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Contributors

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

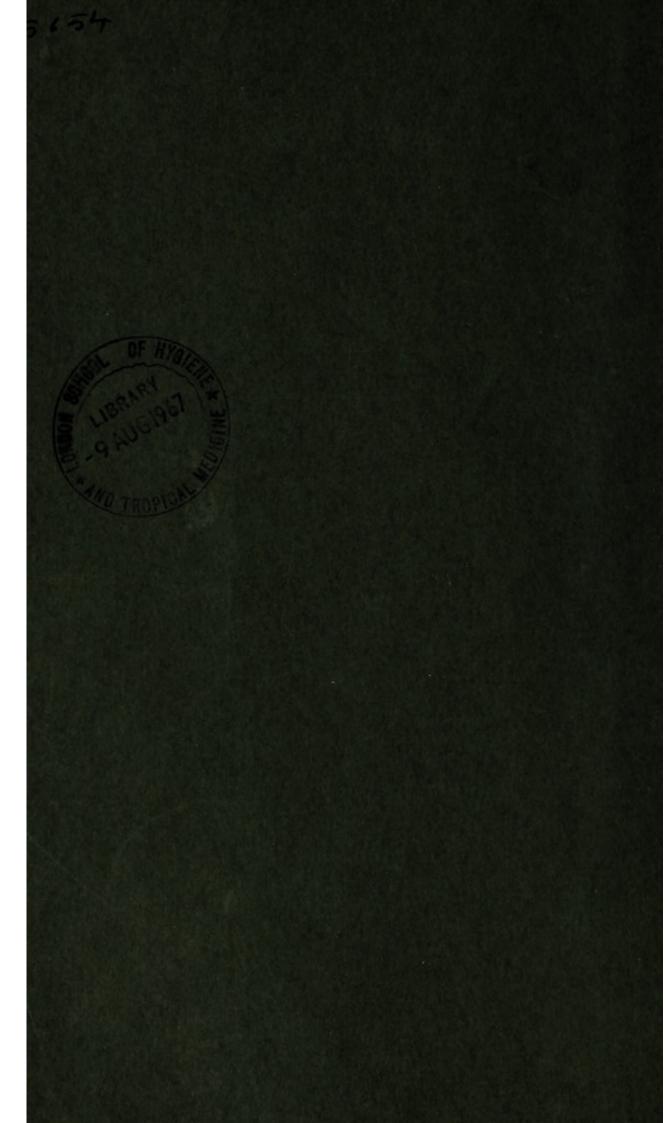
Tuberculosis Officer,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

Public Analyst,

Rot the Year 1923

MICHIWICK TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED. PRINTERS.





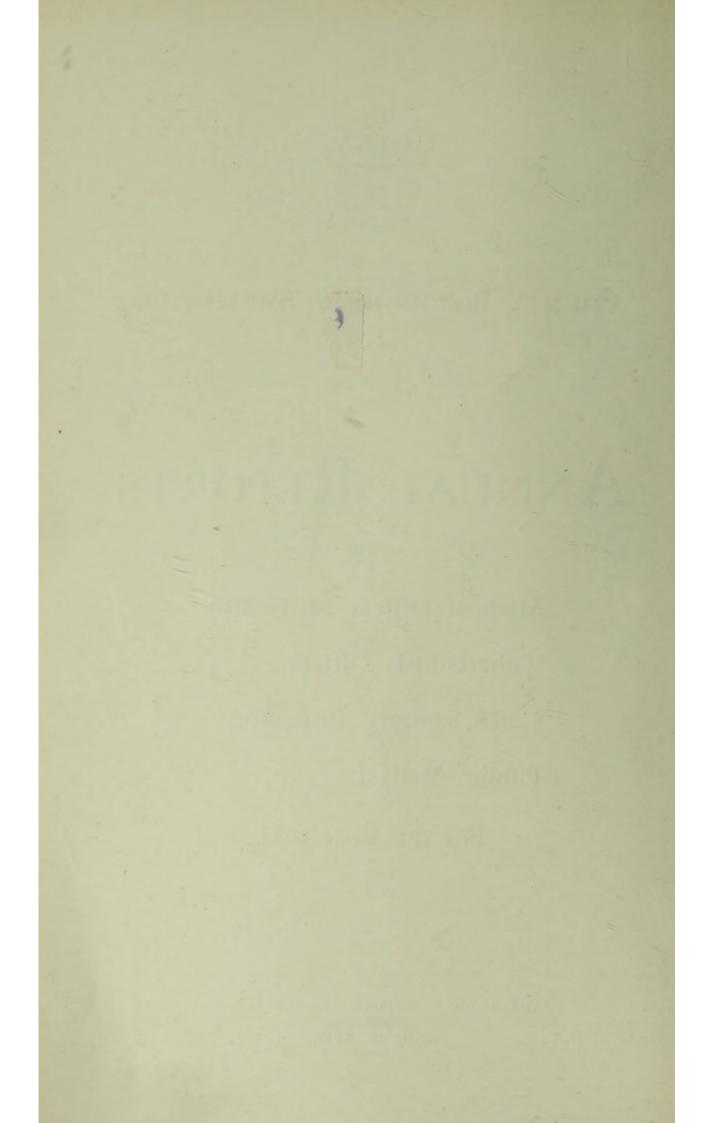
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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Tuberculosis Officer,
Chief Sanitary Inspector,
AND
Public Analyst,

For the Year 1923.



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County Borough of Smethwick.

The Health Committee.

(From November, 1922, to November, 1923).

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. BRADSHAW, M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P.

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. COUNCILLOR J. C. CRIPPS.

COUNCILLOR E. ADAMS, J.P., MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.
COUNCILLOR J. SMITH.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The Members of the Health Committee together with the following Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. F. Chapman. Mrs. E. Griffiths.

MRS. C. W. JONES. MRS. JOHNSON.

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee.

Chairman: Councillor T. W. Evans, J.P.

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. COUNCILLOR A. BRADSHAW.

,, C. WOODCOCK, J.P. ,, Mrs. E. M. SANDS, J.P. COUNCILLOR G. F. BETTS. ,, S. W. B. STEPHEN.

Oldbury Representatives:

COUNCILLOR W.T. DAVIES, J.P. COUNCILLOR T. W. QUAYLE.
W. PARKES, J.P. C. THOMLINSON.

Smethwick Representatives on the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board.

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P. ALDERMAN C. WOODCOCK, J.P. COUNCILLOR G. F. BETTS.

OBITUARY.

ALDERMAN CHARLES WOODCOCK, J.P., Died May 26th, 1923. COUNCILLOR T. W. QUAYLE. Died Oct, 22nd, 1923. Smillwick and Oldbury Joint Hespital Lower Here

Health Department Staff.

Consulting Medical Officer of Health:
W. F. Marsh Jackson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and L.M.

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital:

J. Bell Ferguson, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin), D.P.H. (Manchester).

Assistant Medical Officers:

JAMES A. DELMEGE, O.B.E. (Mil. Div.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ELLA MACKENZIE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: J. FYLES, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

JOHN DEMPSEY, C.R.S.I. and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

JOHN H. WRIGHT, C.R.S.I. and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk: GEO. H. ROE, C.R.S.I.

Second Clerk: JAMES F. ROGERS.

Clerk for M. and C.W. Work: MISS WINIFRED M. COOMBES.

Junior Clerk: J. H. MASSEY.

Nursing Staff*:

MISS L. E. ROBERTS. †MISS N. S. GRAY.

†Miss A. Wright. †Miss F. Richards, C.R.S.I.

†MISS F. M. SULLIVAN. †MISS L. W. WEALE, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor and Clerk to Tuberculosis Dispensary:
MISS G. M. COBBAN, C.R.S.I.

Matron of Isolation Hospital: MISS F. E. WHITEHOUSE.

Public Analyst: JOSEPH LONES, F.I.C., F.C.S.

[†]The work of these Nurses is divided between the following Committees:—Health.

Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Education, and Mental Deficiency.

[†]These nurses hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

County Borough of Smethwick.

Public Health Department, 280, High Street, Smethwick. June, 1924.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1923.

As formerly, the tables given are comparable with those of previous years.

There has been a further decline in the Birth-rate, which is 20.2 per 1,000 of the population compared with 21.3, 25.4 and 27.0 per 1,000 for the three previous years. The marriage-rate, however, shows a slight increase this year.

The death-rate for the year (10.8) is the lowest on record for the Borough. The average rate for the past twenty-five years is 13.4. The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.6 per 1,000 for 1923.

The Infant Mortality figure is 65.4 per 1,000 births, again a record for the Borough. Twenty-five years ago the rate was 179 per 1,000, and the average for the past quarter of a century is 118.5.

These figures give us good grounds for satisfaction and go far to substantiate the slogans which some American Health Commisioners put upon their note headings, viz., "Public Health is Purchasable" and that "Within Natural Limitations any Community can determine its own Death-rate."

The incidence of Scarlet Fever showed a decline, but that of Diphtheria an increase, the type of the latter disease being somewhat virulent.

Influenza was responsible for a considerable amount of illness towards the Autumn but the mortality was low.

The position with regard to housing still remains grave, and there are at the moment many hundreds of families who are housed under exceedingly bad conditions, but who are able and willing to pay a reasonable rent for houses as soon as these are available. Only 62 houses were built by the Corporation and 2 by private enterprise during the year. It is impossible to put into words the importance of decent housing accommodation in relation to public health, mental and physical.

On page 37 will be found a report on "Health Week and Baby Week" which entailed a considerable amount of work on the part of the staff, but had a large measure of success.

During the year Dr. J. A. Delmege proceeded to a new post at Warrington, and was succeeded by Dr. R. Sandilands, from Newcastle-on-Tyne. Dr. Ella Mackenzie left in October to take up a new post at Blackburn, and was succeeded temporarily by Dr. Agnes Robertson as Acting Assistant M.O.H.

Below are appended some figures kindly supplied by the Borough Treasurer, relating to expenditure on the Public Health Services.

My thanks are due to the members of the Health Committee for their interest in and appreciation of the work of the Department, and to my colleagues on the medical, clerical, and nursing staff, and to the inspectors, who have worked so well and so enthusiastically during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

J. BELL FERGUSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

Summary of Estimates for the financial year ended 31st March, 1924.

GENERAL DISTRICT RATE.	Amount.	Rate in £.
GENERAL DISTRICT NATE.	£.	d.
Notification of Infectious Disease	100	.08718
Intectious Disease Prevention and		
Bacteriological Examinations	662	.57713
Contribution to Smethwick and Oldbury		
Joint Hospital	2,365	2.06179
Maternity and Child Welfare	1,265	1.10282
Contribution to Joint Smallpox		
Hospital	194	.16913
Venereal Diseases	85	.07410
Rats Order, 1918	10	.00872
	4 601	4.00007
	4,681	4.08087
BOROUGH FUND.		
Food and Drugs Acts	250	.19642
Tuberculosis'	2,257	1.77326
Mental Deficiency	866	.68039
Medical Inspection of School Children		1.77719
	E 60E	4 49796
	5,635	4.42726
Grand Totals	10,316	8.50813

These figures show that out of a total rate budgetted for of 16s. 4d. in the £ the estimated cost on the rates of the Public Health Services represented 8½d. in the £.

Annual Report, 1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area: 1929 acres.

Population: (Census, 1921), 75,757. (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-year, 1923), 78,450.

Number of inhabited houses: 15,897.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921): 16,366.

Rateable value: £334,452 17s. 6d.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £1,255 17s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS:	Legitimate Illegitimate	 Total. 1,542 46	Males. 759 22	Females 783 24
	Total	 1,588	781	807

BIRTH-RATE: 20.24 per 1,000 of the population.

