| Total Live Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 681 |
| Birth Rate (Live) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19.18 |

LIVE BIRTHS:

| | | Male | Female |
|--------------|-----|------|--------|
| Legitimate | 620 | 310 | 310 |
| Illegitimate | 61 | 31 | 30 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------|--------------|---------|----|
| STILL BIRTHS: | | | Total | ... | 22 |
| Legitimate | | Males | 6 | Females | 15 |
| Illegitimate | | | | Female | 1 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------------|-----|-------|
| Deaths | 430 | Death Rate | ... | 12.11 |
| Death Rate (England and Wales) 1943 | | | ... | 12.10 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions | 37 |
| Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth | from sepsis Nil |
| | from other causes 1 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Births) | ..... | 1.42 |
| " " " " (England and Wales) | ..... | 2.29 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|----|--------------|-------|----|
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age:— | | | | | |
| Legitimate | ..... | 22 | Illegitimate | ..... | 6 |
| Total | | | | | 28 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births | ..... | 41.11 |
| " " " " (England and Wales, 1943) | ..... | 49.00 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | | 35.48 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | | 98.36 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ..... | 70 |
| " " Measles (all ages) | ..... | Nil |
| " " Whooping cough (all ages) | ..... | 1 |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | ..... | 3 |

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1943 are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Under 1 year | ..... | 28 |
| Between 1 and 2 years | ..... | 1 |
| Between 2 and 5 years | ..... | 3 |
| Between 5 and 15 years | ..... | 3 |
| Between 15 and 25 years | ..... | 10 |
| Between 25 and 45 years | ..... | 34 |
| Between 45 and 65 years | ..... | 107 |
| 65 years and upwards | ..... | 244 |
| | | <hr/> 430 |

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred:—

| Under 1 Week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 1 month | 1-3 months | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 9-12 months | Total Deaths under 1 year |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 15 | - | 1 | 2 | 18 | 6 | 3 | 1 | - | 28 |

The causes of infant deaths were as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|----------------------------|-------|---|
| Prematurity | ..... | 8 | Patent Ductus Arteriosus | ..... | 2 |
| Pneumonia | ..... | 4 | Abscess of Lung | ..... | 1 |
| Congenital heart disease | ..... | 2 | Atelectasis | ..... | 1 |
| Intracranial Haemorrhage | ..... | 1 | Gastro Enteritis | ..... | 3 |
| Asphyxia | ..... | 1 | Infarction—Small Intestine | ..... | 1 |
| Spina Bifida | ..... | 1 | Marasmus | ..... | 3 |

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE, AND SEX.

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | MALE | FEMALE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1.—Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers... | — | — |
| 2.—Cerebro-spinal fever | — | 1 |
| 3.—Scarlet Fever | — | — |
| 4.—Whooping Cough | — | 1 |
| 5.—Diphtheria | — | — |
| 6.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 14 | 7 |
| 7.—Other forms of Tuberculosis ... | 2 | 2 |
| 8.—Syphilitic Diseases | 2 | 2 |
| 9.—Influenza | 8 | 6 |
| 10.—Measles | — | — |
| 11.—Acute polio-myelitis | — | — |
| 12.—Acute Inf. encephalitis | — | — |
| 13.—Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph. (M) uterus (F) | 3 | 5 |
| 14.—Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 4 | 1 |
| 15.—Cancer of breast | — | 9 |
| 16.—Cancer of all other sites | 26 | 22 |
| 17.—Diabetes | 2 | 3 |
| 18.—Intra-cran. vasc. lesions | 29 | 22 |
| 19.—Heart Disease | 40 | 57 |
| 20.—Other diseases of Circulatory system | 5 | 5 |
| 21.—Bronchitis | 15 | 13 |
| 22.—Pneumonia | 10 | 8 |
| 23.—Other Respiratory diseases ... | 3 | 1 |
| 24.—Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... | 2 | 1 |
| 25.—Diarrhoea under 2 years | 2 | 1 |
| 26.—Appendicitis | 1 | 3 |
| 27.—Other digestive diseases | 3 | 3 |
| 28.—Nephritis | 8 | 7 |
| 29.—Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ... | — | — |
| 30.—Other maternal causes | — | 1 |
| 31.—Premature birth | 5 | 3 |
| 32.—Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases | 8 | 4 |
| 33.—Suicide | 3 | 1 |
| 34.—Road traffic accidents | 3 | — |
| 35.—Other violent causes | 4 | 6 |
| 36.—All other causes | 14 | 19 |
| | 216 | 214 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

(I). The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on the first page of this Report for convenient reference.

