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Borough of Nuneaton.

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# Annual Report

of the

# Medical Officer of Health for 1920.

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A. MIDDLETON HEWAT, M.D., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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Nuneaton:

" NUNEATON CHRONICLE " LIMITED,  
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# Members of the Council of the Borough of Nuneaton.

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\*His Worship The Mayor - - Alderman J. Randle, J.P.

\*Deputy-Mayor - - - - - Alderman T. Horton, J.P.  
(Chairman of Health Committee.)

Alderman W. T. Bates, J.P. Alderman C. Reader.

\* „ W. French „ T. W. Sands, J.P.

„ E. F. Melly, J. P. \* „ R. W. Swinnerton,  
M.B.E., J.P.

\*Councillor H. Axon.

\*Councillor W. E. Mycock.

\* „ G. Bailey.

\* „ F. P. Pembleton.

„ S. C. Buckerfield.

\* „ F. Price.

„ J. A. Cartwright.

\* „ L. E. Price

„ H. Chamberlain.

(Vice-Chairman of  
Health Committee.)

„ W. Cooper.

\* „ W. Croshaw.

\* „ A. Roberts.

„ H. Davies.

„ G. H. Taylor.

\* „ C. H. Dawson.

„ W. Taylor.

„ S. Deeming.

„ W. F. Warr.

„ F. Harrison.

„ J. H. Whitehouse.

„ D. King.

\* „ G. A. Wolfendale.

„ W. E. Lester.

\* Members of the Health Committee.



## STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

As at December 31st, 1920.

Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Superintendent of the  
Isolation Hospital:—

A. MIDDLETON HEWAT, M.D., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Medical  
Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital:—

A. A. WOOD, M.D., Ch.B. (Liverpool).

Medical Officers for Infant Welfare:—

A. A. WOOD, M.D., Ch.B. (Liverpool).

W. ASHWORTH, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.).

Chief Inspector of Nuisances and Inspector of Canal Boats;  
Inspector under the Milkshops, Cowsheds, and Dairies' Order;  
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts:—

G. W. ANDREW, Cert. R.S.I.

Junior Inspector of Nuisances; Inspector under the Shops Act  
and Market and Meat Inspector:—

F. W. MORTIMER, Cert. R.S.I. (Resigned June, 1920).

R. H. MATHER, Cert. R.S.I. (Appointed August, 1920).

Matron of Isolation Hospital:—

‡ Miss E. R. DUGGAN.

Health Visitors:—

\* Mrs. G. N. ABBOTT, C.M.B. \* Miss F. A. WILKINS, C.M.B.

\* Miss E. PASSEY, C.M.B.

Clerks:—

Miss W. WOOD.

Miss I. BIGGS.

In addition to the above officials appointed by the Borough  
Council, the following are also engaged in Public Health work in  
the Borough, under the control of the County Council:—

Assistant Tuberculosis Officer:—

R. J. CYRIAX, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Tuberculosis Nurse and Health Visitor:

Miss E. PAKES, C.M.B.

Inspector under Foods and Drugs Act:—

J. E. PRESTON.

‡ Fever Training Certificate as Nurse.

\* General Training Certificate as Nurse.

# BOROUGH OF NUNEATON.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
NEWDEGATE PLACE,  
NUNEATON,

*April, 1921.*

## **To the Chairman & Members of the Health Committee of the Borough of Nuneaton.**

GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1920, this being my second report as your Medical Officer of Health.

The year 1920 has seen considerable enlargement of the scope of your Infant Welfare department, including the erection of the new Infant Welfare Centre in Coton Road. Without doubt, in an industrial area such as this the question of infant mortality is one which should receive the greatest attention. In the body of my report I have dealt with this subject in detail.

Another question which has occupied much time and consideration has been the provision of accommodation at the Fever Hospital for the isolation and treatment of Diphtheria.

At the present time it is impossible to treat more than one infectious disease at one time at the Hospital, and it is a matter of great regret to me that the Council has not yet seen fit to provide the necessary additional accommodation.

As I write, the Corporation Bill for the provision of a further water supply is before the House of Commons Committee, and it is hoped that it will receive the sanction of Parliament.

Steps are also being taken towards the improvement of our Sewage Disposal works, and if the additions are carried out on the lines proposed by your Borough Surveyor I am convinced that the efficiency of the works will be very materially increased and the effluent into the River Anker be of satisfactory quality.

In the body of my report, under the heading of "Vital Statistics," I deal in detail with our vital statistics for the year 1920, compared with previous years since 1899, and with the corresponding rates for other towns. It will be seen from these figures that for an industrial area our record is most satisfactory, and will bear comparison with that of any other similar town with which I am acquainted.



The members of the Sanitary Staff have worked well and loyally throughout the year and have not hesitated to undertake much additional work, in the way of special reports, which I have required from them.

My thanks are due, for much help in the compilation of this report, to the Borough Surveyor, Mr. R. C. Moon, and to the Inspectors of Nuisances, Mr. G. W. Andrew and Mr. R. H. Mather.

Mr. Moon is responsible for all the figures dealing with water supply and sewage disposal, while much of the detailed information in connection with sanitary matters has been supplied to me by the Inspectors of Nuisances.

I have endeavoured during the year to draw the attention of the Health Committee to many matters in connection with the sanitary administration of the town, which should receive their special attention, and I am grateful to the Committee for their encouragement in dealing with various unsatisfactory sanitary conditions in the town.

I would draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that however much we may do in the way of improving the general sanitation of the town, much still remains to be done through the education of the people as to the methods of healthy living.

One cannot too frequently urge the importance of such matters as care of the teeth of both adults and children, the doctrine of fresh air and the open window, improvements in the present-day dietary of the working-class, and particularly in the most nutritious methods of cooking, knowledge as to the diet and upbringing of infants, and instruction in the early symptom of diseases such as cancer and tuberculosis.

The Members of the Health Committee, who month by month are brought personally in touch with these matters, can thus in their everyday life act as apostles of the doctrine of health. They will find that they probably, as laymen, will receive much more attention from the average man in the street than those of us who by profession are engaged in this work.

Finally, I would urge the Committee, in their deliberations as to improvements in the sanitary conditions of the Borough, and the provision of medical needs, to give the factor of human life its due weight in the scales of justice when set against the undoubted necessity for municipal economy.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. MIDDLETON HEWAT,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1920.

I give below the important Vital Statistics for the Borough for the year 1920, compared with those of 1919, and with the average figures for the 148 towns in England having populations of between 20,000 and 50,000.

These latter figures enable us to compare the health statistics of Nuneaton with other towns of a similar size, and it is satisfactory that we are considerably below the average as regards death-rate (9.6, compared with 11.3) and above the average as regards birth-rate (29.5, compared with 24.9). Unfortunately we show up somewhat badly regarding the infantile death-rate, having a rate of 83 per 1,000 births, compared with the average rate of 80. This indicates that increasing attention must be paid to this important side of public health work.

	Nuneaton.		148 Towns.	
	1919	1920	1920	
Estimated population to middle of the year .....	41,146	41,128	20,000/50,000	
Birth-rate .....	22.7	... 29.5	...	24.9
Death-rate .....	10.9	... 9.6	...	11.3
Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births) .....	92	... 83	...	80
Death-rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years (per 1,000 births) .....	6.4	... 7.6	...	7.8
Influenza Death-rate .....	0.67	... 0.24	...	0.27
Diphtheria Death-rate .....	0.02	... 0.07	...	0.14
Scarlet Fever Death-rate .....	0.00	... 0.00	...	0.03
Measles Death-rate .....	0.12	... 0.02	...	0.19
Whooping Cough Death-rate ...	0.20	... 0.00	...	0.10
Zymotic Death-rate .....	0.26	... 0.31	Not available	
Death-rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	0.83	... 0.62	..	..
Death-rate from other Tubercular Diseases .....	0.22	... 0.26	..	..
Respiratory Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis) .....	2.40	... 1.74	..	..
Cancer Death-rate .....	0.70	... 0.76	..	..
Rateable Value .....	£157,478			

With the one exception quoted above, namely the Infantile Mortality, the rates for Nuneaton are better than those for the average of the 148 towns.

As this is essentially a working-class town, and as the 148 towns include among them many residential resorts, such as Leamington, Scarborough, Buxton, etc., our figures are an even greater source of satisfaction than if they were compared merely with other working-class towns.



TABLE I.

**Vital Statistics of Whole District During 1920 and Previous Years.**  
**NUNEATON BOROUGH.**

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1915	38652	1053	1053	27.2	538	13.9	13	17	123	116	542	14.0
1916	40908 } 37599 }	1008	1008	24.6	441	11.7	20	15	79	78	436	11.5
1917	42004 } 37681 }	958	958	22.8	458	12.1	39	18	92	96	440	11.6
1918	40817 } 36429 }	891	891	22.0	602	16.5	22	22	90	100	602	16.5
1919	41146 } 39499 }	936	936	22.7	433	10.9	22	23	86	92	434	10.9
1920	41128	1220	1220	29.5	397	9.6	16	16	102	83	397	9.6



## VITAL STATISTICS, POPULATION.

In April, 1911, the Census Return showed the population of the Borough to be 37,073. The population estimated for the middle of 1919 by the Registrar-General is 41,074, but as we know locally that 41,128 persons were in possession of food tickets in June, 1920, this is the minimum figure we can accept as our population, and I have accordingly based all our vital statistics on this population of 41,128.

### DETAILS OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.

I estimate the population of the various Wards in the Borough for the middle of 1920 to be as follows:—

Ward	Area in acres.	Estimated population.	Persons per acre
St. Nicholas .....	3497.3	9580	2.7
St. Mary's .....	929.2	8852	9.5
Stockingford .....	2113.0	10254	4.8
Chilvers Coton .....	4056.4	12442	3.06

The natural increase of population in the Borough for the year 1920 was 846, compared with 503 in 1919. Allowing five persons per house, this means the population of 169 houses.

### OCCUPATIONS.

Coal mining certainly comes first in the list of Nuneaton's industries, since it employs the great majority of the male population. It is upon this easily available supply of coal that the rest of Nuneaton's industries are to a large extent based.

Agriculture is represented by some 68 farms, and finds employment for a large number of persons; the railways, particularly the L.N.W., find employment for a large number of men.

The textile industries of Nuneaton include weaving—ribbon weaving, plush weaving, pile, tapestry, sealskins, mohair, velvet, upholstered cloths, silk goods, moirettes, tartans, and satins; worsted spinning and the manufacture of hosiery and women's wear; ready-made clothing; elastic and general webbing, including all manner of articles manufactured from woven rubber, and woven belts of all descriptions; knitted hosiery and caps.

Besides the textile industries there are numerous other manufactures, including—hats; sports requisites; needles; machinery, especially coal heading and tunnelling machinery, and brick-making machinery: box-making, and the manufacture of wooden boot-heels. Dye works have recently been established in the town.

One of the industries occupying a large amount of male labour is the manufacture of bricks and tiles, an extensive industry in the town.

Most of the industries named above employ both male and female labour, and a large amount of female labour is, of course, employed in connection with the textile industries.



Nuneaton is fortunate in that it possesses such a great variety of occupations, since in the event of a slump in any one particular trade the town is not so severely hit financially as are towns depending on one variety of trade only.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Nuneaton is situated in the North-Eastern corner of Warwickshire, 20 miles east of Birmingham, 18 miles west of Leicester, and 9 miles north of Coventry.

The town is served by both the L.N.W. and Midland Railways; there being four passenger stations in the Borough and a large number of goods sidings. In addition, Nuneaton is served by the Coventry Canal, which links it up with the chief canal system of England.