Marriages: 654. Marriage rate: 16.6 per 1,000.

DEATHS: Total, 849—Males 471, Females 378. Death-rate: 10.82 per 1.000 of the population.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth: From Sepsis, 7; from other causes, 4.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age per 1,000 births:—Legitimate, 62.9; Illegitimate, 152.1; Total, 65.49.

Deaths from : -

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Measles	23	0.29
Whooping Cough	4	0.05
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	12	0.15
Scarlet Fever	4	0.05
Diphtheria	19	0.24
Influenza	22	0.28
	82	1.04
Respiratory Diseases	143	1.82
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	73	0.93
Other forms of Tuberculosi		0.17

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1923.

	BIRTH-				1,000						RATE 1,000 BI		PERCEN		
	PER 1 000 TOTAL POPU- LATION	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrheea and, Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year	Causes of Death certified by Regd. Med. Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales	19.7	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.44	7.7	69	95.0	6.9	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London 157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations,	20.4									0.40		72	92.2	7-2	0.6
20,000—50,000) London	19.8	10.6	0.01		0.08					0.38		69	92.6	6.1	1.3
Smethwick	20.2	10.8										65	92.8	6.9	0.3

The total deaths registered in the district was 618; 14 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 245 Smethwick residents died in other districts and have to be added to the number registered in the Borough. The nett deaths thus number 849. giving a death-rate of 10.82 per 1,000 of the population, against 11.22 per 1,000 last year. The death-rate for the year under review is the lowest on record for the Borough. Twenty-five years ago the rate was 15.1 per 1,000, and the average death-rate for the last quarter of a century is 13.4 per 1,000. It will be seen from the above table that Smethwick compares very favourably with other towns and with the country as a whole.

There has been a further decline in the Birth-rate (20.2) compared with last year (21.3) and the previous year (25.4).

The number of marriages shows a slight increase compared with last year.

A table giving a detailed analysis of the causes of, and ages at death will be found at the end of this Report, while a similar table relating to deaths of infants under one year appears on page 31.,

The mean age at death was 43.6 years.

COMPARISON OF RATES IN THE VARIOUS WARDS:-

Ward Estimated Population	Total Acreage	Density	General Death-rate	Respiratory Death-rate	Infant Mortality rate
Spon Lane 12,943	515	25.1	10.7	1.4	44.7
Sandwell 12,026	411	29.2	13.4	2.5	77.8
Uplands 8,756	255	34.3	9.2	1.4	25.9
Bearwood 21,582	348	62.0	9.5	1.4	65.6
Victoria 11,875	176	67.4	11.1	1.9	61.4
Soho 11,268	224	50.3	11.5	2.2	103.9
Total 78,450	1,929	40.6	10.82	1.82	65.49

REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS IN SMETHWICK DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS.

						,		Death	rates per	1,000
		ion	age 000	rate 000	ate 0	o te	rate,	tor	ary	
L		ma	ria 1.00	1,00	400,1	nt ra	h ri O	ira	non sis	ie.
Year		Estimated	Marriage rate per 1.000	Birth per 1,	Death rate per 1,000	Infant mor tality rate per 1,000 births	Zymotic death rat per 1,000	Respiratory	Pulmonary tuber- culosis	Cancer
1899		51,500	14.3	36.03	15.1	179	1.9	2.5	0.81	
1900		55,700	14.9	33.3	15.6	160	1.4			0.46
1901		54,560	15.4					3.3	0.74	0.55
1902				34.7	14.9	170	1.76	2.5	0.87	0.62
		55.700	12.1	35.4	13.8	127	1.4	2.9	0.75	0.55
1903		58.000	14.8	34.1	14.1	141.7	1.2	3.1	0.65	0.77
1904	•••	The second secon	11.08	32.06	13.2	145.6	1.24	2.67	0.93	0.80
1905		63,000	14.9	30.3	15.0	139	1.7	2.7	0.73	0.60
1906		65,000	15.6	31.2	14.6	130	2.21	2.7	1.03	0.67
1907		67,000	14.4	29.4	14.34	116	1.43	3.1	0.78	0.85
1908		69,500	14.1	30.0	14.5	135	1.84	2.7	0.86	0.70
1909		70,300	13.8	28.1	13.4	116	2.23	2.8	0.82	0.78
1910		72,000	15.2	27.35	12.42	108	1.3	2.1	0.84	0.54
1911		70,681	15.9	27.8	14.6	140	2.3	2.6	0.94	0.79
1912		73,372	16.3	25.8	12.32	111	0.9	2.8	0.9	0.7
1913		72,936	18.0	28.1	14.98	127	2.1	3.1	0.8	0.76
1914		72,975	16.8	27.5	14.13	106	1.67	3.4	1.26	0.89
1915		72,439	21.6	25.88	13.8	109.3	2.13	3.02	1.10	0.98
1916		78,335	17.4	22.04	11.08	93.8	0.77	3.33	1.20	0.84
1917		78,335	18.11	20.32	11.5	99.8	0.71	3.9	1.30	0.86
1918		76,056	16.49	20.28	15.63	102.4	0.6	3.56	1.43	0.9
1919		73,000	17.67	22.19	13.00	84.6	0.45	3.2	1.19	1.03
1920		75,027	22.71	27.08	11.16	82.18	0.64	2.4	0.81	0.92
1921		77,400	16.4	25.46	11.11	88.28	0.69	2.27	0.68	0.85
1922		78,140	15.6	21.39	11.22	86.12	0.67	2.31	0.78	1.13
1923		78,450	16.6	20.24	10.82	65.49	0.79	1.82	0.93	1.04
77.5		,							750000000000000000000000000000000000000	- TOTAL TOTAL

YEAR 1923. DURING THE DISEASES NOTIFIABLE

			TC)TA]	C 0.	TO'LAL CASES		OTI	NOTIFIED	D.			bet Ll.				T	TOTAL	0.00	DEATHS	LHS				1
DISEASE.					AGE		GROUPS	oń.					nimba shiqaol					AGE	2000	GROUPS	è.				1
	All	1-0	z-1	5-z	≯ —€	5-4	01-5	02-51	20-32	35-45	\$9-50	bna 20 sbrawqu	Савев	All	1-0	z-1	£ 2	⊅ —€	5-+	01—5	02-51	50-32	35-45	59-54	bas 20
Smallpox Scarlet Fever	138 138 138 141 141 141 146 146 146 146 146 146 146	12-2:124:17 :: : :	12211-11115 11 11	18 = 1 : 1 : 1 = 1 : 1 = 1 = 1	11 1 2 1 1 0 1 1 0 2 1 1 1 0 2 1 1	13 55 1 1 1 2 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 3 1 3 3 3 3 3 1 3 3 3 3		17.88 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	13 30 11 13 15 15 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 20 82 : : 66 : : 33 6 1 :	1 45 1 1 50 1 1 40 5 1 1		132 888 888 888 888 888 888 888 888 888 8	:40° E : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	-		110111111111111	u m	1,01117111 11 17	:+0:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::		1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1		1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
(b) Non-pulmonary (Total	1 - 8	- 8	1 12	1 04	: 3	2 7		1 3	01	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	64		4 4	172	w r	: 2	: "	N 00	- 10	5 5 13	6	. I	: 45	1 04	13 1

* Chicken Pox was made compulsorily notifiable for a period of six months from the 21st April, 1923, by Order of the Town Council.

STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1923. SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

in 23.	Total.	111	98	:	32
Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1923.	Children under 16	13	98	:	31
nber of Case Hospital on ember 31st, 1	Females	::	::	:	:
Nur	Males.	- :	11	. :	1
Died, other 1923.	.lstoT	135	47	3	283
	Children under 16	118	34	2	233
Cases Discharged, or Transferred to Institutions during	Feinales.	12	1 6	1	32
Cases or Tr Institu	Males.	w4	22	:	18
es 923.	Total.	132 88	48	3	286
Number of Cases Admitted during 1923.	Children under 16	114	38	2	239
ımber itted d	emales.	12	4-1	1	30
Adm	Males.	3.6	96	:	17
in 222.	Total.	4 4	0.0	,:	29
Cases al on 31st, 19	Children on ander 16	41	0.9	:	25
Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1922.	Females.	::	2 :	:	2
Nur	Males.	:-	-:	:	2
		11	- !!	:	
		::	11	:	- :
1		::	11	:	Totals
		SMETHWICK: Scarlet Fever Diphtheria	OLDBURY: Scarlet Fever Diphtheria	OLD HILL: Scarlet Fever	To

DIPHTHERIA :- The following complications occurred : Cases Percentage

Paresis in various forms

(nearly all Palatal) ... 22 19-4

Tracheotomy was performed in 3 cases, or 2'6 per cent.

Over two-thirds of the cases had received Antitoxin before admission.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year Scarlet Fever showed a further decline. The cases were for the most part mild and 4 death occurred. Two hundred and seven cases were notified, and of these 132, or 63.7 per cent. were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Holly Lane.

There were 128 cases of Scarlet Fever in children of school age, compared with 177 last year. The schools chiefly affected were Waterloo Road and Brasshouse Lane.

The incidence of, and mortality from Scarlet Fever during the past ten years is as follows:—

Year	1	Cases	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1914		428	5.8	16	3.7
1915		253	3.5	4	1.5
1916		169	2.2	4	2.3
1917		105	1.3	1	0.9
1918		52	0.7	1	1.9
1919		145	2.0	5	3.4
1920		514	6.8	2	0.4
1921		426	5.5	3	0.7
1922		270	3.4	2	0.7
1923		207	2.6	4	1.9

DIPHTHERIA.

The notifications of Diphtheria show a slight increase, numbering 138 against 119 last year. The type of infection was of a very virulent nature. In many cases the local lesion in the throat was apparently mild and did not alarm the parents, but the disease suddenly assumed a more virulent form and in a large number of these cases the practitioner was not called in early enough and antitoxin was given late in the disease. There were 74 cases in children of school age, against 60 last year, the schools chiefly affected being Waterloo Road, Brasshouse Lane, and Smethwick Hall. The incidence of and mortality from Diphtheria during the past ten years is as follows:—

Year	,	Cases	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1914		84	1.15	14	16.6
1915		58	0.8	9	15.5
1916		57	0.7	5	8.7
1917		56	0.7	6	10.7
1918		70	1.0	8	11.4
1919		94	1.29	6	6.4
1920		177	2.3	16	9.0
1921		132	1.7	9	6.8
1922		119	1.5	10	8.4
1923		138	1.75	19	13.7

Antitoxin is supplied free to medical practitioners in the Borougn, 253 phials of 8,000 units were issued during the year, against 121 last year.

During the year the following leaflet was distributed at the Infant Welfare Centres offering free protection to infants by means of Toxin-Antitoxin. The response has been poor up-to-date and much education of the mothers will be required before advantage is freely taken of this incalculable boon.

It would be a distinct advantage if Toxin-Antitoxin could be placed at the service of the medical practitioners in the Borough free of charge for prophylaxis in the same way as Antitoxin is given for curative purposes.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

NOTES FOR MOTHERS.