(II.) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The usual arrangements with the County Public Analyst still exist.

Extended laboratory facilities have been instituted at the Kidderminster and District General Hospital, Bacteriological Department having been opened to which any practitioner may refer cases or specimens.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases two motor ambulances are maintained by the Council, staffed by the Borough Police. Efficiency is maintained as before.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** No changes have been made in arrangements during 1944.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

| Name | Situation and Time of Session | Average Attendances | Provided by |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Maternity & Child Welfare Centres | (1) Prospect Lane Thursday, 2—4 p.m. (2) St. John's Institute Tuesday, 2—4 p.m. (3) St. Oswald's Monday, 2—4 p.m. (4) Sutton Park Tuesday, 2—4 p.m. | 61 } 49 } 225 65 } per 50 } ses- sion | Local Authority |
| Tuberculosis | Kidderminster General Hospital Thursday, 2—4 p.m. and at 5.15 p.m. | 20 per week | County Council |
| Venereal | Kidderminster General Hospital Males, Friday, 5.30 p.m. Females, Tues. 2.0 p.m. | 21 per week | County Council. |
| Ante-Natal | Prospect Lane on 1st and 3rd Monday, 2—4 p.m. | 7 per session | Local Authority |
| Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic | Kidderminster General Hospital Weekly at 11 a.m.(Wed) | | Local Authority |

(e) Hospitals.

(1) NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL—
For reception of infectious diseases, chiefly diphtheria and scarlet fever.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|--|--|
| (2) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION. | | | |
| No. of beds (including Children's Beds) ... | 225 | | |
| Maternity Beds | 4 | | |

The Hospital was upgraded to an A.I. Hospital as a war measure. During 1942, it was found necessary to re-open the Maternity Ward, owing to the great increase of cases in the County.

(3) KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL—
(Voluntary Hospital—Normal accommodation 145 Beds). There is an X-Ray Department, Massage and Sunlight Treatment and Clinics for Dentistry, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Gynaecology, Ear, Throat and Nose, Venereal Diseases and a Fracture Clinic.

A Rehabilitation Centre has been added and its work is greatly assisted by free transport of patients provided by motorists of the Volunteer Car Pool.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The sources of water supply were exhaustively dealt with in the report for the year 1933.

Fortnightly samples were taken from the main bore-holes throughout the year, and were satisfactory. It was considered advisable to maintain the chlorination of the water supply. The efficacy of this process was checked by frequent sampling of tap water from all points of the town. In every case the report showed the water to be fit for drinking purposes. After any prolonged period of drought, weekly samples of the main bore-hole are sent for analysis. The degree of chlorination has at times to be varied.

TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FOR THE YEAR.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Samples taken from Taps at various premises | 22 |
| Samples taken from Borough Main Wells | 97 |
| Samples taken from Swimming Bath | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 120 |
| | <hr/> |

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewers have been well maintained during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The constructional works in connection with the new sewage disposal works were completed and in operation from 30th September, 1942.

HOUSING, 1943.

(a) Housing Conditions.

The following are the House Construction figures for 1942:
No. of Houses Erected: (Finished)

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority (with State Assistance) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (c) By Private Enterprise | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

Statistical Returns of Inspection, Remedy of Defects and Abatement Notices are shown in pages 16 and 17.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1943.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

A moderate epidemic of Measles in 1943 with 127 cases notified resulted in no deaths. Fifty-five cases of whooping-cough were notified with one death.

