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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

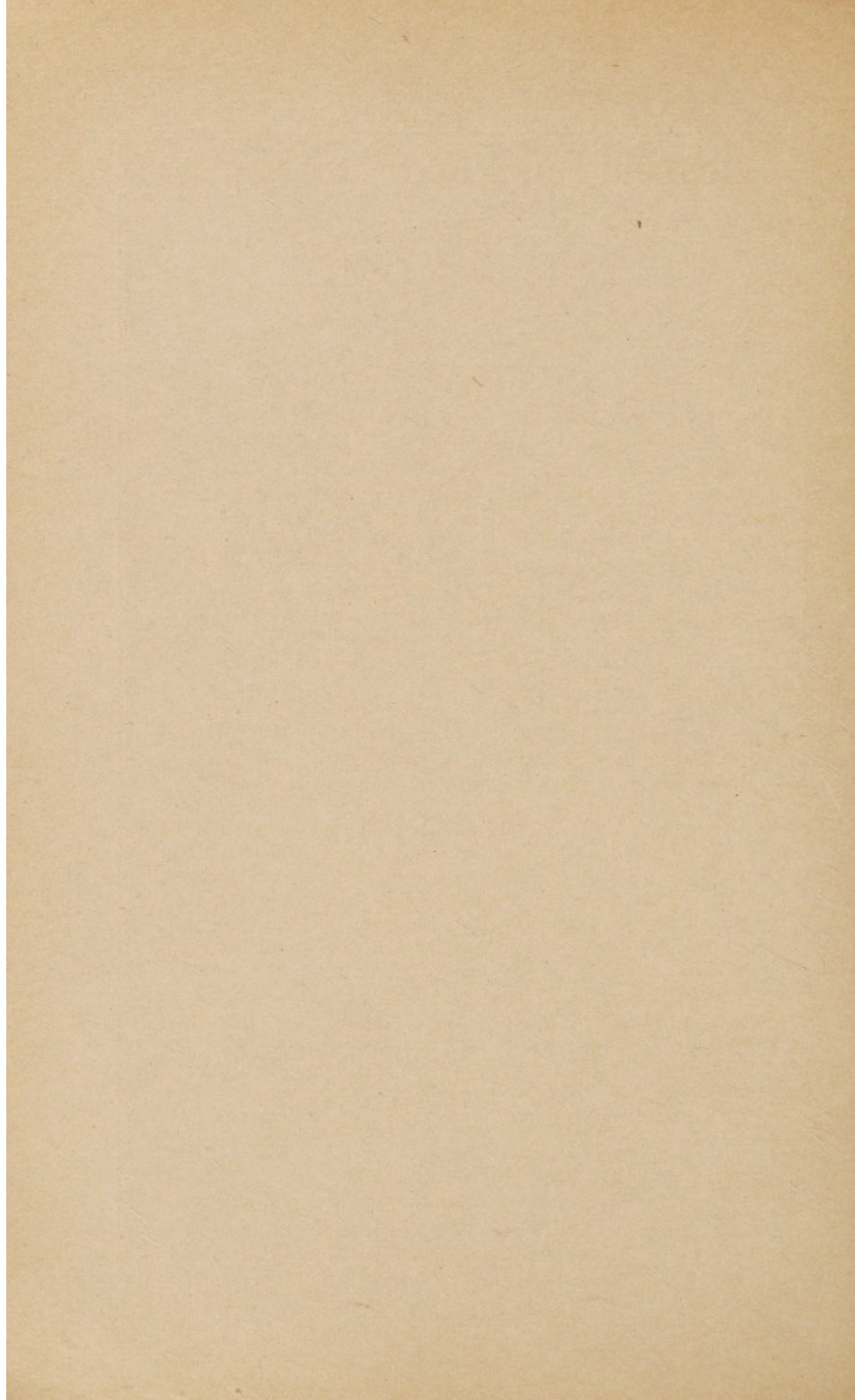
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for Year 1947

RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.



Lichfield Rural District Council.

RURAL COUNCIL HOUSE,
LICHFIELD,

August 20th, 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to present my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1947.

I do not propose to offer much comment on the Report, but I feel that it can be regarded as a reasonably satisfactory one.

Those statistics which are an indication of the health of the District will be seen to compare very favourably with the corresponding rates for the country as a whole, the death rate in particular proving a most favourable comparison, being 9.97 against 12.0 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

The incidence of and mortality from the notifiable diseases was in all cases low. Due without doubt to the Immunisation Campaign, which has resulted in so many children receiving protection from this most serious disease, the number of cases of Diphtheria notified was again very low, there being only 5 of these, of which 1 proved fatal. It is most interesting to note that none of these cases had been immunised. The only other comment I have to make is that the district did not entirely escape the widespread outbreak of Poliomyelitis, which occurred late in the year. Fortunately only 8 cases were notified to me, but 2 of these unfortunately died.

My thanks are due, and I take this opportunity of expressing them, to the members of the Council for their consideration shown during the year, to the staff of the Public Health department for their good service and to the other Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RONALD E. JOHNSON,
M.B., Ch.B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.**

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health :

RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.S.I.A. (appointed 1/6/1947).

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

K. BLOWER.

Engineer and Surveyor :

J. G. RIMAND, M. Inst. M. & Cy. E.

Clerk to the District Council :

G. K. PULLEN

Medical Officer of the Wissage Isolation Hospital :

DR. R. E. JOHNSON, Lichfield.