- 1. At, or shortly after birth, less than ten in every hundred children are susceptible to Diphtheria infection owing to protective substances which they have obtained from their mothers.
- 2. These protective substances in the blood fade away however, and after twelve months, about 75 out of every hundred children are liable to contract Diphtheria.
- 3. These protective substances can again be built up for the child by the simple process of an injection under the skin of the arm of a small amount of what is known as Toxin-Antitoxin given once a week for three weeks.
- 4. These measures have been in use on a large scale in New York for the past ten years and it has been found that Diphtheria attacks just four times as many unprotected children as children who have had the Toxin-Antitoxin. The method is harmless and the results are well worth the slight amount of trouble taken.
- 5. At a meeting on March 8th, 1923, the Smethwick Health Committee authorised their Medical Officers to offer protection against Diphtheria free of charge at the Infant Welfare Centres to those mothers who might wish to avail themselves of it for their children.
- 6. Mothers who wish to have this carried out should hand in name, address and age of children to the doctor, when arrangements will be made.

J. Bell Ferguson, Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department, 280, High Street, Smethwick.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case was notified during the year.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

No case was notified during the year.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case was notified during the year. The patient—a child of one year was removed to the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, and recovered.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

No case was notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

The cases of Primary Pneumonia notified during the year numbered 141, and of Influenzal Pneumonia 27. Notifications and deaths for the past five years are as follows:—

	Prim	ary Pneu	monia.	Influenzal Pn	eumonia
Year.	Not	ifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1919		75	45	62	64
1920		97	46	26	10
1921		70	49	8	3
1922		103	37	51	26
1923		141	37	27	14

Towards the end of 1922 your Medical Officer addressed the Smethwick Medical Society on the question of Pneumonia and considerable improvement in the notification of cases resulted. A polyvalent vaccine of proved antigenic properties has been issued to the practitioners for use early in cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia, and an inquiry is being carried out as to the types of pneumococci prevalent in the district.

Cases are visited by the nurses and disinfection is sanctioned by the Health Committee when requested.

The following leaflet is distributed at the Infant Welfare Centres, at the Health Office, and at the nurses' visits.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

PNEUMONIA (INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS), BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA, AND ALLIED RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

1. While the general death-rate has been considerably reduced in the last fifty years, the deaths caused by respiratory diseases show no material decline. Pneumonia may occur alone or as a complication following upon Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza, diseases of the heart and kidneys, etc. It is to be regarded as an infectious disease and may spread to other members of the household or, through them, to other households. Pneumonia occurs at all seasons of the year, in all climates, at all ages, everywhere, but is most dangerous and most frequent in old folks and in children.

2. CAUSE AND MODE OF SPREAD

Pneumonia is due to germs which are found in the mouth, throat and nose and which invade the blood, finally settling in the lungs. Patients convalescent from the disease and attendants of these patients harbour the germs in their throats for some time and may thus spread the infection ("carriers"). General pre-disposing causes are overwork and fatigue, worry, improper feeding, uncleanliness, badly ventilated surroundings, lack of warm clothing and exposure to cold and wet. Over indulgence in alcohol is sometimes a factor.

3. Symptoms of the Disease.

The patient may complain for a day or two of feeling "out of sorts" or the onset may be sudden with a feeling of chilliness or shivering. This shivering may be so violent as to shake the bed (rigors).

The breathing becomes rapid, grunting and shallow, and the nostrils work; the cheeks are flushed with a leaden tinge, and a short, suppressed, painful cough develops.

There is usually pain on the affected side and often a patch of shingles appears on the lips.

The spit is very sticky and often tinged with blood of a rusty colour. Children usually swallow this spit. Rambling delirium is common and the water is scanty and high coloured.

4. MANAGEMENT.

A doctor should be called in at once. The patient should be put in a separate bedroom with a small fire and the windows of the room kept well open. The patient should be moved as little as possible and kept quiet. Good nursing is essential and a trained nurse obtained if possible. The bed clothes should be warm and light and window curtains, bedhangings and all unnecessary draperies removed at once from the sick-room. Spit and discharges from the nose and throat should be received in a jar containing a disinfectant such as Izal, which may be obtained from the Health Office. 280, High Street, Smethwick. Paper handkerchiefs which can be burned are best, but if ordinary handkerchiefs are used they must be boiled after use. Cleanliness and freedom from dust in the sick-room are most desirable. should be wet dusted daily with a duster moistened with disinfectant solution.

5. PREVENTION.

Attendants upon the patient should avoid the patient's breath especially when coughing ("cough-spray") and should be careful to wash out and clean their own mouths and teeth as well as that of the patient.

Hands should be washed after leaving the sick room before taking food.

When nursing cases of Pneumonia it is advisable to wear gauze masks. These may be made from gauze or three or four thicknesses of butter-muslin tied over the mouth and nose behind the head. This measure should tend to prevent the nurse becoming a "carrier" and so convey the infection elsewhere.

The sick-room must not be overcrowded and all unnecessary visitors should be rigorously excluded.

General measures of prevention have already been outlined. Individuals should see to it that the mouth, nose and teeth, are kept in a healthy condition. Overcrowded rooms should be avoided. Adequate exercise, sleep, food, clothing and ventilation of living rooms and workrooms should be secured.

6. DISINFECTION.

The room and house should be flooded with fresh air and as much sunlight as possible. If desired, disinfection of the sick-room will be carried out on application to the Health Department.

J. BELL FERGUSON,

SMALL POX.

Medical Officer of Health.

On June 25th, at 2.15 p.m., I was asked to see a case of suspected Small-pox by a medical practitioner in the Borough.

The patient, a man of 21, employed in Birmingham, was found to be suffering from a mild form of Small-pox, and machinery for dealing with such an emergency was at once set in motion, viz.:—

- Instructions given for the Small-pox Ambulance (which is kept at Municipal Depot, Wolverhampton) to proceed at once to the Health Department, Smethwick.
- 2. Arrangements made for Inspector Wright to superintend transfer of patient to the ambulance and accompany the patient to the Small-pox Hospital, Bagnall, near Stoke-on-Trent.
- The Medical Superintendent of the Bagnall Hospital was informed by telephone in order that arrangements might me made for the reception of the patient.
- 4. The Medical Officer of the South Staffordshire Small-pox Hospital Board (Dr. Glendinnen) and the Clerk to the Board were informed by telephone.
- 5. The Public Vaccinator (Dr. F. W. Sutton) was at once informed and visited the house together with the M.O.H. and vaccinated five of the contacts.
- In the meantime full enquiries were made by the Inspector as to the movements of the patient during the infecting period and a complete list of contacts prepared.
- 7. The patient was removed to hospital at 5.30 p.m. and the house was thoroughly disinfected throughout on the same evening. All clothing, bedding, etc., used by the paient was steam-disinfected on the same evening.
- On the return of the ambulance from the hospital the vehicle and the clothing of the driver and inspector were thoroughly disinfected.

In accordance with suggestions in a recent circular from the Ministry of Health, the Serior Medical Officer was immediately notified by telegram of the occurrence of the case; the Vaccination Officer, the Clerk to the Birmingham Board of Guardians, all local medical practitioners, and the Medical Officers of Health of adjoining areas were also informed.

The movements of the patient prior to the onset of the disease were ascertained but the source of infection was not traced.

The immediate contacts (seven in number) and all sub-contacts were kept under observation.

I might here add that the members of the staff at the Health Department and at the Fever Hospital at Holly Lane were re-vaccinated some menths previously.

Leaflets have been distributed at the Infant Welfare Centres, the School Clinics, and to the general public, and illustrated posters displayed, calling attention to the utility of vaccination and re-vaccination. I deemed it advisable to distribute these leaflets from house to house in the affected district.

During the past 35 years Small-pox has occurred in Smethwick as follows: --

1889	 2	cases.	No deaths.
1893	 21	cases.	No deaths.
1894	 134	cases.	Nine deaths.
1895	 7	cases.	No deaths.
1902	 1	case.	No death.
1903	 24	cases.	No deaths.
1904	 1	case.	No death.
1917	 1	case.	No death.
1923	 1	case.	No death.

The Vaccination Officer's return for the year ending 30th June, 1912, shewed 18.1 per cent of conscientious objections. This figure gradually rose to 33:8 per cent. in 1922, and fell to 29.0 in 1923.

Since the occurrence of a case of Small-pox in Smethwick, I am glad to say that the public are availing themselves more fully of the protection afforded by vaccination.

CHICKEN POX.

Owing to the prevalence of Small-pox in certaining neighbouring towns it was deemed advisable to make Chicken Pox notifiable in the Borough and accordingly the Council at a special meeting on 12th April, 1923, passed a Resolution applying the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification)Act, 1889, so as to make Chicken Pox compulsorily notifiable within the Borough for a period of six months from the 21st April, 1923.

In all 225 notifications were received during the six months, and of these 208 were of children under ten years of age. Practically all cases notified were visited by the Medical Officer of Health, and instructions given to the parents as to the care of the patients. No diagnosis of Small-pox was made.

VACCINATION.

VACCINATION :	RETURNS	FOR TH	E PAST	TEN	VEADS
I ACCIMALION .	LUELURING	FUR ID	LOALASI	I Par	Trano.

Year ending 30th June,	Births	Vaccinations	Insusceptible	Conscientious objections	Died unvaccinated	Postponed by medical certificate	Gone to other districts	Gone— no address	Outstanding	Percentage of conscientious objections*
1923	1,535	984	-	428	62	15	6	10	30	29.0
1922	1,759	1,024	2	561	101	14	7	17	33	33.8
1921	1,884	1,046	5	608	119	32	10	20	44	34.4
1920	1,944	1.153	2	549	118	44	17	25	36	29
1919	1,438	816	_	421	104	20	21	23	33	31
1918	1,494	853	6	418	116	40	16	11	34	30
1917	1,689	1,042	3	425	120	36	15	20	28	27
1916	1,762	1,091	1	430	120	34	13	36	37	26
1915	1,994	1.211	- 3	472	153	64	15	54	22	25.6
1914	2,041	1,220	2	485	186	49	20	52	27	26.1

In calculating these percentages, the number dying unvaccinated has been deducted from the total number of births

The improvement in the 1923 percentage was no doubt caused by the occurrence of the one case of Small-pox in the Borough in June.

CANCER.

An undoubted increase in the mortality figures from cancer is observed, whether due to improved methods of diagnosis and consequently more correct certification, or whether due to an actual increase in the disease itself, the fact of the increase remains.

Our knowledge of cancer is far from complete, but certain facts stand out clearly. Patients may have life prolonged for many years or may in many cases be definitely cured by seeking surgical advice early, as soon as any suspicious lump or tumour is noticed. Unfortunately too many patients hide their fears of the disease until it is too late.

For some years past leaflets dealing with the forms of cancer peculiar to females have been distributed to the midwives in the town, and leaflets on cancer generally have been distributed to the public.

One might further remark that the "Erlangen" treatment by means of prolonged and concentrated application of powerful X-Rays is available at the Skin Hospital, John Bright Street, Birmingham, in the department under the charge of Dr. Russell Green. It is too soon to speak dogmatically, but up to date, I understand that results in many cases have been most encouraging.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR 1923.

SANATORIUM ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation available for the reception of tuberculous patients included 12 beds for females and 6 beds for males in "A" Block at Holly Lane Isolation Hospital, together with 12 wooden shelters for males, making a total of 30 beds. This arrangement obtained up to August, 1923. It was found that owing to the form of the agreement drawn up in the past with the Romsley Hill Sanatorium Authorities that some proportion of the cost was payable for the beds formerly reserved by the Smethwick Corporation whether occupied or not. In addition further accommodation was required at Holly Lane for infectious diseases and so the above sanatorium beds were closed down, the early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being sent to Romsley Hill from August onwards. "A" Block will in future be used for Diphtheria cases.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The new Block "D" consisting of 10 beds for females and 12 beds for males has continued in use. A two-bedded cubicle on the female side was utilised as a dining-room for the women patients. This block participated in the re-decoration of the exterior of the hospital which was carried out during the year; the interiors of certain cubicles were also done in this block.