Scarlet Fever.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| No. of Cases Notified | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |
| No. of Cases Isolated in Hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Case rate per 1,000 living (Borough) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.49 |
| No. of deaths from Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Diphtheria.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| No. of Cases Notified | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| No. of Cases Isolated in Hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Case rate per 1,000 living (Borough) | ... | ... | ... | ... | .25 |
| No. of deaths from Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

The age period of the cases: five between 5 and 15, and four over 15 years.

INOCULATION.

In 1937, a start was made with inoculation on a wide scale, about 2000 children being done in that year. The following table of the incidence of Diphtheria since 1935 to end of 1943 is interesting, particularly the figures relating to immunized children.

Table showing Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.

| Year. | Total Cases. | Deaths. | Mortality rate. | Immunised Children. Cases. | Deaths. |
|-------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1935 | 74 | 13 | 17.5 | — | — |
| 1936 | 56 | 5 | 8.9 | 1 | — |
| 1937 | 35 | 1 | 2.8 | — | — |
| 1938 | 41 | 3 | 6.3 | — | — |
| 1939 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| 1940 | 7 | — | — | *2 | — |
| 1941 | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| 1942 | 9 | — | — | — | — |
| 1943 | 9 | — | — | — | — |
| | 245 | 22 | — | 3 | — |

*Two evacuee "carriers," at the Public Assistance Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases of Paratyphoid notified during the year, the source of infection being outside the Borough.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during
the Year 1943.**

| <i>Disease</i> | <i>Total Cases Notified</i> | <i>Admitted to Hospital</i> | <i>Total Deaths</i> |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Diphtheria | 9 | 9 | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 53 | 36 | — |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | 2 | 2 | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 10 | 2 | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 2 | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 9 | 4 | 18 |
| Anthrax | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 2 | — | — |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | — | — | — |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | — | — | 1 |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis | — | — | — |
| Acute Polio-myelitis | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 57 | — | 1 |
| Measles | 130 | — | — |

**Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than
Tuberculosis) during the year 1943.**

DISEASES.

| Age Groups | Smallpox | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) | Puerperal Pyrexia | Pneumonia | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Erysipelas | Cerebro-Spinal Fever | Polio-Myelitis | Anthrax |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 1—2 years | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2—3 years | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 3—4 years | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4—5 years | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—10 years | — | 29 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10—15 years | — | 4 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—25 years | — | 3 | — | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 years | — | 4 | 3 | — | 4 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 35—45 years | — | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45—65 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 65 and over | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL CASES | — | 53 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases usually come under the care of the Ophthalmic Surgeon at Kidderminster General Hospital. The following table for 1943 cases show the result of treatment :—

| CASES | | | Vision Un- Impaired | Vision Impaired | Total Blind- ness | Deaths | Left District |
|----------|---------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Notified | Treated | | | | | | |
| | At Home | In Hospital | | | | | |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

| Year | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living. |
|------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|------------------------------------------|
| | New Cases | Deaths | New Cases | Deaths | |
| 1939 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 5 | .66 |
| 1940 | 25 | 16 | 7 | 4 | .59 |
| 1941 | 31 | 14 | 5 | 6 | .55 |
| 1942 | 29 | 19 | 3 | 5 | .66 |
| 1943 | 27 | 21 | 5 | 4 | .70 |

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 to 5 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 5 to 10 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10 to 15 years | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 to 20 years | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 20 to 25 years | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 to 35 years | 5 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| 35 to 45 years | 3 | 4 | — | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 45 to 55 years | 3 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — |
| 55 to 65 years | — | — | — | — | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 18 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 2 |

Tuberculosis.

War-time has usually seen an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis and this question has been to the fore in many parts of the country. The present war with its new terror of blackout conditions and the imperfect ventilation resulting therefrom may well be expected to prove worse than any previous experience. Up to the end of 1943 we have been fairly fortunate in Kidderminster. There has been a slight rise in the number of new cases each year in the last three years, but when population increase is taken into account the figures are not disturbing. The death rate for all forms of tuberculosis per 1,000 living in 1943 was .70, that for 1938 was .77.

