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Contributors

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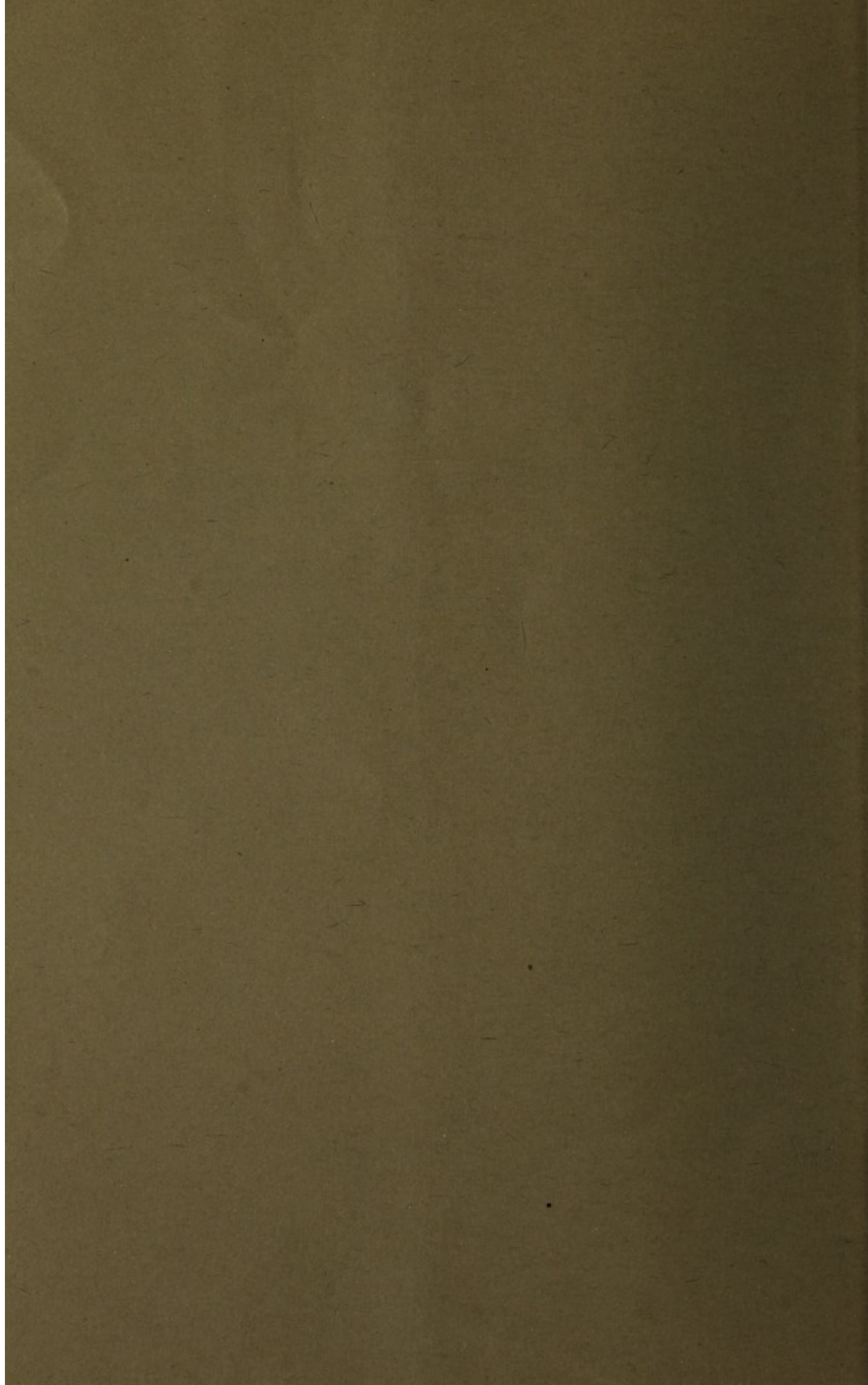
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Kingswinford Rural District.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE KINGSWINFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

I beg to hand you my Annual Report for the year ending
31st December, 1925.

