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Contributors

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

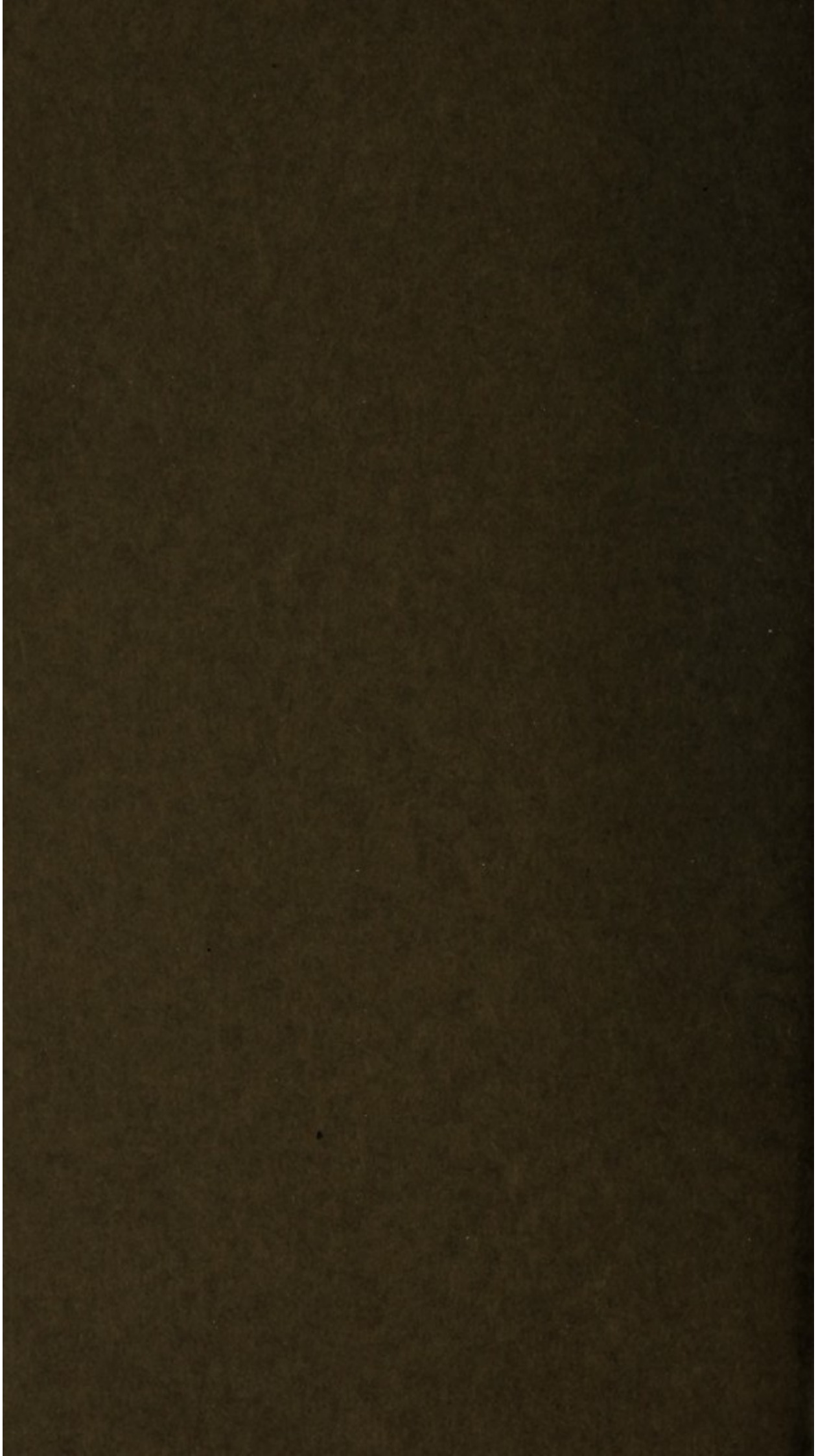
Medical Officer of Health,

Tuberculosis Officer,

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year 1927.





COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.



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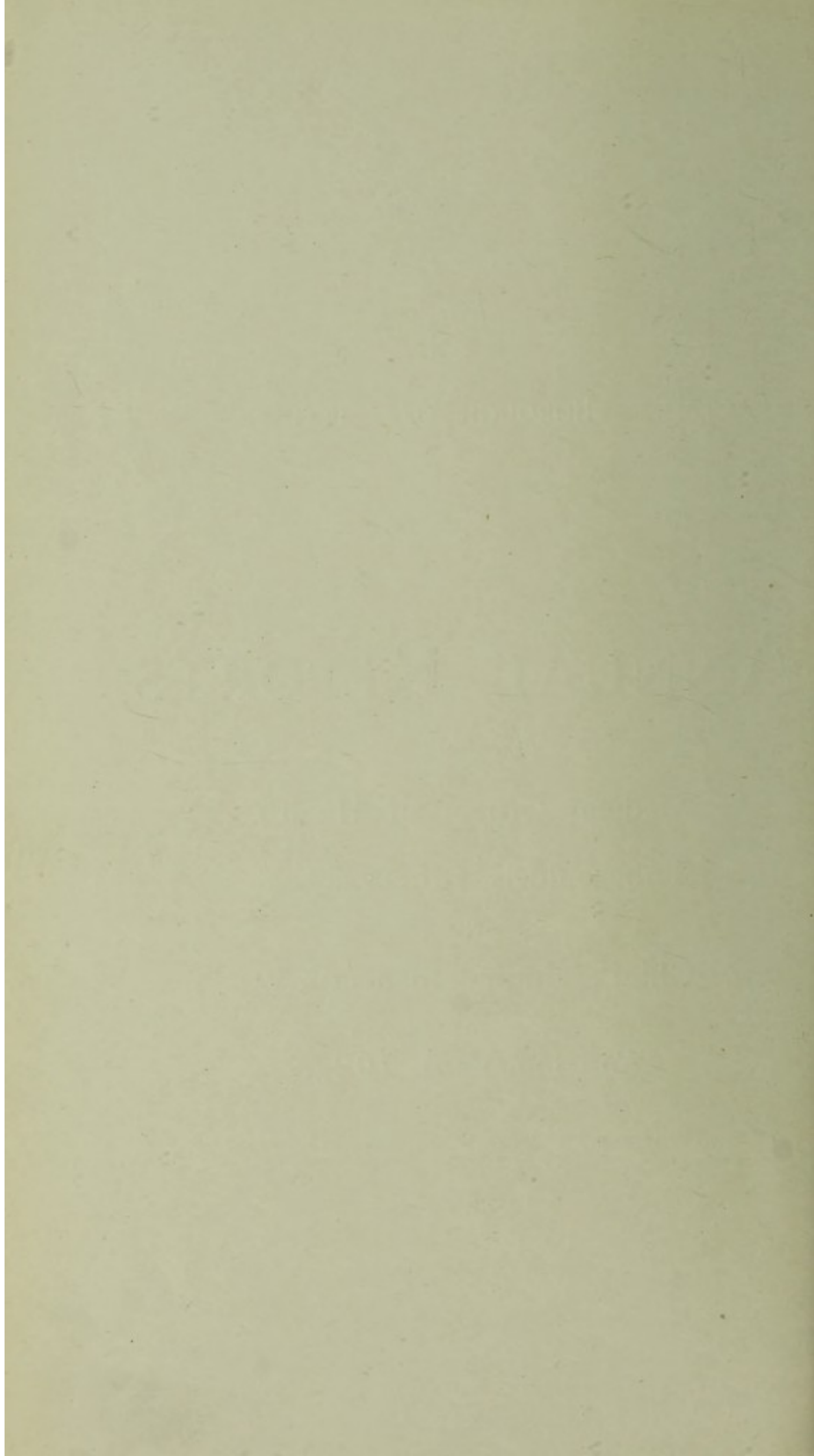
Medical Officer of Health,

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AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year 1927.



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County Borough of Smethwick.

COMMITTEES, 1926-27.

Health Committee.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.	
ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.	COUNCILLOR R. A. BAKER.
ALDERMAN A. MORRIS.	COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN.
COUNCILLOR E. ADAMS, J.P.	COUNCILLOR W. Y. DAVIDSON,
(to 28/7/27)	M.B., Ch.B.
COUNCILLOR F. W. PERRY.	COUN. MRS. N. M. CHESNEY,
	(from 28/9/27)

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

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

MRS. E. T. BROWN.	MRS. E. GRIFFITHS.
MRS. J. DARBY.	MRS. W. HADGKISS.
	MRS. W. SILVESTER.

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee.

<i>Chairman</i> : ALDERMAN T. W. EVANS, J.P.	
ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.	COUNCILLOR W. Y. DAVIDSON,
ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.	M.B., Ch.B.
COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN.	ALDERMAN A. MORRIS.
COUNCILLOR S. BOOTH.	COUN. MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.

Oldbury Representatives:

COUNCILLOR W. T. DAVIES, J.P.	COUNCILLOR H. H. ROBBINS.
COUN. MRS. A. B. LENNARD.	COUNCILLOR A. C. WATSON.

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

ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.	ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.
	ALDERMAN T. W. EVANS, J.P.

Obituary.

COUNCILLOR W. Y. DAVIDSON, M.B.
Died 27th February, 1927.

Health Department Staff.

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

HUGH PAUL, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers :

R. SANDILANDS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H. (to 1/7/27).

A.G.M. SEVERN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (from 4/7/27).

GLADYS AINSCOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (till 27/3/27).

CHARLOTTE WARNER, M.D. (from 31/3/27 to May, 1927).

FLORENCE BENTHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1/6/27 to 30/11/27).

MARGARET E. McLAREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 15/11/27).

EDITH AINSCOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Part-time).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

†*JOHN H. WRIGHT.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector—

†*JOHN DEMPSEY (to 22/9/27).

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*JAMES F. ROGERS.

*LAWRENCE BUTTERWORTH.

†*W. E. SHAW (from December 5th, 1927).

Clerical Staff :

Chief Clerk and Statistician : *GEORGE H. ROE.

Clerk : *J. H. MASSEY.

Clerk for M. and C. W. Work : MISS WINIFRED COOMBS
(to Oct. 17th, 1927).

MISS IDA SALTER

Clerk : A. H. CORNHILL. (from Oct. 18th, 1927).

Junior Clerk : S. SADLER (from 9/5/27).

Nursing Staff :

MISS L. E. ROBERTS.

||†§*MISS L. WEALE.

§MISS A. WRIGHT.

§MISS B. D. HAIGH

(to April 30th, 1927).

§*MISS F. RICHARDS.

§MISS E. COLLINS

§MISS F. M. SULLIVAN.

§MISS J. E. ACKERS

†§MISS E. E. GLASCODINE (from Oct. 15th, 1927).

The work of these Nurses is divided between the following Committees:—Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Education, and Mental Deficiency.

Health Visitor and Clerk to Tuberculosis Dispensary :

§MISS J. P. BATES.

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

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

*Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

†Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

‡Health Visitors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

||Maternity and Child Welfare Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

§Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

County Borough of Smethwick.

Public Health Department,
280, High Street, Smethwick.
June, 1928.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS FOR THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1927.