In concluding this short Report, I should like to pay tribute to the hard work of the Staff of the Health Department. War-time staff changes together with extra duties due to extended meat inspection, salvage, etc., have made the work of the Department more onerous.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES R. CRAIG.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ADDENBROOKE, GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Thirteenth Annual Report on the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The normal activities and early publication of the report have been upset because of the war and the report is chiefly confined to essential matters and statistics for record purposes.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The duties of Meat Inspection at the Regional Slaughterhouse, Lion Square, have again been pursued during the year to the utmost.

Set out in the following order is a synopsis of the work for the year 1943.

No. OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

| | Cattle (exclud'g Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed | 1,875 | 717 | 1,122 | 13,829 | 166 |
| Number Inspected | 1,875 | 717 | 1,122 | 13,436 | 166 |

No. OF WHOLE CARCASES (WITH ORGANS) CONDEMNED.

| Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|--------|--------|-------|------|
| 121 | 18 | 65 | 6 |

MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1943.

CATTLE.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Physiological Poorness | 2043 lbs. = 18 cwts. 27 lbs. |
| Tuberculosis | 31500 lbs. = 14 tons 1 cwt. 28 lbs. |
| Cirrhosis and Distomatosis | 2859 lbs. = 1 ton, 5 cwts. 59 lbs. |
| Parasitic Cysts | 1255 lbs. = 11 cwts. 23 lbs. |
| Abscesses (Pyogenic) | 867 lbs. = 7 cwts. 83 lbs. |
| Immaturity | 140 lbs. = 1 cwt. 28 lbs. |
| Angiomatosis | 561 lbs. = 5 cwts. 1 lb. |
| Actinomycosis | 412 lbs. = 3 cwts. 76 lbs. |
| Septic Metritis and Peritonitis | 961 lbs. = 8 cwts. 65 lbs. |
| Pleurisy | 61 lbs. |
| John's Disease, Emaciation and Dropsy | 15380 lbs. = 6 tons 17 cwts. 36 lbs. |
| Injury, Bruising and Haemorrhage | 1888 lbs. = 16 cwts. 96 lbs. |
| Pericarditis—Septic | 511 lbs. = 4 cwts. 63 lbs. |
| Bone Taint, Decomposition, etc. | 558 lbs. = 4 cwts. 110 lbs. |
| Moribund Carcases | 448 lbs. = 4 cwt. |
| Umbilical Pyaemia | 123 lbs. = 1 cwt. 11 lbs. |
| Wounds (Septic) | 972 lbs. = 8 cwts. 76 lbs. |
| Burnt and Charred (Shop Fire) | 256 lbs. = 2 cwts. 32 lbs. |

Total Weight Condemned = 60,795 lbs.
= 27 tons, 2 cwts., 91 lbs.

SHEEP.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Distomatosis | 300 lbs. = 2 cwts. 76 lbs. |
| Strongyls | 110 lbs. |
| Abscesses | 255 lbs. = 2 cwts. 31 lbs. |
| Dropsical and Emaciated | 1043 lbs. = 9 cwts. 35 lbs. |
| Parasitic Cysts | 241 lbs. = 2 cwts. 17 lbs. |
| Injuries, etc. | 133 lbs. = 1 cwt. 21 lbs. |
| Physiological Poorness | 97 lbs. |
| Died in Transit | 174 lbs. = 1 cwt. 62 lbs. |
| Septic Peritonitis | 49 lbs. |
| Moribund—inefficiently bled | 982 lbs. = 8 cwts. 86 lbs. |

Total Weight Condemned = 3,384 lbs.
= 1 ton, 10 cwt., 24 lbs.