Chronic and advanced cases are admitted where satisfactory isolation cannot be obtained at home. It is intended to use the chalets as occasion arises for observation cases for short periods.

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangement whereby the Corporation sanctioned six beds for the prolonged treatment of surigical tuberculosis has continued. Four cases were admitted during the year, one to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Hospital, Alton, Hants; and three to the "Woodlands," Northfield.

CLINIC FOR CHEST DISEASES.

It is with great pleasure that I can record that early in the year activities were transferred from the old unsatisfactory premises in Crocketts Lane to a thoroughly modern building at the rear of the Council House, the name being altered from "Sanatorium Dispensary" to "Clinic for Chest Diseases." This is a much more satisfactory title, as a large proportion (roughly two-thirds) of the people coming to the so-called tuberculosis dispensary prove not to be tuberculous on examination.

SHELTERS.

Ten shelters have been in constant use during the year. No further shelters were constructed at the workshop, but it is hoped to proceed with the construction of others next year.

AFTER-CARE WORK.

After-care work has been carried out by the staff of the Chest Clinic and the following is a summary of the work done:

Patients receiving loan of beds and bedding	14
Patients receiving loan of shelters, including beds	10
Advanced cases on domiciliary treatment receiving	
loan of bed-pans and air cushions	39
Ditto. receiving loan of water bed	2
Cases receiving grants of milk	15
Jerseys loaned to insured persons receiving Sana-	
torium Treatment	3

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AT THE CHEST CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1923.

DURING TH.	E. Y.	DAR .	1923.		
				Children	
	7	Calas	Females.	under	m-4-1
Number of New Cases	10	83	f emales.	16 Years.	Total.
				100	252
Number of Reatterdances		1014	1189	834	3037
Number of Insured Persons commen	_				-00
treatment at the Clinic		14	14	Tall Section 1	28
Ditto at Romsley Hill Sanatorium		6	1	-	7
Ditto at Holly Lane Sanatorium		37	15		52
New cases taken on at the Clinic	for				
Observation or Treatment		55	33	46	134
New cases passed for Sanatoria		30	18	_ 6	54
Referred to other institutions		12	11	9	32
Old Patients Re-examined		138	129	110	377
Chest Clinic Cases transferred	to				
Sanatoria		35	26	6	67
Sanatoria Cases transferred to Ch	est	-			
Clinic		5	10	1	16 -
Home Visits:-					
Tuberculosis Officer					60
Nurses					1831
Special After-care Visits					44
Patients receiving injection treatme	ent,				
attendances		538	533	461	1532
Contacts:-					
Number of Infecting Cases		37	18	7	62
Number of Contacts Examined		14	19	50	83
Number found tuberculous		2	3	6	11
Number suspected		6	7	9	22
Number found non-tuberculous		9	13	29	50
Number of Contacts Re-exami	ned	8	10	12	30
X-Ray Examinations					113
Surgical Dressings					352
Blanket Baths					181
TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT THE CLINIC:					
Old and New Cases					3754
Average Weekly Attendance					68.5
Trougo freezing moondanoo iii	200				1000000

ATTENDANCES AT THE CHEST CLINIC.

New patients are seen by appointment only, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases which are taken on for observation or treatment at the Chest Clinic are asked to attend on Tuesday or Friday mornings between 10 and 1 o'clock. Patients who have received treatment or who cannot conveniently attend in the mornings, are seen on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. by arrangement.

X-Ray examinations take place on Monday evenings commencing at 5 p.m.

On days when the Clinic is nominally closed the nurses are occupied in work on the district.

During the year 1923, 252 persons have applied at the Chest Clinic for advice and treatment. Of these 162 were insured under the National Insurance Act.

	TABLE I	I.			
			Males.	Females	Total.
Insured Persons			78	24	102
Uninsured Persons			5	18	23
Dependents of Insured	Persons		61	66	127
			144	108	252

TABLE III.—AGE AND SEX CONSTITUTION OF THE 252 PERSONS WHO WERE EXAMINED AT THE CHEST CLINIC FOR ADVICE AND TREATMENT.

Ages Sex	0. M	100		6-10 I F		0-15 L.F.		5-25 .F.		5-35 L.F.		-45 .F.	45 M.	up F.	All ages Ttl.
Pulmonary															
Tuberculosis															
Definite	-	-	-	1		1	12	6	8	10	11	7	7	2	65
Suspected	-		5	2	4	2	6	3	1	3	-	1	-		27
Tuberculosis:															
Other forms	1		2	2	4	2	-	-	-		1	-	1	-	13
Non-Tuberculous	13 1	1	14	10	16	7	14	13	17	13	6	4	6	3	147
	14 1	11	21	15	24	12	32	22	26	26	18	12	14	5	252
		-	1000	350	1000		100				18			-70	-

VISITS.

During the year the Tuberculosis Officer paid 60 visits to patients in their own homes. The nurses paid 1,875 visits, including 44 special visits in connection with the after-care of patients. It has been the aim of the staff of the Clinic to foster a friendly feeling in these visits and to obviate as much as possible any suggestion of officialism or inspection.

CONTACTS.

Eighty-three persons living in infected houses and in intimate contact with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been carefully examined and dealt with. Of these, 11 were found to be definitely suffering from the disease, 50 were regarded as being free from active Tuberculosis, and 22 are still under observation. Thirty contacts were re-examined during the year.

TABLE IV .- "CONTACTS."

No. of infecting cases.		No. of con- tacts examined.				o. for	ind lous.	su	No.		No. of non- tuberculous				
M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch	
37	18	7	14	19	50	2	3	6	6	9	7	9	13	28	
-		_	-	~	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	-	~	_	
	62			83			11			22			50		

NOTIFICATIONS.

Ninety-cight notifications of Tuberculosis were received through the Medical Officer of Health during the year. There were 80 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 18 of other forms of the disease. The following table shows the notifications received and the attack rate for each of the past ten years:—

	1:0 1:	. ,	Attack Rate per						
		ons received: Other forms	1,000 of the Pulmonary.	Other forms.					
1914	 143	167	1.9	2.2					
1915	 229	103	3.1	1.4					
1916	 204	117	2.6	1.4					
1917	 206	126	2.6	1.6					
1918	 194	80	2.5	1.0					
1919	 260	60	3.5	0.8					
1920	 146	31	1.9	0.4					
1921	 88	14	1.1	0.18					
1922	 112	17	1.4	0.2					
1923	 80	18	1.02	0.2					

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis during the year numbered 87, of which 61 were notified cases and 26 not notified. The ratio of unnotified deaths to the total deaths is 29.8 per cent. It is to be regretted that the circular letter sent to medical practitioners last year drawing their attention to the Regulations with regard to notification has not proved effective. The attention of the practitioners has been again called to this laxity in notification.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

TABLE SHEWING ADMISSIONS to, and DISCHARGES from, SANATORIA during the Twelve Months ended December 31st, 1923.

	8 1				64								-		1	
Number of Deaths.	Males Females	:	9	:	:		:			:	-	:	:	:		9
Nun	Males	:	∞	:	:		:			:		:	:	:		∞
s in 923.	Total	13	0	-	-		-	,	+	:		:	:	:		19
f Caserium or	Children Total	I	1	:	::	7	-	-	+	:		:	:			7
Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1923.	Males Females	:	4	-			:		:	:		:	:			w
Nu (-	4	:	-		:			:		:	:	:		7
d	Total	12	71	-	-		:	-		I	,	1	-	-		89
Cases discharged or transferred to the Chest Clinic.	Children under 16	-	01	:	:		:					:	::	::		12
ses discharge ransferred to Chest Clinic.	Males Females	w	50	:	н		:			I		:	:	:		36
Ca or t		9	32	I			:			:		-	1	-		+
rs 1923.	Total	14	77	1	1		1	,	0	-	37	-	1	-		101
Number of Cases admitted during 1923.	Children under 16	64	7		:		1	,	0	:		:				13
umber itted d	Females	w	34	1	:		:			-		:	:	:		41
adm	Males	7	36		1		:			:		-	I	1		47
in 1 922.	Total	:	17	1	I		:	,	,	:		:	::			21
Cases ium or 31st, 1	Children under 16	:	+		:		:	,		:		:	:			9
Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1922.	Males Females Children Total Males	:	10	:	-		:	0		:		:		***		9
Nun	Males	:	00	-	:		:	8	:	;		:	:	:		6
NAME OF INSTITUTION		Romsley Hill	Holly Lane	Yardley Road	West Heath	Lord Mayor Treloar Hos-	pital, Alton	The Woodlands, North-	King Edward Sanatorium	Midhurst	National Sanatorium,	Eversfield Chest Hosnital	St. Leonard's-on-Sea	Preston Hall	The state of the s	Totals

The average length of stay in the wards at Holly Lane was 10.8 weeks, against 10.5 weeks last year, and 14.06 weeks in 1921. The average stay is shorter because of certain observation cases who were admitted only for six weeks.

CONDITION OF PATIENTS ON DISCHARGE (ALL INSTITUTIONS).

Markedly	imp	roved	 	 	 25
Improved			 	 	 30
In Statu	Quo		 	 ****	 22
Worse			 	 	 12
Died			 	 	 14
					-
					103

RECREATION.

Contributions of books, periodicals, etc., for the patients' library will be welcome from anyone reading this Report. Through the kindness of Mr. H. V. Worwood and the Smethwick Insurance Committee, newspapers and periodicals are supplied weekly to the patients at the Sanatorium.

We have again to thank Mr. T. Collins, J.P., and his friends who during the year gave a further series of excellent concerts which were very greatly appreciated. In addition our thanks are due to the Chairman of the Joint Hospital Committee (Councillor T. W. Evans, J.P.) and Mr. Collins, who acted as Treasurer, and numerous other friends for their efforts to raise funds for the provision of a wireless receiving set at the hospital. An efficient wireless set was installed during the year, including a loud speaker in the recreation rooms and telephones to 14 cubicles. The balance-sheet is set out below:—

PAYMENTS	3.	RECEIPTS.						
		s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
" Telephone " (Advert. for				Subscriptions	43	0	6	
Tenders)	. 1	1	0	Concert at Empire-Mr.				
Parker & Winder-Tennis	3.0			Hewitson	18	7	6	
Utensils	6	13	0	Whist Drive	35	3	7	
Page, Mr. G., for Installa-		-		THE RESERVE TO SERVE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY		-		
_ tion	. 76		0		96	11	7	
License		10	0	Bank Interest		16	9	
Stationery, Stamps, Corres-		-						
pondence		2	61					
Stamps for Invitations to		-						
Opening		2	51					
Receipt Book			6					
Cartage of Chairs for	-	0	1					
Whist Drive	. 1	9	1					
The state of the s	00	7	7					
Delanes	86	7	6					
Balance	. 11	U	9					
160	£97	8	4		007	Q	1	
	201	0	-		001	0	*	

January 30th, 1924.

Audited and found correct, (Signed) Sidney Taylor.

The Carpenter's Shop has continued to be useful, many repairs round about the hospital and buildings having been carried out, providing the men patients with an alternative form of exercise.

The women patients have been most successful with their poultry, and have thus been able to renew their stock of gramophone records.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By arrangement, treatment is available for Smethwick patients at the General Hospital, Birmingham. The centre is open for men and women every week-day from 3 to 7 p.m.