During the year 1927 there were very considerable changes in the staff of the Health Department. I commenced duties as Medical Officer of Health on January 29th. A little later Dr. Sandilands and Dr. Gladys Ainscow both resigned, the former to go into general practice, and the latter obtaining a very important administrative post in Leeds. Dr. Sandilands was succeeded by Dr. A. G. M. Severn, late Medical Officer of Health of Hong Kong, and Dr. Ainscow, by Dr. F. Bentham. The latter carried on for 6 months, and then resigned to get married, her resignation being a severe loss to the Corporation of a highly efficient and conscientious officer. Her place was taken by Dr. M. E. McLaren. In the Inspectorial Staff, Mr. John Dempsey resigned and his place was taken by Mr. W. E. Shaw, of Walsall, and in the Nursing Staff, Nurse Glascodine was appointed to replace Nurse Haigh, who had secured a good position in Guildford.

The outstanding feature of the year from the Public Health standpoint was the disastrous outbreak of influenza which occurred in the first quarter of the year, continuing into the second quarter. The number of deaths from influenza, influenzal pneumonia, and other forms of pneumonia was 4 in October, 1926; 7 in November; 12 in December; 18 in January; 43 in February, falling again to 19 in March and 5 in April.

The general death-rate for the quarter was very high being 18.5 as against 10.5 for the corresponding quarter in 1926, and 17.5 for England and Wales. The infant mortality was at the rate of 135 per 1,000 births during this quarter or more than twice that for the 1st quarter of 1926 and the respiratory death-rate was 5.6 as against 2.3.

In the second quarter the death-rate fell to about half, the infant mortality rate to two thirds and the respiratory death-rate to less than one third of these figures. This calamitous quarter was responsible for increasing the death-rate, the infant mortality rate and the respiratory death-rate for the year. In spite of this, however, the death-rate for the whole year was 11.9 as against 12.3 for the country as a whole, the infant mortality rate was 78.5 as against 69 for England and Wales and the respiratory death-rate was 2.26. The infant mortality rates for the last two quarters, 61 and 28 were particularly good, especially considering the sunless nature of the weather.

Neo-natal deaths (i.e., deaths under four weeks) amounted to 33, giving a rate of 25.1 per 1,000 births, a figure which represents a considerable reduction from last year (32.5) and is the lowest neo-natal rate ever recorded in the Borough. The fact that since 1918, this rate has consistently and steadily declined from 45.5, i.e., almost 50% shows the value of maternity and child welfare work. The figure, however, is still too high and it is hoped that by intensive ante-natal and infant welfare work we shall soon be able to reduce both this figure and the infant mortality figure to much smaller dimensions.

In spite of the continual changes in the Medical Staff the Maternity and Child Welfare work continues to grow, especially on the ante-natal side. Ante-natal work appears to me to be the most important of all branches of Public Health work and the branch which yields the highest results. It is mainly to ante-natal work that we must look to reduce our maternal mortality rate, which for the country as a whole is 4.12 per 1,000 births and has remained at approximately the same rate for the past generation. In 1927 it was 3 per 1,000 births in Smethwick, which is a considerable reduction on last year (4.8), but is still much too high. The subject of maternal mortality is one which has been brought to the fore recently by various bodies, both medical and lay, and at last a powerful public opinion is being created that the present high rates are a reproach to the nation. The rate will only be reduced by concerted action on the part of all concerned, by research work into its causes and the removal of all factors which interfere with the health of the mother and a normal pregnancy, but while research work is going on, much can be done by using those facilities which lie to our hand and which we know will help, namely, more and more intensive ante-natal work. We ought not to be satisfied until we know that every expectant mother is regularly and systematically examined by a Doctor at suitable intervals during her pregnancy. Every effort is made in Smethwick to get mothers to attend the ante-natal clinics, of which two sessions were held weekly during the year (now increased to three). Our efforts in this direction have met with a considerable measure of success and the numbers attending are continually increasing. In 1927 there were 1,080 attendances.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Apart from the deaths from influenza and other respiratory diseases, the chief cause of death in this connection has been measles, 20 cases having died during the past year as against 4 in 1926. It is regrettable that in spite of continued efforts at education, many mothers still believe that measles is a disease which must be contracted and think the sooner it is over the better. For this reason it is no uncommon practice

for a mother to deliberately expose a child to infection "to get it over." It cannot be too strongly urged that measles is not a minor malady of children but a very dangerous and deadly disease, which caused more deaths in Smethwick in 1927 than were caused by typhoid, whooping cough, diphtheria, and scarlet fever combined. Diphtheria and scarlet fever, of which most mothers have a wholesome dread, together caused four deaths as against twenty from measles. The earlier measles is contracted the more deadly it is likely to be and every effort should be made to protect young children in particular from infection. Scarlet fever has now become so mild that the question arises as to whether we would not be wiser to allow it to be treated at home and take measles into our isolation hospital, the latter being the more dangerous disease. This would ensure that the measles cases would receive the nursing care which is so necessary to complete recovery and would also impress parents with the seriousness of the disease. The whole tale of the damage done by measles is not told when we mention these twenty deaths. We must also remember that measles is a disease with very serious complications, which often leave the patient permanently disabled. Respiratory troubles, especially tuberculosis may follow incomplete recovery from measles and also such complaints as deafness (from middle ear disease), eye diseases and kidney troubles. Taken all round measles is now the most dangerous of all the common infectious diseases. Whooping cough was also very prevalent during the year in Smethwick and caused 10 deaths, and much that has been said about measles applies in a lesser way to whooping cough.

OTHER DISEASES.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis was exactly the same as last year, viz., 69, giving a rate of 0.89 per 1,000 of the population. Of these 65 were due to pulmonary tuberculosis and only four to surgical forms, an extremely small number. The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis is still, however rather high, although it compares favourably with other similar towns. With the exception of the years 1914-19 which comprised the war period, the present rate is the highest rate since 1912 and is only about 7% less than the average for the past 25 years. This, however, is due largely to the fact that the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis during the last 25 years in Smethwick has been consistently very low and also to more accurate certification in cases of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in recent years.

Cancer still exacts a heavy toll, the death-rate from this disease being considerably more than from tuberculosis, but is slightly less at 1.19 per 1,000 than last year's figure. Cancer attacks a man at his prime of life, when his faculties are at their acutest and the value of his services to the community are at their highest; it is increasing throughout the country, is now the chief single cause of death and can be aptly described as the Captain of the Men of Death. Our lack of knowledge of the cause of the disease, in spite of the enormous amount of research work carried out on the subject is a serious handicap to our efforts to stamp it out, but much more can be done if the public will only learn to use the facilities at its disposal for its cure. It cannot be too strongly urged, firstly, that cancer in its early stages is curable and that of all diseases, cancer is the one disease in which delay is the most dangerous, and secondly that pain is not always present and is not even usually pre-

sent in the early stages. When pain appears the disease is usually well advanced. Every woman who notices a lump in the breast, or who especially at or about the menopause suffer from irregular bleeding from the womb, and every man of middle age who having previously had a good digestion, develops indigestion and loss of appetite, with possibly also loss of weight should at once consult a doctor for a thorough examination.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND PREVENTION.

Smethwick, despite its reputation as a smoke-laden hive of industry, is a healthy town and compares favourably, in my opinion, with similar industrial towns in the matter of smoke. Its modern growth is responsible for the fact that a large section of the population lives in a part of the town well away from the manufacturing centre. It is becoming more and more apparent that the chief offenders in the matter of the pollution of the atmosphere are the private householders, and it is computed that in an industrial town two-thirds of the smoke is emitted by houses and one-third by factories. This is necessarily an estimate, but is in my opinion roughly accurate. Modern furnaces are designed to consume their own smoke, whereas household fires are not. The rapidly increasing use of gas cookers instead of the old-fashioned coal stoves, and the increased use of electricity for lighting are proving of considerable benefit to the Public Health. A Clean Air Week was held in the Borough during March by the Public Health Department jointly with the Gas Department, with very satisfactory results. Lectures were given by Dr. Saleeby and by members of our staff and demonstrations of cooking, etc., were given in a large hall in the Borough. The meetings and demonstrations were well attended.

In connection with our efforts to purify the atmosphere, I might here allude to the advice frequently given by Municipal Surveyors to "Burn your refuse and Save the Rates." This is a matter on which Surveyor and Medical Officer frequently disagree. The Medical Officer contends that if saving the rates is the **only** reason why householders should burn their refuse, the logical sequence is that more money still could be saved if no refuse at all were collected. The whole purpose of refuse collection is to prevent nuisances and safeguard the public health and burning of household refuse which usually produces great amounts of smoke in an open grate not designed to consume its own smoke is a very definite nuisance from the Public Health point of view. The burning of such refuse in a properly designed destructor should not be a nuisance. The matter can be summed up by saying that the views of the Medical Officer of Health are logical and those of the Surveyor human.

HOUSING.

The housing problem is still an acute one, despite the very active efforts of the Housing Committee who have built during the year 195 new houses, not including 64 which were built in Smethwick by private enterprise. These houses, however, are only sufficient for the needs of the rapidly growing population, and are doing very little to remedy the serious overcrowding in the town. The lack of houses causes a double problem. In the first place it prevents any attempts at slum clearance schemes on anything but a small scale, and in the second place it causes

serious overcrowding in the slum area, and indeed in other areas also. Of these two, the latter is the most important in Smethwick. Large numbers of families are living under most deplorable conditions and in many cases, adults of both sexes occupy the same room for living, eating and sleeping. Such cases could easily be dealt with were alternative accommodation available, but as it is, we are compelled in many cases to ignore these conditions for want of a suitable remedy. This problem is the most acute one which is facing the Smethwick Council at the moment. The Housing Committee is working to the limits of its capacity and it is doing everything in its power to expedite the building of more and more houses and has recently commenced the erection of a limited number of maisonettes which will be of considerable benefit in this connection, but the fact must clearly be faced that even with the building rate of 1927, it will take many years to make up the arrears. The number of marriages in Smethwick per year is round about 600 and almost all these want houses and the number of houses rendered void by death and other causes is probably not more than one-third of this figure. There are about 550 houses in Smethwick in need of reconstruction or demolition, most of them being back-to-back or single houses and these could be converted to about half the number of through houses and this would entail the building of almost 300 new houses. A further point in this connection is that many of the tenants of these slum houses would not be able and some would not be willing to pay increased rents for better houses and many also would be unwilling to go to houses far removed from their work.

The combined Health and Housing Committees, however, during the last year, began to tackle the problems in a small way and three small blocks of property have been scheduled as unfit and closing orders served and it is to be hoped that further areas will be tackled during the current year.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT CENTRE.

The numbers attending the above centre have considerably increased in spite of a much more careful selection of cases and the cutting out of those groups of ailments where poor results have been obtained in the past. The results of our experiences show that whereas artificial sunlight is a valuable curative agent in many diseases, notably rickets, malnutrition and certain forms of tuberculosis it can be actually harmful in others and all cases have to be kept under careful supervision. Ultra-violet therapy is a very powerful agent and should only be administered under strict medical supervision.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Health and Hospital Committees for the kindly and sympathetic manner in which they have received all my suggestions and plans, and for their whole-hearted enthusiasm in the cause of the Public Health. I also express my appreciation of the loyal help given to me by all members of the Staff, especially Dr. Bentham, Mr. J. H. Wright, and Mr. G. H. Roe, and by the officials of other departments.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH PAUL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

COST OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1928.