PIGS.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tuberculosis | 264 lbs. = 2 cwts. 40 lbs. |
| Inflammation | 18 lbs. |
| Abscesses | 4 lbs. |
| Parasitic Cysts | 10 lbs. |
| Moribund | 263 lbs. = 2 cwts. 39 lbs. |
| Physiological Poorness | 236 lbs. = 2 cwts. 12 lbs. |
| Haemorrhage and injury | 74 lbs. |
| Cirrhosis | 15 lbs. |

Total Weight Condemned = 884 lbs.
= 7 cwts., 100 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 191 lbs. Sausage. | 4 Cartons fruit pies. |
| 336 lbs. Bacon. | 200 Fruit pies. |
| 762 lbs. Fish. | 24 lbs. Rolled Oats. |
| 14 lbs. Biscuits. | 187 lbs. Maple peas. |
| 315 Pikelets. | 2572 tins of Various Foodstuffs. |
| 97 lbs. of Cheese. | 765 Eggs. |
| 3 boxes Herrings. | 1120 lbs. Oatmeal. |
| 7 lbs. Chocolate. | 267 lbs. Cake. |
| 8 Boxes meat paste. | 10 doz. Fish Cakes. |
| 1 Carton meat pies. | |

FOOD CONDEMNED—contd.**SUMMARY.**

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| *Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned : | | | | 30 tons 7 cwts. 84 lbs. |
| " " " (Meat) Condemned : | | | | 29 tons 0 cwt. 103 lbs. |
| " " " (Tuberculosis) : | | | | 14 tons 3 cwts. 68 lbs. |

*Excluding Miscellaneous Condemnations.

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (5 YEARS).

1939 ... 1940 ... 1941 ... 1942 ... 1943.

In January 1940 the use of private Slaughterhouses (of which we had 17 in the Borough) was discontinued and a Government Scheme for the Slaughtering and distribution of Meat was put into operation. The Slaughterhouse and Allocation Depot is situated at Lion Square. Under the Scheme the Centralised premises in this Borough serve the following districts: Kidderminster Borough, Bewdley Borough, Stourport U.D., Kidderminster R.D. and Tenbury R.D.

| NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED. | | | | | AMOUNT OF MEAT CONDEMNED | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-----------------------------------|----|----|------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Year | Cattle | Sheep | Pigs | Calves | Weight of Meat and Offal Rejected | | | Weight Amount Affected with Tuberculosis | | |
| | | | | | T. | C. | Q. | T. | C. | Q. |
| 1939 | 1,620 | 7,980 | 6,433 | 134 | 9 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 2 |
| 1940 | 2,700 | 16,006 | 3,535 | 418 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 1941 | 3,372 | 15,940 | 1,347 | 666 | 21 | 19 | 1 | 11 | 18 | 2 |
| 1942 | 2,386 | 16,020 | 307 | 699 | 26 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 13 | 2 |
| 1943 | 2,592 | 13,829 | 166 | 1,122 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 2 |

REMARKS :

No food is rejected unless there is definite evidence that it is unfit for HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No food is destroyed but is disposed of to the Waste Product Merchants (contractors to the Ministry of Food) for Animal Foods or Industrial purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**

and

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD)**REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.**

Total Number of Samples taken during the year 1943 ... 89

| | | | |
|-------|----|------------------|---|
| Milk, | 75 | Gelatine Powder, | 2 |
| Rice, | 1 | Butter, | 8 |
| | | Condensed Milk, | 3 |

7 samples of milk were reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst.

**MILK (Special Designations) ORDER 1936.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.**

TABLE 1

| Sample. | No. Taken | Methylene Blue Test | | Coliform Test. | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | No. satisfied Test | No. did Not satisfy Test | No. satisfied Test | No. did Not satisfy Test |
| Designated Milks :— | | | | | |
| T.T. (Cert.) | 5 | 5 | — | 5 | — |
| T.T. | 5 | 5 | — | 5 | — |
| Accredited | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| TOTALS | 11 | 11 | — | 11 | — |

TABLE 2.

| Samples. | No. taken | Bacteriological Count Per M.L. | | | | Coliform Organisms Present in | | | | Coli absent | No. did not satisfy Phosphatase test |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| | | Under 30,000 | Under 200,000 | Under 500,000 | Over 500,000 | 1 m.l. | 10th m.l. | 100th m.l. | 1,000th m.l. | | |
| Designated Milks :— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pasteurised | 25 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| Non-Designated Milks :— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sterilized | 5 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 4 | — |
| Loose Milk | 22 | 3 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | — |
| Loose Milk (Heat Treated) | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 5 | — |
| TOTALS | 59 | 24 | 22 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 20 | 9 |

Common Lodging Houses.