A survey of the past five years shows, as regards water supply, that a number of houses at The Oak have now been supplied with the South Staffordshire Water Company's water. For some time the cost was a stumbling block, but I am pleased to say the work has now been carried out and the district generally is well supplied.

The sewerage system has been extended where possible and necessary, and there are comparatively few houses in the district which are not now connected. Among the dwellings not connected are those at The Dell, which, however, lie too low to be dealt with.

Very little building by private enterprise has taken place, and only 29 private persons have applied for and been promised assistance.

The Council, however, provided 114 working class houses under the old assisted scheme, and 212 further houses are in the course of erection under the Acts of 1923/24. When these are completed the present overcrowding will be considerably relieved.

The Council have handed over to the County Council the administration of Maternity and Child Welfare work and the same is being carried out in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

The expenditure upon Poor Relief in the district during the past five years has been as follows :

1921	..	..	£8520	15s.	4d.
1922	..	..	£14122	17s.	8d.
1923	..	..	£8944	18s.	11d.
1924	..	..	£8459	19s.	4d.
1925	..	..	£6564	7s.	1d.

The produce of a penny rate for the District is £270.

Natural Conditions of the District.—The Kingswinford Rural District has an acreage of 5519 acres. It consists of four wards. Brockmoor, with 206 acres, Pensnett with 859 acres. Wordsley, with 2783 acres : and St. Mary's, with 1671 acres. The district is partly Urban and partly open and Rural. One part has a sandy and porous subsoil, the other part is a heavy clay subsoil. The chief occupations in the district are coal and clay mines, iron works, glass works and brick works.

There are no voluntary Hospitals in the district, but the inhabitants subscribe to, and use the Dudley Guest Hospital, and the Corbett Hospital in Amblecote. The Council have an Isolation Hospital in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, which contains 48 beds. The treatment and isolation of Smallpox is provided for by a General County Scheme, to which the Kingswinford R.D.C. contributes.

Births.—Five hundred and three births were registered during the year, Two hundred and fifty males and two hundred and fifty-three females. This gives a birth rate of 22.1 per thousand of the population. Fourteen of the births were illegitimate, five males and nine females.

Deaths.—Two hundred and eighty-two deaths were registered during the year. One hundred and fifty-two males and one hundred and thirty females, giving a death rate of 12.3 per thousand of the population.

Zymotic Mortality.—Twenty-four deaths were due to Zymotic diseases, giving a death rate from these causes of 1.05 per thousand of the population. Six from whooping cough, three from diarrhoea, two from diphtheria and thirteen from measles.

Infantile Mortality.—Thirty-five deaths of infants under one year were registered, fourteen male and twenty-one female, giving an infantile death rate of 69.5 per thousand.

Water Supply.—The district is supplied with water from the South Staffordshire Water Works and in a lesser degree from the Stourbridge Water Works. The water from both sources is pure and wholesome, but excessively hard. During the year a scheme has been completed for supplying the South Staffordshire water to houses at "The Oak."

Drainage.—The Council have their own main system of sewers. The sewage is conveyed to a sewage farm owned by the Council.

Scavenging.—The removal of house refuse is done by contractors in all the wards. The work has been carried out most satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspections.—A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects discovered and any action taken is appended in the tables at the end of this report.

Schools.—All the Schools in the district are supplied with a good main water supply, good drainage and all necessary sanitary arrangements.

Milk Supply.—The supply of milk has been sufficient, and of good quality. There are forty-seven cowsheds and forty-eight milk sellers. There are thirty-two sellers of bottled milk only.

Other Foods.—The inspection of Foods and Drugs is done by the County Council.

Slaughter Houses.—There is no public Abattoir, There are nine registered slaughter houses and three licensed slaughter houses now being used. No meat has been seized.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-nine cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year. Eleven in Wordsley, twenty-five in St. Mary's, eight in Pensnett and five in Brockmoor. No death occurred.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 Year.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—25 yrs.	25—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.
1	1	1	2	1	24	13	3	2	1	1	—
Total 49											

Enteric Fever.—I am pleased to report there were no cases of this disease during the year.