The town is ideally situated for home trade, being practically in the centre of England, and has excellent railway facilities to all parts of the country, hence it is rapidly developing as an industrial centre.

The Borough has an area of 10,596 acres, and has a population at present of 41,128; there are thus only 3.8 persons per acre. This allows plenty of room for future developments, both in the way of factories and houses.

The town lies at, roughly, 267 feet above Ordnance Datum, and rises on the north and west to 480 feet above Ordnance Datum. Geologically the district is on red marl.

There is a service of motor buses in the Borough, and this will shortly be improved so as to link up the town with the surrounding districts.

The inhabitants belong, for the greater part, to the artizan and working-classes.

## DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 397; 16 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 16 Nuneaton residents died in other districts and have been added to our number. The nett deaths thus number 397, giving a death-rate of 9.6 per 1,000, compared with 10.9 for last year, and 11.3 for other towns of a similar size.

Divided into their respective Wards, they are as follows:—

Ward	Males	Females.	Total.	Death-rate.
St. Nicholas .....	62	48	110	11.4
St. Mary .....	48	44	92	10.3
Steckinford .....	46	46	92	8.9
Chilvers Coton .....	52	51	103	8.2
	208	189	397	

Table 3, page 12, gives the causes of death during the year from which it will be noticed that Influenza was responsible this year for only 10 deaths, as compared with 27 during 1919. Similarly, Pulmonary Tuberculosis only caused 26 deaths, as against 33 in 1919.

Cancer, however, shows a slight increase, there having been 32 deaths, as compared with 28 in 1919. Circulars of instruction on this disease continue to be distributed by the Health Visitors.

Heart Disease accounts for 46 deaths, as compared with 51 in 1919.

The number of deaths from Pneumonia rose from 23 in 1919 to 38 in 1920, and of these 15 occurred in infants under 1 year of age.

A large number of deaths included under the heading of "Other Defined Diseases" were caused by old age, no fewer than 58 being persons over 65 years of age.

I am still of the opinion, expressed in my report for 1919, that none of the occupations exercise any particularly bad effect on the health of those engaged in them.



TABLE III.  
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES.														TOTAL.			
	Under 1.		1 and 2.		2 and 3.		5 and 15.		15 and 25.		25 and 45.		45 and 65.		65 and upwards.		10	M F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9			
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Para-Typhoid) ...																		1
Small-pox ...			1															
Measles ...																		
Scarlet Fever ...																		
Whooping-cough ...																		
Diphtheria ...																		
Influenza ...	2		1				1		2		2							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...					1		1		3		3		5		2			
Tuberculous Meningitis ...					1		1		2		3							
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1			1		1		1		2		8		2			
Cancer, malignant disease											1		4		3			
Rheumatic Fever ...											1		1		5			
Meningitis ...	1						2											
Organic Heart Disease	1	2					1		1		3		4		8			
Bronchitis ...	8	4	1								1		4		4			
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	8	7	1	1	4	0	2	2	3	0	1	3	2	3	1			
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...									1				1		1			

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1920.—Continued.

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Diarrhoea etc. (under 2 yrs.)	6	3					1										6	3
Appendicitis and Typhilitis																	4	0
Cirrhosis of Liver ...															1		2	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease									1		1						2	1
Puerperal Fever ...									1			2					0	3
Parturition, apart from																		
Puerperal Fever ...												4					0	4
Congenital Deceit...	18	20															18	20
Violent Deaths, exclud-																		
ing Suicide ...	1				1	1	1				3				4		10	1
Suicide ...											1				3		4	0
Other Defined Diseases ...	15	4			4	1	1	1	3	2	1	4	7	9	24	34	54	55
All causes—all certified ...	61	41	4	3	10	5	11	9	15	15	21	29	40	55	43	65	205	192



## ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

This death-rate is based on the number of deaths occurring from the seven common epidemic diseases, which are:—Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Epidemic Diarrhœa.

The three last-named are not notifiable diseases, so it is impossible to give the case fatality in respect of them.

The number of deaths which occurred from Zymotic diseases during the year was 13, giving a Zymotic Death-rate of 0.31 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.26 for the year 1919.

I give below the number of notifications received for these diseases, the number of deaths, the death-rate, and the case fatality per cent.

Disease.	Notified.	Died.	Death-rate.	Case fatality per cent.
Small-pox .....	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	187	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	43	3	0.07	6.9
Typhoid Fever .....	0	0	0	0
Measles .....	—	1	0.02	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	0	0	—
Epidemic Diarrhœa .....	—	9	0.21	—

With the exception of the large number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified, the record regarding Zymotic Diseases is good and the mortality very low.

## BIRTH-RATE.

The total number of births registered in the Borough during 1920 was 1,220 (638 males, 582 females), compared with 936 in 1919. This gives a Birth-rate of 29.5 per 1,000 population for 1920, compared with 22.7 for 1919 and 24.9 for towns of a similar size.

Of the 1,220 births 45 were illegitimate.

A high birth-rate is only acceptable to sanitarians if accompanied by a low infantile mortality rate. There is little object in producing a large number of children if a considerable proportion of them die off before reaching the age of one year. Fortunately our high birth-rate last year was accompanied by an infantile mortality rate lower than has ever been recorded in the Borough, except that for the year 1916. It is interesting that for the first complete year after demobilisation our birth-rate should be practically identical with that for the last year before the war (1913), when the rate was 29.4. The average rate for the war years was 24.8, the lowest being 22.0 for the year 1918.

Table V. shows the number of births in each month during the year, and the Wards in which they took place.

TABLE V.  
BIRTHS DURING 1920.

		WARDS									
		St Nicholas		St. Mary's		S'ford.		Chilvers Coton.		Total.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
January		15	19	14	12	13	18	14	12	56	61
Illeg., included in above		1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0		
February		7	18	17	7	14	11	11	13	49	49
Illeg.	"	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
March		17	9	18	18	19	12	26	22	80	61
Illeg.	"	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0		
April		7	8	12	12	15	16	16	12	50	48
Illeg.	"	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0		
May		19	9	18	12	15	14	12	17	64	52
Illeg.	"	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	1		
June		14	13	12	11	15	10	19	20	60	54
Illeg.	"	0	1	3	2	0	0	2	1		
July		13	5	9	9	14	20	19	13	55	47
Illeg.	"	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
August		11	2	10	11	11	9	18	19	50	41
Illeg.	"	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
September		10	10	10	7	10	18	14	11	44	46
Illeg.	"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
October		8	8	14	14	13	15	16	6	51	43
Illeg.	"	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0		
November		8	5	10	10	19	11	9	8	46	34
Illeg.	"	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1		
December		8	9	10	15	7	8	8	14	33	46
Illeg.	"	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1		
Total Births ...										638	582
Total illegitimates (included in above) ...										26	19

### VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1899.

I have prepared in Table VIII. a summary of the vital statistics of the Borough since 1899. At that time it was an Urban District, with a population of 22,356, but became a Borough in 1907. Figures prior to 1899 are not available, and in any case would be of little use for comparative purposes, as the whole character of the district has changed more and more towards the industrial since that date.

Table VIII. gives interesting information as to the improvements in the health of the inhabitants, despite the increase of industrialism. As an example, the death-rate has fallen from 15.2 in 1899 to 9.5 in 1920, a decrease of approximately 35 per cent. in 20 years. The birth-rate has fallen from 36.5 to 29.5, approximately 20 per cent., while the infantile mortality has fallen from 165 to 83, approximately 50 per cent. in the 20 years, so that despite the lowered birth-rate, a larger number of children now actually survive beyond 1 year of age, which, after all, is what is really required.



If the death-rates of 1899 had persisted until 1920 no less than 231 additional persons would have died in the Borough during the year, while the number of our infantile deaths would have been increased by 100.

When some people are so ready to cry out about the expenditure on the Health and Sanitary services of the Borough, surely they should, in fairness, credit these services with the value of the lives annually saved and the amount of sickness prevented; that is, of course, if human life has any value at all in comparison with hard cash!

TABLE VIII.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Infantile	
						Deaths.	Mortality
1899	... 22856	864	36.5	366	15.2	143	165
1900	... 23086	857	35.8	429	18.5	151	171
1901	... 25239	943	37.3	362	14.3	136	144
1902	... 26084	903	34.6	364	13.9	117	131
1903	... 27182	935	34.8	386	14.2	142	151
1904	... 28159	1024	36.3	423	15.0	149	144
1905	... 29709	977	32.8	384	12.7	113	115
1906	... 32255	1043	32.3	420	13.0	167	160
1907	... 32580	1026	30.1	377	11.5	138	134
1908	... 33706	1163	34.5	355	10.5	110	94
1909	... 36041	1135	31.2	378	10.4	104	91
1910	... 37267	1200	32.2	375	10.0	117	97
Average 1901 to 1910:—							
	30822	1034	33.6	382	12.5	129	126
1911	... 37531	1173	31.2	446	11.8	133	113
1912	... 38725	1155	29.6	438	11.3	120	103
1913	... 39636	1166	29.4	467	11.7	122	104
1914	... 40091	1200	29.9	526	13.1	143	119
1915	... 38652	1053	27.2	542	14.0	123	116
1916	... 40908 } 37599 }	1008	24.6	436	11.5	79	78
1917	... 42004 } 37681 }	958	22.8	440	11.6	92	96
1918	... 40817 } 36429 }	891	22.0	602	16.5	90	100
1919	... 41146 } 39499 }	936	22.7	434	10.9	86	92
1920	... 41128	1220	29.5	397	9.6	102	83
Average 1911 to 1920:—							
	38697	1076	26.8	472	12.2	109	100

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year was 433, to which Scarlet Fever contributed 187.

The notifications are analysed according to age and Ward in Table II., while the graph after page 18 shows the weekly incidence of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent in the Borough throughout the



year, but fortunately the cases were fairly evenly distributed in point of time, so that the accommodation at the Isolation Hospital, although severely taxed once or twice, was always able to meet the demands made upon it. In no case where removal to hospital was desirable were we unable to find accommodation.

The Scarlet Fever outbreak seemed to settle in different districts of the town from time to time, and in two instances appeared to be definitely connected with Public Elementary Schools. In these cases thorough examination was made of all the scholars in an endeavour to find mild unrecognised cases of the disease which might be acting as foci of infection. The result of these measures was almost immediately successful in both instances, and the disease cleared up so far as those schools were concerned.

At the time of writing (April, 1921) I am able to state that the disease has, for the time at any rate, ceased to exist in the Borough, there having been no notifications for several weeks.

Throughout the outbreak the character of the disease was very mild, as is evidenced by the fact that no deaths occurred, but this very mildness undoubtedly contributed to the difficulty of dealing with the disease, as many cases were so little affected that no doctor was called in, and the children, after perhaps two days in the house with a "sore throat," were sent back to school.

It was not found necessary to close any schools on account of this disease.

Diphtheria existed in the Borough throughout the year, 43 cases being notified, while 3 deaths were attributed to this cause. In nearly every case the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination.

There is at present no isolation hospital accommodation provided for this disease, and I deal with this matter more fully under the heading of "Isolation Hospital Accommodation," page 20.

The cases throughout the year were sporadic in origin, there being no real focal outbreak and no part of the town specially affected.

The majority of the cases were mild, and the infectivity apparently somewhat low. The contacts of school age of all cases were swabbed and declared free from infection before being allowed to return to school.

Apart from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria there was comparatively little infectious disease in the town. A few cases of Measles, Chicken-pox, and Whooping Cough occurred, but nothing in the nature of a serious outbreak. After the first month or two of the year measles were practically non-existent.