The eight registered houses in the Borough are the objects of frequent attention and are visited regularly. These houses have accommodation for 164 lodgers.

Visits made to common lodging houses during the year ... 8

Bakehouses.

The inspection of bakehouses has again been carried out throughout the year and resulted in the bakehouses being maintained at the same high hygienic standard as previous years.

The following occasional matters required attention :—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Lime-washing of bakehouse ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Dirty troughs and floors ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

Offensive Trades.

The appended list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Fish Friers ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Gut Scraper ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tripe Boiler ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Hide and Skin Trades ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the above enactments we have registered the following :

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Retail Purveyors of Milk ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Wholesale Traders of Milk ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Residents, Purveyors of Milk ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Residents, Cow-keepers ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

(The above figures are exclusive of small shops selling bottled milk only).

We have nine cow-keepers in the Borough who use thirteen cowsheds for the housing of approximately 110 cows. Frequent visits are made to the premises.

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) | 117 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 117 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | Nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | Nil |

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 92 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 21 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:— | |
| (a) By owners | 18 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |

Summary of Notices Served.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Preliminary notices served (for housing defects) | 88 |
| Intimation letters sent (<i>re</i> sanitary defects) | 7 |
| Abatement notices served (for housing defects) | 13 |

Infectious Diseases :

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Notices to School Medical Officer | 46 |
| Notices to Head Teachers | 54 |
| Notices to Parents | 36 |
| Certificates granted for children to attend school | 32 |

Magisterial Proceedings.

In January Magisterial proceedings were instituted, under the Public Health Act 1936, against a property owner for failing to execute repairs.—Order made for work to be done.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal)—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| *The cost of collection and disposal of salvage and refuse for the year 1943 was | 14312 | 9 | 8 |
| *The income was | 7539 | 3 | 2 |
| The net cost being | 6773 | 6 | 6 |

*Financial Year ended 31st March, 1944.

SALVAGE.

The total weight of all Salvaged Materials collected and disposed of during the Twelve Months amounted to 1,689 TONS of PAPER, METALS, RAGS, BONES, KITCHEN WASTE, etc., etc., the INCOME from the Materials disposed of being £6,802.

These figures reflect great credit to the valuable work and enthusiasm of the Salvage Committee and the co-operation of the householders.

This Committee, of which Alderman E. G. Eddy is Chairman, has received valuable advice and assistance from your Town Clerk (Colonel J. H. Thursfield), and Colonel G. S. Tomkinson, who is a Co-opted Member of the Committee.

Excellent service has also been given by the Members of the W.V.S. under Mrs. G. A. Rathbone.

Kitchen Waste.

Collected and Disposed of to Pig and Poultry Keepers :—
Weight : 278 Tons, 8 cwts., 1 qr.

Loads of Salvage.

Collected and taken to Main Salvage Depots, 3,485.

RECORD OF SALVAGE for the Year 1943.

| 1943. | WEIGHT OF SALVAGE. | | | INCOME FROM SALE. | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------|------|----------------------|----|----|
| | Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | £ | s. | d. |
| JANUARY | 132 | 14 | 2 | 603 | 13 | 9 |
| FEBRUARY | 119 | 0 | 1 | 544 | 0 | 4 |
| MARCH | 152 | 5 | 2 | 668 | 4 | 2 |
| APRIL | 208 | 16 | 3 | 649 | 8 | 10 |
| MAY | 143 | 3 | 2 | 493 | 17 | 1 |
| JUNE | 143 | 8 | 3 | 617 | 15 | 3 |
| JULY | 122 | 11 | 1 | 522 | 6 | 11 |
| AUGUST | 138 | 3 | 0 | 541 | 0 | 1 |
| SEPTEMBER | 131 | 5 | 0 | 528 | 9 | 5 |
| OCTOBER | 154 | 7 | 0 | 568 | 18 | 4 |
| NOVEMBER | 126 | 7 | 0 | 576 | 0 | 9 |
| DECEMBER | 117 | 4 | 1 | 488 | 11 | 7 |
| | 1689 | 6 | 3 | £6802 | 6 | 6 |