The number of Smethwick residents treated during the year was 61, as compared with 74 last year, 73 in 1921, 120 in 1920, and 143 in 1919. The report of the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre for the year under review shows:—

A. Number of Smethwick persons dealt with during the year at or in connection with, the Out-patient Clinic for the first time and found suffering from:—

	Syphilis	18
	Soft Chancre	-
	Gonorrhœa	27
	Conditions other than Venereal	16
		-
	Total	61
		-
	That I would be the large of the Out attent Clinic for	
В.	Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in Smethwick	1,424
c.	Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in Smethwick	127
D.	Number of doses of Salvarsan substitute given	165
P	athological examinations made during the year 1923 relating to persons residing in Smethwick:—	
	For detection of Spirochetes	
	For detection of Gonococci	68
	For Wassermann reaction	76
		-
		144

Six enquiries in connection with the scheme were received at the Health Office during the year. Any member of the public is confidentially and courteously received and given full information. Enamel signs calling attention to the necessity for immediate treatment and giving information as to the treatment centre are permanently fixed in all public conveniences throughout the Borough.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Arrangements for the necessary routine bacteriological examinations for the town are made with the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Birmingham. The number of specimens examined during the year and the results are set out below:—

Nature of Specimen.		N	amber.	Positive.	Negative
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	Bacilli	_			
O			203	57	146
Contacts			21	5	16
Convalescents			10	4	6
Nasal Swabs for Diphtheria Ba	acilli-	-376			
Suspects			7	2	5
Contacts			11	7	4
Blood for Widal's test			4	1	3
Fæces for Dysentery			2	_	2
Pus from eyes for Gonococci			11	3	8
Sputum for Tubercle Baccilli			231	44	187
Totals			499	122	377

In addition to the above, 250 swabs were examined for Diphtheria Baccilli at the Hospital, Holly Lane, from patients in the hospital, 23 giving a positive and 227 a negative result. Two consecutive negative swabs are required before a patient is discharged.

Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements and Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General:—The Smethwick District Nursing Association, The Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home, 2, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, has one nurse-matron and two nurses, who undertake general nursing among the poorer inhabitants in the district. A grant of £25 per annum is made to the Association by the Council for emergency nursing of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum when for some reason the nurses of the Health Department cannot attend.
- (b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES: —No service provided but a panel of handywomen is kept at the Health Office and their services utilised in certain cases.

MIDWIVES.

Twenty-two midwives reside in the Borough and a total of 38 notified their intention to practice in the area during the year.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two School Clinics are provided, one at 95, Soho Street, Six Ways, and one at Smethwick Hall Schools. The days and times of attendance are as follows:—

TREATMENT CLINICS: -

Six Ways: Monday, 2.30—5; Tuesday, 2.30—5; Wednesday, 2.30—5; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

Smethwick Hall: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Tuesday, 9.30—1; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Thursday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 9.30—1.

INSPECTION CLINIC: -

Six Ways: Friday, 9.30-1.

Smethwick Hall: Thursday, 9.30-1.

EYE CLINIC: -

Smethwick Hall: Monday, 2-5; Thursday, 2-5.

IONISATION CLINIC: -

Six Ways: Tuesday morning, 10-12.30 a.m.

CLEANSING STATION (Scabies, etc.): -

Six Ways: Monday, 9.30—11.30; Wednesday, 9.30—11.30; Friday, 2.30—5.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES : -

No. 1, Baptist Hall, Rawlings Road: Monday, 2.30-4.30.

No. 2, 95, Soho Street: Thursday, 2.30-4.30.

No. 3, St. Stephen's Hall, Sydenham Road: Wednesday, 2.30-4.30.

No. 4, Smethwick Hall School, Devonshire Road: Tuesday, 2.30-4.30

No. 5, Oldbury Road, Congregational Church Hall: Friday. 2.30—4.30. (Will open January, 1924).

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC: -

Health Department, 280, High Street, Smethwick: Saturday, 10—1. Chest Clinic, Rear of Council House:

New cases seen by appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Cases taken on for observation or treatment attend on Tuesdays or Fridays, between 10-1, or by appointment on Tuesday evenings, from 6-8.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS, AT THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL. CROCKETTS LANE:—
Monday evenings commencing at 5 p.m. by appointment through
Chest Clinic.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINICS, AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM: —
Every week-day from 3 to 7 p.m. for men and women.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(1) Tuberoulosis: -

Holly Lane Sanatorium: 12 beds in Chalets, and 22 beds for advanced or chronic cases.

Romsley Hill Sanatorium (Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund): 20 beds reserved for Smethwick patients.

For Surgical Tuberculosis: Authority given to send up to six cases to "The Woodlands," Northfield, or Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples Hospital and College, Alton, Hants

(2) Maternity: -

Two beds reserved for Puerperal Fever cases at the Women's Hospital. Sparkhill, Birmingham.

(3) CHILDREN: -See below (other Institution).

- 4) Fever: —
 Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick
 (total 60 beds): Diptheria and Scarlet Fever cases only.
- (5) SMALL Pox: —
 South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital at Bagnall, Stoke-onTrent.
- INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

 None at present.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) For Infectious Cases: Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee have motor ambulance which is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (Tel., Smethwick 159).
- (b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases: Town Ambulance, kept at the Fire Station, Rolfe Street, Smethwick (Tel., Smethwick 22).

Other Institutions available for the District.

- GENERAL HOSPITAL, STEELHOUSE LANE, BIRMINGHAM: —
 Out-patients' Department, open daily from 9—10 a.m.
- QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BATH ROW, BIRMINGHAM: Out-patients' Department open at 9 a.m. daily.
- CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM:—
 Out-patients' Department in Steelhouse Lane, open Monday to
 Friday at 2 p.m.
- Women's Hospital, Upper Priory, Birmingham:—
 Out-patients' Department open Monday to Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.
 Special cases seen on Thursdays.
- Homæpathic Hospital, 15, Easy Row, Birmingham:—
 Out-patients' Department open 9—10 a.m. daily, and every afternoon (except Wednesday) from 2—3 o'clock.
- SKIN AND URINARY HOSPITAL, JOHN BRIGHT STREET, BIRMINGHAM: —
 Out-patients' Department open Monday to Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.
- EAR AND THROAT HOSPITAL, EDMUND STREET, BIRMINGHAM:—
 Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturday) from 9.30—
 11 a.m.
- EYE HOSPITAL, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM: Out-patients seen daily from 9—10 a.m.
- ORTHOPÆDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL, NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM: —
 Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturdays) from 2 p.m.
- BIRMINGHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL, LOVEDAY STREET, BIRMINGHAM:—
 Patients are seen in first instance on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.30 a.m.
- DENTAL HOSPITAL, 132, GREAT CHARLES STREET, BIRMINGHAM: -Hours, 9 to 10.15 daily.
- BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY, CAPE HILL BRANCH, SMETHWICK: Surgery Hours, 2 to 4 p.m. daily (except Wednesdays).

Local Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., relating to Public Health, in force in the County Borough of Smethwick.

LOCAL ACT.

Smethwick Corporation Act, 1901.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Baths and Washhouses Acts—Adopted 11th Sept., 1885. Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—Adopted 10th Oct., 1890. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Adopted 14th Nov., 1890. Private Street Works Act, 1892—Adopted 10th March, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—the following parts adopted 18th Feb., 1908—Part II., Sections 17 to 33; Part III., Sections 34 to 38, 45 to 47, 49 to 51; Part IV., Sections 52 to 66 and Section 68; Part V., the whole part; Part X., the whole part.

BYE-LAWS.

Street Cleansing and Nuisances, 1856.

Slaughter-houses, 1893.

Nuisances, 1914.

Good Rule and Government, 1921.

REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1901.

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Total under 1 year	2	
11-12 m'nths	629.	65.4
1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-6 6-7 7-8 8-9 9-10 10-11 11-12 minths		Rate, 6
9-10 m'nths	::::::	-
8-9 m'nths	111116111111111111111111111111111111111	104.
7-8 m'nths	1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	7
6-7 m'nths	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
5-6 m'nths		
4-5 m'nths	E YEAR	
3-4 m'nths	7 ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	
2-3 m'nths	2	
1-2 minths	10 DEATHS	
Total under 4 w'ks.		
3-4 w'ks.	1.542.	1200.
2-3 w'ks.	######################################	10tal 1588,
1-2 w'ks.	6 1 1 1 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Under 1 w'k.	31 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
CAUSE OF DEATH.	Neasles Scarlet Fever Scarlet Fever Scarlet Fever Scarlet Fever Scarlet Fever Suphtheria Suph	
3	Measles Scarlet Fever Diphtheria Influenza Erysipelas Tuberculous Me Syphilis Meningitis Spinal Parapleg Convulsions Broncho-pneum Lobar Pneumor Diarrheea Enteritis Gastro-enteritis Intestinal Obstr Tumour of Live Pemphigus Congenital Hyd Congenital Hyd Congenital Hyd Congenital Hyd Congenital Birth Atrophy, Debilh Atelectasis Injury at Birth Accidental Suffe Tota	

Maternity and Child Welfare.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Registered: (1) Legitimate, 1,542; (2) Illegitimate, 46; (3) Total 1,588 Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

- (1) Live Births, 1,427; (2) Still Births, 51; (3), Total 1,478.
- (1) By Midwives, 1,382; (2) By Parents and Doctors, 96.

INFANT DEATHS.

Number: (1) Legitimate, 97; (2) Illegitimate, 7; (3) Total 104.

Rate per 1,000 births: (1) Legitimate, 62.9; (2) Illegitimate, 152.1; (3) Total 65.4.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth.
(1) From Sepsis, 7; (2) other causes, 4.

The maternal death-rate works out at 6.9 per 1,000 births, compared with 1.7 per 1,000 in 1922, and 4.5 in 1921 The rate for England and Wales for 1922 was 3.91 per 1,000.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year: -

To Expectant Mothers: (1) First visits, 65; (2) total visits, 103.

To Infants under 1: (1) First visits, 1,503; (2) total visits, 7,955.

To Children 1 to 5: Total visits, 8,835.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of cases notified: 31. Genuine cases, 23; Non-genuine, 8.

Cases treated by the Health Department Nurses: 28.

Cases treated at Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital (including cases referred by the nurses): 10.

Cases resulting in impairment of vision: 4—both eyes slightly defective in each case.

Exudate from the eyes examined in 11 instances: Gonocccci found in 3 cases; not found in 8 cases.

Notifications for past years: -

1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917
31	22	34	61	43	54	49

The visits paid to Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases by the nurses during the year numbered 375.

It was not necessary to call in the assistance of the District Nursing Association during the year.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Since its inception in April, 1920, this Clinic has increased in popularity. Referring to the table on page 31 it will be noticed that out of a total of 104 deaths of infants under one year, no less than 48 occurred in the first four weeks of life (the so-called "Neo-Natal period") and of these no less than 31 occurred during the first week. It is quite obvious that we must look to the Ante-Natal Clinic and all that it connotes to secure an improvement in this portion of the Infant Deathrate.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic since the commencement are as follows:—

1920	 	 	 	42
1921	 	 	 	107
1922	 	 	 	127
1923	 	 	 	241

The workers at the Infant Welfare Centres endeavour to encourage young mothers to come to the Ante-Natal Clinic for advice and examination, and midwives are also encouraged to send or bring their cases.

MIDWIVES.

During the year 38 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the area; of these, 21 were trained and 17 were bona-fide midwives. Two midwives left the district during the year.