Matron—Miss WIMSHURST.

Tuberculosis Officer :

DR. N. STANLEY WILLIAMS, M.B.

(appointed by County Tuberculosis Joint Committee).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	83,715
Population (estimated)	..	..	..	..	..	34,400
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	8,993
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1948	..	..	..	..	..	£172,880
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)						£681

The Lichfield Rural District, in the County of Stafford, surrounds completely the ancient city of Lichfield. On its East and South sides it is bounded by the Counties of Derby, Leicester and Warwick. The North and West sides are bounded by the County of Stafford comprising the following county districts in order from the North: Tutbury Rural, Uttoxeter Rural, Stafford Rural, Rugeley Urban, Cannock Urban, Brownhills Urban and Aldridge Urban.

The district is in the main devoted to agriculture. A considerable portion forms part of the valley of the Trent and its large tributary, the Tame. Along the river valley the land is flat—between the 200 and 300 contour level—rising on the West side to an altitude of nearly 700 feet in the parish of Brindley Heath, part of Cannock Chase. The Western section contains coal seams and there is a considerable mining population. There are pottery works in Armitage and tape mills in Fazeley. The parish of Shenstone is largely residential, but several industrial concerns have recently become established there.

The soil on the whole is light and porous with a subsoil of gravel or marl and a few islands of clay. In the Cannock Chase district there is a thin layer of peat lying upon gravel and sand, a relic of the old Cannock Chase forest.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population
Live Births—					
Legitimate	..	705	356	349	} 21.5
Illegitimate	..	31	18	13	
Total	..	736	374	362	
Still-Births—					
Legitimate	..	19	10	9	
Illegitimate	..	1	—	1	
Total	..	20	10	10	
Deaths	.. ..	343	176	167	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Resident Popul'n 9.97
Deaths from Puerperal causes—					
Puerperal Sepsis	.. ..			1	
Other Puerperal causes	.. ..			Nil	
Death rate in infants under 1 year of age—					
All infants, per 1,000 live births	.. ..				43.47
Deaths from Cancer	.. ..				40
Deaths from Measles	.. ..				1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. ..				0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					4

Vital Statistics of District for the last 10 years.

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1938 ..	32210	16.67	10.46	46.5
1939 ..	No Annual Report issued.			
1940 ..	No Annual Report issued.			
1941 ..	32000	17.1	11.6	50.0
1942 ..	32000	18.7	9.5	37.2
1943 ..	32000	17.7	10.4	45.3
1944 ..	32760	19.14	10.13	38.1
1945 ..	32710	19.04	10.0	48.0
1946 ..	33790	19.4	9.2	45.9
1947 ..	34400	21.5	9.97	43.47
England and Wales—				
1947 ..		20.5	12.0	41.0

District Medical Officers.

Staffordshire Public Assistance Committee.

Name of Medical Relief District	Parishes	District Medical Officer
Alrewas	Alrewas Elford Edingale Harlaston	DR. A. DE LA C. RUSSIAN, Erne Lodge, Alrewas.
St. Chad's	Streethay Whittington Fisherwick Swinfen and Packington Weeford	DR. R. E. JOHNSON, West Gate Cottage, Lichfield.
Shenstone	Shenstone (part) Wall	DR. G. J. G. DAVIDSON, Old College House, Dam Street, Lichfield.
Rugeley	Colton Mavesyn Ridware Longdon Armitage-w-Handsacre Brindley Heath	DR. L. D. ROBERTS, May Bank, Rugeley.
Ogley Hay	Farewell and Chorley Burntwood Hammerwich Shenstone (part)	DR. J. W. POOLEY, Nunswell House, Boney Hay, Burntwood, Lichfield.
Yoxall	Hamstall Ridware Kings Bromley	DR. C. J. ARMSON, Brook House, Yoxall.
Tamworth	Wigginton Thorpe Constantine (part)	DR. A. J. MCKENDRICK, 11, Aldergate, Tamworth.
Clifton Campville	Clifton Campville Thorpe Constantine (part)	DR. J. R. SALMOND, Lindores, Appleby Magna.
Fazeley and Canwell	Hints Fazeley Drayton Bassett Canwell	DR. W. C. PYPER, Fazeley.

**Causes of Death in the Rural District of Lichfield
during the year 1947.**

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	..	..
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	..
3 Scarlet Fever .....	..	..
4 Whooping Cough .....	..	..
5 Diphtheria	1	..
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7	4
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2
8 Syphilitic diseases .....	..	2
9 Influenza .....	..	1
10 Measles	1	..
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis ..	1	1
12 Acute Inf. Encephalitis .....	..	..
13 Cancer	19	21
14 Diabetes .....	..	4
15 Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	16	23
16 Heart Diseases	44	47
17 Other diseases of the Circulatory System	7	9
18 Bronchitis	16	8
19 Pneumonia	6	5
20 Other respiratory diseases	6	..
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	..	..
22 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	3
23 Appendicitis	2	..
24 Other digestive diseases	3	3
25 Nephritis	4	2
26 Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis .....	..	1
27 Other Maternal Causes .....	..	..
28 Premature Birth	4	1
29 Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, etc. ..	10	3
30 Suicide	2	1
31 Road Traffic Accidents	5	1
32 Other violent causes	4	2
33 All other causes	15	23
TOTALS ..	176	167

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Staffordshire County Council provide first-class Bacteriological and Chemical Laboratories at Stafford, which are placed at the service of Medical Practitioners, Hospitals and Local Authorities free of charge.