RECORD OF SALVAGE DURING THE FOUR YEARS—1940 TO 1943.

| | Tons. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| WASTE PAPER | 2511 |
| HEAVY AND LIGHT IRON AND STEEL TURNINGS | 850 |
| BALED CRUSHED TINS | 1780 |
| BONES | 150 |
| CULLET (BROKEN GLASS) | 550 |
| RAGS AND SACKING | 250 |
| NON-FERROUS METALS AND RUBBER | 100 |
| COMMENCED NOVEMBER 1940—KITCHEN WASTE | 960 |
| BOTTLES AND JARS. (IN NUMBER 290,000) | 45 |
| TOTAL WEIGHT OF SALVAGE | 7151 |
| VALUE OF SALVAGE £26,665. | |

COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Total No. of loads of Refuse, Night Soil, etc. removed (all vehicles) | 5182 |
| Dry Ashpits emptied | 1 |

Night Work.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Closet Pans emptied | 3874 |
| Privies and Middens emptied | 9 |
| Cesspools emptied | 17 |
| Loads of Night Soil removed | 126 |

Disposal of Household Ashes.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Tipped at Broadwaters | 1977 |
| Tipped at Puxton | 1937 |
| Tipped at Hoobrook | 1268 |
| Total | 5182 |

Canal Boat Inspection.

During the year frequent visits have been made to the Canal and Wharves, and inspections made in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936 (Part X) Canal Boats, and the Canal Boat Regulations, 1878.

From observations made, numerous canal boats which ply on the Canal are used for sleeping purposes by the two men in charge of each boat, for two or three nights each week.

The boats are not registered as dwellings in accordance with Section 250 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Canal Boat Regulations of 1878. (No new regulations have yet been issued as empowered by Section 251 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

The position would be clarified if a legal definition of a dwelling was in evidence and I trust that the expression dwelling will be defined in the new regulations.

The following figures are a synopsis of the year's work :—

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Total boats on register in the Borough | ... | ... | 1 |
| Number of boats believed to be in use or available | ... | ... | 1 |
| Number of inspections | ... | ... | 2 |

RAINFALL.

| YEAR 1943. MONTHLY. | | | | RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS. YEARS. | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|------|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| INCHES. | | | | INCHES. | | | |
| January | ... | ... | 5.12 | 1934 | ... | ... | 21.38 |
| February | ... | ... | 1.29 | 1935 | ... | ... | 26.13 |
| March | ... | ... | .93 | 1936 | ... | ... | 31.95 |
| April | ... | ... | .98 | 1937 | ... | ... | 34.41 |
| May | ... | ... | 3.19 | 1938 | ... | ... | 25.71 |
| June | ... | ... | 1.68 | 1939 | ... | ... | 28.95 |
| July | ... | ... | 1.15 | 1940 | ... | ... | 28.19 |
| August | ... | ... | 1.73 | 1941 | ... | ... | 26.44 |
| September | ... | ... | 2.54 | 1942 | ... | ... | 22.01 |
| October | ... | ... | 1.92 | 1943 | ... | ... | 23.43 |
| November | ... | ... | 1.70 | Average | | | |
| December | ... | ... | 1.20 | | | | |
| Total | | | | ... | ... | ... | 22.47 |
| Total | | | | ... | ... | ... | 23.43 |

MORTUARY.

During the year 27 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

CONCLUSION.

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton and the staff, for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

MEMBERS OF THE STAFF WHO HAVE JOINED H.M. FORCES.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| N. J. Williams | Royal Air Force. |
| R. A. Rogers | Royal Air Force. |
| R. A. Fitzjohn | Royal Army Medical Corps. |
| T. A. Hunter | Royal Army Medical Corps. |
| R. P. S. Cooke | Royal Army Ordnance Corps. |

I am, Mr. Chairman, Miss Addenbrooke, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