No case of Typhoid Fever was notified during the year.

Cases of the non-notifiable infectious diseases (e.g., Measles, Mumps, etc.) are notified to me by the Head Teachers of the Schools, and thus the Health Department is enabled to keep in touch with these diseases in the Borough.

Sixty-five cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, the majority being during the months of March and April, when, as will be seen from the chart after page 18, this disease was prevalent. Medical men are, without doubt, notifying pneumonia more readily than formerly, particularly when it occurs in children under five, for whom the services of the Health Visitors are available.

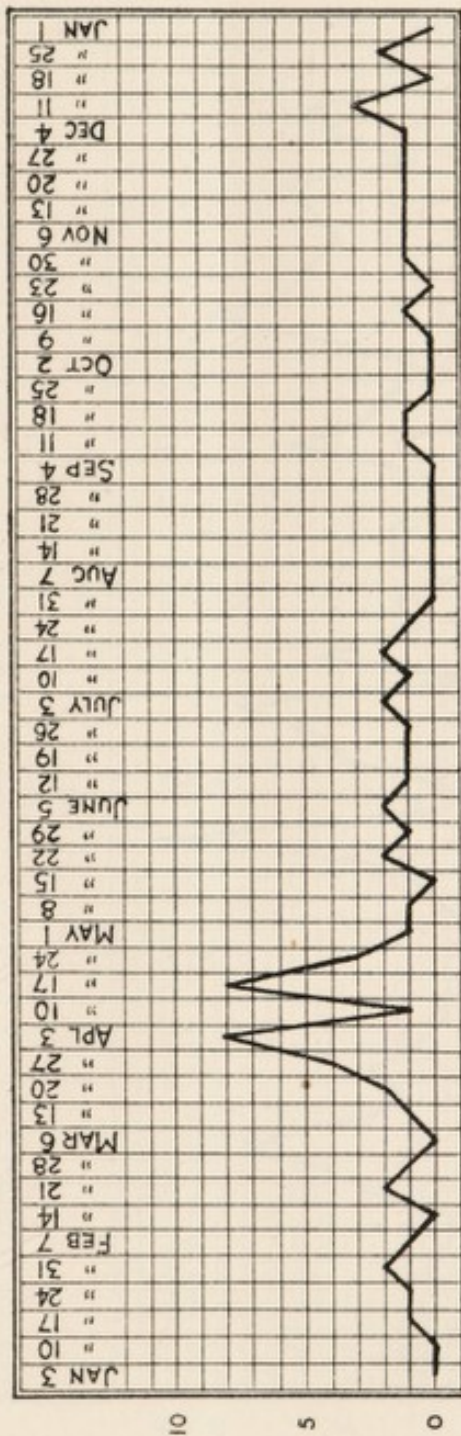
TABLE II.  
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified During the Year 1920

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	At all Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.				Total Cases Removed to Hospital	
		At Ages.—Years.							St. Nicholas Ward.	St. Mary's Ward.	Stockingford Ward.	Chilvers Cotton Ward.		
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards						
Smallpox ... ..														
Cholera ... ..														
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ... ..	43	1	6	30	6				5	7	15	16		
Erysipelas ... ..	12		1			6	5			2	3	5		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	187	2	37	135	6	7			80	11	32	64		150
Typhus Fever ... ..														
Enteric Fever ... ..														
Relapsing Fever ... ..														
Continued Fever ... ..	6				4	2			1	3	2	0		
Purperal Fever ... ..	1			1						1				
Cerebrospinal Meningitis ... ..														
Poliomyelitis ... ..	75	0	2	17	21	28	6	1	16	13	27	19		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	29	2	7	11	1	6	1	1	9	7	10	3		
Other Forms Tuberculosis ... ..	64	7	6	12	8	17	10	4	15	13	10	26		
Pneumonia ... ..	7				1	6				4	1	2		
Malaria ... ..														
Dysentery ... ..	9	9							2	4	2	1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..														
Total ... ..	433								130	65	102	136		



WEEK ENDING

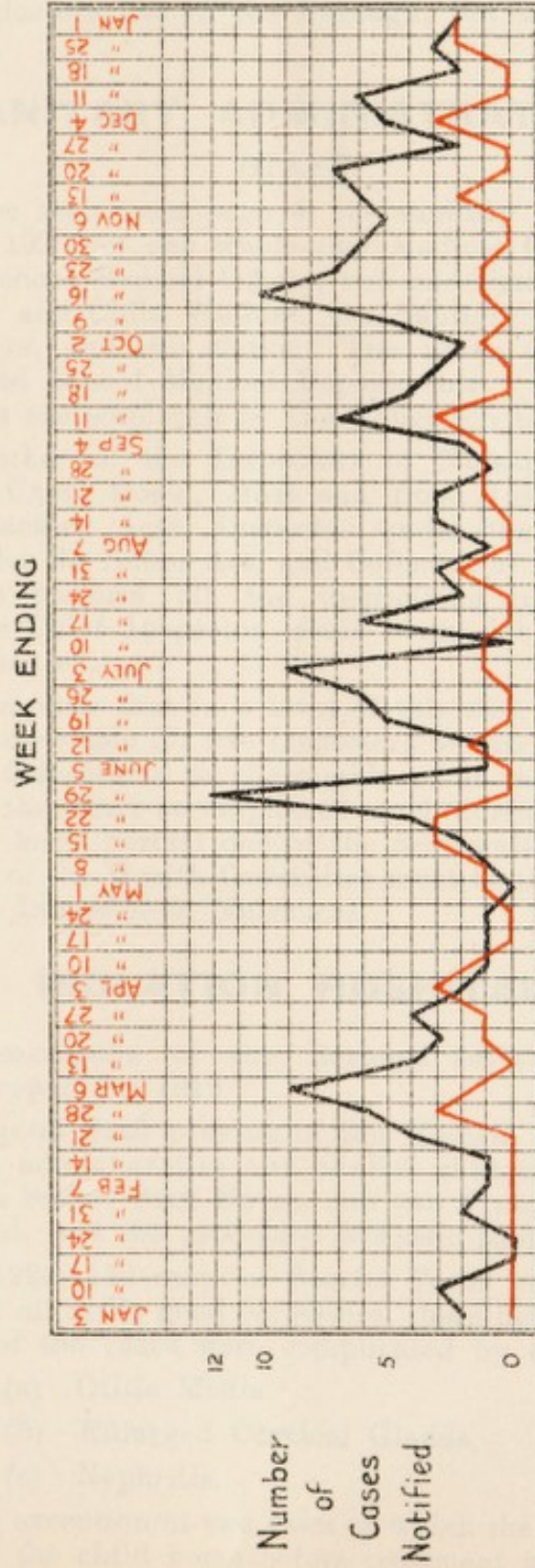
PNEUMONIA



Number  
of  
Cases  
Notified.



# MEDICAL CERTIFICATES AND HOSPITALS



SCARLET FEVER - BLACK  
DIPHTHERIA - RED





## MEDICAL PROVISIONS AND HOSPITALS.

These are exactly as fully detailed in my report for 1919, with the exception that the number of doctors now in general practice in the Borough is 13, compared with 12 last year. In addition three other doctors live in the Borough, but are not in general practice.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### STAFF.

As will be seen from page 4, the sanitary staff of the town consisted, in 1920, of one whole-time Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer, two part-time Medical Officers for Maternity and Child Welfare, two Sanitary Inspectors, three Health Visitors, and two clerks. The clerks are joint between the Health and School Medical Departments. In addition, two School Nurses are employed by the Education Committee.

One or other of the Inspectors of Nuisances acts also as Inspector of Canal Boats, Meat and Food Inspector, Inspector under the Factory Acts, Inspector under the Petroleum Act, Inspector under the Shops Act, and Collector of Market Tolls. In addition, they perform all the inspections under the Housing Acts, and the Chief Inspector deals with all applications for Corporation houses.

It will be clear that in a town of this size, with these added duties, it is impossible for two inspectors to carry out the sanitary and housing inspections as thoroughly as is desirable, although by hard work they have accomplished much during the year. When times become more normal one of the first matters to receive the consideration of the Health Committee must be the appointment of an additional Inspector of Nuisances.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A full description of the Borough Isolation Hospital was given in my report for 1919.

The Hospital Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, who has both administrative and clinical charge of the Hospital; the Matron, a Sister, Staff Nurse, and two Probationers, with one male attendant, and the necessary domestic staff.

During 1920, 150 cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in the Hospital, and all made good recoveries, there being no deaths.

Several of the cases were complicated by the following:—

- (a) Otitis Media.
- (b) Enlarged Cervical Glands.
- (c) Nephritis.

With the exception of two cases in which the parents requested the return of the child home before treatment was concluded, all cases with complications were kept in hospital until the complications had entirely cleared up.



The Hospital was kept extremely busy throughout the year, the maximum being reached in October, when 34 patients were in the Hospital at one time, although theoretically the accommodation is only for 22. The average length of stay in hospital was 48 days.

Much credit is due to the Matron and her staff for carrying on so successfully throughout the year, despite the difficulties of obtaining suitable nurses and domestics.

As stated in my report for 1919, the hospital consists of 22 beds for Scarlet Fever, but no accommodation for any other infectious disease.

During the year 1920 the Council has had under consideration the provision of an additional block for diphtheria or other prevalent infectious disease, and it would be as well to outline the various steps taken in the matter.

1. In January, 1920, the Health Committee considered this matter and instructed the Medical Officer of Health and the Borough Surveyor to prepare a scheme for providing 20 beds for diphtheria, or other infectious disease.

2. In March, 1920, the Health Committee considered a scheme for providing such a new block and accommodation for additional staff, at an estimated cost of £7,400, but as it was found that there was considerable probability of the Corporation's Granite Quarry working towards the present site of the Isolation Hospital this scheme was abandoned and instructions given for the preparation of a scheme of a more temporary nature.

3. In June, 1920, the Committee considered plans for a temporary erection on the present site, at an estimated cost of £3,184, this to include provision for 20 beds and additional staff accommodation. This scheme was passed by the Council and forwarded for the approval of the Ministry of Health, in order that a loan might be obtained.

4. At the request of the Ministry, the Chairman of the Health Committee, the Borough Surveyor, and the Medical Officer of Health visited the Ministry on November 23rd, when certain officials of the Ministry explained that they could not see their way to recommend the loan for this purpose, and pointed out that in their opinion the first thing to be done at the Isolation Hospital was the provision of a new administrative block, and suggesting that the present administrative block might be converted to its original use as a ward block.

5. In January, 1921, a scheme on these lines, at an estimated cost of £7,000, was submitted to the Council, but was rejected, and the Health Committee were directed to consider a smaller scheme, making use of the existing buildings.

6. In February, 1921, the Committee considered plans and estimates for the provision of a new block by the conversion of the existing engine-house, which is not now used. The total estimated cost was £1,140, making provision for 5 patients and the necessary additional staff. The Committee recommended that this scheme should be paid for out of revenue, and that no loan should be asked for. This scheme was adopted by the Council.



7. In March, 1921, the Health Committee considered their estimates for the coming year, and it was resolved that the item of £1,400 for the provision and maintenance of this new block at the Isolation Hospital be deleted from the estimates and the expenditure deferred for 12 months. This resolution was agreed to at the following meeting of the Council.

In this connection I append extracts from reports which I have made to the Council from time to time during the year on this matter.