A tabulated list of the work carried out during 1947 is given below.

Swabs sent for Diphtheria Bacillus—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Throat—			
From Practitioners ..	3	84	87
From Isolation Hospital	28	223	251
Nose—			
From Practitioners ..	—	2	2
From Isolation Hospital	13	232	245
Ear—			
From Practitioners ..	—	1	1
From Isolation Hospital	—	10	10

Other Specimens—

	Fit	Unfit	Total
Cerebro Spinal Fluid ..	4	15	19
Pus	2	1	3
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	12	30	42
Blood	—	2	2
Swab from Gums ..	—	2	2
Swab from Sinus of Neck	1	1	2
Fæces	—	3	3

Samples of Water—

Chemical Examination	1	5	6
Bacteriological Examination	1	5	6

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The following Nursing Associations work in the Lichfield Rural District and are affiliated to the Staffordshire Nursing Association.

<i>Association</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
ARMITAGE. Nurse Lovatt, S.R.N., S.C.M.	Mrs. Fenton, Waverley, Hood Lane, Armitage.
ALREWAS. Nurse Cluley, S.C.M.	Mrs. Shemmonds, Byfields, Furlong Lane, Alrewas.
CHASETOWN. Nurse B. Massie, S.C.M. Queen's Nurse Starkey, S.C.M.	H. Milton Lees, Esq., Malvern House, Chase Terrace, Walsall.
ELFORD AND THORPE— Queen's Nurse Harrison, S.C.M.	F. Lawson, Esq., Fisherwick Park Farm, Nr. Lichfield.
FAZELEY— Nurse F. Statham, S.C.M.	Mrs. Ridsdale, Fazeley, Tamworth.
HINTS and WEEFORD— Nurse Durber, S.C.M.	Mrs. Bourne, Bourne House, Weeford, Lichfield.
SHENSTONE and STONNALL— Nurse Midgley, S.R.N.	Mrs. Boyce, St. John's Hill, Shenstone.
STREETLY and LITTLE ASTON— Queen's Nurse Dalton, S.C.M. Nurse Gomm, S.R.N., S.C.M. Nurse Courtly, S.R.N., S.C.M.	Mrs. Sherwood, 14, Hardwick Road, Streetly.
WHITTINGTON— Nurse Darby, S.C.M.	Mrs. Inge, Broom Leasoe, Whittington.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following Clinics and Treatment Centres are in operation in the area :—

Infants' Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics.

*Alrewas	Oddfellows' Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	2—5 p.m.
Armitage	The Parish Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	1-30—5 p.m.
Chasetown . .	Social Institute	Wednesdays weekly Fri. fortnightly	1-30—5 p.m. 9-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m.
*Fazeley	Victoria Memorial Hall	Mondays weekly	1-30—5 p.m.
*Whittington	Girls' Club	3rd Thursday	2—5 p.m.

These are all conducted by the Staffordshire County Council.

*Infant Welfare Centres only.

School Clinics.

ONE—Chase Terrace.

Nurse attends weekly—Tuesdays, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

Doctor monthly.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.

Hospital facilities for the isolation and treatment of infectious diseases are established and controlled by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

The Board was constituted by the Ministry of Health Provisional Order Confirmation (Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital District) Act, 1938, which was promoted by ten of the Constituent Authorities. The appointed day was October 1st, 1938, and the first meeting of the Board was held on January 26th, 1939.

The United District has an area of approximately 543 square miles, a population of 230,000, and a rateable value of over £1,000,000.

It has not yet been possible to erect a central hospital and the isolation facilities are at present situated at the Wissage Hospital, Lichfield, which was opened in September, 1941, the Cheslyn Hay Isolation Hospital, near Cannock, also taken over in 1941, and the Tithe Barn Hospital, Stafford which was opened in 1942.

The Constituting Act places an obligation on the Board to provide hospital accommodation for persons in the Constituting Districts who are suffering from infectious diseases other than smallpox. About 131 beds are available in the three hospitals for varying types of disease, and arrangements are in being with seven adjoining Councils to admit patients from the United District when this becomes necessary in an emergency. The number of beds available therefore is very large.

The Board pays the cost of hospital treatment and also meets the expense of conveyance of patients to and from hospital, this being carried out in an ambulance owned and operated by the Board. The Staffordshire County Council make grants under the Public Health Act, 1936, towards the cost of maintaining the three hospitals.

The Rural District Council has four representatives on the Joint Hospital Board.

Smallpox Hospital.

The hospital for the treatment of smallpox patients is situated at Moxley, in the Bilston Urban District. The hospital is operated by the Smallpox Hospital Joint Board for South Staffordshire on which Board the District Council has two representatives.

Tuberculosis.

The following County Institutions are available for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

County Sanatorium, Prestwood House, Kingswinford.
Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital, Kinver.
Groundslow House Sanatorium, Tittensor.
Yarnfield Isolation Hospital, Nr. Stone.
Children's Sanatorium, The Limes, Himley.
Standon Hall, Orthopaedic Hospital, Eccleshall.

These are maintained by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee.

The Public Assistance Institution.

This is situated in the City of Lichfield.

General Hospital Accommodation.