A total of 1,108 births were attended solely by midwives, being 75 per cent. of the total births notified. Medical aid was summoned in 78 of these cases, the complications for which such aid was sought being:—

MOTHER: -							
Breech presentation	D					8	
Occipito-posterior						1	
Other abnormal pr	esenta	tion				1	
Hæmorrhage						6	
Pyrexia						6	
Retained placenta						3	
Torn perineum						21	
Miscarriage						2	
Other causes						22	
CHILD: -							
Dangerous feeblene				***		4	
Spina bifida		***				1	
Pemphigus neonato	rum					3	
Routine visits paid to	midw	ives					71
Visits in connection							16
Visits in connection	WIOH I	uer	rerai	rever	***	***	10
Number of notices rece	eived r	-e-					
Intention to pract	ice						38
Sending for medica							78
Attendance at still-							18
Attendance at Stil		200			TREE PARTY OF THE		10
of Births Act)			inder i				32
Death of mother o							5
			•••		***	•••	1
Cessation of breast							2
Liability to be a so	urce o	1 inte	ection	***			4

HEALTH VISITORS.

In practice the town is divided into five districts, to each of which one Health Visitor is allotted. Her duties include:—

School visiting and attendance at medical inspection.

Following up certain cases until treatment is completed.

Attendance at Infant Welfare Centre for her district and homevisiting of children who are attending.

Routine visiting of new births notified.

Routine visiting of children from 1 to 5 years.

Visiting tuberculous patients.

Attendance in rotation at the Cleansing Centre.

Attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Visiting expectant mothers.

Visiting and treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Routine inspection of midwives.

Investigation of cases for grants of milk at reduced price.

Visiting mentally defectives in the area.

Visiting children of war pensioners when requested by the War Pensions Committee.

Visits in connection with non-notifiable infectious diseases, i.e., Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc., etc.

The total number of visits paid by these five Health Visitors during the year is 17,257.

Owing to a re-organisation of the details of the Health Visitors' work and system of visiting, a considerable increase in the number of visits paid has been obtained, including increased supervision of children from 1 to 5 years of age. The figures for last year were 12,291.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are four Centres, each open one half-day per week. Early next year it is proposed to open a fifth centre in the Young People's Institute, Oldbury Road. This new centre will be open on Friday afternoons.

The Lady Assistant Medical Officer is in attendance at each session, and the Health Visitor for the district is in charge of the centre, assisted by voluntary workers.

The Centres continue to be greatly appreciated by the mothers, the average weekly attendancs during the year being 328. The names of 981 children were added to the rolls during the year, compared with 1,026 last year, which is still satisfactory when we consider the reduction in the number of births.

			Aver	age Atte	ndance
	Centre.	Day and time of meeting.	Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	Total
1.	Rawlings Road	Monday, 2.30 p.m.	56	31	87
2.	95, Soho Street	Thursday, 2.30 p.m.	67	21	88
3.	Syderham Road	Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.	33	25	58
4.	Devonshire Road	Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.	53	42	95

Our efforts towards securing breast-feeding have continued, and the following figures show that some success is being achieved in this direction, although the figures in the poorer centres are not so good as last year. Possibly the improvement in employment during the year has had some influence on the decrease of breast-feeding.

The proportion of—				
(a) Breast fed children is	— 1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	45.1%	57.4%	57.0%	57.7%
Devonshire Road .	52.8%	64.2%	65.7%	65.5%
	60.7%	53.1%	72.6%	68.7%
Soho	57.9%	66.4%	63.1%	57.5%
(b) Artifically fed children				
Rawlings Road	40.2%	25.9%	19.0%	17.3%
Devonshire Road		20.8%	18.3%	9.2%
Sandwell		29.1%	12.1%	
Soho	29.0%	21.1%	24.4%	35.0%
(c) Complementary and su	ipple-			
mentary feeding (b	Contract Con			
supplemented by art				
feeding)—				
Rawlings Road	14.7%	16.7%	24.0%	25.0%
	7.8%	15.0%	16.0%	25.3%
	17.6%	17.8%		
	13.1%	12.5%	12.5%	100000000000000000000000000000000000000
Total attendances at the fo	our			
Centres	11,926	13,744	14,578	15,696
Pounds of dried milk so	ld 22,772	14,542	9,990	12,675

The results obtained from the Centres during the year have been very gratifying. The majority of the mothers attend very regularly and are eager to learn and also to obviate errors which before were so often made by over-anxious mothers.

The number of consultations with the Lady Medical Officer is now almost more than it is possible to cope with.

A large majority of the mothers at one time seemed unable to accommodate their minds to what they called "these new-fangled notions of rearing infants." Now those who are really anxious to learn the best ways for their children and who have benefitted by the knowledge they have gained, very readily pass on to others the news that much sound advice can be obtained at the Centres.

Many of the mothers still look lightly on the fact of having to feed their babies artificially. Repeatedly, unless closely watched, a mother will coolly state that she has had to give her baby bottle feeds because the infant is not satisfied. When questioned, it is discovered that no effort has been made by her to enable her to continue breast-feeding. She has accepted the condition as inevitable.

There is a noticeable improvement in the regularity of infant feeding. Evidently the mothers have themselves discovered the benefits from such—the difference in the infant's temper being so marked—and every mother prefers a contented baby to a cross one.

One thing which still remains discouraging is the persistent use of the pernicious thing called "the dummy." Often this practice is begun when the child does not seem satisfied after his feed and the habit once formed is difficult to break. Let us hope that the day will soon come when the sale of the dummy will be prohibited.

Many more mothers have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them regarding the best articles of clothing for children. They are eager to pick up hints as to the making up of simple and useful garments. Patterns of all kinds are on sale at the Centres for a penny and the finished articles are exhibited. Up-to-date articles are often being added to the list in order to keep the mothers well informed. This encourages the least capable needle-woman to endeavour to make children's garments, and assistance in this is given at the Sewing Class which has continued throughout the year. This Class is held at Six Ways Centre on Tuesday afternoons.

Much propaganda work is done at the Centres. Suitable leaflets in connection with the prevention of "Colds," Whooping Cough, Measles, Diarrhea, "Dummies," etc., etc., and a handbook on Infant Welfare are distributed to the mothers. Leaflets on Weaning and simple diet sheets are also given as a guide to mothers, together with numerous other educational pamphlets and lectures. Leaflets urging mothers to protect their children against Diphtheria (see page 14) have also been distributed at the Centres, but unfortunately prejudice is strong and the number availing themselves of this privilege has been small so far.

Our best thanks are due to the voluntary workers at the Centres for the willing work they have put in during the year.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN. (Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918).

While there was a further improvement in the prevailing condition of unemployment in the town the administration of this scheme has continued to throw considerable extra work upon the Department during the year. Grants of milk at reduced price are made to:—

- (a) Nursing mothers who are actually suckling their infants;
- (b) Expectant mothers during the last two months of pregnancy;
- (c) Children up to three years;
- (d) Exceptionally to children from 3 to 5 years on the certificate of the doctor;

in cases where the family income (after deduction of rent) falls below a certain limit.

The quantity supplied does not ordinarily exceed 1 pint per eligible person per day, but in exceptional cases of infants from 3 to 18 months 1½ pints may be supplied on the certificate of the doctor. Orders are granted for 14 days in the first instance, and applications reviewed every two weeks.

Cases receiving assistance during the year:416.

Total cost: £501 4s. 6d.

Average cost per case: £1 4s. 1d.

Average duration of case: 17 weeks.

"Health Week" and "Baby Week," 1923.

At the suggestion of the Health Week Committee of the Royal Sanitary Institute and of the National Baby Week Council, "Health Week" and "Baby Week" were celebrated concurrently in Smethwick from October 7th to 13th, 1923.

Our aim in Smethwick was to draw public attention to the ideal of "Self Help in Health," to arouse the public conscience to a realisation of the need for personal effort on the part of every citizen in backing up the work of the Public Health Authority, extending its scope and giving practical effect to its measures for the prevention of disease and the saving of infant life.

To this end the following programme was arranged and carried out with a large measure of success:—

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

A circular letter was addressed to each clergyman and minister of religion in the town, enclosing a specimen sermon issued by the National Baby Week Council, and asking them to deliver a similar address from their pulpits on Sunday, the 7th October. The reverend gentlemen were asked also to arrange for special addresses on Health matters to be given in the Sunday Schools on that day.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

In connection with the Centres a series of competitions was arranged and notified to the mothers attending several weeks prior to Baby Week. There were four classes for mothers and one for fathers at each of the four Centres, viz.:—

- 1. For the best new garments (one woollen and one cotton) for children up to five years of age.
- 2. For the best knitted or crochet garment for children up to five.
- 3. For the best "cut-down" garment for children up to five.
- For the best washed and darned or mended garments (one woollen and one cotton).

Fathers' Competition: For the best and most useful article or contrivance for the use of mother or baby in the home.

The number of entries for the mothers' competitions was decidedly more encouraging than in former years and the quality of the work submitted showed a great improvement, the cut-down garments especially being very good. The entries for the fathers' competition were not numerous, but this was an innovation and we hope to have more articles submitted in future competitions.

A First and Second prize was offered for each competition at each of the four Centres, and these, consisting of useful articles, were distributed at the Centres during Baby Week, when all the garments submitted were exhibited at all the Centres.

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A. M. Williets, J.P.) in the regretted absence of the Mayoress through illness, addressed the mothers at Bearwood, Devonshire Road, and Six Ways Centres on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday respectively, and Councillor Mrs. E. M. Sands, J.P., addressed the mothers at Sandwell Centre on Wednesday.

Through the kindness of Messrs. J. Nathan & Co., Ltd., useful little handbooks on "Care of Baby," "Dietaries," "Recipes," "Glaxo Rhymes," etc., were distributed to the mothers, while this firm also supplied a very complete set of paper patterns of childrens garments which will prove very useful for the Sewing Class held at Six Ways Centre on Tuesday afternoons.

Dr. Mackenzie, our Nurses, and the voluntary workers at the Centres worked enthusiastically to make this section of our activities a success.

PICTURE THEATRES.

The films "Motherhood" and "The House Fly" were hired from the Globe and Regent Film Co.'s respectively and through the courtesy of Mr. E. Hewitson, the proprietor of the Princess Hall, Palace, Majestic and Coliseum, the films were shewn during the ordinary performances at these four theatres on five evenings during the week. I should like to take this opportunity of recording my indebtedness to Mr. Hewitson and to Mr. Buckley (Manager) for their very practical help in this direction. Large audiences showed their appreciation each evening by applauding the films.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Three public lectures were given during the week at the Baptist Assembly Hall, Regent Street.

On Monday evening Councillor Dr. A. Bradshaw (Chairman of the Health Committee took the Chair at a lecture delivered by Mr. John H. Wright, C.R.S.I., entitled, "Sanitation—An Antidote to Civilisation."

On Wednesday evening, under the presidency of His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A. M. Williets, J.P.), Dr. Ella Mackenzie, M.A., M.B., D.P.H., lectured on "Our Mothers and Babies," this lecture being illustrated by lantern slides.

On these two evenings the audiences were poor due largely to the very inclement weather. However, both lectures were reported at length in the local paper and would in that way reach a great number of people.

On Friday evening the hall was filled to overflowing by the scholars from the upper standards of the various elementary schools in the Borough, each contingent being accompanied by their teachers. Mr. J. Fyles presided, and Mr. H. C. Birch, M.I.H. (of Messrs. D. and W. Gibbs) spoke to the children in a plain but interesting manner on the "Care of the Teeth," his remarks being sent home by an excellent series of descriptive slides.

During the interval Mr. Fyles presented prizes to the successful competitors in the Boys' Competition (referred to below).

Then followed cinematograph films, "The Ivory Castle," "A Fight in Fairyland"—illustrating in an attractive way the need for care of the teeth—and a film showing the various processes in the "Manufacture of Soap." These delighted the audience who showed their appreciation after the manner of young people.