					Amount.	Rate in £
					£	d.
GENERAL DISTRICT FUND.						
Infectious Diseases :						
Notification	...	...	...	...	65	0.06
Prevention	...	...	...	...	702	0.59
Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital	...			...	2,328	1.97
South Staffs. Joint Smallpox Hospital	...			...	69	0.06
Maternity and Child Welfare	...		...	...	1,605	1.36
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	106	0.09
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2,724	2.31
Salaries (not otherwise charged)	...		...	...	2,462	2.09
					10,061	8.53
BOROUGH FUND.						
Mental Deficiency	...	...	...	...	1,086	0.81
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	250	0.19
Smoke Investigation	...	...	...	...	—	—
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act	...			...	17	0.01
Blind Persons Act	...	...	...	...	200	0.15
Staffs. Mental Hospital Board	...		...	...	1,503	1.12
Midwives Act, 1902	...	...	...	...	26	0.02
Medical Inspection of School Children	...		...	...	1,313	0.98
					4,395	3.28
Grand Totals	...	...	...	...	14,456	11.81

The above figures represent estimated Net Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1928.

Annual Report, 1927.

GENERAL STATISTICS :

AREA : 1,929 acres.

POPULATION : Census 1921—75,757.

Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-year, 1927—76,870.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES : 1921—15,895.

1927—16,312.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS : 1921—16,366.

RATEABLE VALUE : £349,691 12s. 6d.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE : £1,180.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

	Totals.	Males.	Females.
BIRTHS : Legitimate ...	1,279	648	631
Illegitimate ...	32	13	19
Total ...	1,311	661	650

BIRTH-RATE : 17.0 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS : Total, 917. Males, 474; Females, 443.

DEATH-RATE : 11.9 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age :—Total, 103. Males 53; Females 50.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 births :—Total, 78.5; Legitimate, 77.4; Illegitimate, 125.0.

DEATHS FROM :—

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Enteric Fever ...	—	—
Measles ...	20	0.26
Whooping Cough ...	10	0.13
Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	13	0.16
Diphtheria ...	3	0.03
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0.01
Influenza ...	42	0.54
Cancer ...	92	1.19
Respiratory Diseases ...	174	2.26
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	65	0.84
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	0.05

**BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
DURING THE YEAR 1927.**

	BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year	Certified by Regd. Med. Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inquest	Uncertified Causes
England and Wales ...	16.7	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.09	0.07	0.57	0.51	6.3	69	91.7	6.6	0.7*	1
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	17.1	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.10	0.08	0.49	0.46	8.3	71	91.9	6.6	0.9*	0
155 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000) ...	16.4	11.3	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.08	0.05	0.58	0.41	5.0	68	92.7	5.8	0.3*	1
London ...	16.1	11.9	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.09	0.39	0.51	7.5	59	90.3	7.9	1.8*	0
SMETHWICK ...	17.0	11.9	—	—	0.26	0.01	0.13	0.03	0.54	0.53	9.9	78	92.8	6.1	0.4	0

* The Coroners (Amendment) Act, 1926, which came into operation on the 1st May, 1927, provided for the registration of deaths on a certificate of the Coroner after P.M. without inquest. These percentages relate therefore to 8 months of the year only.

The total deaths registered in Smethwick numbered 636; 14 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 295 Smethwick residents died in other districts, and have been added to the number registered in the Borough. The nett deaths thus number 917, giving a rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of the population. It is worthy of note that 336 or 36.6 per cent. of those dying during the year were over 65 years of age. The mean age at death was 46.7 compared with 46.4 last year, 45.8 in 1925, 43.8 in 1924, 43.6 in 1923, and 41.1 in 1922.

The birth-rate was 17.0 per 1,000 of the population and is the lowest rate recorded for the Borough. The rate compared with 18.3 last year, and 18.3 in 1925. Twenty-five years ago the rate was 34.1 per 1,000.

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was 78.5 per 1,000 births. This compares with 69 for England and Wales, and 71 for the 107 great towns. Thirty-two per cent. of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks of life (neo-natal deaths).

A table showing the causes of death at different age periods will be found in the Appendix to this Report, and a similar table relating to the deaths of infants under one year appears on page 36.

COMPARISON OF RATES IN THE VARIOUS WARDS.

Ward	Estimated Population	Total Acreage	Density	Infant Mortality rate	Respiratory Death-rate	General Death-rate
Spon Lane ...	12,690	515	24.5	37.8	2.0	9.8
Sandwell ...	11,780	411	28.6	91.2	3.5	12.9
Uplands ...	8,580	255	33.6	48.9	2.4	12.4
Bearwood ...	21,150	348	60.7	68.0	1.1	11.3
Victoria ...	11,630	176	66.1	96.7	2.8	12.4
Soho ...	11,040	224	49.3	130.8	2.3	13.4
Totals	76,870	1,929	39.7	78.5	2.2	11.9

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

Year	Estimated population	Birth rate per 1,000	Death rate per 1,000	Infant mor- tality rate per 1,000 births	Zymotic death rate per 1,000	Respiratory diseases	Death rates per 1,000		
							Pulmonary tuber- culosis	Non- pulmonary tuberculosis	Cancer
1903	58,000	34.1	14.1	141.7	1.2	3.1	0.65	0.41	0.77
1904	61,000	32.06	13.2	145.6	1.24	2.67	0.93	0.39	0.80
1905	63,000	30.3	15.0	139	1.7	2.7	0.73	0.71	0.60
1906	65,000	31.2	14.6	130	2.21	2.7	1.03	0.50	0.67
1907	67,000	29.4	14.34	116	1.43	3.1	0.78	0.31	0.85
1908	69,500	30.0	14.5	135	1.84	2.7	0.86	0.53	0.70
1909	70,300	28.1	13.4	116	2.23	2.8	0.82	0.38	0.78
1910	72,000	27.35	12.42	108	1.3	2.1	0.84	0.33	0.54
1911	70,681	27.8	14.6	140	2.3	2.6	0.94	0.49	0.79
1912	73,372	25.8	12.32	111	0.9	2.8	0.9	0.20	0.7
1913	72,936	28.1	14.98	127	2.1	3.1	0.8	0.10	0.76
1914	72,975	27.5	14.13	106	1.67	3.4	1.26	0.19	0.89
1915	72,439	25.88	13.8	109.3	2.13	3.02	1.10	0.21	0.98
1916	78,335	22.04	11.08	93.8	0.77	3.33	1.20	0.15	0.84
1917	78,335	20.32	11.5	99.8	0.71	3.9	1.30	0.05	0.86
1918	76,056	20.28	15.63	102.4	0.6	3.56	1.43	0.16	0.9
1919	73,000	22.19	13.00	84.6	0.45	3.2	1.19	0.12	1.03
1920	75,027	27.08	11.16	82.18	0.64	2.4	0.81	0.31	0.92
1921	77,400	25.46	11.11	88.28	0.69	2.27	0.68	0.22	0.85
1922	78,140	21.39	11.22	86.12	0.67	2.31	0.78	0.32	1.13
1923	78,450	20.24	10.82	65.49	0.79	1.82	0.93	0.17	1.04
1924	78,790	20.19	10.12	74.79	0.41	1.87	0.67	0.17	1.20
1925	78,840	18.36	10.36	80.11	0.52	1.91	0.77	0.24	1.10
1926	76,940	18.35	10.39	65.86	0.37	1.88	0.79	0.10	1.26
1927	76,870	17.0	11.9	78.6	0.61	2.26	0.84	0.05	1.19

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1927.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														Cases admitted to Hospital.	TOTAL DEATHS.													
	AGE GROUPS.															AGE GROUPS.													
	All ages	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards	0-1		1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards			
Enteric Fever	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Scarlet Fever	92	...	...	2	10	12	44	10	7	6	1	...	...	62	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Diphtheria	120	1	3	1	5	6	45	24	13	11	8	3	...	83	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Erysipelas	24	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	5	11	4	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Puerperal Fever	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Primary Pneumonia	167	13	10	9	9	7	27	10	12	24	18	18	10	65	41	4	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	14	7			
Influenzal Pneumonia	66	4	1	2	1	2	1	1	6	10	14	15	9	5	33	2	...	2	1	...	1	2	5	13	7				
Dysentery	8	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
TOTALS	508	29	15	15	26	28	119	47	40	64	53	48	24	232	83	6	3	3	1	1	5	2	2	6	11	28	15		

SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL. **STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1927.**

	Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1926.				Number of Cases Admitted during 1927.				Cases Discharged, Died, or Transferred to other Institutions during 1927.				Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1927.			
	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 16	Total.
SMETHWICK :																
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	3	3	5	6	51	62	5	6	49	60	...	...	5	5
Diphtheria ...	...	...	9	9	6	15	62	83	5	15	67	87	1	...	4	5
OLDBURY :																16
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	1	1	...	23	24	...	...	24	24	1	...	...	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	25	27	...	2	13	15	...	...	12	12
Totals ...	...	...	13	13	12	23	161	196	10	23	153	186	2	...	21	23

SCARLET FEVER :—The following complications occurred :

		Cases
Adenitis	...	19
Otorrhoea	...	1
Rhinorrhoea	...	3
Nephritis	...	1

DIPHTHERIA :—The following complications occurred :

		Cases
Cardiac paresis	...	3
Palatal paresis	...	6
Retro-pharyngeal abscess	...	1
Catarhal jaundice	...	1
Peri-Tonsillar Abscess	...	2

Tracheotomy was performed in 2 cases during the year.
 Both recovered.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year under review 92 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, against 74 last year. Sixty-seven per cent. of the cases were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane. One death occurred.

There were 54 cases of Scarlet Fever in children of school age, compared with 45 in the previous year. The incidence was not marked in any particular school.

The age incidence of the persons attacked will be found in the table on page 14.

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

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
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
1924	126	1.5	—	—
1925	165	2.0	3	1.8
1926	74	0.9	1	1.3
1927	92	1.2	1	1.0

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease continued to be prevalent throughout the year, 120 cases being notified, compared with 110 during the preceding year. The mortality was fortunately lower than for a number of years; three deaths occurring or 2.5 per cent. of the total cases notified.

There were 69 cases in children of school age, against 56 last year. Brasshouse Lane and Crocketts Lane Schools showed a larger number of cases than the other schools in the Borough.

Sixty-nine per cent. of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The age periods of the persons attacked will be found in the table on page 14.

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

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
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	10	13.7
1924	141	1.78	7	4.9
1925	104	1.3	5	4.8
1926	110	1.4	9	8.1
1927	120	1.5	3	2.5

Antitoxin is supplied free to medical practitioners in the Borough, 160 phials of 8,000 units being issued during the year, compared with 234 last year, and 194 in 1925.

It is to be regretted that parents are not taking advantage of the facilities offered to protect their children against this dangerous disease by means of Toxoid-Antitoxin inoculation. Toxoid-Antitoxin is now available free of charge to medical practitioners in the town for prophylaxis in the same way as Antitoxin is given for curative purposes.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Five cases were notified during the year and all recovered. Two of these were infected by the Paratyphoid bacillus, and one of the five was nursed at home, the remaining four being treated in hospital. The five cases were all in different parts of the borough, and no contamination of the food supply could be traced in any case.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case was reported during the year, against four last year, and seven in 1925.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case of this disease was reported during the year.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

No case of this disease was reported during the year.

DYSENTERY.

An outbreak of five cases of dysentery occurred in the Borough about the end of July and beginning of August, and in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health, was dealt with by Dr. Severn. The cases were limited to the occupants of a tenement house where several families reside, and to the first and second floors. The earliest symptoms in the first case occurred on July 22nd, but medical assistance was not called in until July 25th. The last case fell sick on August 2nd.

The dysentery was caused by an organism of the Flexner type. Investigations conclusively showed that the cause of the outbreak was the drinking of water from a tank connected with the hot water system on the premises. Examination of the residue of this tank water, which had never been heated, showed the presence of intestinal organisms. The carrier in this outbreak appeared to be an ex-soldier living on the premises who suffered from dysentery in the Near East towards the end of the war. His blood serum agglutinated organisms of the Flexner sub-type. Dr. Severn is to be congratulated on his successful and rapid handling of this outbreak.