(a) "The cases of Diphtheria which have occurred have occasioned me considerable anxiety, in that we have at present absolutely no means of isolating these cases and treating them with that careful nursing which Diphtheria demands. I have had strong protests against this state of affairs from two doctors in the Borough, and it certainly is a blot on the sanitary reputation of a town of this size that no such accommodation exists.

"I think the Committee should carefully consider the statistics regarding Diphtheria for the last few years. They are as follow:—

Year.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
1912	20	5	25 per cent.
1913	34	7	20 „ „
1914	22	5	23 „ „
1915	14	4	28 „ „
1916	11	2	18 „ „
1917	23	4	17 „ „
1918	62	13	20 „ „
1919	12	1	8 „ „
For 8 years...198		41	20 per cent.

"These figures show that Diphtheria is no stranger to this town, and only good luck in the past has saved us from a serious epidemic such as most Midland towns have had in recent years. The year 1918, with 62 cases, surely points its own moral, and the fact that out of every five cases one died is sufficiently serious, especially as Diphtheria, if diagnosed early, given anti-toxin and properly nursed, need cause a mortality certainly not exceeding 5 per cent., instead of 20 per cent. In Derby, where I was Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and where Diphtheria is treated in the Isolation Hospital, we had in two years (1908 and 1909) 1,323 cases of Diphtheria, with a case mortality of only 5.5 per cent. If such an epidemic occurred in Nuneaton it would represent proportionately 441 cases in two years, and, with our present case mortality, 88 deaths.

"I have dealt with this question in some detail because I believe it is one of the most important matters in the sanitary administration of the town, and I should not be doing my duty if I did not call the attention of the Committee to it.

(b) "Diphtheria, it will be noticed, still continues to remind us of its presence, and of the possibility of a serious outbreak of this disease. Apart altogether from the necessity for the isolation



of such cases in order to prevent the spread of infection, it is absolutely essential that hospital treatment should be provided for this disease. It is, in my opinion, and in the opinion of many doctors in the town, quite impossible to provide in the average working-class home that careful nursing and care which is so essential in the treatment of this disease. It is often impossible to get the mother to realise the danger of allowing a child to sit up in bed or to get out of bed during the first week or two of the disease, when, to all outward appearance the child may, after the first two or three days, appear practically well. The risk of paralysis, heart complications, and even of sudden death is considerable, and can only be guarded against by efficient hospital treatment.

" People in affluent circumstances are able to employ a trained nurse in their homes to look after such cases, but in working-class homes this is impossible; hence my very earnest plea to provide hospital accommodation, even at some expense, for such cases."

It is most unsatisfactory that, after all the time and trouble which has been spent on preparing plans and explaining the position to the Committee and the Council, there is no likelihood of any provision being made for this disease for at least another 12 months. As I said in my report for 1919, the neglect to provide this accommodation is a serious flaw in the sanitary administration of the town, and one that, even despite present financial conditions, I consider, should be remedied without delay.

### **WATER SUPPLY,**

In my report for 1919 I dealt with the present means of obtaining the Borough water supply, namely, from deep wells in the sandstone overlying the coal measures.

It has been realised for some time that the present water supply was barely sufficient to deal with the present needs of the Borough, and certainly insufficient to allow of that expansion which we reasonable hope will take place.

Attempts were made by a Parliamentary Bill in 1919 to obtain further water supply from a deep well sunk at Corley, but this portion of the Bill was defeated.

A Bill is now before Parliament whereby it is hoped to obtain a supply of water, satisfactory both as to quantity and purity, from the Leicester Corporation. As I write this Bill is in the hands of the House of Commons Committee, and it is greatly to be hoped that it will have a successful passage.

The following table shows the quantity of water consumed, daily average, and the source of supply during 1920.

**WATER PUMPED 1920.**

THOUSAND GALLONS.						Rainfall inches	Daily Average Consumption
Month	Whittle- ford Pumping Station	Griff Pumping Station	Robin- son's End Pumping Station	*Midland Quarry	Total		
January ...	19,508	3,190	—	253	22,951	2 57	740,355
February	17,581	2,873	—	216	20,670	1 01	738,214
March ...	17,650	3 146	55	269	21,390	2 21	637,097
April ..	16,981	3 238	749	227	21,195	4 4	706,500
May .	18,725	3,101	—	228	22,054	2 37	711,419
June ...	18,236	4,513	—	240	23,039	2 03	767,966
July ...	18,962	3 168	—	277	22,407	2 94	722,806
August ...	20,090	5,160	299	318	25,867	1 01	834,419
September	18,428	5,812	—	246	24,486	2 08	816,200
October ...	19,175	4,442	—	197	23,814	1 45	768 194
November	18,310	4,081	87	243	22,721	62	757,266
December	16,672	4,659	1,069	236	22,636	1 64	730,193
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>220,368</b>	<b>47,653</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>273,230</b>	<b>23 97</b>	<b>748,575</b>

\* This supply is not used for domestic purposes.

The water was analysed on several occasions during the year and was always reported of good quality, although hard.

There are still a few private wells in the Borough supplying individual houses, and these are kept under observation.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The Borough is drained on the partially separate system, and the sewage gravitates to a Pumping Station in St. Mary's Road, whence it is pumped to the Sewage Works at Hartshill,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant.

I give below a report by the Borough Engineer on the present working of our sewage system and the need for improvements.



## REPORT BY BOROUGH ENGINEER.

" The quantity of sewage treated during 1920 was as follows :—

	Gallons.
At Hartshill Works .....	414,230,000
At Sewage Pumping Station .....	11,400,000
	<hr/> 425,630,000 <hr/>

This quantity is 44,800,000 gallons more than in the previous year.

The rainfall in 1919 was 27.85 inches, and in 1920, 23.19 inches, a decrease of 4.66 inches.

The daily average flow was 1,163,000 gallons, an increase of 122,700 gallons on the daily average of 1919.

Of the quantity treated at Hartshill 374,116,330 were dealt with by the filters, and 40,113,670 gallons were by-passed from the tanks direct on to the land.

Owing to the continual overworking of the filters, due both to unavoidable delay in extending the filtering area, and also to the extreme difficulty in obtaining spare parts for the renewals, the effluent had not been so satisfactory as might have been desired.

The question of extensions to the filtering area has been dealt with in the Main Drainage Scheme, and spare parts for renewals have been coming in more easily lately; consequently conditions are steadily improving.

One of the old contact beds (No. 6) has been converted into a percolating filter, and fitted with a battery of three 54-foot diameter rotary distributors, and the bed was ready for duty by the last week in December.

The relief caused by the regular working of this extra bed has been very welcome.

The fine media ( $\frac{1}{2}$  in.) on Filter No. 5 has been washed and replaced, and this bed is now in good order.

The following table gives particulars of the working of the filters :—

No.	Type of Distributor.	Area in sq. yds.	Depth of Media.	No of 24 hour days worked.	Thousand gallons treated.	Rate per sq.yd. 24 hr.	All days
1.	Candy Whittaker (Circular) ...	314	7ft.0in.	265	13,833	166	120
2.	Adams Do. ....	707	7ft.0in.	275	28,464	146	110
3.	Fiddian .....	1000	5ft.6in.	172	19,346	112	53
4.	Ham Baker ...	1000	5ft.6in.	248	32,044	130	83
5.	Fiddian .....	1000	5ft.6in.	285	34,345	120	94
6.	Do. mono-rail ...	1000	5ft.6in.	294	41,116	146	112
7.	Do. wide-span...	1000	5ft.6in.	299	45,133	150	123
8.	Do. ....	1000	5ft.6in.	261	39,426	150	107
9.	Do. mono-rail ...	1000	5ft.6in.	241	36,671	150	100
10.	Ames Crosta ...	1000	5ft.6in.	258	39,041	151	107
11.	Do. ....	1000	5ft.6in.	295	44,736	151	122

The sludge distribution plant has worked satisfactorily throughout the year, and about 1,260,000 gallons (or 63,216 tons) of liquid sewage sludge have been dealt with by this means.

Two hundred and forty loads of dried sludge have been sold to farmers at 6d. per load, bringing in £6.

### SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.

No repairs of any moment have been necessary to the pumping engines during the year, and the whole of the pumping plant is in good order."

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The condition of the Borough with regard to Closet Accommodation is shown in the following statement, prepared by the Chief Inspector of Nuisances:—

Polling District.	Total		Sewers Available		No sewers available at present	
	Ashpits	Privies	Ashpits	Privies	Ashpits	Privies
St. Nicholas ...	43	57	25	34	18	23
Attleborough .	46	62	29	35	17	27
St. Mary's .....	49	82	45	78	4	4
Stockingford .	73	133	60	117	13	16
Galley Common	115	204	15	26	100	178
C. Coton East...	23	29	21	27	2	2
C. Coton West	145	247	46	59	99	188
	494	814	241	376	253	438

It will be seen from this statement that in several cases one ashpit serves more than one privy, and although there are 376 privies still in the Borough where sewers are available, these only require the emptying of 241 ashpits.

During the year the following privies were converted to water closets:—

Polling Districts.	Ashpits.	Privies.
St. Nicholas .....	1	1
Attleborough .....	2	5
St. Mary's .....	2	5
Stockingford .....	4	7
Chilvers Coton East .....	2	4
Chilvers Coton West .....	4	4
	15	26

This question of privy conversion has received considerable attention from the Sanitary Staff during the year

A spot map has been prepared showing all privies in the more populous parts of the Borough, and it is found that in the area lying between the Midland Railway Station and Coton Arches and between Queen's Road School and the London North-Western Station there are approximately 50 privies.

It is most unsatisfactory that any privies at all should exist in this part of the Borough as they cause considerable nuisance,



particularly during the summer and at the times when they have to be emptied. Several complaints of this nature have reached the Department during the year, and every effort is being made by the Sanitary Officials to persuade property owners to make the necessary conversions.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, part 3, Section 39, has not yet been adopted in the Borough, and no conversion scheme under this Act is at present under consideration.

There are 7,468 water-closets in the Borough.

## REFUSE REMOVAL.

This question was fully dealt with in my Report for 1919.

It is hoped that the gradual conversion to the water carriage system will eventually reduce the amount of night-soil dealt with.

It is most unsatisfactory to have tips of privy midden refuse within the Borough, particularly near any populous part.

At December 31st there were in the Borough 7,065 houses provided with dustbins, and 494 dry ashplaces.

Under the Nuneaton Corporation Act, 1919, it is necessary for all dry ashplaces to be done away with and dustbins provided within five years from the passing of the Act, and this matter is being dealt with as fast as possible by your sanitary officials.

I give below a report by the Borough Engineer on the working of the Refuse Destructors:—

### REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

"The destructors have worked as follows:—

	Days.	Hours.
No. 1 Destructor (Heenan) .....	118	18
No. 2       ,,       (Meldrum) .....	190	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	319	0

The quantity of refuse destroyed was approximated to 8,731 tons, or an average of 27.37 tons per working day.

The No. 3 (Galloway) boiler was used on 45 days 16 hours, during cleaning out and repairing of destructors.

The gross cost of labour in destroying the refuse has been £1,795 11s. 8d., or 4s. 1½d. per ton.

One hundred and fifty-eight loads of refuse carted to destructor by traders has been destroyed, for which £7 15s. 3d. was received.

Extensive repairs have been done to the destructors, and No. 1 furnace has been taken down to the level of the fire bars, re-built and strengthened. At the same time it was fitted with an electrically driven fan for supplying air for forced draught, and also with new air control valves.

This furnace is now in good order and should give little trouble for some considerable time to come.

No. 2 furnace (Meldrum) is now being re-built on the same



lines as No. 1, and has been off duty since the first week in December last.