CO-OPERATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The Education Committee readily accepted the suggestion of the Health Committee for help during Health Week on the following lines:

Teachers gave special lessons in the elementary schools during the week-

- (a) To elder girls on the Care of the Baby, etc.
- (b) To boys on General Hygiene.

Competitions were arranged for the upper standards-

- (a) Girls: An essay "On Babies."
- (b) Boys: Woodcraft—some article useful in the home.

Arranged for an audience of 650 boys and girls from the upper standards to be attended by their teachers at the Baptist Hall on Friday, the 12th October, for Lantern Lecture on "The Care of the Teeth," etc.

Details of Friday evening's lecture have been given above. With regard to the essays these were, generally speaking, very good and showed that the teachers had taken an interest in the preparation of the special lesson and that the pupils had assimilated the information given.

The entries for the Boys' Competition reflected great credit both on the boys and their instructors. The articles submitted included pastry boards, coat hooks, knife-box, footstool, medicine chest, etc., etc. MIDWIVES.

All midwives residing in the Borough were invited to tea at the Council House on Friday afternoon. Mrs. Frank Chapman presided in the unavoidable absence of the Mayoress. Following tea an address of special interest to these ladies was given by Miss Hilda Shufflebotham, F.R.C.S., and was greatly appreciated.

CHEMISTS AND DRAPERS.

All chemists and baby linen drapers were circularised early and asked to help our activities by devoting a window during the Week to a special display of articles useful and necessary for mothers and babies. A good number responded and made attractive displays.

PUBLICITY.

The Medical Officer of Health wrote a special article on "Health Week" for the *Smethwick Telephone*, illustrated with a graph showing the mortality among infants in Smethwick and the whole country over a period of 35 years. The article showed what had been accomplished in the town by public health work in the past, what was now urgently needed, and emphasised the importance of arousing the public conscience to an understanding of health matters.

This article was reprinted in the form of a leaflet and was distributed at the Infant Welfare Centres, the offices of the Smethwick Insurance Committee, the Public Library, at the public lectures, and at the Health Office.

Programmes of the week's events and leaflets provided by the National Baby Week Council were also distributed as above.

A large poster, drawn by Mr. Wright, was displayed outside the Health Office during the week. Posters, advertising the public lectures, were placed on the hoardings, and smaller posters announcing the exhibitions of films were posted at the cinemas, in addition to slides, prepared by Mr. Dempsey, shown at these theatres.

As already stated, very full reports of the lectures and a list of the prize-winners appeared in the *Smethwick Telephone* and all members of the Health Department Staff used every endeavour to make the aims and objects of the celebrations known to a large public.

I am specially indebted to Mr. G. H. Roe, Chief Clerk, for his indefatigable efforts to make the organisation of our "Health Week" a great success.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Administration.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The number of boats inspected was 64, representing a floating population of 69 men, 74 women and 29 children. A strike occurring amongst the bargemen, coupled with the depression of trade, has continued to adversely affect the number of boats plying on the canal. There were no infringements, either as regards the regulations in connection with the boats or the occupants. During the Small-pox epidemic in Gloucester special visits were made for the purpose of intercepting boats from that City, and obtaining as far as possible official information of the occupants of such boats with regard to their place of abode in Gloucester, the state of their health and any authoritative report as to vaccination and possible contact. Arrangements were made by the Medical Officer of Health with the Birmingham Authority whereby notice of all boats hailing from Gloucester and about to proceed through our own district was transmitted to us by telephone as occasion required and consequently all such boats were met and examined. It was not found necessary to detain any boats in consequence of these enquiries but nevertheless a conspicuous public duty was performed in the interests of the public health.

COMPLAINTS REGISTER.

Complaints received from the public relating to insanitary conditions numbered 295, as compared with 465 in the previous year. Of this number 30 were referred to the Borough Surveyor, and 18 to the S.S. Water Works Co.

Complaints received were in connection with 777 houses and inspections revealed the following defects:—

Dirty Premises			 105
Roofs and Eaves Gutters Defective			 164
Blocked Yard and W.C. Drains			 90
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	1		 20
Yard Surfaces Defective			 9
Offensive Accumulations			 17
Floors, Walls, etc., Defective	***		 114
W.C.'s without Proper Flushing A	rrange	ements	 59
Water Closets Defective			 70
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	on		 28
Overcrowding			 26
Nuisance from Animals			 21
Water Fittings Defective ,			 4
Smoke Nuisances			 2
Dampness			 25
Insufficient Water Supply			 27
Dangerous Buildings			 9
Insufficient Drainage			 4
Defective Drainage			 15
Defective Rainwater Cisterns			 2
Water in Cellar			 1

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

				V	isits paid.	Defects found
Housing					89	272
On Complaint					777	812
Miscellaneous					140	
Infectious Disea	se				395	16
Slaughterhouses				***	70	-
Meat and Food	Shops				242	-
Factories					2	1
Workshops					15	1
Bakehouses					23	-
Cowsheds					4	-
Dairies and Mil	kshops				51	
Pigstyes					11	1
Canal Boats					64	-
Visits to Work	in Pro	gress			148	-
Drains Tested					20	6
Smoke Observat	ions				13	-
Re-inspections r	e Noti	ces Sei	rved		349	-
Stables					17	28
Visits to Marke	ets				85	-
Visits re Ashes	Accom	modati	on		10,497	6,155
Re-inspections			modat	tion	13,896	_
Visits re Rats					25	_
Picture Houses					2	
Food Poisoning					16	The same
					26,951	7,292
						-

VARIETY OF DEFECTS.

	Dirty Premises					189
	Yard and W.C. Drains Block					94
	Roofs, Spouting and Eaves G	lutters 1	Defect	ive		201
	Yard Surfaces Defective					12
	Defective Sinks and Waste P	ipes				27
	Accumulations of Offensive	Matter				30
	Floors, Walls, etc., Defective					180
	W.C.'s without Proper Flush	ning Arr	angen	nents		72
	Ashbins or Ashplaces Defective	ve				6157
	Water Closets Defective					74
	Insufficient Lighting and Ver	ntilation				70
	Overcrowding					27
	Animals kept so as to be a N	uisance				28
	Water Fittings Defective					4
	Smoke Nuisances					2
	Washboiler Defective					1
	Dampness					32
	Insufficient Water Supply					27
	Dangerous Buildings, etc.					10
	Insufficient Drainage					7
	Defective Drainage					22
	Insufficient W.C. Accommoda					17
	Defective Rainwater Cisterns					3
	Water in Cellar					1
	Defective Grates		•••	•••		5
	Delective draws	***	***	•••		
						7292
						1282
T Terror	PEDG AND NOTICES SENT	TIM				
PELI	ERS AND NOTICES SENT (JUT.				
	Letters					1248
	Preliminary Notices					600
	Secondary Notices					32
	Statutory Notices					30
	Statutory Notices under Sec.					
	1875, re Bins					6587
	Housing Notices					92
	Cleansing Notices re Infection		ases		1	75
	Factory and Workshop Noti				300	8
	Circulars			1000	200	1599
					***	1000
					-	

HOUSE REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Towards the close of the year 1922, the Health Committee had under consideration the revision of the existing accommodation for the storage of domestic refuse in connection with dwelling-houses in the Borough. All houses had originally been provided with either fixed ashpit receptacles or portable bins, but some of the ashpits had fallen into a dilapidated state and a great number of the ashbins had also become defective, while in some instances houses that originally had possessed portable bins were temporarily without, owing to lack of replacement on the part of the owners. The Health Committee therefore decided that the whole question should be comprehensively looked into and dealt with, and the Health Department Staff, acting on these instructions, have accordingly devoted a considerable portion of the year under review to a uniformly continuous and assiduous inspection of the district in connection therewith. This house to house inspection has been followed up month by month by the service of notices and the houses kept under observation until the requirements of such notices were complied with. In the interests of cleanliness, health and economy, it is of the utmost importance that a portable galvanised iron bin should be provided for every house. It has always been the aim of the Health Department to secure galvanised iron bins wherever possible. Owing to the demand made upon the time of the Health Department Staff by their usual prescribed duties this question has not hitherto been approached in such a systematic manner throughout the town, but has been done gradually in the course of other routine work. Consequent on the concentration of work on these bins a certain amount of the routine work of the Department has naturally had to be held in abeyance.

It will be remembered that a report was presented by the Public Works Committee giving a list of 7,500 houses which lacked proper accommodation. A systematic inspection was commenced by visiting each house shewn on this list, but after the first month or two it was decided that with a little extra work a complete house-to-house inspection could be made and that this would give a more satisfactory result. This explains why the number of houses visited, viz., 12,953 is in excess of the 7,500 reported to be defective. The number of houses in the Borough exclusive of the new municipal houses is 15,681. This leaves 2,728 houses, chiefly of a better class and mainly in the Bearwood district, which were not visited during the first month or two, as they were reported as being already supplied with good bins.

It is gratifying to report that in many instances, owing to our personal persuasion, owners have agreed to instal a portable bin and cover, as being more sanitary and economical, instead of repairing the existing ashpit. I have also to record that we have secured the provision of a good number of bins in a voluntary manner without the service of notices. The number of first inspections was 12,953, and the number of re-inspections was 16,177, making a total of 29,130.

In future action in this connection we shall endeavour to secure the substitution of portable bins for ashpits. There are 15,901 houses in the Borough and the following is a classified list of houses with various types of receptacle.

SUMMARY RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS.

Total Houses visited 12953
1. Number of Houses provided with new Bins by owners in compliance with notices served 6119
2. Number of Houses provided with new Bins by the Corporation in default 750
3. Number of Houses provided with new Bins voluntarily 627
4. Number of Houses with good sound Bins found on inspection 2457
5. Number of Houses with ashpits repaired in lieu of Bins 537
6. Number of Houses with good suitable ashpits found on inspection 2408
7. Number of Houses pending provision of Bins or repair of ashpits 55
Sum total of Houses visited (first inspections) showing the respective types of receptacles in connection therewith 12953 Complete Statement with Regard to the Whole Borough.
1. Number of Houses provided with Portable Bins 9953
2. Number of Houses reported to already have good Bins 2728
3. Number of Municipal Houses with good Bins (in Smethwick) 220
4. Number of Houses provided with good covered Ashpits 2945
5. Number of Houses pending provision of Ashbins or repair of Ashpits 55
Total number of Houses in the Borough, viz., 15,901, with portable Bins and Ashpits 15901
Grand Total—12901 Houses provided with Bins, 2945 Houses provided with good covered Ashpits and 55 Houses pending.

RAT DESTRUCTION (RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919).

The work of rat destruction has been actively pursued. The number of rats accounted for during the year was 530—the majority of which must be credited to the campaign during "Rat Week." Numerous instances might be given of the colossal waste and damage caused by these vermin, and it behoves all occupiers of premises who are troubled by these pests to take every advantage of this Department's advice re rat-proofing their premises and methods of extermination. It is only by individual effort that these pests can be kept down. During the National Rat Week from November 5th to 11th, a special campaign was organised.