SMALLPOX.

No case of smallpox was notified during the year, but contacts from other areas were from time to time reported, and kept under observation.

Leaflets are distributed at the Infant Welfare Centres and at the Health Office placing before the public the benefits of vaccination.

The Vaccination Officer's Return for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1927, and for previous years is given below. In 1911-12 the conscientious objectors represented 18.1 per cent. This figure gradually rose to 34.4 per cent. in 1920-21 and fell to 25 per cent. in 1923-24. Last year the percentage again rose to 35.6 and in view of the continued prevalence of Smallpox throughout the country this tendency to neglect the protection which vaccination affords is much to be deplored.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

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*
1927	1,158	656	—	385	59	12	5	10	31	35
1926	1,267	731	2	414	62	20	4	6	28	34.3
1925	1,406	866	3	404	55	29	7	15	27	29.9
1924	1,448	958	2	343	76	13	15	9	32	25.0
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

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

PNEUMONIA.

The cases of Primary Pneumonia notified during the year numbered 167 compared with 126 last year. Sixty-six cases of Influenzal Pneumonia

were reported against 21 last year. The notifications and deaths for each year since the commencement of the Pneumonia Regulations are as follows :—

PRIMARY PNEUMONIA INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA

Year	Notifications	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
1924	89	18	32	12
1925	126	38	24	16
1926	116	24	21	17
1927	167	41	66	33

MEASLES.

Measles was very prevalent throughout the year and accounted for 20 deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease was also prevalent throughout the year, and there were 10 deaths.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza was prevalent during the early part of the year; and 42 deaths occurred. The mortality rate was 0.54 per 1,000 of the population, against 0.29 last year, and compared with 0.57 for the whole country.

RHEUMATIC DISEASES.

The large group of Rheumatic Diseases is of great importance to the community. The recent report of the Ministry of Health on the incidence of Rheumatic Diseases discloses the fact that nearly one-sixth of the industrial invalidity in this country was due to "rheumatism." The following table may be of interest as giving some indication of the actual mortality caused by these diseases. The deaths due to heart disease are separated from the rest of the table, but the presumption is that the greatest number are due to rheumatic infection. It must always be borne in mind that the "damage rate" in Rheumatic Diseases is considerably greater than the death-rate. The term "Heart Disease" in the table includes only pericarditis, endocarditis, and valvular disease, as being probably rheumatic in origin.

Cause of death.	Chorea.	Rheumatic Fever.	Chronic Rheumatism.	Heart Disease.
1919	—	2	—	32
1920	—	6	—	54
1921	1	7	—	52
1922	—	5	—	39
1923	1	2	1	46
1924	1	5	3	33
1925	—	9	2	35
1926	—	3	1	24
1927	—	5	6	35

The chief field in the prevention of these diseases lies in education, and care of the earliest manifestations in childhood. "Growing pains" and Chorea (St. Vitus' Dance) in children are forms of Rheumatic Disease and children with these conditions should be carefully watched and kept under medical supervision. Attention to septic teeth and diseased tonsils are also important factors. A sufficient wage, abolition of dampness, and the provision of as much sunlight as possible, will help in prevention. The prevention of Rheumatic Diseases offers a big field for future public health endeavour.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Immediately on receipt of a notification of infectious disease the premises are visited by a sanitary inspector. At these visits arrangements are made for the efficient isolation of the patient, or alternatively for removal of the case to the Isolation Hospital. The circumstances in connection with the case, such as occupation of patient and family, sources of water supply and milk supply, probable sources of infection, etc., are recorded and tabulated, and any insanitary conditions found are noted and dealt with. Cards of instruction as to the prevention of the spread of infection are sent to the parents or guardians in each case, and the Education Office notified of all children of school age in infected houses. In addition a list of notified cases is sent daily to the Borough Librarian. Library books in infected houses are destroyed.

On the termination of illness or on removal of a case to hospital the premises are disinfected by means of formalin spray or lamp and where necessary notices are served upon the owners to strip and lime-wash the rooms occupied by the patient. Infected clothing, bedding, etc., is removed to the Isolation Hospital and dealt with in a Manlove and Elliott's steam disinfector.

The number of lots of bedding, etc., removed for disinfection during the year was 400 comprising 4,729 articles. The total number of disinfections was 440 and the following is a classified list of the reasons for the disinfection of premises:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	77
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	119
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	114
Cancer	...	...	...	...	65
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelis	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	15
Verminous houses	...	...	...	...	21
Other causes	...	...	...	...	8

440

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Arrangements are made for the necessary routine bacteriological examinations to be carried out by 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.				Number.	Positive.	Negative.
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria bacilli—						
Suspects	...	...	...	22	2	20
Contacts	...	...	...	119	8	111
Nasal Swabs for Diphtheria bacilli—						
Suspects	...	...	...	439	74	365
Contacts	...	...	...	103	29	74
Exudate from Eyes for Gonococci—				5	5	—
Blood for B. Typhosus				7	—	7
Blood for B. Para-typhosus B.				7	1	6
Urine for B. Typhosus				—	—	—
Fæces for B. Typhosus				2	—	2
Sputum for Tubercle bacilli				385	53	332
Milk for Bacterial Count				36	—	—
Totals				1,125	172	917

In addition to the above 280 swabs were examined for Diphtheria bacilli at the Hospital, Holly Lane, from patients in the hospital, 203 giving positive and 77 negative results. Two consecutive negative swabs are required before a patient is discharged.

Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Officer for the Year 1927.

NOTIFICATIONS.

One hundred and twenty-five notifications were received during the year, 87 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 38 of other forms of the disease. The following table shows the notifications received and the attack-rate for each year since the commencement of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912:—

		Attack Rate per Notifications received: 1,000 of the population.			
		Pulmonary.	Other forms	Pulmonary.	Other forms.
1912	.....	307	—	4.1	—
1913	.....	318	50	4.3	0.68
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
1924	.....	110	18	1.39	0.2
1925	.....	74	24	0.9	0.3
1926	.....	94	16	1.2	0.2
1927	.....	87	38	1.1	0.49

The increase in attack rate is only an apparent one, and is probably due to more efficient notification by general practitioners.

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis during the year numbered 69, of which 66 were notified cases, and 3 not notified. The ratio of unnotified deaths to the total deaths is 4.3%, against 8.7% last year, and 25%, 26%, 29.8% and 38% in the four preceding years. The steps taken to secure better notification have thus had satisfactory results.

The following table shows the total NEW CASES during the year, i.e., all PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS and also other NEW CASES coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health from the death returns or otherwise; and also the deaths registered during the year:—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Other forms.		Pulmonary.		Other forms.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
1 to 5	1	2	4	5	—	—	—	1
5 to 10	—	2	7	5	1	1	1	1
10 to 15	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20	4	4	3	3	1	2	—	—
20 to 25	8	6	1	1	3	2	—	—
25 to 35	15	8	1	2	9	8	—	—
35 to 45	12	14	—	—	7	5	—	—
45 to 55	11	4	1	—	10	4	—	—
55 to 65	7	—	—	1	10	2	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	58	43	20	20	41	24	1	3

Return showing the work of the Dispensary (or Dispensaries) during the year 1927.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				TOTAL.			
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts):												
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	37	22	1	2	7	7	15	11	44	29	16	13
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	12	10	7
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	17	19	12
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year:—												
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	15	11	11
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	7	8
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as:—												
(a) Cured ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	40	46	29
D.—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st:												
(a) Diagnosis completed ...	131	198	6	—	16	33	66	51	147	231	72	51
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	19	11	16

1.—Number of persons on Dispensary Register on January 1st ...	495
2.—Number of patients transferred from other areas and of "lost sight of" cases returned	13
3.—Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of"	7
4.—Died during the year	69
5.—Number of observation cases under A (b) and B (b) above in which period of observation exceeded 2 months ...	87
6.—Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)...	4,193
7.—Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopaedic Out-stations for treatment or supervision	—
8.—Number of attendances, at General Hospitals or other Institutions approved for the purpose, of patients for	
(a) "Light" treatment	1,448
(b) Other special forms of treatment	—
9.—Number of patients to whom Dental Treatment was given, at or in connection with the Dispensary	—
10.—Number of consultations with medical practitioners	
(a) At Homes of Applicants	4
(b) Otherwise... ..	72
11.—Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes ...	9
12.—Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes	1,806
13.—Number of	
(a) Specimens of sputum, &c., examined	194
(b) X-ray examinations made, in connection with Dispensary work	35
14.—Number of Insured Persons on Dispensary Register on the 31st December	285
15.—Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December	50
16.—Number of reports received during the year in respect of Insured Persons :—	
(a) Form G.P. 17	12
(b) Form G.P. 36	8

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

TABLE SHEWING ADMISSIONS to, and DISCHARGES from, SANATORIA during the Twelve Months ended December 31st, 1927.

NAME OF INSTITUTION	Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1926.				Number of Cases admitted during 1927.				Cases discharged or transferred to the Chest Clinic.				Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1927.		Number of Deaths.	
	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Romsley Hill ...	7	9	...	16	24	17	...	41	25	17	...	42	7	5	12	3
Holly Lane ...	6	3	...	9	36	14	3	53	24	6	1	31	13	4	17	9
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
The Woodlands, Northfield ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
The Forelands, Bromsgrove ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Totals ...	13	12	2	27	62	31	7	100	49	23	2	74	22	9	36	12

to the Institution.	Condition at time of discharge.	Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution.												Total	
		Under 3 months.			3—6 months.			6—12 months.			More than 12 months.				
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.		
minus.	Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	6	...	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	No material improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
plus. Group 1.	Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	3	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	No material improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
plus. Group 2.	Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	8	1	...	5	8	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	27
	No material improvement	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
plus. Group 3.	Quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	6
	No material improvement	1	2	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	9
	Died in Institution	3	5	2	1	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	17
Joints.	Quiescent or arrested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
	No material improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal	Quiescent or arrested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	No material improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organs.	Quiescent or arrested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	No material improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glands.	Quiescent or arrested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	No material improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Under 1 week			1—2 weeks.			2—4 weeks.			More than 4 weeks.				
va- ri- e of sis.	Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	3
	Doubtful	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

Annual Return showing in summary form the condition of all Patients whose case records are in the possession of the Dispensary (or Dispensaries) at the end of 1927, arranged according to the years in which the Patients first came under Public Medical Treatment, and their classification as shown on Form A.

Condition at the time of the last record made during the year to which the Return relates.			Previous to 1926.					1926.					1927.				
			Bones and Joints.	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands.	Total.	Bones and Joints.	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands.	Total.	Bones and Joints.	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands.	Total.
ALIVE.	Discharged as cured.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Disease arrested.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Disease not arrested.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	TRANSFERRED TO PULMONARY			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	CONDITION NOT ASCERTAINED DURING THE YEAR.			5	...	3	8	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	LOST SIGHT OF OR OTHERWISE REMOVED FROM DISPENSARY REGISTER.			...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	DEAD.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Children { M. F.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
TOTALS			12	3	13	87	115	5	...	6	5	16	19	5	4	12	40

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No tubercular employees in the milk trade were discovered during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

The Council provide beds for advanced cases at Holly Lane Hospital, but in no case was it found necessary to apply for an Order for the compulsory removal of a patient to hospital.

AFTER-CARE WORK.

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

Patients receiving loan of beds and bedding	16
Patients receiving loan of shelters, including beds ...	16
Advanced cases of domiciliary treatment receiving loans of bed-pans, air-cushions, etc.	26
Cases receiving grants of milk	28

HOME NURSING AND EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

The nurses visit certain advanced cases in their homes where satisfactory isolation can be secured, and bath the patients.