Measles.—In the last quarter of the year Measles were prevalent, and accounted for 13 deaths.

Whooping Cough.—In the last quarter of the year Whooping Cough was prevalent, and accounted for six deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—One case only was reported and made good progress.

Influenza.—In the first and last quarter of the year Influenza was more or less prevalent, and accounted for eleven deaths, seven male and four female. The disease never assumed epidemic proportions.

Erysipelas.—Six cases were notified of this disease, but no death occurred.

Venereal Diseases.—There is no clinic for these diseases actually in the district; but Clinics are available at the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and the General Hospital, Kidderminster.

Small Pox.—No cases were reported.

Puerperal Fever.—Two cases were notified during the year, but no death occurred.

Diphtheria.—Thirty cases of diphtheria were notified throughout the year, with a distinct increase in July and August. Ten in Brockmoor, three in Wordsley, five in St. Mary's and twelve in Pensnett. Two deaths occurred. The Council supply anti-toxin free of charge for necessitous cases, and to avoid delay medical men are allowed to use their own supply of anti-toxin and the Council refund the money.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 Year.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—25 yrs.	25—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.
1	1	1	2	1	7	8	4	3	1	1	2

Total 30

Tubercular Disease.—Twenty-two cases were reported during the year. Seven in Brockmoor, five in Wordsley, five in Kingswinford, five in Pensnett. Thirteen cases were pulmonary tuberculosis and nine non-pulmonary. There were fifteen deaths registered—twelve due to pulmonary tuberculosis and three to other affected organs.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 Year.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—25 yrs.	25—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.
—	—	—	—	2	6	6	1	1	—	3	3

Total 22.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—These have now been taken over by the County Council.

Infectious Hospital—Forty-seven cases were admitted during the year, all suffering from scarlet fever. Four were admitted from outside districts. There was no death. An ambulance is in attendance at the Hospital for bringing in cases.

Laboratory Work.—Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made free of charge by an arrangement with the Pathological Department of the General Hospital, Wolverhampton, under the County Council scheme. During the year forty specimens of Tuberculosis Sputum were examined (two positive, thirty-eight negative), one hundred and forty-one swabs from suspected diphtheria (24 positive, 117 negative); four wasserman (one positive, three negative); two enteric fever (both negative).

Sanitary Administration.—There is one Sanitary Inspector whose report is annexed.

Housing Conditions.

STATISTICS YEAR ENDING 1925.

1.—General.

Although only eight new working-class houses were erected in 1925, the Council are erecting a further 212 working-class houses which will be completed in 1926.

1. Estimated population	22730
2. General death-rate	12·3
3. Death-rate from tuberculosis	·66
4. Infantile Mortality	68·5
5. Number of dwelling houses, all classes	4483
6. Number of working class dwelling houses	3674
7. Number of new working class houses erected	8

2.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

I—Inspection.

1. The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	593
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	327
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	46

II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	163
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—

1.—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	Nil.
2.—Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit ;—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
3.—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	Nil

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	461
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By Owners	419
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 :—

1. Number of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders	7
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	7
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

3.—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement schemes under (a) Part I. or (b) Part II. of the Act, 1890

1. Name of area	..	..	..	Nil
2. Acreage	..	..	..	Nil
3. Number of working class houses in area	..			Nil
4. Number of working class persons to be displaced				Nil
5. Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of the Local Authority under Section 20 of Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1919	..	..	..	Nil
6.—Staff engaged on housing work, with briefly the duties of each officer	..	..	..	Nil
7.—Sanitary Inspector on existing houses	..			Nil
8.—Surveyor on new houses	..	..	..	Nil

Overcrowding.—There are still cases of overcrowding which cannot at present be dealt with satisfactorily, as there is still a shortness of houses. The Council's building scheme is however, progressing, and new houses are being steadily completed and occupied. The Council is negotiating for fresh sites, with a view to putting up more houses, and negotiations are proceeding favourably.