### SALVAGE.

The following materials have been salved from the refuse and sold:—

Tons.	Cwts.		£	s.	d.
63	6	Baled scrap tin .....	245	5	8
8	13½	Light scrap iron .....	18	8	8
7	14½	Cast scrap iron .....	71	9	1
Total receipts .....			£335	3	5 "

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis of the lungs accounted for 26 deaths during the year, equal to a death-rate of .62 per 1,000, compared with .83 for the year 1919.

Tuberculosis of other organs caused 11 deaths, giving a death-rate of .26 per 1,000, compared with .22 for the year 1919; thus the death-rate from all forms of tuberculosis was .89 per 1,000, which cannot be looked upon as excessive under present conditions in an industrial town where a large proportion of the population is engaged in coal-mining.

Notifications were received for 76 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, compared with 64 during 1919, and 29 cases of tuberculosis of other organs, as compared with 16 in 1919.

I am somewhat disturbed at the increased number of notifications of tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs, and also the increased death-rate from this cause.

It generally happens that an increase in tuberculosis of other organs is accompanied by a corresponding increase in the amount of tubercle infected milk consumed in the area.

During the year the Committee instructed me to have a number of samples of milk examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, but this has been held up pending further legislation on this subject. It now seems improbable that this further legislation will materialise in the near future, and I think it will be necessary for us, despite our present unsatisfactory powers, to ascertain the condition of our milk supply so far as tubercle bacilli are concerned.

### TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The treatment of tuberculosis is entirely in the hands of the County Council, and a Tuberculosis Dispensary is in existence in Coton Road, staffed by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Tuberculosis Committee's Officers, and the County Health Visitors.

Dr. R. J. Cyriax has been in charge of the Nuneaton Tuberculosis Dispensary and has carried out his duties to the great satisfaction both of the general practitioners in the town and of the Health Department.



Full co-operation exists between the Health Department and the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and any information that either department has required has been freely offered by the other.

Undoubtedly the first essential in our fight against tuberculosis must be improved housing conditions, and we can only hope that as our Housing Scheme progresses the improved accommodation may be reflected in a fall of the tuberculosis death-rate.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information with regard to visits paid by the County Health Visitor to tuberculosis cases in the Borough during the year 1920.

### **TUBERCULOSIS VISITS.**

First Visits .....	94
Re-visits .....	166
	<hr/>
	260

The County Medical Officer of Health further informs me that all known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, both new and old, have been visited during the year.

Amongst the various factors in the tuberculosis scheme which are still necessary are the following:—

1. The provision by the Education Committee of one or more Open-Air Schools.
2. Powers for compulsory disinfection of houses occupied by consumptives.  
This power is being asked for in the Nuneaton Corporation Bill, 1921.
3. Accommodation for hospital treatment of advanced cases of the disease. Under present arrangements it lies with the County Council to provide this.
4. The institution of an After-Care Committee.

### **BACTERIOLOGICAL AIDS TO DIAGNOSIS.**

The County Council has made arrangements whereby bacteriological specimens taken by medical men in the Borough can be examined at the Birmingham University Laboratory free of cost to the patient.

This arrangement has been of great assistance during the year, and the medical men in the Borough have thoroughly availed themselves of the opportunity of confirming diagnoses in this manner.

During the year 1920 the following examinations were done at Birmingham in connection with patients in this Borough:—

Swabs for diphtheria .....	135
Sputum for tuberculosis .....	142
Cerebro Spinal Fluid for organisms .....	3
	<hr/>
Total .....	280

As this compares with a total of 66 in 1919, the increase is somewhat remarkable.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

The treatment of these diseases is entirely in the hands of the County Council.

No Venereal Disease Clinic has been established in the Borough, but Nuneaton patients have the option of attending Clinics at either Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington or Rugby.

One of the most important parts of our campaign against Venereal Disease consists in the education of the public. To this end a branch of the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease has been formed in the Borough.

A large number of lectures were given at works and factories in the Borough to girls by Miss Latham, one of the Organisers of the N.C.C.V.D.

Lectures were also given under the auspices of this Council to :

- (a) Teachers and women social workers.
- (b) The general public (women only).
- (c) The general public (both sexes).

Dr. Wolfendale kindly undertook the post of Secretary for the local Branch of the Council, and has been most energetic in his efforts to work up enthusiasm on the subject.

It is hoped that this educational campaign may be continued during the coming year.

## DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of houses and rooms after infectious disease is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors by means of Formaldehyde Vapour. This method has proved to be efficacious with all zymotic diseases and tuberculosis.

There is a steam disinfector at the Disinfecting Station in St. Mary's Road where articles of clothing, etc., are conveyed for the purpose of disinfection.

The number of articles disinfected during the year was:—

From the Isolation Hospital .....	2,219
From the General Hospital .....	55
From private houses .....	897
From other sources .....	52
	<hr/>
	3,223

This total of 3,223 compares with a total of 417 for the year 1919.

## RIVER POLLUTION.

In my report for 1919 I gave a description of the various brooks in the Borough liable to pollution, and the sources of pollution.

It is regrettable that the Sketchley Brook, which receives the effluent from the Hinckley Sewage Works, has been found in a bad state several times during the year.



As I write (April, 1921) this subject is being considered, both by the County Council and the Nuneaton Borough Council, and strong representations have been made to the County Medical Officer of Health for Leicestershire in the matter.

Unless the present state of affairs is rapidly remedied, further steps under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act are under contemplation.

### SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACT.

These Acts are administered in the Borough by the County Council.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector under the Acts for the following summary of work done by him in this Borough during the year:—

the year :—

Article	Formal.			Informal.			Total.
	Genuine.	Adulterated.		Genuine.	Adulterated		
Milk .....	43	7	...	22	2	...	74
Butter .....	—	—	...	13	—	...	13
Lard .....	—	—	...	5	—	...	5
Beef Dripping ....	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Cream .....	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Boiled Sweets .....	—	—	...	3	—	...	3
Egg Powder .....	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Custard Powder ...	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Baking Powder ...	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Malt Vinegar .....	—	—	...	2	—	...	2
White Pepper .....	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Ground Ginger ...	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Liquorice Powder	—	—	...	2	—	...	2
Mustard .....	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Citrate of Magnesia	—	—	...	1	—	...	1
Glycerine .....	—	—	...	2	—	...	2
Camphorated Oil...	—	—	...	2	—	...	2
Castor Oil .....	—	—	...	4	—	...	4
Total .....	43	7		64	2		116

Prosecutions were instituted against two farmers and one milk retailer, with regard to the 7 adulterated (formal) samples of milk. Four of these samples were taken from one farmer, who was fined £10 in each case and £5 costs—total £45.

The four samples for which this farmer was prosecuted were found respectively to contain—10 per cent., 28 per cent., 28 per cent., and 14 per cent., of added water.

These samples were found to contain respectively 19 per cent. and 16 per cent. of added water.

The retailer who was supplied by the first farmer was ordered to pay 1s. costs.

It is satisfactory that 116 samples were taken in the Borough during the year, compared with a total of 47 during the year 1919.

There are few departments of Public Health work that are more important than the enforcing of a pure and unadulterated

another farmer, who was fined £10 including costs.



food supply, and this is particularly the case in regard to milk. It is, therefore, the more regrettable that two farmers should have been found during the year to have added water to their milk to an average extent of about 20 per cent. Possibly the severe penalties inflicted in these two cases may have a deterrent effect on others.

## FOOD.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—By far the greater part of the milk used in the Borough is produced within the Borough boundary, and, in addition, a large amount of milk produced in the Borough is exported to Birmingham.

A certain amount of milk comes into the Borough from Nuneaton Rural District, particularly for the supply of Stockingford.

There are 53 farms with cowsheds and dairies within the Borough, and during the year there were approximately 616 milk cows.

The supply of milk and the arrangement for its distribution have been adequate throughout the year.

A detailed inspection of the dairies and cowsheds was made by the Sanitary Inspectors, and plans of every cowshed in the Borough are now in the possession of the Health Department.

It is satisfactory that all the cowsheds are in the outlying parts of the Borough, and the cows have access to open meadow land whenever the weather is favourable.

The premises on the whole are above the usual standard found throughout the country, although undoubtedly considerable improvements can yet be effected.

Perhaps the outstanding fault still committed by most cowkeepers is allowing accumulations of manure in the vicinity of the cowsheds and dairies. This matter has received frequent attention from the Sanitary Inspectors.

Apart altogether from the adulteration of milk and its possible infection with tubercle bacilli, another matter is now seriously engaging the attention of Sanitary Authorities, namely—the cleanliness of the milk supply.

Under our present conditions of milking, in which little or no grooming of the cows takes place, and where many milkers are by no means too scrupulous as to the condition of their hands and clothing, it would not seem too much to ask that in connection with food which is the staple diet of infancy and childhood, the milker should be compelled to wash his hands and to wear a clean overall. It is a common thing for a milker to come fresh off the land, or off some filthy job, and forthwith, and without any previous cleansing, commence milking the cows.

The Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, was in force throughout the year, and during the 12 months 41 persons were supplied with free milk, or free dried milk, under this Order.

The total amount spent on this supply of free milk was £61 1s. 1d.



Full enquiry was made into every case by the Health Visitor and by the Medical Officer of Health, and only most deserving cases received a supply.

The amount spent on milk under this Order will, I am sure, compare very favourably, from an economic standpoint, with the expenditure in other industrial areas.

There were, speaking generally, very few cases during the year in which a supply was necessary.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

The Junior Inspector of Nuisances for the Borough is also Meat Inspector, and carries out the routine inspection of all food exposed for sale in the Borough.

I give in a table on page 33 the amount of unsound food seized or surrendered during the year.

In one case a warning letter was sent to a butcher for having on his premises diseased meat without previously having informed the Health Department.

No prosecutions were necessary during the year, and it is satisfactory that the butchers are now careful to inform the Health Department of all suspicious carcasses which come into their possession.

The following figures show the number of slaughterhouses in the town at various dates:—

		Slaughterhouses.		
		1914	January 1920	December 1920
Registered	.....	11	11	9
Licensed	.....	11	11	9

In addition to the above there is a Public Abattoir in the town used by 5 butchers.

It is satisfactory that during the year 1920 four private slaughter-houses were abolished in the Borough.

One registered slaughterhouse was the subject of an action brought through the Attorney-General by a resident in the town. The action was settled on the owners giving an undertaking to abolish the slaughterhouse.

Another registered slaughterhouse was bought up by a brewery company and abolished.

One licensed slaughterhouse was demolished in connection with work of reconstruction and abolished, while the license of the other licensed slaughterhouse expired and no application for renewal was received.

During the year a special report on the slaughterhouses was presented to the Health Committee, and the following are extracts from it:—

"There are 12 slaughter-houses situated adjoining or in close proximity to dwelling-houses. In 3 cases the fasting pens are in a part of the slaughter-house proper. In 9 instances the entrances also form the right-of-way for occupants of adjoining dwellings. In one instance the only entry is through a passage 4 feet wide."

A copy of the Slaughter-house Bye-Laws was forwarded to every butcher in the town.

The fact that the slaughter-houses are so widely distributed throughout the Borough, and that slaughtering takes place at varied times makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to carry out a proper system of meat inspection. Systematic and occasional inspection is, however, carried out, and the Inspectors keep in mind the need for educational work with slaughtermen regarding conditions of disease in animals, and endeavour by conversation and demonstration to impress the importance of meat inspection and the maintenance of a high standard of sanitation in slaughter-houses.

In view of the geographical situation of the district it is very desirable that further powers should be given for the control of meat, and I understand that this matter is at the present time receiving attention from the Ministry of Health.