Although the actual number of rats caught during rat week may perhaps be looked upon as somewhat small we have, nevertheless, to consider that this number (if alive) would have increased considerably in the near future. From my own personal information I do not think that this pest as regards Smethwick is to be found in a general way as troublesome as it was previous to legislation on the subject and the initiation of these National Rat Weeks. What I have particularly noted is that they are found mostly in connection with specific isolated premises where food is abundant, such as Corn Stores, Greengrocery Businesses, Butcher's shops, Breweries, Allotments, and the like. Strictly speaking they are never found for any length of time where food is limited or made inaccessible and then only in isolated instances. Again the steps taken in former years to stimulate action in fighting this pest has abolished some of their favourite haunts, owing to the occupiers having rendered their premises as much as possible rat-proof. In order to ensure a wide publicity during this particular week the following steps were taken: -

- Two preliminary advertisements in the local press.
- Sent out 1,389 informative circulars to the occupiers of various premises.
- 3. Published a short article in the Smethwick Telephone the week previous to Rat Week.
- 4. Apprised all the local Chemists as to the most appropriate poisons as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 5. Engaged a professional rat-catcher for the week to overhaul Corporation premises such as rubbish tips, depots, stables, Holly Lane Hospital, etc.
- Placarded three dozen large posters in prominent places in the Borough, in shop windows and in all the allotments.
- Managers of the local picture houses kindly displayed during the week a suitable slogan.

It must be borne in mind that in cases of those occupiers whose premises are from time to time more or less infested with rats that such occupiers in their own interests are continually taking steps to exterminate them. Nevertheless, I believe that the publicity for a rat week campaign does stimulate more decided action. It is quite probable that the number killed is higher than what I have stated as some firms have intimated to me that where poisons have been put down it is impossible to give exact results. Baits have been taken but the good results can only be surmised by the future non-appearance of rats. I

have been informed by letter from a number of firms of the special action they took during the Week, One firm laid down as many as 600 phosphorous baits and only five of these were left. The L.M. & S. Rly. Co. laid down 320 baits at Soho Goods Station and 251 were taken, while at the Goods Yard in High Street 96 baits were laid and 96 taken but in this case only one dead rat was found. From these instances it can be concluded that the grand total of rats destroyed exceeds the number which I have already stated. All the dead rats found were cremated. The net bag during Rat Week was 259, and the total caught since the Act came into force is 4,219.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of Slaughterhouses on the register is 13, of which 8 are licensed and 5 registered. Verbal notices at the time of inspection have been sufficient to secure the remedy of any nuisance or breach of bye-laws, but generally speaking they have been kept and conducted in a satisfactory manner. Three hundred and ninety-five visits have been paid to butcher's shops, fishmongers, fruiterers and public markets.

		1914.	Jan., 1923.	Dec., 1923.
Licensed	 	13	8	8
Registered	 	10	5	5
		-		_
		23	13	13
		1 1	THE PARTY	-

The following is a summary of the number of animals and carcases examined during the year, numbering 239:—

	S	Before laughter.	During Slaughter.	After Slaughter.	Total.
Oxen	 	1	-	49	50
Calves	 	-	_	7	7
Sheep	 		t pall subto	40	40
Pigs	 	6	7	129	142
		7	7	225	239
		-	_		

The following were discovered by the Inspectors as being diseased or unsound and were surrendered:—

Intestines, Head, Fry and	Lungs o	f 8 P	igs—T	aber	culosis	294	lbs.
Two Loaves—Accidental	Fouling	***		***		4	,,
One Loaf-Unwholesome			n			2	,,
Head, Liver, Lungs, and	Portion	n of	Neck	of	Pig-		
Tuberculosis						28	,,
Ox Liver and Lungs						15	,,

The following were voluntarily surrendered for destruction: -

Twenty-six Rabbits—Decomposition	 	 56 lbs.
Pears—Decomposition	 	 100 ,,
Tomatoes—Decomposition	 	 80 ,,
Tomatoes—Decomposition	 	 450 ,,

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of dairymen on the Register at the end of the year was 374. There were registered for the sale of milk during the year 24 additional dairymen and there were six changes of occupation. number of cowsheds remains the same as in the previous years, viz., 7. The occupiers of milk stores have been impressed with the importance of scrupulous cleanliness and the proper covering and storage of milk utensils. The additional powers conferred on Local Authorities under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, will enable a more drastic action to be taken in cases of unsuitability of premises or negligence on the part of the purveyors to make the common rules and laws of hygiene their first consideration in connection with the sale of milk. In view of the greater liability of milk contamination during the hot weather the practice of sending circular letters to all mili: vendors before the onset of the summer season is still adopted and carried out in order to secure and impress the need of vigilance against dust, dirt and flies, and it is gratifying to be able to state from personal knowledge that this produces an increased interest and care on the part of the milk sellers.

MILKSHOPS.

Milksellers on the register at the	begi	nning	of the	year	350
Number added during the year					24
					374

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year 283 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst as compared with 264 in the previous year. All the articles were certified as genuine with the exception of a certain number of samples of milk. Out of 195 samples of milk 39 were returned as being below the standard limit and in 6 instances the Health Committee decided to institute proceedings. The average composition of the milk is shewn below and the figures represent a good quality milk. In regard to samples resulting in a small deficiency below the standard limit, the Health Committee gave instructions that in the first instance warnings

should be given and further attention devoted to such cases. Seventeen samples of milk were procured from consignments by rail. The subjoined tables give details of the nature of the articles analysed and the number adulterated.

TABLE OF ARTICLES ANALYSED.

Article Analysed.	Total Samples.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.
W.II	105	156	39
			39
Butter	40	40	The state of the same
Margarine	10	10	return or - or a
Cocoa	1	1	-
Preserved Cream	4	4	_
Prescriptions	10	10	na esta m a
Sponge Cakes	7	7	
Liquid Eggs	1	1	-
Ham	1	1	-
Cream	2	2	P. P. P.
Mincemeat	1	1	-
Coffee	1	1	-
Dripping	1	1	1919 - 111
Cream Cheese	3	3	10 mm - 11 mm
Pepper	1	1	-
Lard	1	1	-
Tinned Tomatoes	1	1	-
Peas	1	1	-
Sausages	1	1	-
Syrup	1	1	mer mer -
	100	Superior Control	Maria Maria
	283	244	39
	and the same of th	Course of a supplied	In what

AVERAGE COMPOSITION OF ALL MILKS ANALYSED.

	Average.	Legal Limit.	
Fat.	Solids not Fat.	Fat.	Solids not Fat.
3.4%	8.6%	3.0%	8.5%

PARTICULARS OF CERTAIN SAMPLES.

From among the samples taken ten were rich in fat, viz., 4.3, 4.8, 4.4, 4.3, 5.4, 5.4, 4.3, 4.3, 4.5 and 5.4. The remaining samples contained fat well above the standard with the exception of 9 samples which were rather low in fat.

TABLE OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, FOR THE YEAR 1923.

Date of Purchase.	Sample.	Deficiency.	Results.	Pe	enal	ty.		Costs	
10.1.23.	3553	6.67% Fat, 10.59% Solids-not-Fat.	Dismissed	£	s.	d.	£	s. 5	d. 6
12.1.23.	3556	6.67% Fat, 11.76% Solids-not-Fat.	Convicted	20	0	0		15	0
25.5.23.	3662	10% Fat	Dismissed (Warranty)		_		-	
4.12.23	3815	6.67% Fat	Case with	draw	n	-		-	-
10.12.23.	3818	20% Fat, 11.76% Solids-not-Fat.	Convicted	5	0	0		18	6
31.12.23	3834	7.06% Solids-not-Fat	Convicted	2	0	0		15	0
	To	tal fines and costs		£27	0	0	£2	14	0

NOTE.

Sample 3553.—This case was dismissed on payment of costs, as it was proved that vendor was the victim of the wholesaler.

Sample 3815.—This case was withdrawn owing to certain circumstances in connection with Sample 3818—the defendant in each case being the same.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912 and 1917.

	Report for the year ended 31st December, 1923.	
1.	MILK AND CREAM NOT SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.	
	Milk, C	ream.
	Number of Samples examined for the	
	presence of a Preservative 193	2
	Number in which Preservatives was reported	
	to be present, and the percentage of	
	Preservative found in each sample Nil.	il.
2.	CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.	
	(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for a to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preser were correct:—	
	(1) Correct statements made	4
	(2) Incorrect Statements	_
		-
		4
	(2) Parantage of Preservative found in each comple	_
	(3) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample	
	Sample No. 3567—0.31% Boric Acid.	
	,, ,, 3653—0.4 % ,, ,, ,, ,, 3713—0.37% ,, ,,	
	,, ,, 3822—0.24% ,, ,,	
	(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as procream:—	eserved
	(i) Above 35 per cent	4
	(ii) Below 35 per cent	_
		-
		4
	(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirement regard to labelling and declaration of preserved creatives V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) Regulations have not been observed	eam in of the
	(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have no complied with, and action taken	ot been Nil.
3.	THICKENING SUBSTANCES.	

Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream ... Nil.

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES.

The number of Bakehouses on the register is 33. These Bakehouses are also subject to inspection by H.M. Inspector of Factories and in connection therewith five statutory notices under Section 5 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 were forwarded to this Department calling attention to the requirements of limewashing and painting. Official notices were served on these respective occupiers and the necessary cleansing was at once carried out. Circular letters are addressed once in every six months to the occupiers of both workshop bakehouses and factory bakehouses calling upon them to comply with their statutory requirements as to limewashing, the premises being subsequently visited. In comparatively few instances it is necessary to serve a further notice. Some bakehouses become void at different times and one was void at the end of the year, but bakehouses are not struck off the register unless there is no likelihood of their again being used as It has not been possible to pay so many systematic visits as hitherto owing to pressure of work in connection with the special campaign of the provision of receptacles for house refuse.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

In all cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health an official visit is at once paid to the house, and the premises Instruction is given as to the isolation of the inspected in detail. patient and the proper use of disinfectant, which is supplied free. All cases are registered with a record of particulars of the sanitary con-These particulars comprise a permanent and ditions of the houses. informative record of such important matters as the milk supply, means of isolation, condition of the premises, the history of the patient's illness, the number of inmates, and the suspected source of infection. Any insanitary conditions in connection with the premises or other matters requiring action are at once followed up and dealt with. All children belonging to the family are excluded temporarily from school and if the patient is removed to hospital or has recovered, the room or rooms are disinfected, and in certain cases stripped, cleansed and whitewashed Bedding an clothing, etc., are subjected to a thorough steam disinfection at the disinfecting station. The number of lots of bedding removed for disinfection during the year was 495, comprising 3,368 articles in all. The total number of disinfections during the year was 554. effort is made to acquaint parents and guardians of the importance of strict compliance with the law relative to infectious diseases by furnishing each home with extracts from the Public Health Act, 1875 (Sec. 126) and the Infectious Disease Prevention Act (Sec. 7 and 13). The following is a classified list of the various premises disinfected:—

Small-Pox			 	 	 1
Enteric Fever	r		 	 	 1
Scarlet Fever			 	 	 190
Diphtheria			 	 	 128
Tuberculosis			 	 	 140
Cancer			 	 	 55
Scabies			 	 	 9
Puerperal Fe	ver		 	 	 13
Pneumonia			 	 	 4
Dysentery			 	 	 1
Schools			 	 	 2
Verminous H	ouses		 	 	 6
Cerebro-Spin	al Fev	er	 	 	 1
Erysipelas			 	 	 3
					554

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

- (a) Total, 2.
- (i) As part of the municipal housing scheme, Nil.

Note: —In addition to above 62 houses were erected as part of the Smethwick Municipal Housing Scheme in the Oldbury district.

1 .- Unfit Dwelling Houses.

nspe	ection.	
(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 11	,383
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District)	
	Regulations, 1910	94
(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 previous sub-heading) found not to be in all	
	respects reasonably fit for human habitation	92

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 45
3.—Action under Statutory Powers.
A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919:
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:— (a) by owners
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close
BProceedings under Public Health Acts.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6,61
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:— (a) by owners 5,65 (b) by Local Authority in default of owners 66
c.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made
Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

year 1923.

Death

Ages at