Fitness of Houses —The general standard of houses is very fair. The chief defects, as before, being leaky roofs and defective spouting, and bad unpaved yards.

Unhealthy Areas.—There is one area which, so far it has been impossible to deal with, but the Council have it under consideration.

House Drainage —One hundred and eighteen houses have been connected to the main drainage system during the year. Forty insanitary privies converted into Water Closets. Seventy-five insanitary privies abolished and fifty-seven water closets erected.

House to House Inspection.—Three hundred and twenty-seven houses have been systematically inspected.

The usual tabulated returns and Appendices are included in this report.

Your obedient servant,

GUY GRINDLAY.

M 13.

Causes of Death in Kingswinford R.D. 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	-	-	-	-	152	130
Measles	-	-	-	-	12	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	5	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-		2
Influenza	-	-	-	-	7	4
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	6	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	-	-	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	-	-	-	-	15	23
Rheumatic Fever	-	-	-	-		1
Diabetes	-	-	-	-		1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	-	-	-	-	12	8
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	18	21
Arterio-sclerosis	-	-	-	-	6	2
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	14	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	-	-	11	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	5	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-	-	1	
Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years)	-	-	-	-	1	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	-	-	-	-		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	-	-	-	-	3	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of pregnancy and parturition	-	-	-	-		3
Congenital Debility and Malformation. Premature Birth	-	-	-	-	8	9
Other Deaths from Violence	-	-	-	-	6	5
Other Defined Diseases	-	-	-	-	23	15
Deaths of Infants under 1 year, Total	-	-	-	-	14	21
TOTAL BIRTHS	-	-	-	-	250	253
Legitimate	-	-	-	-	245	244
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	5	9
POPULATION for Births and Deaths	-	-	-	-	22,730	

TABLE X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by Registered Practi- cians.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales -	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Pop- ulations 22,000 - 50,000)	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.21	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0

Kingswinford Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, Year 1925.

April 12th, 1926.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that the work in my department during the Year 1925, is as follows:—

Number of Sanitary Defects on the books at the end of December, 1924	..	..	288
Number reported during the year, 1925	..	..	2948
	Total	..	3236
Number abated during the year 1925	..	..	3059
Number on the books at the end of December, 1925			177

The list of visits and inspections made during the year 1925, is as follows:—

Infected Premises	..	..	..	326
Nuisances, Foul Conditions, Etc.	..	..	..	560
Work in progress	..	..	..	471
„ done	..	..	..	462
„ ordered	..	..	..	511
Owners or Agents	..	..	..	317
Slaughter Houses or Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	1181
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops	..	..	..	172
Bakehouses	..	..	..	64
Workshops or Work Places	..	..	..	31
Drain Tests	..	..	..	172
House to house Inspections	..	..	..	327
Shops Acts	..	..	..	371
Canal Boats	..	..	..	4
Petrol Stores	..	..	..	63
Refuse Removal	..	..	..	2581
Other Visits	..	..	..	—
	Total	..	..	7613

The List of Nuisances abated and work carried out during the year 1925, is as follows:—

Houses disinfected	..	..	165
„ cleansed	..	..	182
„ properly ventilated	..	..	—
Cases of overcrowding abated	..	..	—
Damp proof courses provided	..	..	—
Spouting cleansed or repaired	..	..	152
Privies abolished	..	..	75
„ converted to water closets	..	..	40
New water closets provided	..	..	115
Water closets repaired	..	..	98
Closets cleansed	..	..	120
Ashpits abolished	..	..	62
„ repaired	..	..	73
Ashbins provided	..	..	118
Urinals repaired or closed	..	..	3
Drains repaired	..	..	23
„ opened and cleansed	..	..	72
Houses properly drained	..	..	118
Gulley traps provided	..	..	108
Brick sinks abolished	..	..	57
Sanitary sinks provided	..	..	56
Sinks repaired	..	..	40
Yards paved or repaired	..	..	156
Repairs to dwelling houses	..	..	676
„ wash-houses	..	..	407
Accumulations removed	..	..	15
Pig nuisances abated	..	..	—
Separate water supply provided	..	..	53
Manure receptacles provided or repaired	..	..	1
Water removed from cellars	..	..	—
Workshops cleansed or repaired	..	..	3
Slaughter houses cleansed or repaired	..	..	4
Cowsheds cleansed or repaired	..	..	67
Other work done	..	..	—
Total	..	..	3059