In 28 cases extra nourishment in the form of grants of milk was given during the year.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

These cases are dealt with as outlined above in institutions and are thereafter referred to the Chest Clinic and to the Smethwick Cripples' Union for after-care. Certain of these cases have received ultra-violet radiation with beneficial results. Surgical appliances are provided as required, the parents being asked to pay a proportion of the cost.

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 Holly Lane.

We have again to thank Mr. T. Collins, J.P., and the Chairman of the Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee (Alderman T. W. Evans, J.P.) for the interest they have taken in the wireless receiving set installed at Holly Lane through their efforts. Mr. John H. Wright, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, kindly undertook the maintenance of the installation during the year, which has proved an invaluable boon to the patients.

The carpenter's shop has continued to be useful and the women patients have carried on with their small stock of poultry.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By arrangement, treatment is available for Smethwick patients at the General Hospital, Birmingham. The Centre is open for men and women on the following days:—

Men—Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.—8 p.m.
 Tuesday and Thursday, 2—8 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
 Sunday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Women—Tuesday and Friday from 10 to 12 noon. Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

The number of Smethwick residents dealt with at the Centre during the year was 85, compared with 83 last year, 89 in 1925, 64 in 1924, 61 in 1923, 74 in 1922, 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 patients dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	26
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	31
Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	27
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	85
						—

- B. Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 3,970
- C. Aggregate number of "In-Patient days" of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 31
- D. Number of doses of Salvarsan substitute given ... 993

Pathological examinations made during the year 1926 relating to patients residing in Smethwick:—

For detection of Spirochetes	...	...	...	...	...	2
For detection of Gonococci	...	...	...	...	...	386
For Wasserman reaction	...	...	...	...	...	347
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	735
						—

Enquiries in connection with the scheme were received at the Health Office from time to time 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.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS :—

Holly Lane Hospital, Smethwick. 22 beds for advanced and chronic cases, and 12 beds in chalets.

Romsley Hill Sanatorium, near Halesowen. (Birmingham Corporation). 20 beds reserved for Smethwick patients.

For Surgical Tuberculosis: Authority given to send up to 6 cases to "The Woodlands," Northfield, "The Forelands," Bromsgrove, or Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.

(2) MATERNITY :—

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

Under an Agreement between the Smethwick Corporation and the Guardians of the Birmingham Union, the Guardians receive in Dudley Road and Selly Oak Hospitals such cases as are recommended by the Medical Officer of Health for maternity treatment. The Guardians collect from the patients such amounts towards the cost of treatment as the circumstances allow and the Corporation pay to the Guardians a sum to make up the amount of the charges for each patient's residence in hospital.

(3) CHILDREN.

No hospital is provided or subsidised by the Corporation.

(4) FEVER :—

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (total 60 beds). Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases only.

(5) SMALLPOX :—

South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital, Moxley, near Wednesbury.

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 a motor ambulance, which is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick. (Telephone: Smethwick 159).

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: Town Ambulance kept at the Fire Station, Rolfe Street, Smethwick. (Telephone: Smethwick 22).

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES :—

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough, and sessions are held on the following days from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

- No. 1. Baptist Hall, Rawlings Road. Mondays and Wednesdays.
- No. 2. 95, Soho Street. Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- No. 3. St. Stephen's Hall, Sydenham Road. Wednesdays.
- No. 4. Smethwick Hall School, Devonshire Road. Tuesdays.
- No. 5. Congregational Church Hall, Oldbury Road. Fridays.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—

Held in the Chest Clinic, Council House, on Thursdays from 9.30 to 12.30 o'clock and 2 to 4.30 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINICS :—

Two School Clinics are provided, one at 95, Soho Street, Six Ways, and one at Smethwick Hall Schools, Devonshire Road. 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 Clinics :—

Six Ways: Friday, 9.30—1.

Smethwick Hall: Thursday, 9.30—1.

EYE CLINIC :—

Smethwick Hall: Mondays and Thursdays, 2—5 p.m.

IONISATION CLINIC :—

Six Ways: Tuesday, 10—12.30.

CLEANSING STATION (for Scabies, etc.) :—

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

DENTAL CLINIC :—

Six Ways: Every day from 9.30—5, except Monday and Thursday afternoons.

CHEST CLINIC :—

Council House. New cases seen by appointment on Wednesdays from 2.15 to 5.0, Fridays from 11.0 to 1.0, and Tuesday 6.0 to 8.30 p.m.

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

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC :—

At Chest Clinic, Council House.

Mondays, 9.0 to 1.0 and Fridays from 2.15 to 5.0.

Tuesday evening from 6—8. Additional sessions as required.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS :—

By appointment.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :—

- (a) *General*: The Smethwick District Nursing Association, The Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, has a 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 is provided, but a panel of handy-women is kept at the Health Office and their services utilised in certain cases.

MIDWIVES :—

Nineteen midwives reside in the Borough, and a total of 34 notified their intention to practice in the area during the year.

In 1921 two midwives were trained and these with a third, already trained, were subsidised by the Council for a period of twelve months. No midwife is at present receiving a subsidy from the Council.

CHEMICAL WORK :—

This work is undertaken by the Public Analyst for the Borough.

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 daily at 9 a.m.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, LADYWOOD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM :—

For children under 12 years of age. Daily from 1.30—2.30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday excepted.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM :—

(Out-patients' Department, Upper Priory, Birmingham). Daily
(except Saturday) from 1 to 2 p.m.

EYE HOSPITAL, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily from 8.30—9 a.m.

SKIN AND URINARY HOSPITAL, JOHN BRIGHT STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily from 1.30—3 p.m. (Saturday excepted).

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT HOSPITAL, EDMUND STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily 9—11 a.m.

ORTHOPÆDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL, BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturdays) from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

DENTAL HOSPITAL, GREAT CHARLES STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Daily from 9 to 10.15 a.m.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL, Easy Row, Birmingham :—

Out-patients' Department open daily 9—10 a.m. (except Wednesday) and every afternoon from 2—3 o'clock.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL, LOVEDAY STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

Out-patients are seen on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9.0 a.m. and Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 2 p.m.

THE BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY has a branch at Cape Hill, Smethwick—surgery hours, 9.0 to 9.30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. daily (except Wednesday).

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

LOCAL ACTS.

Smethwick Corporation Act, 1901.

Smethwick Corporation Act, 1927.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Baths and Wash-houses 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.

Public Health Act, 1925—the following parts adopted 3rd May, 1926—Part II., Sections 13 to 33, and 35; Parts III., IV., and V., the whole parts.

BYE-LAWS.

Street Cleansing and Nuisances, 1856.

Slaughter-houses, 1893.

Nuisances, 1914.

Good Rule and Government, 1921.

New Streets and Buildings, 1926.

REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1901.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1927.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 w'k.	1-2 w'ks.	2-3 w'ks.	3-4 w'ks.	Total under 4 w'ks.	1-2 m'nths	2-3 m'nths	3-4 m'nths	4-5 m'nths	5-6 m'nths	6-7 m'nths	7-8 m'nths	8-9 m'nths	9-10 m'nths	10-11 m'nths	11-12 m'nths	Total under 1 year
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	4
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Tetany ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Otitis Media ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Broncho-pneumonia ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	2	3	4	...	4	1	2	...	26
Lobar Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (type not stated) ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Pulmonary Congestion ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	1	2	...	...	...	1	3	13
Diseases of male genital organs ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cellulitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phemphigus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cong. Malformation of Heart... ..	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
Debility, Marasmus, etc. ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
Icterus Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	16	1	3	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Injury at Birth ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Atelectasis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accidental Suffocation... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	25	1	6	1	33	7	3	8	6	4	7	6	10	2	8	9	103

BIRTHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate 1,279.
Illegitimate 32.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate infants 99.
Illegitimate infants 4.

Rate, 77.4.
Rate, 125.0.

Total 1,311.

Total 103.

Rate, 78.5.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

BIRTHS.

Registered: (1) Legitimate, 1,279; (2) Illegitimate, 32; (3) Total, 1,311.

Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

(1) Live Births 1,082; (2) Stillbirths 34; (3) Total 1,116.

(1) By Midwives 1,072; (2) By parents and doctors 44.

In addition to this number particulars of 211 births notified to the Medical Officers of Health of adjoining areas, and relating to Smethwick residents, were transferred to this office.

INFANT DEATHS.

Number: (1) Legitimate, 99; (2) Illegitimate, 4; (3) Total, 103.

Rate per 1,000 births: (1) Legitimate, 77.4; (2) Illegitimate, 125.0; (3) Total 78.5.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—(1) From Sepsis, 2; (2) from other causes, 2.

The maternal death-rate is 3.0 per 1,000 births, compared with 4.8 in 1926, 4.8 in 1925, 4.4 in 1924, 6.9 in 1923, 1.7 in 1922, and 4.5 in 1921. The rate for England and Wales for 1926 was 4.12 per 1,000 births.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of cases notified, 9.

Cases treated by Health Department nurses, 8.

Cases treated at Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, 1.

Cases resulting in impaired vision, None.

Exudate from the eyes examined in five instances; gonococci found in each.

Visits paid to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum by the nurses during the year numbered 164.

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

Notifications for past years:—

1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917
9	11	15	27	31	32	34	61	43	54	49

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic continue to rise in a very satisfactory manner, and about 30% of the pregnant women of the town attended during the year. As this clinic is intended to apply only to expectant and nursing mothers other cases have not been encouraged to attend, and the figures for 1927 given below would have been much greater had we not discouraged the casual attendance of mothers and babies who should attend an ordinary infant welfare centre. The average attendance of ante-natal cases at the end of the year was about eleven per session, and during the early months of 1928 these figures have still further increased, a very encouraging feature.

Since the establishment of the Ante-Natal Clinic in 1920, the total attendances have been as follows:—

1920	...	...	...	...	...	42
1921	...	...	...	...	...	107
1922	...	...	...	...	...	127
1923	...	...	...	...	...	241
1924	...	...	...	...	...	275
1925 (2 sessions from July)	...	...	...	...	...	537
1926	...	...	...	...	...	1,015
1927	...	...	...	...	...	1,079

MIDWIVES.

During the year 34 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the area; of these 25 were trained and 9 were bona-fide midwives.

A total of 840 births were attended solely by midwives, being 75.2 per cent. of the births notified.

Each midwife has now an ante-natal register in which she keeps a record of any ante-natal work done by herself. The majority of the midwives are endeavouring to keep this register, but say that they continue to have some difficulty in getting mothers to submit to ante-natal examination. Every midwife is urged to send as many as possible of her cases to the Ante-Natal Clinic, and she receives a written report and advice upon each case from the Medical Officer. If it is found necessary to send a midwife's case to hospital for confinement, the midwife receives a fee of one guinea as compensation for the loss of her case. The number of such fees paid during the year was 4.