There are two local Voluntary Hospitals used by people in the rural district, viz., the Victoria Hospital, Lichfield, and the Hammerwich Cottage Hospital, Nr. Lichfield. Hospitals also available for people in this area are at Birmingham, Walsall, Stafford, Wolverhampton and Burton.

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

The immunisation campaign has again amply proved its worth, but as I commented in my last report it is greatly to be regretted that so many parents deny their children the benefits of this admirable form of protection. Only 5 cases were notified during the year, 2 of these being above and 1 below school age. There was 1 death among these. None of the cases had been immunised.

The estimated mid-year population of children in the area under 15 years of age was 8,080, and of these 4,907 had been immunised at the end of the year. The age groups of this latter figure are as follows:—

Under 1 year of age	..	..	19
1 year of age	..	..	500
2 years of age	..	..	368
3 years of age	..	..	384
4 years of age	..	..	408
5-9 years of age	..	..	1996
10-14 years of age	..	..	1232
Total			4907

The work of immunisation is largely carried out by the School Medical Officers of the County Education Committee.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Late in the year, in common with many other parts of the country, a number of cases of this disease were notified. We were fortunate that only 8 such cases occurred, all of which were removed to hospital. Two of these cases were fatal.

Action in regard to Schools.

It was not necessary for any school to be closed during the year owing to infectious disease outbreak.

Infectious diseases—other than Tuberculosis— notified during 1947.

CIVILIANS					
Nature of Case	Totals	Males	Females	Age Distribution	
Measles	382	190	192	0— 1 year	6
				1— 5 years	144
				5—10 ..	208
				10—15 ..	17
				15—25 ..	6
				over 25 ..	1
Whooping Cough ..	43	20	23	0— 1 year	1
				1— 5 years	17
				5—10 ..	23
				10—15 ..	2
Pneumonia	19	13	6	1— 5 years	1
				5—10 ..	1
				10—15 ..	1
				15—25 ..	2
				over 25 ..	14
Scarlet Fever ..	36	12	24	1— 5 years	5
				5—10 ..	6
				10—15 ..	19
				15—25 ..	3
				over 25 ..	3
Erysipelas	2	1	1	15—25 years	1
				over 25 ..	1
Diphtheria	5	3	2	0— 1 year	1
				5—10 years	1
				10—15 ..	1
				15—25 ..	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	..	2	15—25 years	1
				over 25 ..	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	2	1	1— 5 years	1
				15—25 ..	1
				over 25 ..	1
Poliomyelitis ..	7	3	4	1— 5 years	3
				15—25 ..	3
				over 25 ..	1
Polio-Encephalitis ..	1	1	..		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	..	0— 1 year	2

NON-CIVILIANS

Pneumonia	1	1	..	15—25 years	1
Scarlet Fever ..	4	4	..	15—25 years	3
				Age not known	1
Measles	2	1	1	15—25 years	1
				Age not known	1

Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1947.

PULMONARY

Males	Ages	Females	Ages
1	4 yrs.	1	4 yrs.
1	17	1	4
1	23	1	16
1	24	1	20
1	25	1	31
1	26	1	31
1	39	1	32
1	44	1	38
1	45	1	74
1	45		
1	46		
1	53		
1	59		
13	..	9	

NON-PULMONARY

1	4 yrs.	1	10 yrs.
1	4½	1	5
1	6		
1	11		
1	55		
5	..	2	..

The following cases of tuberculosis were admitted to Sanatoria during the year :—

Prestwood Sanatorium	4
Wordesley Sanatorium	2

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

Prepared by Mr. J. G. Rimand, Engineer and Surveyor.

Generally throughout the district all sewage works have shown a reasonably good effluent during the past year. Alrewas, Little Aston, Stonnall, Hopwas and Wigginton particularly. Burntwood, Chasetown and the Watling Street have been satisfactory and are being kept in condition by the workmen employed by you.

Armitage and Handsacre.

The Disposal Works in this Parish is inadequate and a scheme has been prepared, and approved by the Ministry of Health, for the sewerage of the whole Parish and the construction of a new works. In view, however, of economic conditions consent for the carrying out of this work has not yet been obtained, but it is hoped that approval will be forthcoming at an early date to enable a portion at least to be commenced.

Longdon.

A scheme has been prepared, and approved by the Ministry of Health, for the sewerage of a considerable portion of the Parish, the sewage to be disposed of at the proposed new Sewage Disposal Works at Armitage. It is doubtful whether consent will be obtained for this work to be commenced at an early date, it may therefore be necessary for certain temporary work to be carried out in the Parish to deal with the most urgent sewerage problems.

Burntwood.

The sewerage of Ogley Hay Road, Oak Lane, Birch Lane, and North Street has been completed and most of the houses in this area are now connected to same. The Pumping Station at Cannock Road is working satisfactory but the Peter's Lane, Edial, Disposal Works are in need of enlargement to deal with the large quantity of storm water received together with improvements in the method of sludge disposal. This matter will have to be given serious attention as soon as conditions permit.

Chasetown.

The Works at Chasetown are giving satisfactory service and have sufficient reserve capacity to deal with the development which will shortly take place in that portion of the Parish.

Streethay.

These Works were reconstructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. Camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tanks have been provided and these are working satisfactorily.

Wigginton.

Conditions in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewered are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Hopwas.

These Works, which were constructed shortly before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Fazeley.