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of registered cowsheds	..	..	47
„ „ wholesale and retail milk sellers	..	..	1
„ „ retail sellers of new milk	..	..	48
„ „ „ „ bottled milk	..	..	32

All these premises have been periodically inspected and found to be kept clean and in good repair, and the lime-washing has been done at the required times.

Slaughter Houses.—There are 12 Slaughter Houses in use in the district, 9 registered and 3 licensed. These have been constantly visited and I found them clean and in good repair.

Meat Inspection.—The Butchers' Shops and Slaughter Houses have been kept under constant supervision, and the provisions of the new meat regulations have been strictly enforced throughout the district.

Since April 1st, 1925, I have inspected the following carcasses:—

Oxen	..	..	418
Calves	..	..	60
Sheep	..	..	764
Lambs	..	..	450
Pigs	..	..	867
Goats	..	..	1
			—
			2560
			—

Of these 417 pigs, 1 goat, and 1 calf were slaughtered on private premises.

The meat I found to be of good quality and generally free from any serious disease.

There was no meat seized, but a quantity of internal organs were voluntarily destroyed as unfit for food, and 1 calf was destroyed as being affected with advanced tuberculosis, and the carcass of 1 sheep that was putrid on account of the weather.

Petroleum Stores—20 Stores are licensed for the storage of petroleum for sale or where there are over 60 gallons stored for use only.

These stores have been inspected and are in good order.

House Drainage, etc.—During the year there have been :—

118 houses properly drained and connected to the Council's sewers.

115 houses provided with water closets.

57 new water closets built.

75 insanitary privies abolished.

40 privies converted to water closets.

108 stoneware gully traps provided.

57 old brick sinks abolished.

56 new glazed sanitary sinks fixed.

Refuse Removal.

Year 1925.

WARD.	Bins Emptied.	Pits Emptied.	Loads Removed.
Brockmoor ..	8696	442	1987
Pensnett ..	8833	715	2984
St. Mary's ..	10274	556	1694
Wordsley ..	10190	679	1907
Totals ..	37993	2392	8572

G. T. CUMMINGS,

Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, and HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECU- TIONS.
Factories	11	8	
Workshops } Workplaces }	39	14	
Total	50	22	

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS,	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.	
	Found	Remedied
(1) Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—		
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—		
Insufficient	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	10	10
(2) Offences under the Factories and Work- shops Acts	—	—
(5) Other Offences	—	—
Total	15	15

3.—Homework.

NATURE OF WORK.	Outworkers' List. Section 107.			Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.		Outwork in Infected Premises, Sections 109, 110	
	Lists received from Employers.						
	Sending twice in the year.						
	Outworkers.			Instances.		Instances.	
Wearing Apparel :— (1) Making, etc.	Lists.		Contractors.	Workmen			
	2	2	4				
Total	2	2	4				
				Orders made.			

4.—Registered Workshops

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Number
Bakers	..	..	.	..	12
Dressmakers		..	..	..	13
Boat Builders		..	..	..	2
Blacksmiths		..	..	..	4
Tailors	..	..	..	..	3
Boot Repairers		..	..	..	13
Saddlers	..	..	..	..	3
Breeze Washing		..	..	..	2
Pattern Makers		..	..	..	1
Milliners	..	..	.	..	2
Cog Makers		..	..	..	5
Cabinet Makers		..	..	..	1
Wheelwrights		..	..	.	3
Upholsterers		..	..	..	1
Total					65