Medical aid was summoned in 169 cases by midwives, the doctors' fees being paid by the Corporation in 117 cases. The complications for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

MOTHER :—Torn perineum	...	...	...	...	44
Obstructed labour	...	...	...	...	6
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	...	20
Breech presentation	...	...	...	...	10
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	...	4
Placenta prævia	...	...	...	...	2
Adherent placenta	...	...	...	...	10
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	5
Inertia	...	...	...	...	3
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	7
Vomiting	...	...	...	...	1
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	...	12
Contracted pelvis	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	...	16
CHILD :—Feebleness	...	...	...	...	7
Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	3
Discharging eyes	...	...	...	...	5
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	2
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	5
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	4
Routine visits paid to midwives	...	...	...	...	59
Number of notices received re:—					
Intention to practice	...	...	...	...	35
Sending for Medical Help	...	...	...	...	169
Attendance at Stillbirths (under C.M.B. Rules)	...	...	...	...	17
Attendance at Stillbirths (under Notification of Births Acts)	...	...	...	...	39
Cessation of Breast Feeding	...	...	...	...	4
Liability to be a Source of Infection	...	...	...	...	4
Laying out dead body	...	...	...	...	2
Death of Child	...	...	...	...	1

MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES ACT, 1926.

Four applications for registration of Maternity Homes were received during the year, and all were registered. These Homes were inspected by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and found satisfactory. Consequent upon her visits, several recommendations were made and were complied with by the owners of the Homes concerned.

HEALTH VISITORS.

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

- School visiting, attendance at medical inspection and following up certain cases until treatment is completed.
- Attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre of her district and the home visiting 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 Station.
- Attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinic.
- Visiting expectant mothers.
- Visiting and treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- Routine inspection of midwives.
- Investigation of applications for grants of milk in necessitous cases.
- Visiting in connection with non-notifiable infectious diseases, i.e., Measles, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, etc.
- Supervision of mental defectives in the area.

The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year was 21,670, compared with 29,565 in the previous year and 26,662 in 1925.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are five Centres in the Borough, three of which are open on two half-days per week, and two on one-half day per week. In addition the Ante-Natal Clinic is open two half-days per week, making a total of ten sessions weekly. A Lady Medical Officer attends at each session and the Health Visitor for the district is in charge of the Centre, assisted by a second nurse and voluntary workers.

The average weekly attendance during the year was 458, compared with 469 in the previous year, and 509 in 1925. The names of 959 children were added to the rolls during the year, compared with 1,081 in the previous year, and 1,193 in 1925.

The days and times of meeting, and the average attendance at each Centre is set out below :—

Centre.	Day and Time of Meeting.	Average Attendance.		
		Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	Total
1. Rawlings Road	... Monday, 2 p.m.	37	30	67
Ditto ...	... Wednesday, 2 p.m.	29	30	59
2. 95, Soho Street	... Monday, 2 p.m.	36	30	66
Ditto ...	... Thursday, 2 p.m.	38	33	71
3. Sydenham Road	... Wednesday, 2 p.m.	23	26	49
Ditto ...	... Friday, 2 p.m.	19	12	31
4. Devonshire Road	... Tuesday, 2 p.m.	30	38	68
5. Oldbury Road	... Friday, 2 p.m.	26	21	47

The total attendances at the Centres during the year was 21,752, against 22,106 last year, and 20,049 during 1925.

The mothers bring their babies to the Centres quite regularly on the whole and take a very keen interest in the progress and well-being of their infants, in fact they tend to wish their babies to gain too much weight each week. Dried milk is available at all the Centres at cost price but no mother is allowed to purchase food unless it is prescribed by the doctor and the name, amount and date written in the weight card.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

Our very best thanks are due to the ladies who assist at the Centres. They attend most regularly and are always ready to give whatever help is required. Their work is of great value to the town.

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

The administration of the scheme was continued on the same lines as in previous years, and entailed a considerable amount of work in the Department. The number of cases dealt with were slightly less than in the previous years, but many remained on the books for a longer period, and the cost during the year showed a small increase, viz., from £337 to £343. 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 of age.
- (d) Exceptionally to children from 3 to 5 years on the certificate of the doctor.

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

The quantity supplied does not ordinary exceed one pint per eligible person per day, but in exceptional cases of infants from 3 to 18 months, $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints may be supplied on the certificate of the doctor. In certain cases on the recommendation of the Medical Officer at the Infant Welfare Centres, dried milk is supplied in lieu of fresh milk. Orders are granted for 14 days in the first instance, and applications reviewed every two weeks.

Cases receiving assistance during the year : 337

Total cost : £343 13s. 7d.

Average cost per case : £1 0s. 5d.

Average duration of case : $14\frac{1}{2}$ weeks.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT TREATMENT.

During the year 1927, 671 individual cases received treatment at the Light Clinic as follows:—

Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	...	73
Maternity and Child Welfare cases:—						
(a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	77
(b) Babies and Toddlers	...	...	...	...	...	259
Children of school age	...	...	...	...	...	262
Total						671

These patients made a total of 10,715 attendances during the year, viz.:—

Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	...	1,448
Maternity and Child Welfare cases:—						
(a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	730
(b) Babies and Toddlers	...	...	...	...	...	3,690
Children of school age	...	...	...	...	...	4,847
Total						10,715

These figures compare with 537 cases and 10,763 attendances last year, and 296 cases, and 5,527 attendances during the year 1925.

The following tables show the conditions for which treatment was given, and the results obtained during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS SECTION.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Treated	Number Discharged	CONDITION ON DISCHARGE.				Continuing Treatment.
			Very much Improved	Improved	In Statu Quo.	Course not completed.	
Tuberculous Abscess	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of Bones & Joints	6	3	1	1	1	...	3
Tuberculosis of Eye	3	2	...	1	1	...	1
Tuberculous of Glands	33	20	13	6	...	1	13
Tuberculosis of Lungs	16	14	...	2	9	3	2
Tuberculosis of Peritoneum	4	2	1	...	...	1	2
Bazin's Disease	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
Lupus	9	3	2	1	...	...	6
Total	73	45	18	11	11	5	28

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Treated	Number Discharged	CONDITION ON DISCHARGE.				Continuing Treatment.	
			Very much Improved	Improved	In Statu Quo	Course not completed.		
(a) Expectant & Nursing Mothers:								
Anæmia	7	6	...	5	1	...	1	
Asthma	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	
Bronchitis	3	3	...	2	1	...	...	
Debility	26	21	6	9	4	2	5	
Difficulty in breast-feeding	31	28	11	12	2	3	3	
Insomnia	8	8	...	6	1	1	...	
Neuritis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Total	77	67	17	35	9	6	10	
(b) Babies and Toddlers :								
Adenitis	10	7	3	1	...	3	3	
Anæmia	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	
Bronchitis	25	21	4	12	2	3	4	
Debility	65	58	11	26	6	15	7	
Delayed Dentition ...	9	8	5	2	1	...	1	
Enuresis	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	
Insomnia	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	
Malnutrition	15	14	4	6	1	3	1	
Marasmus	6	6	3	2	...	1	...	
Not Thriving	32	28	5	12	5	6	4	
Paralysis	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	
Pre-operation	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Rheumatism	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	
Rickets	57	50	7	32	4	7	7	
Skin Diseases	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	29	29	15	8	4	2	...	
Total	259	228	57	105	25	41	31	

CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Treated	Number Discharged	CONDITION ON DISCHARGE.				Continuing Treatment.
			Very much Improved	Improved	In Statu Quo.	Course not completed.	
Abscess	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
Adenitis	23	14	7	6	1	...	9
Alopecia	12	9	3	3	1	2	3
Anæmia	9	1	1	...	...	...	8
Asthma	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis	25	13	6	6	...	1	12
Chorea	14	6	4	1	1	...	8
Chilblains	11	9	6	2	1	...	2
Debility	125	76	27	31	7	11	49
Eczema	2	2	2	...	...	...	...
Enuresis	7	2	...	1	1	...	5
Erythema	3	3	2	...	...	1	...
Heart Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leucoderma	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Pre-operation	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Psoriasis... ..	3	1	...	1	...	...	2
Rheumatism	10	3	...	1	...	2	7
Ringworm	3	3	2	1	...	...	...
Septic Sores	6	5	5	...	...	...	1
Ulcer	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Total	262	152	66	54	13	19	110

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Administration.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The number of canal boats inspected during the year was 43 as against 24 in the previous year. Four boats were found to contravene the regulations in the following particulars:—

Structural Defects	...	...	...	3
Marking	...	...	...	3
Lack of Stove	...	...	...	1
Overcrowded	...	...	...	2
Painting	...	...	...	2

Notices were served on the owners of the boats, and certificates showing that the requirements had been complied with were received in every case.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Visits paid to factories, workshops, and workplaces numbered 228, and in addition, 100 visits were paid to out-workers' premises. Two notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories drawing attention to sanitary defects in factories. Special visits were paid, notices served, and the defects remedied.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	28	1	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	200	2	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	...	—
TOTAL	228	3	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient ...	—	—	—
	unsuitable or defective	2	2	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL	3	3	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

There have been no important extensions of the public water supplies during the year. The town is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co., with an excellent water derived from deep boreholes through red sandstone.

During the year, 152 houses which formerly shared common standpipes in the yards, have had water laid on in the houses. This has been accomplished in connection with the work of securing the repair and improvement of houses under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

On July 11th, Smethwick was the centre of a devastating storm, which caused a great deal of havoc in the Midlands. 3.7 inches of rain fell in two hours, equal to 373.7 tons per acre. 2.7 inches fell in the first hour. The two principal pools in the district proved unequal to the strain imposed by the unprecedented volume of water, and burst their banks. Immediately the brook courses and the streets in the lower-lying parts of the town were flooded, and the water rose in the houses in some cases to the height of seven feet or more. Serious damage to property, furniture, etc., was sustained in some 480 houses, and great hardship was suffered by the occupants of these premises. Innumerable deeds of heroism on the part of the general populace, the police and the fire brigade were recorded, and the townspeople generally exhibited a wonderful public spirit. His Worship the Mayor (Alderman F. H. Jones, J.P.), opened a Flood Relief Fund, to which there was a magnificent response. The Mayor and Mayoress also personally visited many of the affected homes, and administered such immediate relief as was needed.

When the water subsided, the whole of the affected areas were covered with a layer of offensive mud. All the available transport and men were engaged for many days under the direction of the Borough Surveyor, cleaning up and carting away the hundreds of tons of detritus from streets, brook courses, houses and yards, and pumping out the remaining water from cellars and the spaces under floors.

687 special visits were paid by the staff of the Health Department to houses in the affected areas, and advice and assistance given in removing resultant insanitary conditions. A thorough disinfection of cellars, pantries, outhouses, and the spaces under wooden floors was carried out at 330 houses.

50 gallons of fluid disinfectant were put up into 800 bottles, and 6 cwts. of powder into 700 bags, and these were distributed to residents in the affected areas. Schedules of dilapidations to properties resultant upon the flood were prepared and forwarded to the owners concerned, with letters requesting early attention. These requests were promptly responded to in all cases. It is matter for congratulation that no outbreaks of disease occurred as the result of the floods in any of the affected areas.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been no important extensions or alterations to the system of drainage and sewerage during the year. The six-inch steel ventilating columns which were installed in the Sandwell Ward last year have proved successful, and there have been no further complaints of offensive smells from the manholes in that district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Practically the whole of the closet accommodation in the town is on the water carriage system. In the majority of cases there is a closet for the use of each house. Where houses with common yards share accommodation, a standard of not more than two houses per closet is required. Where houses are found to fall below this standard, notices are served on the landlord to provide the requisite number of extra closets.

SCAVENGING.

The collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse is carried out by the Public Works Committee under the direction of the Borough Surveyor. A weekly collection is maintained, and the refuse is disposed of by burning at the Borough Destructor. During the year, in response to notices served upon owners of houses, 320 galvanised iron bins, with covers, were provided in lieu of defective ashpits or in replacement of dilapidated bins.

REGISTER OF COMPLAINTS.