The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer in the Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place at Mile Oak, and the main sewer is inadequate. I prepared a scheme shortly before the war for providing a new sewer to relieve the flow and the construction of a new Disposal Works, but this has had to be deferred owing to the war. Since the war, a Sewage Pumping Station has been constructed at Brook End, Fazeley, to deal with sewage from the Housing Estate.

Colton.

Conditions show little change in this Parish, but some attention will be needed to the main sewer and the Disposal Works in the next few years.

Wall.

The Disposal Works for this village is working satisfactory and most of the village is now connected to same, the sewerage scheme commenced shortly before the war having now been completed. The Muckley Corner end of the Parish will, however, need attention in the future. I have prepared proposals for same being connected to the extension proposed for Hammerwich in order that same will be dealt with at the Peter's Lane Disposal Works.

Shenstone.

The sewers in this village have been extended since the war in order to serve the Housing Estate. The Disposal

Works is in a poor condition and I have a scheme in the course of preparation which will provide for a modern works on a new site. This will have to be proceeded with at an early date if a nuisance is to be avoided. The Pumping Station at Lynn Lane, which was constructed during the war, is working satisfactorily. Conditions on the Chester Road, Stonnall, are still very bad, but the Ministry of Health has approved a scheme for the extension of the sewer from Stonnall which will enable all these houses to be connected during the coming year. The Disposal Works at Lynn are working satisfactorily, the flow is at times very small. The Disposal Works at Little Aston are giving satisfactory effluent even though they are working to capacity most of the time, the question of the enlargement of these works will have to be considered at a fairly early date.

Hammerwich.

The Watling Street Disposal Works is working satisfactorily, but certain work will have to be carried out to the tanks and bacteria beds during the coming year as same are affected by subsidence.

Harlaston.

These Works are working satisfactorily and as well as can be expected under the circumstances, but early attention will have to be given to their re-construction.

Kings Bromley.

During the year a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small Disposal Works. It is hoped that approval for the carrying out of this work will be given as soon as the Ministry of Health lift the present ban on such work. In the meantime a tank constructed as a temporary measure at the sewer outfall is working satisfactorily.

Clifton Campville, Elford, Edingale, Hill Ridware, Hamstall Ridware, Drayton Bassett, Swinfen and Packington, Weeford.

There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in these Parishes, which have been considered along with the remainder of the district by the Sub-Committee whose report has already been presented. This report makes certain recommendations as to the order of priority in which the works detailed in it shall be carried out, and steps will be taken to implement the Committee's decision as soon as present conditions on the carrying out of Sewerage works are lifted.

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the District for 1947.

Largely due to Staff changes the work of the Department was curtailed during the year.

Housing conditions have, of course, been the main pre-occupation, and it has been noticeable that the complaints made to the Department have considerably increased. The continued shortage of labour and materials in the building trades is having a marked effect on the deterioration of property and it has only been possible to carry out the minimum of repair work.

The Public Cleansing Service by the Council's own vehicles was extended in April, to include the whole of Burntwood, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Hints, Fazeley and Wigginton Parishes. The service commenced under difficulties, but was nevertheless maintained at a high level throughout the year.

This has been my first full year as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and I am indebted to the members of the Council for their confidence and support. My thanks are also due to the Clerk to the Council, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and to all other Officers of the Council for their complete co-operation in the course of the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

August 20th, 1948.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks Board.

Part of the parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The parishes or parts thereof of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Due to the advantages, which the Council fully exploited, contained in legislation prior to 1944 affecting the laying of water mains in rural districts, this area is very well served in comparison with rural districts in general in the matter of piped water supplies. Every one of its 28 parishes has a system of water mains supplying all but the smaller aggregations of houses.

In my last report I indicated that 11 schemes of water main extensions under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, of a total estimated cost of £14,468 had been sent to the Ministry of Health for approval. Such approval was received at the end of May, 1947, together with an indication that a provisional allocation of grant amounting to £3,000 had been made in respect of them. In November, 1947, the County Council indicated that they had decided to make annual contributions equivalent to the Ministry of Health's lump sum contribution towards the cost of the schemes subject to certain reviews. At the close of the year efforts were being made to expedite progress on the carrying out of these works, but, with one exception referred to below, national difficulties were proving an obstacle to rapid progress.

The exception above referred to was the supply to the village of Hints to which I made lengthy mention in my last report. During 1947 the scheme of extending the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's mains so as to provide an adequate supply of water to the village was completed and all properties in and adjacent to the village were connected thereto. The completion of this scheme has solved an acute problem which has troubled this Council and caused much distress among the residents concerned for many years past.

Information kindly supplied by Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., Engineer in Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, over the piped water supplies of the district is as follows :—

1. " The water supply to the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, during 1947.

2. " The supply to the Lichfield Rural District is derived from 11 pumping stations which supply not only the rural area but other districts as well.

" Regular samples are examined, both bacteriologically and chemically, from all stations pumping to supply, and where treatment is installed, bacteriological examinations are also made of the raw waters.

" Samples are taken at monthly intervals, both from the service reservoirs and from the piped supply at various points in the Rural District.

" During 1947 sixteen samples from Gentleshaw Service Reservoir were examined and all were free from coliform bacteria, and out of a total of 95 tap samples at scattered points throughout the rural area 94 were free from any form of coliform bacteria, the remaining sample containing intermediate bacteria only. A further 29 samples from hydrants were taken in 1947 in the Burntwood, Whittington and Elford districts, and all were free from coliform bacteria.

" No samples taken during 1947 within the Lichfield Rural area supplied by the Company shewed the presence of faecal bact. Coli. Owing to the number of supplying stations the complexity of distribution, and the relatively large area involved, wide variations are found in the chemical composition of the waters supplied in the area ; thus the hardness of the water averaged during 1947 :—

- " 117 parts per million at Chase Terrace.
- " 184 parts per million at Hamstall Ridware.
- " 213 parts per million at Little Aston.
- " 218 parts per million at Thorpe Constantine.
- " 274 parts per million at Fradley Aerodrome.

" The December analyses for these 5 points are enclosed.

3. " The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, but tap samples are examined periodically for any traces of lead.

4. " Chlorination is carried out at most of the pumping stations, but this is largely precautionary.

" In all cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of service reservoirs, etc., or laying of new mains, emergency chlorination is performed and special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. The main or service reservoir is not brought back into service until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. (a). " The number of dwelling houses supplied direct at 31st December, 1947, was 6,901, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 4.5 persons per house, was 31,054.

(b). " The number of houses supplied by means of standpipes during 1947 is not readily obtainable, but at a recent census which was undertaken for another purpose the number of houses supplied from standpipes was 121, or an estimated population of 544 persons served by this means based on the average of 4.5 persons per house.

" I regret that it is not possible to give this information separately in respect of each Parish without a fresh census, for which I have not sufficient staff available for the time being. In view, however, of the relatively small number of standpipes in use in your Council's area, I trust that the lack of this additional information will be of no serious consequence."

The five analyses referred to by Mr. Robertson indicated that the waters to which they referred were of quite satisfactory quality.

It is understood that the precautionary measures adopted by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board are substantially the same as the above.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.**1st April, 1947—31st March, 1948.**

The Council's Public Cleansing Service is carried out partly by Direct Labour and partly by Contract, and the whole of the District is now serviced. The Direct Labour Service was extended in April, 1947, and now includes the whole of Burntwood, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Fazeley, Hints, Shenstone, Wall and Wigginton Parishes and part of Hammerwich Parish. Throughout this area the Council maintained a regular weekly collection. Two additional vehicles were purchased for the work, but because of the difficulties experienced by the manufacturers in the winter of 1946/47, delivery of these vehicles was not made in time to bring them into operation for the 1st April, 1947. One vehicle was delivered in May, 1947, and the remaining vehicle in February, 1948. As a result the Council had to use hired vehicles at some considerable expense, but it is pleasing to note that in spite of this and other difficulties the average cost per house for the year was only slightly above the estimated annual expenditure. Improvements in the expenditure of this Service are desirable and close attention is being given towards this end.

Mention should be made of the inadequate and insufficient provision of ashbins, particularly in the mining areas of the District. There are many hundreds of houses where ashbins are worn out and considerable time is wasted in having to clear up ashes deposited in heaps on the back yards. It may well be that as soon as conditions permit an advantage would be obtained by the Council operating its own ashbin service and ensuring that every house is supplied with a sufficient ashbin. An ashbin at every house would permit a considerable saving in costs for the whole Service.

The Council's Cesspool Emptying Service has been maintained throughout the year. The fees have been reduced to 15/- per annum for twice yearly emptying or 10/- per cesspool for an individual emptying. It is hoped that more advantage will be taken of this service by residents in the District.

In the year under review considerable success was attained in our efforts to obtain Salvage. Over 130 tons of waste paper, rags and sacking were disposed of through appropriate trade channels.

		£	s.	d.
Salvage Income	..	983	11	7
Salvage Expenditure	..	691	12	9
Net Profit	.. ..	291	18	10

It is unlikely that this success will be repeated, but every endeavour is being made to maintain the collection of Salvage at a high level. The need for householders to preserve and save every scrap of material is as urgent to-day as at any time during the war years.

**STATEMENT OF THE COST OF HOUSE REFUSE
REMOVAL FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1948.**

DIRECT LABOUR

Parish	No. of Houses	Expenditure	Average Annual Cost per House
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Burntwood	2636	2010 14 8	15 3
Curborough and Elmhurst	30	14 10 11	9 8
Drayton Bassett	50	59 18 6	1 3 11
Fazeley	1030	912 16 4	17 9
Hammerwich and Wall ..	558	547 18 10	19 8
Hints	60	76 0 11	1 5 4
Shenstone	1052	1303 8 6	1 4 9
Wigginton	248	271 15 8	1 1 11
Total by Direct Labour	5664	5197 4 4	18 4

CONTRACT

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Alrewas, Kings Bromley and Streethay	680	450 0 0	13 3
Armitage with Handsacre	500	500 0 0	1 0 0
Brindley Heath and St. Augustines	225	221 0 0	19 8
Clifton Campville	92	66 13 0	14 6
Colton	150	140 0 0	18 8
Edingale	80	61 19 0	15 6
Elford	95	74 8 0	15 8
Farewell and Chorley ..	60	75 0 0	1 5 0
Hammerwich	230	229 18 9	1 0 0
Hamstall Ridware	54	60 0 0	1 2 3

Parish	No. of Houses	Expenditure	Average Annual Cost per House
Harlaston	70	57 0 0	16 3
Longdon	410	400 0 0	19 6
Mavesyn Ridware ..	100	144 15 0	1 8 7
Swinfen and Packington	30	30 0 0	1 0 0
Thorpe Constantine ..	30	30 0 0	1 0 0
Weeford	95	150 0 0	1 11 7
Whittington	270	160 0 0	11 10
Total by Contract ..	3171	2850 13 9	18 0
Total by Direct Labour	5664	5197 4 4	18 4
Cost of Supervision and Tip Attendance ..		724 8 0	
Total Cost per House ..	8835	8772 6 1	19 10

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

As a result of inspections made, largely owing to complaints received from tenants the following defects were remedied in dwelling houses in the district during the year. No large scale inspections were made of properties during the year for purposes of examination as to want of repair owing to the fact of the continued shortage of materials and labour which only permits very essential work of repair to be carried out.

Defective or insufficient closet accommodation	30
Defective, insufficient or obstructed drainage	41
Defective roofs, spouting, external brickwork, etc.	78
Insufficient or defective light or ventilation	20
Dampness	17
Water Supply	19
Offensive accumulations	20
Overcrowding	4
Defective plaster, floors, and other internal defects	212
Defective ashbins	33
Defective yard paving	30
Vermin infestation	8
Miscellaneous	14

In addition, nuisances were abated as follows :—

Refuse Tips	5
River and Stream Pollution	2
Schools	1
Storage and Preparation of Foodstuffs Premises	1

HOUSING.

At the end of the year under review the progress made with the post war building programme in the district was as follows :—

	Temporary Houses	Council Houses	Private Houses
Completed	100	90	43
Building in progress	46	160	47

Though considerable, and in comparison with other comparable districts satisfactory, it is to be regretted that it has not been possible to proceed with the erection of new houses at a more rapid rate. I trust that the time is not far distant when the occupiers of a number of worn out properties in the district, some of which are already the subject of demolition orders, can be rehoused by the Council and the vacated houses demolished.

Rural Housing Survey.

Owing to staff shortage it was not possible to proceed further with this survey during the course of the year, but it is hoped it will be completed during 1948. The 4,077 houses which have already been surveyed have been classified as follows :—

1. Satisfactory in all respects	1853
2. Minor defects	1001
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	999
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	65
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	159
Total	4077

Squatters.

I made mention in my 1946 report of the fact that squatters had taken possession of huts on disused Service sites in two parishes in the district, viz., a Radiolocation Camp in Drayton Bassett, and part of the R.A.F. Station, Brindley Heath. During the course of 1947 it was found, due to various reasons, that part of the drainage facilities at the former site were unsatisfactory and a scheme of improvement was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. No doubt these works will be completed during 1948. In the course of the year several of the huts at the R.A.F. Station deteriorated into a dangerous condition and it became necessary to demolish them. The occupiers secured or were provided with alternative accommodation.

Towards the close of the year a further portion of the latter camp was entered by squatters. This site, known as the Communal Site was of considerable extent, but only about half a dozen families entered into occupation. The huts comprising this site and the general sanitary and other arrangements serving it were of considerably better type than those above referred to, and the Council therefore decided to transfer the occupants from a portion of the Camp already occupied, known as "A" site, consisting of 22 huts, several occupied by more than one family, to this Communal Site as soon as various works could be completed to the huts to render them reasonably fit for occupation. At the close of the year attention was still being devoted to this matter.

Temporary occupation of Condemned Houses.

Following the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular dated September, 1940, issued under the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, enabling local authorities to permit persons rendered homeless as a result of enemy action to occupy void condemned properties which could be put into a state of cleanliness and reasonable repair under a six months renewable licence, the Council issued 14 licences, one of which was not used, and 4 have since been cancelled leaving 9 houses still occupied and re-licensed each six months. Several of these are in very poor shape but it seems that owing to the continued shortage of houses the occupations will have to be continued until the situation eases.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In my report for 1946 I referred to a serious pollution of a tributary of the river Trent by a trade waste, from a newly established manufactory, and said that as a result of action taken by the Rural District Council, the County Council and the River Trent Catchment Board considerable purification work was in hand at the end of the year. During the year under review these purification works were completed, but the resultant effluent did not show the degree of improvement for which I had hoped, although the degree of pollution of the brook course was lessened. The matter is still being kept under review and possibly the situation will improve when the new work has had longer opportunity to stabilise itself.

RAT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Shortly after this Order came into operation, the Council accepted from the County Council delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, to deal with infestations of rats or mice arising in their district.

Since the appointment of a part-time rodent operator more attention has been possible in dealing with this problem.

During the year nine complaints from private individuals were dealt with, and in every instance the treatment, carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Food, was found to be effective. In the main infestations were due to the presence of fowl-pens which, unless they are raised several inches off the ground, provide good harbourage for rats.

Seventeen treatments were made at Council owned property, such as Council Houses, Refuse Tips and Sewage Works.

In all 145 visits were made to rat infestations throughout the District amounting to 180 hours of the rodent operator's employment. A small charge is made to cover expenses incurred at private property and the amount recovered in this manner was £6 14s. 9d.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

During the year the following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and disposed of in appropriate manner.

Article	Cause for Condemnation	Weight
1½ lbs. Plaice	Unsound ..	1½ lbs.
11 lbs. Whiting	Unsound ..	11 lbs.
140 lbs. Fish Fillets	Unsound ..	140 lbs.
8 lbs. Hake	Unsound ..	8 lbs.
26 Large boxes Cod Fillet	Unsound ..	14 lbs.
2 Small boxes Smoked Haddock	Unsound ..	7 lbs.
178 tins Evaporated Milk	Unsound ..	322 lbs.
8 cases Evaporated Milk	Unsound ..	240 lbs.
14½ lbs. Bacon	Unsound ..	14½ lbs.
1 cwt. Danish Butter	Unsound ..	112 lbs.
59½ lbs. National Butter	Unsound ..	59½ lbs.
1 case of Dates	Unsound ..	70 lbs.
65 lbs. Luncheon Sausage	Unsound ..	65 lbs.
3 x 30 lbs. Dried Californian Peaches	Unsound ..	90 lbs.
25 lbs. Cheese	Unsound ..	25 lbs.
15 cwt. Oat Husks	Contaminated ..	1680 lbs.
81 lbs. Corned Beef	Unsound ..	81 lbs.
1 Pork Pie	Unsound ..	1 lb.
25 lbs. Prunes	Unsound ..	25 lbs.
120 lbs. Sultanias	Unsound ..	120 lbs.
4 tins Marmalade	Unsound ..	13 lbs.
12 tins Australian Peaches	Unsound ..	30 lbs.
3 tins Plums	Unsound ..	6 lbs.
2 tins Rhubarb	Unsound ..	4 lbs.
24 tins Smedley's Potatoes	Unsound ..	24 lbs.
98 tins Carrots	Unsound ..	98 lbs.
4 tins Baked Beans	Unsound ..	4 lbs.
2 tins Pilchards	Unsound ..	2 lbs.
1 tin Grade III Salmon	Unsound ..	1 lb.
1 tin Mackerel	Unsound ..	1 lb.
2 tins Grade II Salmon	Unsound ..	2 lbs.
1½ Grade I Salmon	Unsound ..	1½ lbs.
1½ Grade II Salmon	Unsound ..	1½ lbs.
1½ Grade III Salmon	Unsound ..	1½ lbs.
2 x ¼ Grade I Salmon	Unsound ..	1 lb.
1 x ½ Pilchards	Unsound ..	½ lb.
1 Heinz Soup	Unsound ..	1 lb.
3 tins Baked Beans	Unsound ..	3 lbs.
1 tin Irish Stew	Unsound ..	1 lb.
1 jar Beetox	Unsound ..	¾ lb.
1 tin Libby's Meat Soup	Unsound ..	1 lb.
1 tin Libby's Fruit Salad	Unsound ..	1 lb.
12 ozs. Kam Pork	Unsound ..	¾ lb.
14 cartons Prunes	Unsound ..	14 lbs.
Total Weight =		3300 lbs.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For many years the Rural District Council has operated an Ambulance Service for the use of its inhabitants. The present vehicle is of Austin make and is garaged at the Council's depot in Lichfield.

The service is free to all rural district inhabitants who are in need of transport as stretcher cases to or from hospital, institution, treatment centre, etc., and is also used when called for in cases of road accidents. An arrangement is in operation with the Mid-Staffs. Joint Hospital Board for any of the Board's infectious cases occurring in or near to this district to be transported in the event of their vehicle being out of commission. Arrangements have also been made with the County Council for the transport of local maternity cases to hospital when called for.

A valuable mutual-aid arrangement exists between the Council and several other adjoining districts who operate similar services and this system is frequently made use of.

The Service is fully at the disposal of the Lichfield City Council and many cases are undertaken for them at the normal fees payable by all non-resident users of the vehicles.

The British Red Cross Society, which has a live local detachment, also own an ambulance which is garaged near the Council's vehicle, and by arrangement this vehicle is at the disposal of the Council at all times at an agreed scale of charges, and many calls are undertaken by this vehicle on emergency occasions.

The cases dealt with during the year under review are as follows :—

Accidents	..	..	..	..	55
Immediate removal to Hospital	..			..	39
Infectious cases	..	..	..	..	16
Maternity Cases	..	..	..	..	48
Other calls	..	..	..	..	368
Total calls					526

The total mileage run during the year by the Council's vehicle was 13,166.

These figures represent a considerable increase over those for 1946, when the number of cases removed was 410 and the mileage involved 11,432.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the County of York, 1934.
Published, 1935.

II - INFECTIOUS AND ZOO

Provisional

Provisional with amendments to be
submitted to the Council for
approval. The Council may also
refer the matter to the Health
Committee for consideration.

Total

Provisional

Year of completion

Overseas

Expenditure on research

Expenditure on research

Expenditure on research

Expenditure on research
Expenditure on research
Expenditure on research

Total

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
in the COUNTY OF STAFFORD, on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE

Premises.			
Factories with mechanical power	..	..	...
Factories without mechanical power	..	..	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and ing construction but not including outworkers' premises)			...
TOTAL	..	..	...

2.—DEFECTS

Particulars.			
Want of cleanliness	..	..	...
Overcrowding	..	..	...
Unreasonable temperature	..	..	...
Inadequate ventilation	..	..	...
Ineffective drainage of floors		..	...
Sanitary Conveniences	{ insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes		
TOTAL	..	..	...

1947, for the RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD,
 tion of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the

OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
..	10	1	..
..	2	..	..
eer-	...	..	..
..
..	12	1	...

FOUND.

	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
...
...
...
...
...
...	3	1	...	...
...
...
..	3	1	..	..

RONALD E. JOHNSON, Medical Officer of Health.