There is an increasing demand by the public for imported meat, and in this connection the facilities for transport by railway call for more attention. In my opinion, only properly-designed and ventilated meat trucks should be used for the transport of meat. I have, during the year, seen many carcasses arrive in the Borough by train in a filthy condition.

## SUMMARY OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

### MEAT.

Carcasses.	Weight lbs.
10 Beasts .....	4,648
4 Calves .....	540
1 Pig .....	60
1 Lamb .....	20
Mutton .....	131
2 Sheep (Imported) .....	73
Beef (Chilled) .....	510
Mutton (Imported) .....	73
Bacon (Imported) .....	420
Heads, organs and offal .....	1,070
	<hr/> 7,545lbs.

### OTHER FOODS.

Cheese .....	33½ lbs.
Jam .....	8 „
Sugar .....	293 „
Figs .....	864 „
Rabbits .....	103 „
	<hr/> 1,301½ lbs.
Tinned goods, various .....	483 tins
Packet goods „ .....	93 packets
Bottled goods „ .....	5 bottles



## PREMISES USED FOR FOOD PREPARATION.

1. **BAKEHOUSES.**—There are 35 bakehouses in the district. None of these bakehouses are underground. The bakehouses are subjected to systematic inspection, and in general are maintained in good sanitary condition, most of them being of modern construction.

There are, however, one or two bakehouses in the town which are really unsuitable for use as such, and which I should greatly like to see abolished, but unfortunately the Sanitary Authority does not appear to have power to do this.

2. **FRIED FISH SHOPS.**—Thirty-four premises are used for the purpose of this business, 25 of which are used solely as fried fish shops, while 9 have other businesses connected with the premises, generally in the nature of a General Store. Twenty-three use the closed type of pan, and cotton seed oil is used in every case for frying purposes.

A special inspection and a report was made on these shops during the year.

3. **ICE-CREAM PREMISES.**—The Health Department has knowledge of 16 premises used for this trade. The majority of these premises are far from satisfactory, and little or no care is taken to avoid contamination of the articles used in the preparation of the ice cream. In some cases the premises are in the nature of a General Store, while in others the preparation is done in dwelling-houses.

The Corporation has applied to Parliament in the Nuneaton Corporation Bill, 1921, for powers to control ice cream premises.

4. **MARKET PLACE.**—There is a general market held in the Borough every Saturday, and a great variety of food is exposed for sale, including—butter, meat, fish, cakes, bacon and cheese, sweets, fruit, etc.

The Junior Inspector of Nuisances has charge of the market and collects the tolls, and thus considerable control is exercised over the food exposed for sale.

The exposure of food on open stalls in windy and dusty weather on a much frequented highway is hardly to be looked upon as tending to the purity of the articles sold.

The market serves, however, two useful purposes, in that it tends to undersell the local shops and thus maintain reasonable prices, and also it brings in a considerable amount of money to the Corporation and to the town in general. It would need, I am convinced, very strong arguments to disestablish this market, or to prevent the sale of foodstuffs therein.

5. **KNACKER'S YARD.**—There is one knacker's yard, situated on the outskirts of the Borough. This has been regularly inspected throughout the year, and is kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. On several occasions, however, it has been necessary to call the attention of the owner to accumulations of manure and garbage, but steps are now being taken to remedy this recurring nuisance.

The buildings are of brick, with an impervious floor draining to a cesspool.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This Department of Public Health work is dealt with by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, which consists of the whole of the Health Committee, with the addition of three ladies interested in the work, namely—The Mayoress (Mrs. J. Randle), Mrs. H. C. Jones, and Mrs. G. E. B. Williams.

During the year 1920 the Borough Council appointed an additional Health Visitor, so that there are now four Health Visitors working in the Borough, three employed by the Borough Council and one employed by the County Council, who devotes part of her time to outlying parts of the Borough contiguous with the district of the County in which she works.

The County Council now re-pays to the Borough the greater part of the contribution which the Borough pays in its County rate in respect to the provision of Maternity and Child Welfare services. The County retains a small sum to meet the expenses of the County Health Visitor, above referred to, who works in the Chapel End district.

The additional Health Visitor has enabled the Maternity and Child Welfare work to be much expanded, and has enabled us to provide nursing assistance for cases of pneumonia in young children under 5 years of age, and to undertake a considerable amount of treatment for minor ailments and surgical dressings.

In January, 1921, a new Infant Welfare Centre in Coton Road was opened by the Mayor, and an address was given to a large and appreciative audience by Dr. Lena Walker, of Birmingham. This Centre serves the whole of the Borough, with the exception of Stockingford and Chapel End.

The Coton Road Centre is open on two afternoons per week as an Infant Welfare Centre, while it serves also as offices for the Health Visitors, and a centre for the treatment of minor ailments.

An Infant Welfare Centre is in existence in Stockingford, and is held once weekly, at the Wesleyan Sunday Schools in Church Road.

In addition to these Centres a few Borough children also attend the Infant Welfare Centre at Hartshill, just outside the Borough boundary. These are the children who come under the sphere of influence of the County Health Visitor, who has charge of the Hartshill Infant Welfare Centre.

A medical man (Dr. A. A. Wood) attends the Nuneaton Centre on one afternoon each week, and another medical man (Dr. W. Ashworth) attends the Stockingford Centre every alternate week.

The needs of the Borough so far as Infant Welfare Centres are concerned would seem to be fairly adequately met with our present existing arrangements.

At both Centres voluntary helpers assist the Health Visitors, and are of inestimable service in many ways. As a matter of fact, it would be quite impossible with our present staff of Health Visi-



tors to keep the Centres working efficiently without the very excellent work done by our voluntary workers at both Centres. There are two or three ladies who hardly ever miss an attendance, and whose help being systematic is the more valuable. I hope these ladies will realise that the work which they do so unostentatiously is much appreciated by the mothers at the Centre, and by the Health Department.

In my report for 1919 I dealt with the necessity for this care of infant life, and with the present awakening of public opinion on the subject it is quite unnecessary for me to add anything further to my previous remarks.

The administration of the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order is dealt with in another section of the report, under the head of "Milk."

During the year 1920 no Ante-Natal Clinic was held in the Brough, but in March, 1921, the Health Committee decided to open an Ante-Natal Clinic one afternoon per week at the Coton Road Infant Welfare Centre. At present this Clinic is staffed by one of the Health Visitors (Mrs. G. N. Abbott) and no medical man is in attendance, the Committee being of opinion that it was unwise to incur further expenditure until they were convinced that the Clinic would be made use of by the mothers of the district. I am inclined to think that in this decision the Committee made an error of judgment, as it is even more necessary for a medical man to attend an Ante-Natal Clinic than an Infant Welfare Centre, and several mothers who have attended the Ante-Natal Clinic have asked the Health Visitor whether they can see a doctor there, and whether a doctor would be in attendance. The Committee is, however, to re-consider their decision in this matter in the course of a few months.

A large number of our infantile deaths and a very large amount of invalidism occur as the result of neglect and ignorance during pregnancy. There are many matters in connection with child-bearing of which the average working-class woman is profoundly ignorant, and undoubtedly much ill-health and infant mortality could be prevented by giving advice and attention to these mothers before the birth of the child.

A few details as to cases visited by the Health Visitors will be of interest and show the nature of their work. These are additional to their routine duties of visiting all infant births and advising as to the care of infants generally. The Health Visitors report having attended the following special cases: Pneumonia; operations for circumcision; otorrhœa; worms; rickets; intestinal obstruction; convulsions; injuries sustained during delivery; hernia; surgical dressings; infectious diseases; ophthalmia neonatorum; breast abscesses; bronchitis; tubercular peritonitis; diarrhœa; and enteritis. In addition 5 cases of nævi were taken to Birmingham General Hospital to be treated by radium.

It is satisfactory that in all the 9 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum the child appears to have retained its sight.



I give below a report by Dr. A. A. Wood, on the clinical work of the Nuneaton Infant Welfare Centre:—

“ Experience of the Infant Welfare Centre during the past year satisfies one more than ever of the increasing importance of the work done, but the good results gained are largely dependent on the work of the Health Visitors in following up the cases seen at the Centre.

“ The attendances are good and regular on the whole.

“ The supplying of dried milk at cost price has been stopped, but this has not reduced the attendances noticeably. In my opinion milk should be supplied at cost price in needy cases. The Health Visitors know the cases in which this is desirable.

“ The following points have impressed me during the past year:—

“ (1) The almost complete disappearance of the atrophied infant (Marasmus). This applies not only to the Centre, but also to my general practice. One must attribute this to the increased attention given to Infant Welfare, since a few years ago the condition was a common one in this district. I think the Medical Officer of Health will prove this in the Vital Statistics. Associated with this is the fact that diarrhoea was much less common than usual, and this in spite of the fact that milk is delivered once daily instead of twice, as used to be the custom. The milk delivered in the morning contains the previous evening's milk, consequently it may be 36 hours old when used the following morning. With the present crowded state of the houses it is exceedingly difficult to keep milk sweet for so long a period; for this reason one often has to suggest the use of dried milk. The distribution of sterilised infants' milk in sealed bottles does not obtain in this district.

“ (2) There is a definite increase in the proportion of breast fed infants, due to the fact that a less number of mothers are employed workers.

“ (3) The general adoption of improved and more sensible methods of clothing the infant is the result of the teaching of the Centre

“ (4) Affections of the skin of the scalp and buttocks are much less common.

“ (5) The general improvements in health and physique of the infants as a whole.

“ (6) Physical defects are astonishingly few—Hernia is the most common. There is sometimes difficulty in getting small operations done.

“ (7) The ailments are mainly digestive. Rickets has become uncommon—Dried milks have been so commonly used, particularly during 1917, 1918, and 1919, that it is obvious they have not been a factor in the production of this disease.

“ (8) The battle with the tube bottle and dummy still has to be fought periodically, and will always have to be fought till their sale is prohibited.



"During 1920 the work of the Centre was conducted in unsuitable rooms. This year should show better results. The new buildings are excellent; work can be done expeditiously, thoroughly, and with much more comfort to the mothers and infants."

I give below full statistics concerning Infant Welfare Work during 1920:—

Population in 1911 .....	37,073
Population in 1920 .....	41,123
No. of registered births, 1920 .....	1,220
No. of notified births, 1920 .....	1,236
No. of still-birth, 1920 .....	41
No. of illegitimate births, 1920 .....	45
Birth-rate .....	29.5
Deaths of infants under one year .....	102
Infantile Mortality rate .....	83
Maternal Mortality	
1.—From complications of child-birth .....	.07
2.—From puerperal fever .....	.09
No. of notified cases of puerperal fever .....	6
No. of notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	9
No. of Midwives practising in Borough—	
Independent .....	14
Employed by District Nursing Association .....	—
Subsidised .....	—
No. of Midwives—trained .....	8
No. of Midwives—untrained .....	6

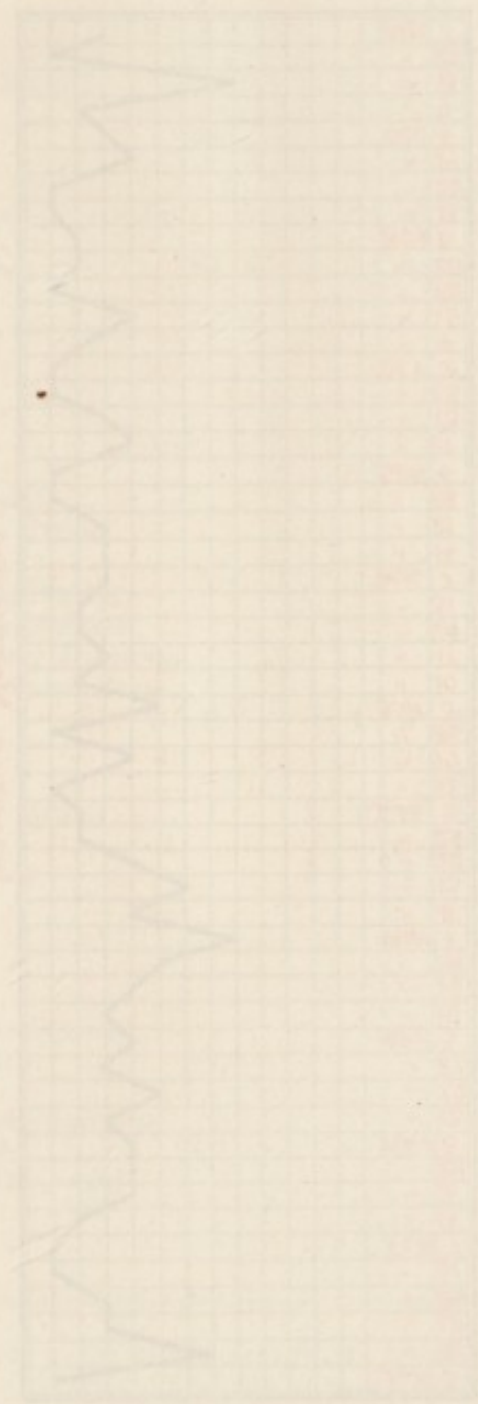
#### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

No. of names in books, 1920 .....	657
No. of attendances .....	7,497
Average attendance per session .....	52.8

#### HEALTH VISITING.

No. of first visits .....	1,219
No. of re-visits .....	4,771

I give in Table IV., page 39, full details of all infantile deaths.



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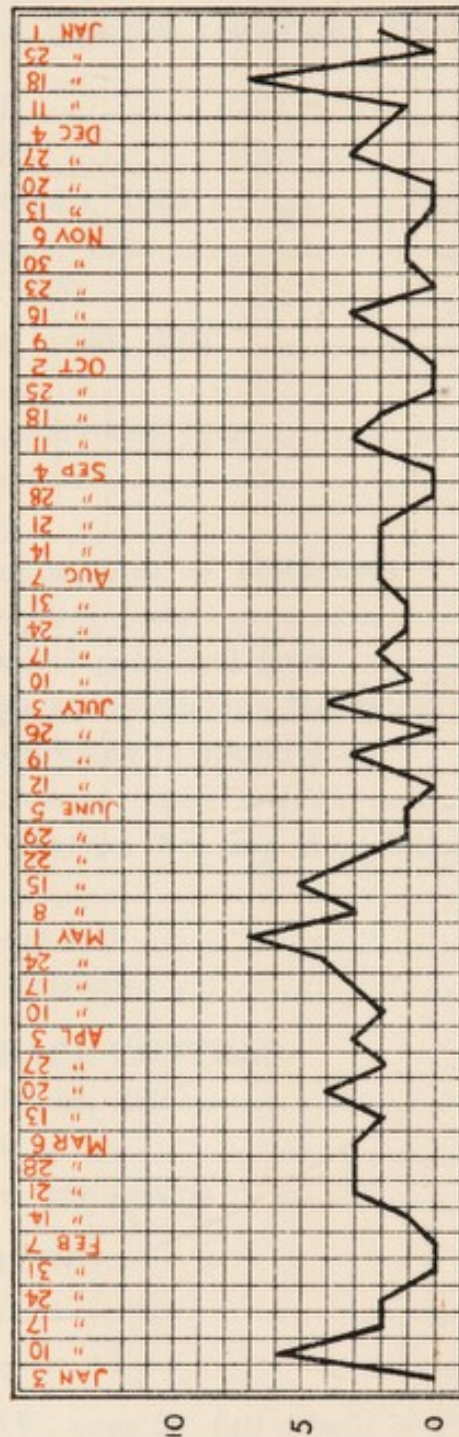
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WEEK ENDING



INFANTILE MORTALITY.

TABLE IV.  
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Cases Certified ...	30	6	4	7	47	28	16	7	4	102
Smallpox ...										
Chickenpox ...										
Measles ...										
Scarlet Fever ...										
Whooping Cough ...										
Diphtheria and Croup ...										
Erysipelas ...										
Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...						1				1
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis ( <i>non Tuberculous</i> )							1			1
Convulsions ...	2			1	3	3	2			8
Laryngitis ...										
Bronchitis ...						6	4	2		12
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1		1	1	3	3	3	2	4	15
Influenza ...						3				3
Diarrhoea ...			1		1	4	3	1		9
Enteritis ...										
Gastritis ...								2		2
Syphilis ...						1				1
Rickets ...										
Suffocation, overlaying ...	1				1					1
Injury at Birth ...	1				1					1
Atelectasis ...	1				1					1
Congenital Malformations...	2	1			3		1			4
Premature Birth ...	12	1		2	15		1			16
Atrophy, Debility, and										
Marasmus ...	7	2		2	11	7				18
Other Causes ...	3	2	2	1	8		1			9

In connection with these infantile deaths the following facts are of interest:—During 1920 there were 45 births of illegitimate children and 8 infantile deaths of illegitimate children. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate for illegitimate children of 177 per 1,000 births, compared with a rate of 79 per 1,000 births for legitimate children. I mention these facts because they bear out how much maternal care and knowledge contribute towards diminishing our infantile death-rate. Without doubt many of these illegitimate deaths were due to the fact that the child was not wanted, and although the mother may not actually be accused of murdering the child she certainly, in many instances, took no pains whatever to keep it alive.



## VACCINATION.

According to the returns of the Vaccination Officer, out of 1,260 children born during the year ended June 30th, 1920, only 86 were vaccinated, equal to 6.8 per cent., compared with 6.14 per cent. for the previous year.

This neglect of vaccination constitutes a very real danger to the community, and much of it is due to sheer ignorance.

I dealt fully with this subject in my report as School Medical Officer for the year 1919.

I give below statistics regarding vaccination, obtained from the Vaccination Officer:—

No. of Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Had Smallpox.	Declaration of Conscientious Objection.	Died before Vaccination.	Postponed by Medical Certificate.	Removed to places Unknown.	Removed to district of which Vaccination Officer has been informed.	Unaccounted for.
1260	86	0	0	1027	72	8	40	9	18

## SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

Increased attention has been paid during the year to the cleanliness of the sanitary conveniences at the various schools in the Borough, and visits have been paid to them, on my instructions, by the Sanitary Inspectors.

In many cases they have interviewed the School Cleaners and suggested possible improvements in the arrangements.

With the exception of Galley Common Schools, where a most unsuitable privy midden exists, all the schools are provided with water-closets. All the schools in the Borough are supplied with town water.

## POOR LAW RELIEF.

I am indebted to the Relieving Officers for the following figures regarding the amount of poor law relief granted in the Nuneaton Union for the year ended December, 1920.

The Relieving Officers have also supplied me with similar figures for the last pre-war year, 1913, so that one is able to form some comparison between the amount of relief now granted and that granted pre-war:—

Amount of Poor Law Relief granted	1913.	1920.
.....	£2,149 0s. 10d.	£3,849 4s. 5d.



## COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the Borough.

The premises are well adapted, and a high standard of sanitation is maintained. Male persons only are received. The ground floor contains—recreation room, dining room, bathroom, wash-basins and lockers. On the first floor there are 29 beds, lockers, and a w.c. and sink for night use. The third floor is in cubical form, with 18 beds.

The wash-houses and sanitary conveniences are situated in the yard. The whole of the premises are heated by means of a hot water system. There is a resident keeper.

## HOUSING.

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.—For an industrial area the housing conditions in Nuneaton are probably above the average, due in great part to the rapid growth of the Borough, and to the fact that nearly two-thirds of the houses in the town have been built since the year 1891. No less than 5,102 houses, out of a total of 8,373, have been built since that date.

As a rule these modern houses are brick built and tiled, they have moderate sized gardens, and are distinctly above the standard of house found in most manufacturing towns in the north of England with which I am acquainted.

2. SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.—It was estimated in the Return sent to the Housing Commissioner in 1919 that the number of houses required in the Borough was 1614; of this number 814 houses were to meet the unsatisfied demand for houses, and 800 to meet anticipated deficiencies arising from new industrial developments.

The approximate increase of population in the Borough since that report was compiled is 1,232, which at 5 persons per house, means 246 additional houses.

As three large new factories are at present under construction in the Borough, in addition to several smaller enterprises, I see no reason to reduce the estimate of housing needs sent to the Ministry in 1919. Any change which may take place in the population of the Borough will, so far as can be foreseen, be towards a considerable increase.

In order to deal with this housing shortage, the Corporation has in hand four housing schemes, providing sites for the erection of about 830 houses. Tenders have already been accepted for 164.

At December 31st, 1920, the following was the state of affairs with regard to the erection of Corporation houses:—

Commenced building ...	114
Roofed in .....	66
In occupation .....	16

In addition to the Corporation houses, other houses, to the number of eleven, were erected by private enterprise, most of



which were built to the order of purchasers and were rather above the average standard of the working-class dwelling.

Plans were also approved for 59 houses, most of which are in course of erection. Two of these were for temporary wooden buildings.

It will be noticed that, taking our figures as at December 31st, 1920, the number of houses erected does not even meet the needs of the additional population of the Borough since our requirements were forwarded to the Ministry of Health, so that, without counting those houses already erected, we still require the full number of 814 to meet the unsatisfied demands, without taking into consideration the further 800 suggested to meet future developments.

3. **OVERCROWDING.**—Certain definite figures regarding overcrowding were given in my report for 1919, and during 1920 it has not been possible to obtain any more accurate figures. Undoubtedly the extent of overcrowding has increased during the year, and from many reports which have reached me from medical men, sanitary inspectors, and health visitors, I am of opinion that it is of the utmost importance for the health of the community that the provision of more houses should be pushed on as rapidly as possible. It has been almost impossible during the year to do very much towards the relief of overcrowding; a few individual cases have been improved through the intervention of the Sanitary Inspectors, but until further houses are provided it is impossible to deal efficiently with overcrowding or with unfit houses.

The Committee dealing with applications for new houses has had brought before them a large number of instances of gross overcrowding, and the Committee has endeavoured to allocate houses to those persons living under overcrowded conditions. In this way some relief of overcrowding has undoubtedly been accomplished.

Up to date (April, 1921) 640 applications for Corporation houses have been received.

It is impossible to give an accurate figure as to the amount of sub-letting of portions of working-class houses in the town, but undoubtedly it is very great. In a large number of cases this sub-letting leads to overcrowding, and from every point of view, both social and domestic, it is most undesirable for two families to live in one working-class house. Another unsatisfactory feature of this sub-letting is that in many instances which have been brought to my notice the rent charged by the tenant to the sub-tenant for the use of two rooms is often as great, or greater, than the rent paid by the tenant for the whole of the house. This position of affairs has been particularly mentioned as a hardship on the landlord. There can be no doubt that the damage and wear and tear caused to working-class houses, housing two or more families, is considerably greater than where only one family is responsible for the premises, and yet under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Act the landlord of sub-let houses is unable to obtain any more rent than if the house was only occupied by one family.



The Census to be taken in the year 1921 will be of great interest and assistance in indicating the extent of overcrowding and sub-letting in the Borough.

4. **FITNESS OF HOUSES.**—In my report for 1919 I dealt fully with the question of Fitness of Houses in the town and with the general character of the defects found. There is little to add to the statement and figures therein given.

It is somewhat difficult to answer the Ministry's question as to how far housing defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by the owners. Many factors must be taken into account before attributing too much blame for the unsatisfactory state of affairs to the owners of property. In the first place, for practically five years during the war little or no housing repairs were done. When the war came to an end and owners were brought face to face with the condition of their property, they were also faced with the Rent Restriction Act, and with the exorbitant cost of repairs of all kinds. In other words, the owners were asked to do repairs involving large expenditure, without, in many cases, being able to get an estimate for the work, while they were distinctly limited in the amount of increase of rent which they could obtain in return from their tenants.

• Another factor which has certainly militated against the carrying out of repairs has been a distinct shortage of building and allied labour.

Taking everything into account, the position of the owner of working-class property during the past few years has not been an enviable one, and in my opinion we have been fortunate in getting done even what has been done in the way of repairs during the past two years.

The Health Committee, fully realising the awkward position of owners of property, have been as lenient as possible in enforcing housing repairs, and only absolutely essential matters have been the subject of Statutory Notices, other repairs being arranged in a friendly manner between the owners of property and the officials of the Health Department.

5. **ACTION AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES.**—Closing Orders under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning Act, 1909, were made during the year in respect of two houses, the condition of which rendered them absolutely unfit for human habitation.

As I write (April, 1921) one of these houses has been closed, but at present it has been impossible to find alternative accommodation for the tenants of the other house.

No action was taken during the year under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, all proceedings, with the exception of the Closing Orders, were taken under the Public Health Acts.

The condition of the houses with regard to water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse removal, will be found under sections of the report dealing with these matters.



6. UNHEALTHY AREAS.—There is no area of any size in the Borough which can be looked upon as an unhealthy area.

7. BYE-LAWS.—Bye-laws are in existence in the Borough dealing with tents, vans and sheds, but not with houses let in lodgings.

If the present condition of overcrowding continues for any length of time it will be necessary to consider seriously the adoption of Bye-laws in connection with houses let in lodgings.

Bye-laws are also in force with regard to the erection of new houses, alteration of houses, nuisances and Common Lodging Houses. The working of them is satisfactory.

8. GENERAL.—I referred in my report for 1919 to one great point in favour of the housing in Nuneaton as compared with that found in most other industrial towns. That point is the large area of the Borough, over 10,000 acres, and the fact that taking the Borough as a whole there are only at present four persons per acre. The amount of open space around the houses, and the fact that there are very few areas in the town where buildings are crowded together, have undoubtedly much to do with the fact that, despite the overcrowding, our general death-rate and our tuberculosis death-rate compare very favourably with those rates in other towns.

A very large proportion of the working-class houses possess gardens, and the number of allotments under cultivation in the Borough is 2,929, with an acreage of 291. This number is exclusive of railway allotments. With an approximate adult male population of 13,000 this means that a very large proportion of our male population is engaged more or less regularly in healthy outdoor occupation.

**APPENDICES.****HOUSING CONDITIONS.**

Statistics.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

**1.—GENERAL.**

(1)	Estimated population .....	41,128
(2)	General death-rate .....	9.6
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis .....	.88
(4)	Infantile mortality .....	83
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes .....	8,373
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses .....	7,279
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected ...	16

**2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.****1.—INSPECTION.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	657
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	82
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	2
(4)	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 .....	170

**2.—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 .....	157
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**3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.**

A.	Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 .....	—
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	—
(2)	Number of dwelling - houses which were rendered fit—	
	(a) by owners .....	—
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .....	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close .....	—



## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	460
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners .....	396
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .....	0

## C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .....	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit .....	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0

## 3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part 1., or (b) Part 2., of the Act, 1890:—

(1) Name of area .....	} Nil.
(2) Acreage .....	
(3) Number of working-class houses in area .....	
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced .....	
4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 .....	0
5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer .....	2 Inspectors of Nuisances

**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE  
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'  
DEPARTMENT DURING 1920.**

	Inspections made.	Formal notices by authority	Nuisances abated after notice.
Drainage opened and cleansed ...	659	213	213
Drainage tested with smoke test ...	14	6	6
Ventilating shafts repaired .....	5	1	1
Yards part paved and repaired ...	33	7	7
New covers to Inspection Chambers provided .....	22	5	5
Inspection Chambers Repaired .....	48	11	11
Floors of dwelling-houses relaid or repaired .....	67	16	16
Roofs repaired and made weather- proof .....	234	36	36
Dilapidated walls and ceilings repaired .....	196	18	18
Defective eaves and downspouts repaired .....	173	46	38
Sink pipes repaired .....	68	21	13
Sinks provided .....	25	4	4
Filthy houses cleansed .....	294	49	44
Cuppers repaired or rebuilt .....	46	14	7
Accumulations of offensive matter removed .....	94	27	27
Water Closets opened and cleansed	289	77	77
Water Closets provided with new basin and trap .....	138	32	32
Defective Water Closet cisterns repaired .....	389	121	83
New Water Closet cisterns pro- vided .....	109	29	16
Privies converted into Water Closets .....	249	11	26
New dustbins provided .....	742	180	116
Windows and window frames re- paired .....	62	18	16
Chimneys repaired .....	44	10	8
Windows made to open .....	29	5	5
Additional gullies provided .....	67	19	19
Drainage relaid .....	76	16	16
Fireplaces repaired .....	28	8	7
Sewer cleared from obstruction ...	3	1	1
Rainwater cisterns cleansed .....	2	1	1
New washhouses provided .....	12	2	2
Well closed, Town water laid on...	6	1	1
Nuisances from keeping swine ...	49	7	5
Miscellaneous nuisances abated ...	159	23	21
Samples of pump water analysed...	4	2	2
Bakchouses limewashed .....	44	8	8



## INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'S SUMMARY.—Continued.

	Inspections made.		Formal notices by authoritv.		Nuisances abated after notice.
Ventilation of bakehouse improved	2	...	1	...	1
Lodging-house limewashed .....	8	...	1	...	1
Slaughter-houses limewashed .....	295	...	2	...	2
„ walls cemented ...	16	...	6	...	6
Abattoir .....	99				
Knacker's yard .....	4				
Food preparing places .....	52				
Smoke Nuisances .....	30	...	1	...	1
Cowsheds, milk shops, dairies .....	75	...	16	...	16
Canal Boats .....	9				
Fair Ground .....	3				
Housing Act .....	82				
Yards and Courts .....	15				
Places of Amusement .....	7	...	1	...	1
Factories and Workshops .....	16				
Rent Restriction Act .....	15				
Schools .....	14				
Shops' Act .....	10				
Visits re infectious diseases .....	321				
	5552		1073		1341
Houses disinfected after infectious disease				190	
Schools „ „ „ „				7	

## SHOPS ACT.

	Shops Inspected.		Formal Notices Served.		Notices Complied with.
Complaints (anonymous) .....	—	...	—	...	—
Shops .....	10	...	3	...	3
Shop Notices .....	—	...	—	...	—

**FACTORIES.**

Description of Factory.	St Mary.	St. Nicholas.	Stocking- ford.	Chilvers Coton.	Total
Hosiery .....	2 ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	3
Clothiers .....	2 ...	1 ...	— ...	1 ...	4
Needle-making .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Bootmaking .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Hat making .....	1 ...	— ...	— ...	— ...	1
Boot repairing .....	— ...	2 ...	— ...	— ...	2
Shoe heel making .....	2 ...	— ...	— ...	— ...	2
Cardboard box making...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	— ...	1
Leather making .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Weaving .....	— ...	4 ...	— ...	— ...	4
Sports requisites .....	— ...	2 ...	— ...	— ...	2
Dye works .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Engineering .....	2 ...	1 ...	— ...	3 ...	6
Timber works .....	— ...	1 ...	1 ...	— ...	2
Wool spinning .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Printing .....	— ...	4 ...	— ...	— ...	4
Flour Mills .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Electricity works .....	— ...	— ...	— ...	1 ...	1
Laundry .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
					39

**WORKSHOPS,**

Description of Workshop	St. Mary.	St. Nicholas.	Stocking- ford.	Chilvers Coton.	Total
Tailoring .....	— ...	2 ...	— ...	— ...	2
Millinery .....	1 ...	4 ...	— ...	1 ...	6
Dressmaking .....	— ...	3 ...	2 ...	6 ...	11
Carriage builder .....	— ...	2 ...	— ...	— ...	2
Waggon builders and repairers .....	— ...	2 ...	2 ...	— ...	4
Carpenters .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	1 ...	2
Boot repairers .....	1 ...	2 ...	— ...	— ...	3
Saddlers .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Shoeing smiths .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Candle maker .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Cycle repairers .....	1 ...	1 ...	— ...	1 ...	3
Scale repairer .....	— ...	1 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Bakers .....	6 ...	16 ...	6 ...	7 ...	35



**OUT - WORKERS,**

Description of Works.	No. Employed.
Wearing Apparel .....	143
Tennis ball making .....	157
Boot repairing .....	—
Total .....	300

**RAINFALL,**

Year.	Total Depth in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1903	28.89	191
1904	19.76	184
1905	19.37	211
1906	27.01	187
1907	22.67	228
1908	19.64	181
1909	23.72	202
1910	25.12	186
1911	19.72	157
1912	36.02	209
1913	25.47	187
1914	26.56	176
1915	28.24	179
1916	26.47	195
1917	25.74	192
1918	22.22	177
1919	29.45	188
1920	23.97	206

**PARTICULARS AS TO PERMISSIVE ACTS  
ADOPTED BY THE NUNEATON  
CORPORATION,**

- 1.—THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889, was adopted at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 30th October, 1889, to come into force on the 9th December, 1889.
- 2.—THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890, was adopted at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 24th December, 1890, to come into force on the 9th day of February, 1891.
- 3.—THE PUBLIC HEALTHS ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890. Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 were adopted at a meeting of the Council, held on the 24th December, 1890, to come into force on the 12th day of July, 1891.
- 4.—THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890. Part 3 was adopted at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 12th day of June, 1901, to come into force on the 12th day of July, 1901.
- 5.—THE PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT, 1892, was adopted at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 29th January, 1896, to come into force on the 2nd day of March, 1896.
- 7.—THE BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES ACT, 1896, was adopted at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 25th day of January, 1899.
- 8.—THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907, was adopted at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 3rd day of May, 1911, to come into force on the 1st July, 1911.
- 9.—THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907. The following parts and Sections were, by an order of the Local Government Board—dated 24th February, 1909—declared to be in force in the Borough as from the 14th April, 1909, subject in some cases to certain conditions and adaptations:—
  - Part 2.
  - Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51 of Part 3.
  - Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 68 of Part 4.
  - Part 5.
  - Part 6.
  - Part 10.



ARTICLE 10 TO THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

SECTION 1. The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

SECTION 3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for a Term of six Years; and they shall hold their Offices until their Successors be chosen.

SECTION 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding the Elections of Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of Elections.

SECTION 5. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be held on the first Monday of December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

SECTION 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive Compensation for their Services, which shall be ascertained from Time to Time by each House of Representatives.

SECTION 7. No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the United States; and no Person holding any such Office shall be Representative of that State in which he holds said Office.

SECTION 8. The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

SECTION 9. The Congress shall have Power to borrow Money on the Credit of the United States, to emit and put out the Paper Money of the United States, to fix the Standard of Weights and Measures, to coin Money, to regulate the Value of Coin, and to provide for the Payment of the public Debt.