A register is kept in which are entered details of all complaints received at the office. These numbered 500, as against 570 in the previous year. In addition to these, a further 663 complaints were received from various sources, most of these being made verbally to the Inspectors whilst out on the district.

The total number of dwelling houses visited on complaint was 1,163. Of this number 21 instances of defective water fittings were reported to the South Staffs. Waterworks Co., and in 15 cases defects in connection with sewers and street gullies were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department.

Inspections revealed the following defects, which were dealt with at once by the service of preliminary notices on owners or occupiers.

Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	217
Roofs and Eaves Gutters Defective	...	...	...	...	264
Yards and W.C. Drains Blocked	...	...	...	...	164
Yard Surfaces defective	...	...	...	...	39
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	43
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	...	...	...	...	10
Floors, etc., defective	...	...	...	...	137
Defective Doors and Fasteners	...	...	...	...	5
W.C.'s without proper flushing arrangements	...	...	...	...	35
Ashbins or Ashplaces defective	...	...	...	...	145
Water Closets defective	...	...	...	...	60
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	5
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	75
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	23
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	3
Water Fittings defective	...	...	...	...	18
Dampness	...	...	...	...	40
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient Drainage	...	...	...	...	11
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	30
Defective Rainwater Cisterns	...	...	...	...	21
Defective Washboilers and Furnaces	...	...	...	...	58
Defective Plaster of Walls and Ceilings	...	...	...	...	187
Defective W.C. Flushing Cisterns	...	...	...	...	14
Defective Firegrates	...	...	...	...	55
Defective External Brickwork	...	...	...	...	60
Defective Stairs, Handrails, etc.	...	...	...	...	15
Contravention of Canal Boats Act, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	2

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

	Visits paid.	Defects Found.
Housing Act, 1925	607	6,279
Re-visits—Housing Act, 1925 ...	5,388	—
On Complaint	1,163	1,379
Miscellaneous	460	1
Infectious Diseases	269	27
Slaughterhouses	969	—
Private Slaughtering	380	—
Meat and Food Shops	148	—
Meat Regulations	73	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	331	—
Pigsties	10	—
Factories	28	2
Workshops	134	1
Outworkers	100	—
Bakehouses	66	—
Ice Cream Vendors	2	1
Canal Boats	43	11
Markets	124	—
Picture Houses, etc.	38	—
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	11	—
• Drains Tested	18	3
Smoke Observations	29	1
Visits to Works in Progress ...	653	2
Re-Inspections re Notices Served		
(Public Health Acts) ...	2,587	—
Visits re Refuse Accommodation	186	136
Re-visits re Refuse Accommodation	302	—
Flood Visits	687	216
Offensive Trades	1	—
	14,807	8,059

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	739
Roofs, Spouting and Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	655
Yard and W.C. Drains blocked	...	...	...	...	165
Yard Surfaces	...	...	...	...	428
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	192
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	...	...	...	...	11
Floors defective	...	...	...	...	585
W.C.'s without proper flushing arrangements	...	...	...	...	38
Ashbins and Ashplaces defective	...	...	...	...	320
Water Closets defective	...	...	...	...	179
Water Closet Flushing Cisterns defective	...	...	...	...	724
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	580
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	25
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	3
Water Fittings Defective	...	...	...	...	18
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	2
Contravention of Canal Boats Acts and Regulations	...	...	...	...	11
Houses without Sinks	...	...	...	...	130
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	152
Dampness	...	...	...	...	109
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient Drainage	...	...	...	...	31
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	32
Rainwater Cisterns defective	...	...	...	...	21
Washboilers defective	...	...	...	...	257
Firegrates	...	...	...	...	406
Staircases and Handrails	...	...	...	...	535
Doors, etc.	...	...	...	...	422
Defective External Brickwork	...	...	...	...	581
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	1
Back to Back Houses	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	610
					7,981

LETTERS AND NOTICES SENT OUT.

Letters	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,174
Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	843
Secondary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Statutory Notices under Public Health Acts							183
Statutory Notices under Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, re Ashes Accommodation	...						63
Sec. 3 Housing Act, 1925 Notices	...	...					523
Cleansing Notices re Infectious Diseases	...						67
Canal Boats Acts Notices	...	...	...				4
Circulars	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
							—
							3,555
							—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

At the beginning of this year, the collections and analyses of soot deposits were discontinued. The data collected was useful as an indication of the relative atmospheric pollution in different areas of the town. A year's analyses showed that in the centre of the industrial quarter, the soot fall was about 800 tons per square mile for the year, whilst in the residential district of Bearwood it was 500 tons, and in an open area in Victoria Park, 300 tons.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

The house-to-house inspections of dwelling houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, has proceeded throughout the year. The number of houses so inspected was 615, and 523 notices were served on owners, requiring the execution of such works as were necessary in order to render the houses in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. In 293 houses the notices were complied with by the owners, and in 19 cases the Council executed the required repairs in the owners default. Work was in progress at 464 houses at the close of the year. The improvements secured have been extensive in character. The house structures have been made sound by the re-pointing or re-building of brickwork where required. Roofs have been repaired, eaves-gutters renewed, floors relaid or repaired, plaster made good, woodwork inside and outside repaired, additional lighting and ventilation provided, yards paved and drained, and interiors redecorated as well as exterior woodwork painted where deemed necessary. In addition to these maintenance repairs, improved amenities have been secured, e.g., the provision of a sink and water supply in each house where this has not hitherto existed, the provision of adequate closet accommodation, accommodation for domestic washing, cooking facilities, and properly ventilated food stores.

The standard of fitness of houses in the poorer parts of the town is steadily improving. Owners are, in many cases, voluntarily carrying out repairs and renovations to their properties, and this work is having its effect on the general improvement of housing conditions, though it cannot be recounted in the records of the work of the department.

INSANITARY PROPERTY.

During the year, 13 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation, and closing orders were made in each case.

OVERCROWDING.

The shortage of houses is still a matter of very pressing importance, and is responsible for the most serious aspect of the evils due to bad housing. I refer to the crowding of two or more families into one house. This form of overcrowding is most prevalent in those districts where the houses are ill enough adapted for housing one family. In a large number of these cases, the sub-tenant and his family occupy the small front parlour of the house as a combined living room and sleeping room, and the communicating door is usually nailed up, and frequently even papered over, converting the room into a one-roomed back-to-back tenement.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1927.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	64
(b). With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	62

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	2,930
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	615
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	13
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	602

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	918
--	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	523
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	293
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	19

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil
---	-----

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	313
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	249
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	6

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	13
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of Dairymen on the register at the end of the year was 377, as compared with 357 in the previous year, 20 additional dairymen having been registered during the year.

The number of Cowsheds is 4.

During the period under review, 331 visits were paid to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, as compared with 286 in the previous year. The conditions under which milk was stored were found to be clean and satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

At the close of the year the following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, were in force in the Borough.

One licence to pasteurise and sell pasteurised milk.

One supplementary licence to sell pasteurised milk.

One licence to bottle and sell "Grade A" milk.

One licence to sell "Certified" milk.

Thirty-five samples have been submitted to the University Public Health Laboratory for examination for bacterial count. In every case the milk has been well within the limit of bacterial contamination laid down in the Order. At the one dépôt in the town where milk is pasteurised and bottled under licence, the results have been uniformly of a high standard. The milk treated is of excellent quality, and usually shews, even before treatment, a bacterial count considerably below the maximum demanded for "Grade A" milk.

(b) MEAT, etc.

The number of slaughter-houses on the Register is the same as last year, viz., 14. 9 of these are licensed and 5 registered. 969 visits were paid during the year to slaughter-houses, as compared with 641 during 1926, and 345 visits were paid to meat and food shops and market stalls as compared with 396 in the previous year. In addition to these, 380 visits were made under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in connection with the slaughter of pigs on private premises. This compares with 296 such visits in the previous year. During the year, 3,246 animals and carcasses were examined as against 2,304 in the previous year.

The following table gives the classification of animals and carcasses examined :—

			Before Slaughter.	During Slaughter.	After Slaughter.	Total.
Oxen	...	...	50	7	552	609
Cows	...	...	—	—	14	14
Calves	...	...	9	—	37	46
Sheep	...	...	82	12	1,215	1,309
Pigs	...	...	102	11	1,155	1,268
			—	—	—	—
			243	30	2,973	3,246
			—	—	—	—

The following is a list of animals and articles of food which were found to be diseased or unsound, and were either seized or surrendered and destroyed :—

Eight Pig's Livers—Cloudy Swelling	...	...	...	33 lbs.
One Pig's Liver—Inflammation	...	...	...	2 „
Five Pig's Heads—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	114 „
One Pig's Head & portion Fore Quarter—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	42 „
One Sow's Carcase and Organs—Purulent Nephritis	...	...	...	252 „
Two Pig's Intestines—Inflammation	...	...	...	20 „
One set Pig's Lungs—Inflammation	...	...	...	3 „
Four Pig's Heads, Livers, Lungs and Intestines— Tuberculosis	...	...	...	101 „
Five Pig's Heads, Four Stomachs, Three Frys, and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	98 „
Two Pig's Carcases—Emaciation and Fevered Flesh	...	...	...	140 „
One Pig's Liver—Abscesses	...	...	...	3 „
One Pig's Liver—Strongylus Paradoxus	...	...	...	2 „
Two Pig's Frys—Strongylus Paradoxus	...	...	...	6 „
One Sheep's Carcase—Fatigue	...	...	...	50 „
Three Sheep's Carcases—Dropsy and Emaciation	...	...	...	114 „
One Sheep's Liver—Echinoccus Veterinorum	...	...	...	13 „
Portion of Frozen Lamb—Tumours	...	...	...	37 „
Fore Quarter of Lamb—Bruises by Injury	...	...	...	25 „
Two Sheep's Livers—Distomum Hepaticum	...	...	...	6 „
One Ox Liver—Echinoccus Veterinorum	...	...	...	12 „
One Ox Liver—Tumour	...	...	...	17 „
One Heifer's Lungs, Liver, Spleen and Mudgeon— Tuberculosis	...	...	...	47 „
120 Briskets of Beef—Damaged by Flood	...	...	...	3,000 „
One Ox Lungs and Liver—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	28 „
Two Ox Livers—Abscesses	...	...	...	36 „
One Ox Liver—Flukes	...	...	...	12 „
Two Ox Livers—Abscesses and Flukes	...	...	...	28 „
Two Rabbits—Decomposition	...	...	...	4 „
Six Pig's Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	75 „

4,320 lbs.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE UNSOUND FOOD CLAUSES OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH
ACTS (AMENDMENTS) ACT, 1890.

On October 17th at the Law Courts, Smethwick, a Stallholder on the Windmill Lane Market was fined £2 and costs for exposing for sale a rabbit in an unsound condition, and a further £2 and costs in respect of another rabbit which he had sold in an unsound condition.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

263 samples were taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and submitted to the Public Analyst, as against 245 samples in the previous year. 11 samples of Milk were certified as not genuine. This compares with 28 samples in the previous year. The percentage of adulterations was 5.32 as against 13.47 in the previous year. Legal proceedings were instituted in 4 cases, and the vendors cautioned in the remaining cases. The total fines and costs amounted to £9 5s. 0d. Of the 218 samples of milk obtained, 92 were procured in course of delivery at the railway stations.

The following is a summary of the articles sampled and the results of the analyses:—

Article Analysed.	Total Samples.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.
Milk	217	206	11
Sterilised Milk ...	1	1	—
Preserved Cream ...	1	1	—
Cream	3	1	2
Cream Cheese ...	1	1	—
Butter	4	4	—
Margarine	4	4	—
Lard	5	5	—
Polony	6	5	1
Sausage	7	7	—
A-la-Mode Beef ...	1	1	—
Bloater Paste ...	2	2	—
Beef Suet	1	1	—
Lemon Cheese ...	1	1	—
Pork Pie	1	1	—
Seidlitz Powder ...	1	1	—
Baking Powder ...	1	1	—
Coffee	2	2	—
Tea	2	2	—
Cocoa	2	2	—
	263	249	14

**TABLE OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND
DRUGS ACTS, FOR THE YEAR 1927.**

Date of Purchase.	Sample No.	Deficiency.		Results.	Penalty.			Costs	
					£	s.	d.	s.	d.
20.3.27	4638	16.6	per cent. Fat.	Convicted	2	0	0	15	0
26.4.27	4661	9.41	„ Solids-not-Fat.	Convicted	2	0	0	15	0
2.6.27	4691	20.0	„ Fat.	Convicted	1	0	0	1	0
24.6.27	4703	6.67	„ Fat.	Convicted	1	0	0	15	0
					£6	0	0	£3	5

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK.

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

REPORT for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

1. MILK AND CREAM NOT SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

	Milk.	Cream.
Number of samples examined for the presence of a Preservative	218	3
Number in which a Preservative was reported to be present and the percentage of Preservative found in each sample	Nil	0.10% 2 0.116% Boric Acid

2. CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct:—

(1) Correct statements made	1
(2) Incorrect statements	—
	1

(3) Percentage of Preservatives found in each sample:—

Sample No. 4667—0.30% Boric Acid.

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream:—

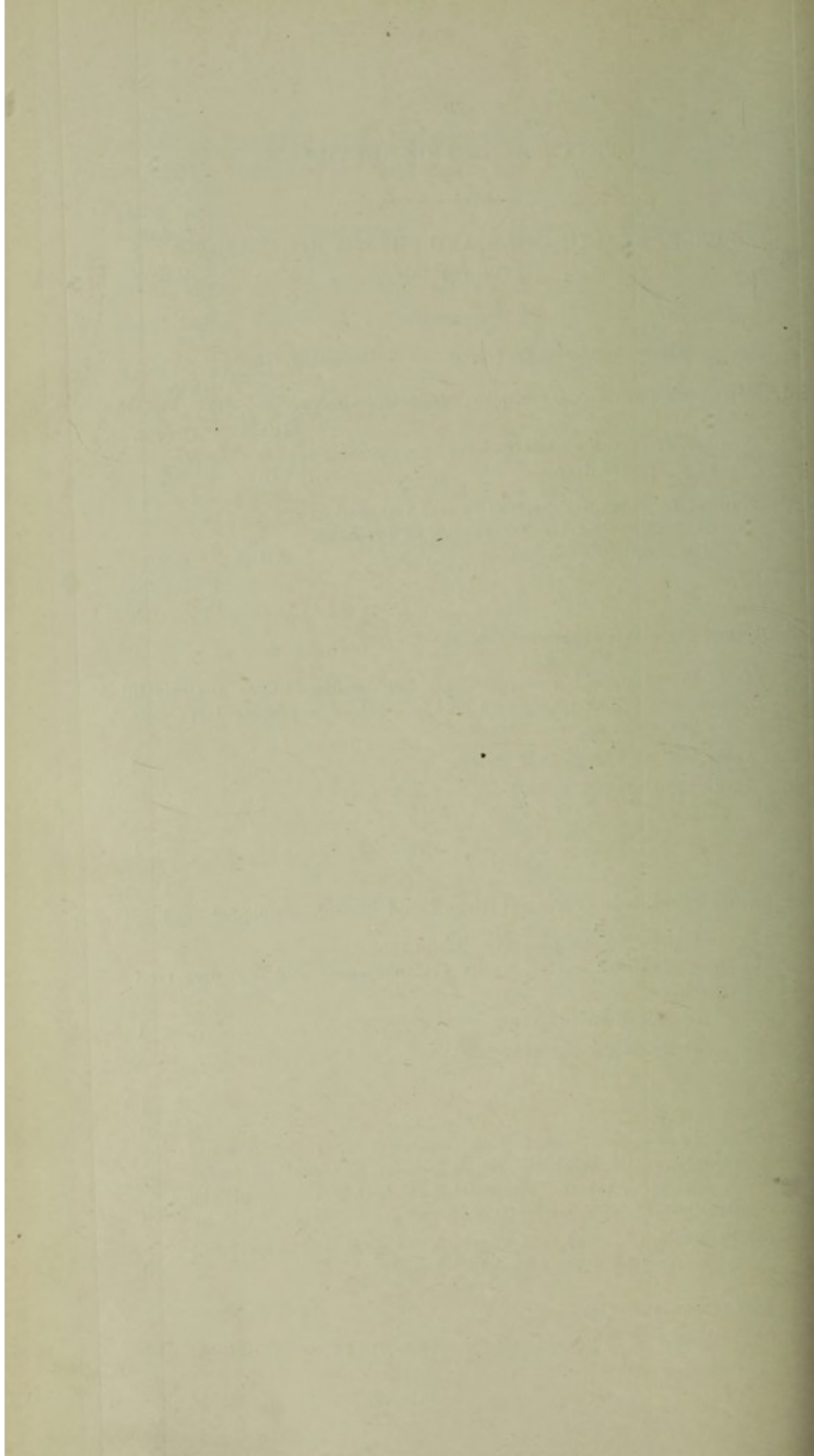
(i) Above 35 per cent	1
(ii) Below 35 per cent	—
	1

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements with regard to labelling and declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed Nil

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken Nil

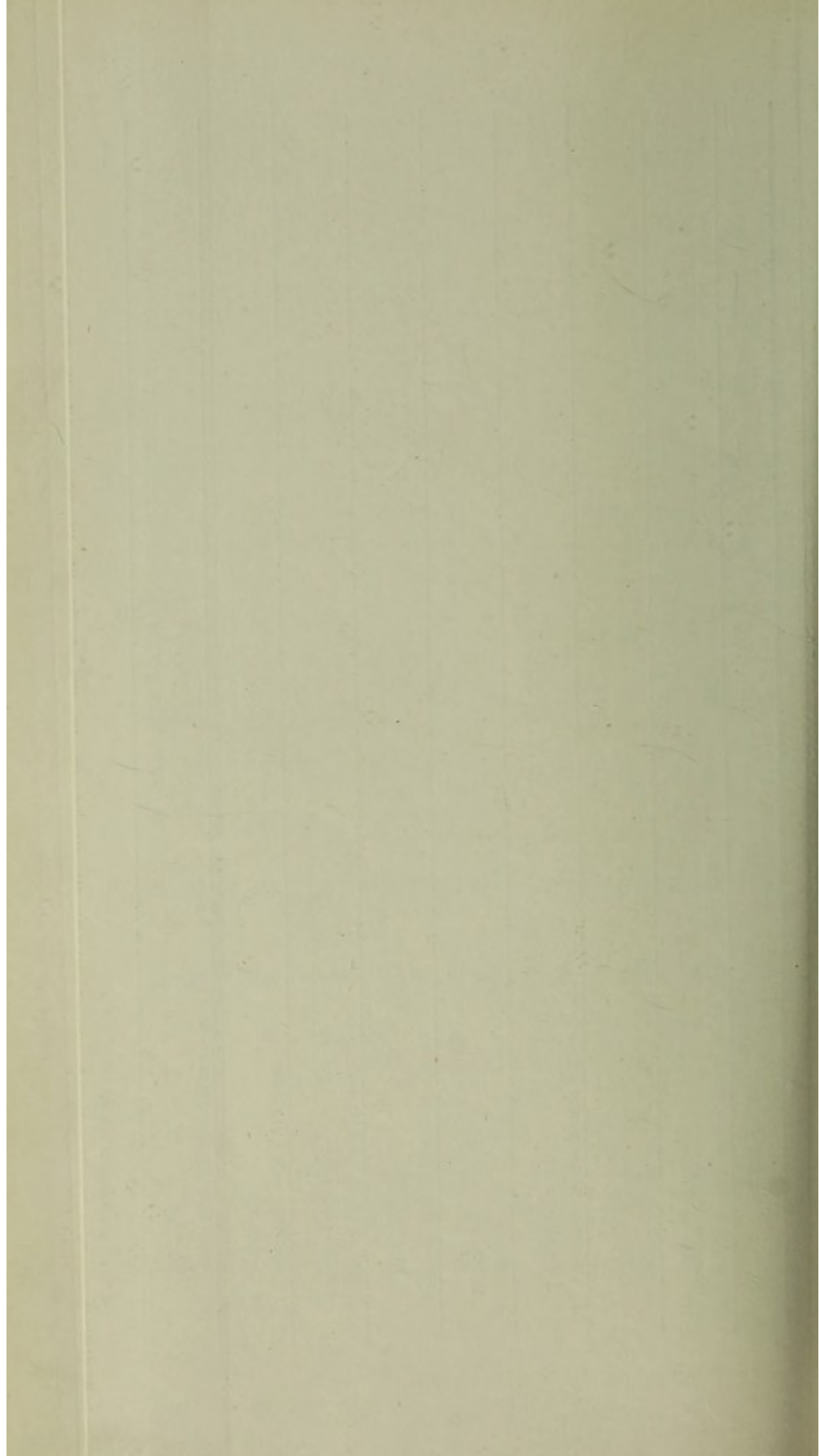
3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES.

Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream Nil



(REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex.	All Ages.										
		0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—		
ALL CAUSES	M	474	53	18	17	15	16	60	109	94	62	
	F	443	50	14	21	13	19	47	99	78	102	
1 Enteric fever	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
2 Small-pox	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3 Measles	M	13	4	4	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	7	...	1	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	
4 Scarlet fever	M	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
5 Whooping cough	M	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	7	2	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	
6 Diphtheria	M	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
7 Influenza	M	24	1	...	2	...	2	7	8	3	1	
	F	18	1	...	2	...	...	1	7	3	4	
8 Encephalitis lethargica	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
9 Meningococcal meningitis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	41	...	...	...	1	4	16	20	...	...	
	F	24	...	...	...	1	4	13	6	...	...	
11 Other tuberculosis diseases	M	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	
12 Cancer, malignant disease	M	48	...	...	1	...	...	2	19	20	6	
	F	44	...	...	1	...	...	5	22	11	5	
13 Rheumatic fever	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
	F	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	
14 Diabetes	M	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	
	F	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	1	
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	M	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	7	
	F	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	11	10	
16 Heart disease	M	68	...	...	...	1	1	2	23	22	19	
	F	82	...	...	...	2	3	8	15	20	34	
17 Arterio-sclerosis	M	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	8	7	
	F	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	11	
18 Bronchitis	M	27	2	...	1	...	...	...	10	6	8	
	F	31	2	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	16	
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	M	58	13	10	6	2	2	6	10	7	2	
	F	51	17	10	8	1	...	3	8	1	3	
20 Other respiratory diseases	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	
	F	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	M	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
22 Diarrhoea, &c.	M	12	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	
	F	6	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	M	9	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	1	...	
	F	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
24 Carcinoma of liver	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	M	12	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	6	3	
	F	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	5	
26 Puerperal sepsis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	M	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	F	14	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
29 Suicide	M	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	5	...	
	F	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	
30 Other deaths from violence	M	18	...	...	1	1	3	6	2	3	2	
	F	10	2	1	...	1	4	...	...	1	1	
31 Other defined diseases	M	49	2	2	...	1	2	10	14	9	9	
	F	66	7	1	2	1	4	7	15	14	13	



COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK

