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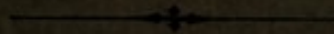


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County Borough of Smethwick.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

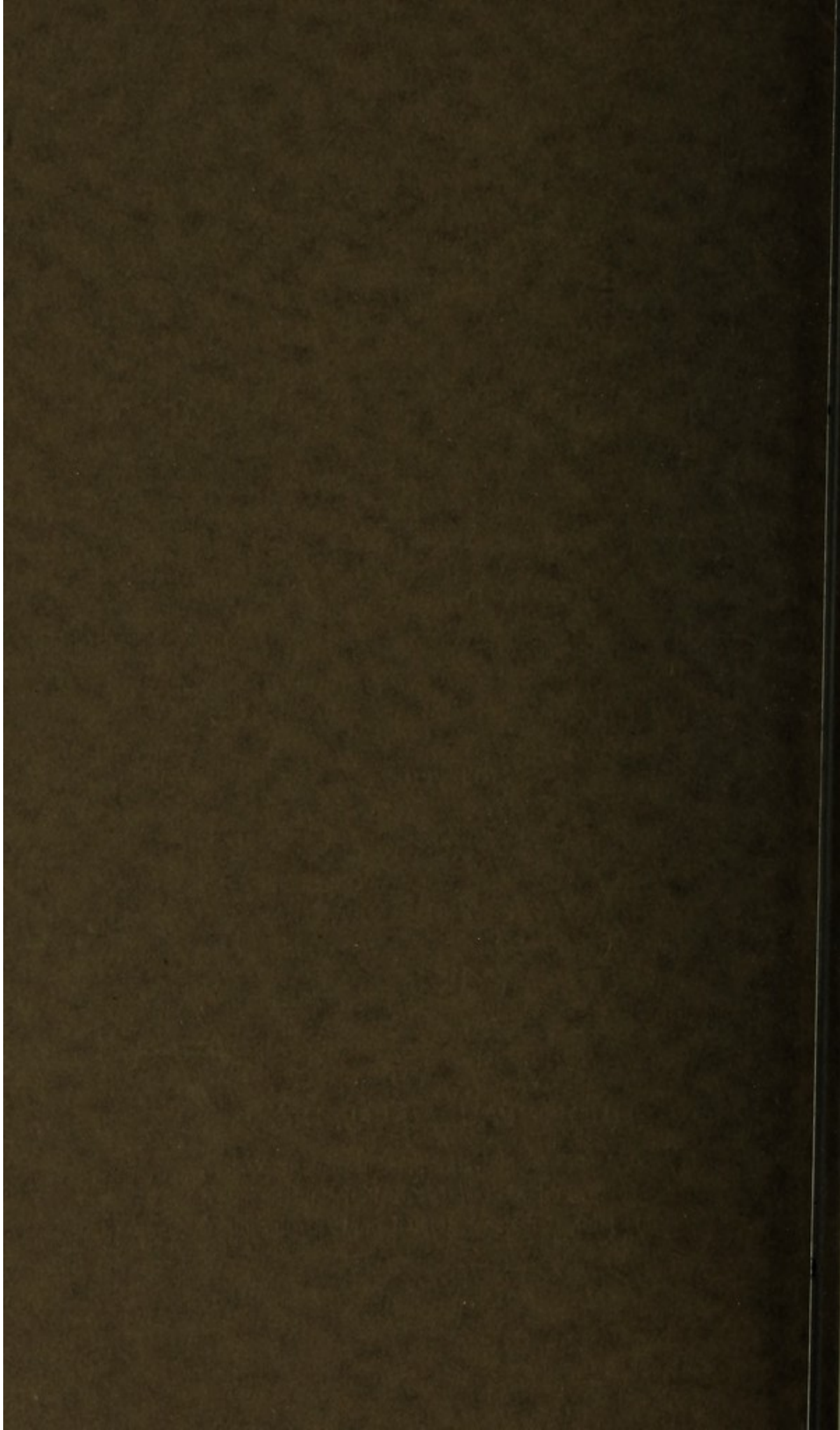
FOR THE YEAR

1928.



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

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer,
School Medical Officer, & Medical Superintendent
of Joint Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.





County Borough of Smethwick.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

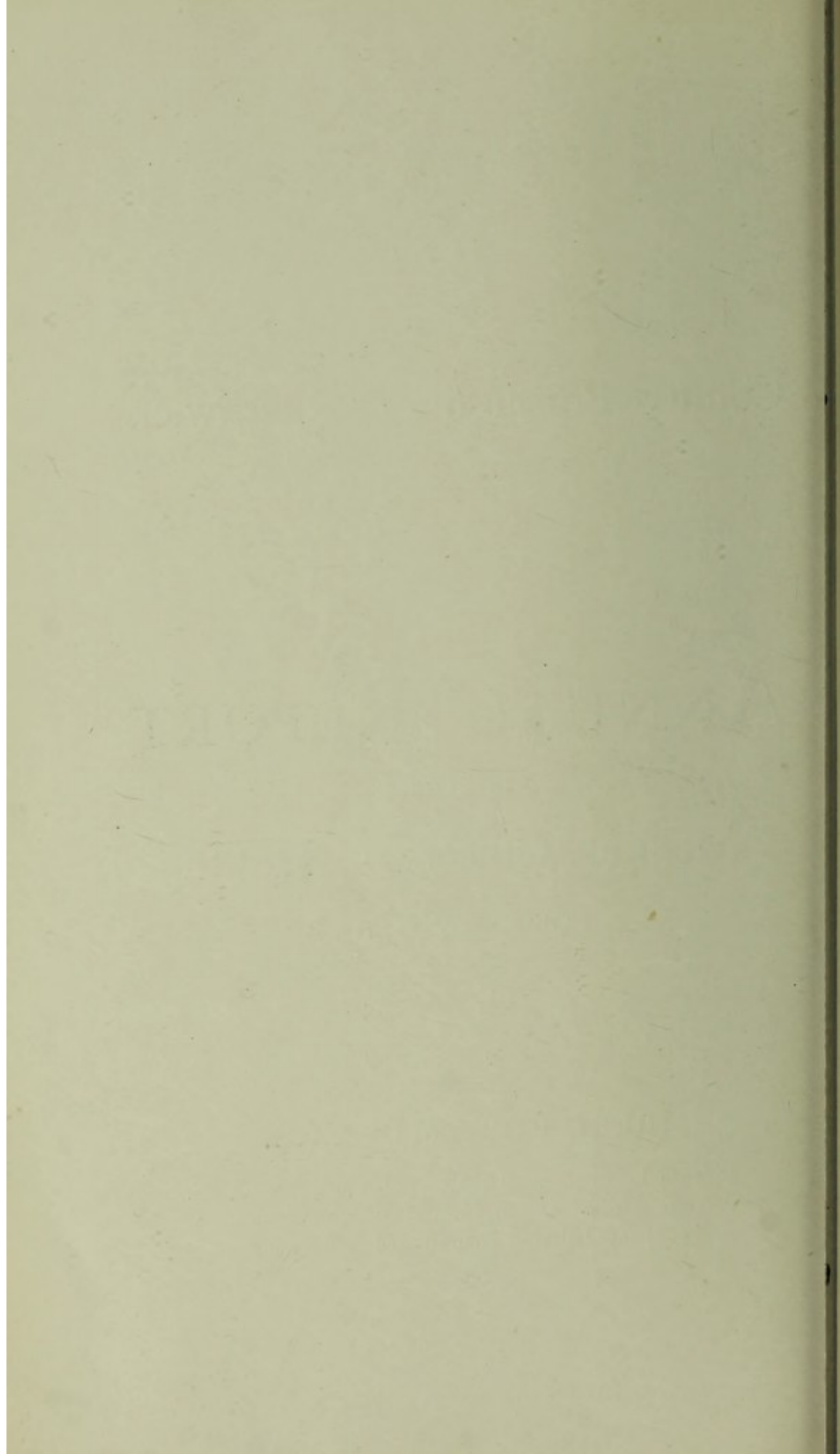
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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School Medical Officer, & Medical Superintendent
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County Borough of Smethwick.

COMMITTEES, 1927-28.

Health Committee.

ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.

THE MAYOR

(ALDERMAN A. MORRIS, J.P.).

COUNCILLOR R. T. BAILLIE, M.B.

COUNCILLOR F. W. PERRY.

COUNCILLOR R. A. BAKER.

COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN.

COUNCILLOR E. H. CHARNOCK.

COUNCILLOR MRS. N. M. CHESNEY.

COUNCILLOR E. GWYNNE.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

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

MRS. E. T. BROWN.

MRS. J. DARBY.

MRS. E. GRIFFITHS.

MRS. S. LUSTY.

MRS. W. SILVESTER.

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. J. COOPER.

ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.

THE MAYOR

(ALDERMAN A. MORRIS, J.P.).

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.

ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. SANDS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. T. BROWN.

COUNCILLOR E. GWYNNE.

COUNCILLOR E. H. CHARNOCK.

COUNCILLOR P. R. PRITCHARD.

Oldbury Representatives :

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. B. LENNARD.

COUNCILLOR H. H. ROBBINS.

COUNCILLOR R. M. HADLEY, J.P.

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

ALDERMAN G. F. BETTS, J.P.

ALDERMAN G. BOWDEN, J.P.

COUNCILLOR P. R. PRITCHARD.

Health Department Staff.

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

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

Assistant Medical Officers :

A. G. M. SEVERN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
MARGARET E. McLAREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
EDITH M. AINSCOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

†*JOHN H. WRIGHT.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*JAMES F. ROGERS.
†*WM. E. SHAW.
*LAWRENCE BUTTERWORTH.

Clerical Staff.

Chief Clerk and Statistician : *GEORGE H. ROE.

Clerks : *H. A. RICHARDSON (from 23rd April, 1928).
MISS IDA SALTER.
MISS F. HOWLETT (from 22nd June, 1928).
A. H. CORNHILL.

Junior Clerk : S. SADLER.

Nursing Staff :

MISS L. E. ROBERTS.	||†§*MISS L. WEALE.
§ MISS A. WRIGHT.	§ MISS J. P. BATES.
§*MISS F. RICHARDS.	§ MISS E. COLLINS.
§ MISS F. M. SULLIVAN.	§ MISS J. E. ACKERS.
†§MISS E. E. GLASCODINE.	

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

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, 1929.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1928.

The year under review has been a very good one from a Public Health standpoint. The general death-rate, the infantile mortality rate, and the tuberculosis rate have been the lowest on record in the Borough by a substantial margin. The deaths from measles which numbered 20 in 1927, fell to 2 in 1928, and no death occurred from Scarlet Fever. The death-rate from infectious diseases is less than half of the rate for the preceding year, and is the lowest on record in the Borough. The respiratory death-rate has fallen to about 60% of the previous year's rate, and is also the lowest recorded. Only two deaths occurred from diphtheria during the year.

While the vital statistics compare favourably with those recorded in the past in Smethwick, they also compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole. The death-rate is 17% below that of the whole country and 16% below that of the 107 Great Towns. The infantile mortality of 61.6 per 1,000 births compares with 70 for the 107 Great Towns, and 65 for the country as a whole.

The Borough was remarkably free from any serious outbreaks of infectious disease; several severe cases of diphtheria were treated in Holly Lane Hospital, but most of the cases of scarlet fever were of a mild type. Cancer showed a slightly decreased incidence since the preceding year, but the number of deaths (94) from this cause is still alarmingly high.

On April 1st, Warley was added to the Borough, increasing the population by 10,000, and to cope with the additional work, Dr. Ainscow's appointment was made a full time one with three-fourths of her time allocated to the Health Committee, and one-fourth to the Education Committee. No other important changes in staff were made.

HOUSING.

During the year a total of 427 houses were built by the Corporation, and a further 141 by private enterprise. Most of these were in the new area and on the Old Chapel site, and a commencement was made on the Halford's Lane site in the most industrial part of the Borough.

The question of Housing is the most urgent Public Health problem which the Council has to face, and its importance cannot be over-estimated. It is also the most backward branch of Public Health, and large numbers of our people are living in conditions which are a menace to their health, and a danger to the whole community. The most complete schemes of Infant Welfare, Maternity work, and School Medical work, and the most efficient of Hospital services will avail us little in the case of those who live in overcrowded or insanitary houses, and who must perforce be compelled in some measure at least to neglect the advice as to healthy living which they receive, but which their home conditions render impossible to carry out. It is useless to advocate the advantages of through ventilation to the dweller in a back-to-back house; it is unkind to stress the need for plenty of air space to those who live several families in the one house. The fact that our maternal mortality is high is not to be wondered at when one considers the appalling conditions under which some of the confinements take place. One does, however, wonder that the infant mortality is so low when one considers the disadvantages under which many of the poorer mothers have to rear their children. Overcrowded rooms, inadequate food space, old and dilapidated back-to-back houses which can never be rendered fit for habitation, and lack of the amenities which the moderate householder has a right to expect; can one wonder that the mothers sometimes become despondent, can one wonder that they sometimes think that it is not worth fighting against disease and dirt? "Cleanliness is the first law of Health" is an excellent motto; in a slum dwelling it may degenerate into a platitude, and it is up to the community as a whole to see that every housewife is in such a position that she can keep her home in a condition which makes for health and cleanliness.

The excellent work which the Housing Committee is doing is totally inadequate to the needs of the Borough. Ten years after the war the question of overcrowding is still acute, and the question of slum clearance has barely been touched. Apart from one or two small schemes for the demolition of very bad blocks of unfit houses, the Council has done nothing yet for the slum dweller. The new houses built have been needed and have been used for the relief of overcrowding. The time, however, seems to have come when without prejudice to the existing schemes for the relief of overcrowding, something ought to be done in the way of rehousing the slum dwellers. There are about 550 unfit houses in the Borough, many of which might by reconstruction be made

into fit houses by the conversion of two back-to-back houses into one through house. I would suggest that the Council should tackle this question by joint action between the Housing and Health Committee, and clear the town completely of slums. I am satisfied that this measure alone would have a very beneficial effect on the health of the townspeople, would materially raise the general standard of physique, and reduce the incidence of tuberculosis and similar diseases. The cost to the Corporation, and undoubtedly it would be costly, would in my opinion represent a more remunerative investment than the money spent, for example, on the Hospital treatment of tuberculosis. Money spent on Slum Clearance and Housing together with money spent on Maternity and Infant Welfare return the highest dividends not only socially and directly by the improvement in the Public Health, but financially and indirectly by the improved earning power of the healthy individual, and the lessened cost of decreasing invalidity. Money spent on Housing and Health is not unproductive.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the Council is developing in a very satisfactory manner. In May the new Infant Welfare Centre at Warley was opened, and has proved rapidly successful. Inside twelve months it has become one of our largest Centres, and at the present time (June, 1929) has an average attendance of 75 per session. This number is too large for satisfactory work, and if it is maintained or increased, as seems likely, it will be necessary to open a second weekly session in this area. The neighbouring centre at Bearwood is also drawing large numbers, and the Devonshire Road centre is rapidly increasing. During the year, we had eight weekly infant welfare sessions attended by a medical officer, and in addition, three ante-natal sessions. Furthermore, two breast-feeding clinics were held weekly under the able direction of Nurse Glascodine. At the beginning of the current year, a fourth ante-natal session was commenced on Monday afternoons, and a new Infant Welfare Centre was opened in the Cape Hill district.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Work costs relatively little, and is in my opinion the most valuable work the Health Department does. It enables us to get at the child right at the beginning of its life, and is truly preventive and educative. Diseases such as rickets and surgical tuberculosis are definitely preventable, and given suitable housing conditions, can in the majority of cases be prevented at the Welfare Centres. The cost to the Corporation of carrying on the extra Centre at Cape Hill for a year is less than the average cost of hospital treatment of one case of surgical tuberculosis treated at an Orthopaedic Hospital; and very often the hospital treatment is unable to restore the patient to full health. Truly prevention is better than cure—and cheaper. The School Medical Service owes much to the Infant Welfare Clinics, for it is at the latter that the large number of defects found in school children at their first medical examination must be tackled.

During the year, the Health Committee decided to supply dental treatment to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children, and the facilities thus provided have been greatly appreciated. No

dentures, however, are supplied to the former, and until arrangements are made for this, we cannot reap the full benefits from the scheme.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The question of the extension of the Administrative block at Holly Lane Hospital has been given much consideration by the Joint Hospital Committee. The accommodation in this block, which was designed before the Tuberculosis pavilion was added, is now quite inadequate, and the Hut, formerly used by the Resident Medical Officer, but now vacant, is being used temporarily for quarters for the nurses.

The Hospital Committee sanctioned a scheme whereby the administrative block would be enlarged at the back, but it was decided after the passing of the Poor Law Act to postpone any action until it is known more definitely what provision for infectious diseases will be necessary in 1930. It is not a question as to whether extension of the administrative block will be necessary, but what will be the amount of such extension. At present provision on the Infectious Diseases side is limited to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, but in 1930, it is probable that the question of provision for Measles, Whooping Cough, and mixed infections will have to be considered.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The question of exercise and personal cleanliness has been dealt with in my report to the Education Committee, but I might here comment on one aspect of it. The Public Baths in Smethwick are doing very useful work, and work which is very much concerned with the public health. I find, however, that the amount of accommodation is quite inadequate for the size of the town, and is used (and rightly used) almost exclusively during the day-time by children from the elementary schools. Even for the school-children alone the accommodation is inadequate, and the numbers of children attending at one time is in my opinion too large. I would like to see additional swimming baths installed in two other areas in the town, for example, Bearwood and Oldbury Road or Cape districts. Swimming baths teach children to be both healthy and clean.

PROPAGANDA.

During the year a considerable amount of attention was given to the question of Health propaganda. A number of lectures was given in various places by myself, mostly by invitation from various societies and religious, social or political bodies. No Health Week was held in the Borough.

I am becoming more and more convinced that Health propaganda to be of any use must be continuous, must be educational, and must not be sensational. One can no more educate children by a series of public lectures than one can educate adults in matters of healthy living by the same method. Human memory is very short, and facts picked up at

public lectures are soon forgotten. The facts must be constantly reiterated and driven home, and to do this one must deal with the individual. In the schools the education is individual and continuous; in health matters to be successful it must also be individual and continuous. The ideal form of health education seems to me to consist of a series of talks to small audiences of selected people. They may consist of talks to mothers at the Welfare Centres, talks to children at the schools, talks to fathers or "expectant fathers" at evening clinics, etc., but they should be sufficiently small to enable the listeners to take a personal interest and to ask questions. These are the lines upon which this Department is developing its educational programme.

In addition to lectures and talks, in 1928 we started to publish with the valuable aid of the Central Council for Health Education, a new periodical—"Better Health." This is a journal devoted solely to health propaganda, and the various articles are written by experts in each particular branch; it is distributed free at the Welfare Centres, etc. It was almost immediately successful, and although 2,000 copies are printed each month the demand is now greater than the supply.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Health and Hospital Committees for their sympathetic support during the year, and the Staff for their excellent work and co-operation during the year. I am also especially indebted to Mr. Roe for his assistance in preparing this report.

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 ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

	Amount. £	Rate in £ d.
Infectious Diseases :		
Notification	70	.04
Prevention	756	.46
Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital	2651	1.61
South Staffs. Joint Smallpox Hospital ...	69	.04
Maternity and Child Welfare	1967	1.19
Venereal Diseases	116	.07
Tuberculosis	3081	1.87
Mental Deficiency	1606	.97
Food and Drugs Act	285	.17
Smoke Investigation	—	—
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act ...	17	.01
Blind Persons Act	500	.30
Staffs Mental Hospital Board	1927	1.17
Midwives Act, 1902	23	.02
Medical Inspection of School Children ...	1925	1.17
Salaries (Not otherwise charged) ...	2471	1.50
National Insurance Contributions ...	36	.02
Superannuation Contributions ...	132	.08
Establishment Charges	400	.24
	—	—
	£18032	10.93
	—	—

The above figures represent estimated Net Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1929.

Annual Report, 1928.

GENERAL STATISTICS :

AREA : 2,500 acres.

POPULATION : Census 1921—75,757.

Estimate Mid-year, 1928—86,870.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES : 1921—15,895.

1928—19,388.

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

RATEABLE VALUE : £432,269.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE : £1,706 4s. 2d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

	Totals.	Males.	Females.
BIRTHS : Legitimate ...	1,375	719	656
Illegitimate ...	37	16	21
Total ...	1,412	735	677

BIRTH-RATE : 16.7 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS : Total, 819. Males, 434. Females, 385.

DEATH-RATE : 9.7 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age :—Total, 87. Males, 50; Females, 37.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 births :—Total, 61.6; Legitimate, 59.6; Illegitimate, 135.1.

DEATHS FROM :—

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Enteric Fever	—	—
Measles	2	0.02
Whooping Cough	10	0.11
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	10	0.11
Diphtheria	2	0.02
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Influenza	11	0.13
Cancer	94	1.11
Respiratory Diseases	129	1.52
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	59	0.69
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	0.10

**BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
DURING THE YEAR 1928.**

	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.	Uncertified
England and Wales ...	16.7	0.70	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.07	0.06	0.19	0.53	7.0	65	90.9	6.7	1.4	
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	16.9	0.70	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.17	0.48	9.6	70	91.0	6.5	1.9	
155 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000) ...	16.6	0.73	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.08	0.21	0.41	4.8	60	92.6	5.7	0.5	
London ...	15.9	0.53	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.30	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.55	10.2	67	88.7	7.6	3.7	
SMETHWICK ...	16.7	0.39	9.7	—	—	0.02	—	0.11	0.02	0.13	0.30	6.3	61	93.0	5.0	1.8	

The total deaths registered in Smethwick numbered 528; 18 of these were non-residents and were transferred to other districts, while 309 Smethwick residents died in other districts, and have been added to the number registered in the Borough. The nett deaths thus number 819 giving a rate of 9.7 per 1,000 of the population. It is worthy of note that 320 or 39.0 per cent of those dying during the year were over 65 years of age. The mean age at death was 50.0 compared with 46.7 last year, 46.4 in 1926, 45.8 in 1925, 43.8 in 1924 and 43.6 in 1923.

The deaths from violence show a very gratifying decrease and are little more than half the average for the country.

The birth-rate was 16.7 per 1,000 of the population and is the lowest rate recorded for the Borough. The rate compared with 17.0 last year, 18.3 in 1926 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 61.6 per 1,000 births. This compares with 65 for England and Wales, and 70 for the 107 great towns. Forty-five per cent. of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks of life (neo-natal deaths).

A table showing the cause 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 37.

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	58.8	2.1	11.1
Sandwell	... 11,780	411	28.6	59.5	1.3	8.9
Uplands	... 8,580	255	33.6	78.0	0.9	10.1
Bearwood	... 10,150	190	53.4	49.3	1.6	9.0
Cape	... 11,000	158	69.6	30.9	1.5	10.3
Victoria	... 11,630	176	66.1	67.1	1.1	9.4
Soho	... 11,040	224	49.2	60.7	1.4	9.9
Warley	... 10,000	571	17.5	77.8	2.0	8.1
Totals	... 86,870	2,500	34.4	61.6	1.5	9.7

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	
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	
1928	... 86,870	16.7	9.7	61.6	0.28	1.52	0.69	0.10	1.11	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1928.

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	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	87	1	3	3	9	5	9	8	4	...	...	1	...	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	119	1	5	6	10	38	20	9	21	...	...	...	...	94	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	32	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	12	10	2	...	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	21	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Primary Pneumonia	105	1	7	3	3	4	16	8	7	19	11	18	8	37	...	1	1	...	...	4	1	...	7	14	6		
Influenzal Pneumonia	32	1	2	1	...	1	4	1	2	3	7	7	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	4
Small Pox	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	413	29	17	14	18	20	103	40	26	58	35	39	14	211	50	2	1	2	...	1	5	1	3	9	15	11			

SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1928.

	Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1927.				Number of Cases Admitted during 1928.				Cases Discharged, Died, or Transferred to other Institutions during 1928.				Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1928.			
	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	...	...	5	5	4	2	52	58	4	2	53	59	...	...	4	4
Diphtheria	...	...	4	5	10	16	68	94	11	13	60	84	...	3	12	15
OLDBURY :																
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	1	...	2	5	7	1	2	3	6	...	...	2	2
Diphtheria	...	...	12	12	2	2	15	19	1	2	26	29	1	...	1	2
Totals	2	...	21	23	16	22	140	178	19	19	142	178	1	3	19	23

SCARLET FEVER :—The following complications occurred :

Adenitis
Ludwig's Angina
Otorrhoea
Nephritis

Cases

10
1
2
1

DIPHTHERIA :—The following complications occurred :

Cardiac paresis
Palatal paresis
Otorrhoea
Retro-pharyngeal Abscess
Post-tonsillar Abscess

Cases

2
4
2
1
1

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 87 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, against 92 last year. Sixty-six per cent. of the cases were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane. No death occurred.

There were 52 cases of Scarlet Fever in children of school age, compared with 54 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 population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
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
1928	87	1.0	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease continued to be prevalent throughout the year, 119 cases being notified, compared with 120 during the preceding year. The mortality fortunately continued lower than for a number of years; two deaths occurred or 1.7 per cent. of the total cases notified.

There were 60 cases in children of school age, against 69 last year. The incidence was not marked in any particular school.

Seventy-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 population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
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
1928	119	1.4	2	1.7

Antitoxin is supplied free to medical practitioners in the Borough, 117 phials of 8,000 units being issued during the year, compared with 160 last year, and 234 in 1926.

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.

Three cases of Para-typhoid fever were notified during the year and all recovered. Investigations did not result in the source of infection being traced in any case; the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory and no contamination of the food supply was evident.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case was reported during the year, against one last year, four in 1926 and seven in 1925.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

One case of this disease was reported during the year.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

One case of this disease was reported during the year.

DYSENTERY.

No case of this disease was reported during the year.

SMALLPOX.

One case of smallpox was notified during the year and was removed to Moxley Hospital. The disease was mild and the patient made a good recovery. The patient was a young man of 32 years of age, who was an insurance agent by profession. Apart from the fact that he had in the course of his duties visited a town a few miles distant where one or two cases of smallpox had occurred, we were unable to trace the source of the infection. Thanks to the prompt diagnosis and notification by the medical practitioner attending the case, the contacts were very few in number. He lived in a house with an invalid mother, who had not been out of the house for some weeks. The contacts were easily ascertained and followed up. No further case occurred.

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, 1928, 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 35.5 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*
1928	1,094	577	4	376	36	10	5	14	72	35.5
1927	1,158	656	—	385	59	12	5	10	31	35.0
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

* 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 105 compared with 167 last year. Thirty-two cases of Influenzal

Pneumonia were reported against 66 last year. The notifications and deaths for each year since the commencement of the Pneumonia Regulations are as follows:—

Year.	PRIMARY PNEUMONIA		INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
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
1928	105	35	32	8

MEASLES.

Measles was very prevalent during the year, but the death rate was low. In 1927, there were 20 deaths, but these had fallen to two in 1928. In spite, however, of the decreased mortality, measles must be classed as one of the dangerous diseases, and should receive more attention than it does. In cases where it does not actually kill it often leaves behind a trail of invalidity in the form of ear diseases, chest diseases, tuberculosis, general debility, etc. It is a much more dangerous disease than either Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

WHOOPING COUGH.

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

INFLUENZA.

The town was fortunate in 1928 in being freer from influenza than in the preceding year. Eleven deaths occurred as against 42 for 1927. The recurring epidemics of influenza, however, constitute one of the great unsolved problems of preventive medicine, and we have been able to do very little either to prevent or to check the onslaught of the disease. Although 1928 was free from any serious epidemic, in 1927 there was a serious outbreak, and in the present year (1929) there was another disastrous outbreak which was only exceeded in severity by the outbreaks in 1918-9. It is to be hoped that scientific research will soon enable us to do something to check the ravages of this fatal scourge.

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.
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
1928	—	3	6	21

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 disinfecter.

The number of lots of bedding, etc., removed for disinfection during the year was 395 comprising 4,274 articles. The total number of disinfections was 412 and the following is a classified list of the reasons for the disinfection of premises:—

Smallpox	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	84
Diphtheria	...	...	...	105
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	147
Cancer	...	...	...	47
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3
Erysipelis	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	2
Verminous houses	...	...	...	3
Other causes	...	...	...	13
				<hr/>
				412
				<hr/>

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	123	34	89
Contracts	21	9	12
Nasal Swabs for Diphtheria bacilli—			
Suspects	75	27	48
Contracts	463	86	377
Exudate from Eyes for Gonococci	2	1	1
Blood for B. Typhosus	6	1	5
Blood for B. Para-Typhosus B.	6	2	4
Fæces for B. Typhosus	1	—	1
Sputum for Tubercle bacilli	377	32	345
Urine for Tubercle bacilli	1	—	1
Milk for Bacterial Count	37	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1,112	192	883
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition to the above 338 swabs were examined for Diphtheria bacilli at the Hospital, Holly Lane, from patients in the hospital, 62 giving positive and 276 negative results. Two consecutive negative swabs are required before a patient is discharged.

Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Officer for the Year 1928.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Ninety-eight notifications were received during the year, 73 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 25 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:—

		Notifications received: 1,000 of the population.		Attack Rate per	
		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
1928	.....	73	25	0.8	0.29

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis during the year numbered 68, of which 64 were notified cases, and 4 not notified. The ratio of unnotified deaths to the total deaths is 5.8 per cent. against 4.3 per cent. last year, and 8.7 per cent., 25 per cent., 26 per cent., 29.8 per cent. and 38 per cent. in the five 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	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
1 to 5	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	1
5 to 10	3	1	7	3	1	1	1	2
10 to 15	1	—	6	2	—	1	—	—
15 to 20	5	5	2	4	2	2	1	—
20 to 25	8	6	3	—	3	1	—	—
25 to 35	13	14	1	1	8	7	—	—
35 to 45	11	4	—	—	5	5	—	—
45 to 55	14	6	—	—	13	5	—	2
55 to 65	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	61	38	22	12	35	24	4	5

The discrepancy between the number of new cases and the number of notifications received is largely accounted for by the inclusion on our register of those patients residing in the Warley area, who were formerly on the register of the Worcestershire County Medical Officer.

Return showing the work of the Dispensary (or Dispensaries) during the year 1928.

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 ...	39	32		—	1		3	3		13	4		42	35		13	5	
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		10	10		12	10	
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		11	13		18	10	
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year:—																		
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		4	12		8	7	
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		8	23		26	34	
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as:—																		
(a) Cured ...	46	60		—	—		—	—		17	14		46	60		17	14	
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error) ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		39	69		65	69	
D.—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st:																		
(a) Diagnosis completed ...	96	145		4	3		17	22		60	37		113	167		64	40	
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		8	19		14	13	

1.—Number of persons on Dispensary Register on January 1st ...	561
2.—Number of patients transferred from other areas and of "lost sight of" cases returned	31
3.—Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of"	18
4.—Died during the year	68
5.—Number of observation cases under A (b) and B (b) above in which period of observation exceeded 2 months ...	73
6.—Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)...	4,187
7.—Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopædic 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	1,708
(b) Other special forms of treatment	—
9.—Number of patients to whom Dental Treatment was given, at or in connection with the Dispensary	45
10.—Number of consultations with medical practitioners	
(a) At Homes of Applicants	8
(b) Otherwise... ..	216
11.—Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes ...	105
12.—Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes	2,041
13.—Number of	
(a) Specimens of sputum, &c., examined	174
(b) X-ray examinations made, in connection with Dispensary work	53
14.—Number of Insured Persons on Dispensary Register on the 31st December	244
15.—Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December	67
16.—Number of reports received during the year in respect of Insured Persons :—	
(a) Form G.P. 17	15
(b) Form G.P. 36	51

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

TABLE SHEWING ADMISSIONS to, and DISCHARGES from, SANATORIA during the Twelve Months ended December 31st, 1928.

NAME OF INSTITUTION	Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1927.				Number of Cases admitted during 1928.				Cases discharged or transferred to the Chest Clinic.				Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1928.				Number of Deaths.	
	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females	Children under 16	Total	Males	Females
Romsley Hill ...	7	5	...	12	28	28	...	56	26	22	...	48	8	9	...	17	1	2
Holly Lane ...	13	4	...	17	27	18	17	62	20	13	16	49	11	5	1	17	9	4
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
The Woodlands, Northfield ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	3	3	...	...	2	2	...	...	3	3	...	...
The Forelands, Bromsgrove ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	3	...	...
Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Knightwick Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	2	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...
Totals ...	22	9	5	36	58	46	22	126	49	35	20	104	21	14	7	42	10	6

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(A) Average Number of Beds available for Patients during the Year 1928.

	Observation.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Total.
		"Sanatorium" Beds.	"Hospital" Beds.	Diseases of Bones and Joints	Other conditions	
Adult Males ...	12 Chalets	12	8	1		33
Adult Females ...	...	8	8	...		16
Children under 15 ...	...	...	...	6		6
Total ...	12 Chalets	20	16	7		55

(B) Return showing the Extent of Residential Treatment during the Year 1928,

			In Institutions on Jan. 1.	Admitt'd during the year.	Discharged during the year.	Died in the Institutions.	In Institutions on Dec. 31.
Number of Patients ...	Adults	M.	22	60	49	10	23
		F.	9	47	38	5	13
	Children	M.	2	4	...	...	6
		F.	3	3	4	1	1
Number of Observation	Adults	M.	...	1	1	...	...
		F.	...	...	...	...	...
	Children	M.	...	5	5	...	...
		F.	...	6	6	...	...
Total ...	...	...	36	126	103	16	43

[illegible]

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 1928, arranged according to the years in which the patients first came under Public Medical Treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis, 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.				1928.			
		Class T.B. plus.				Class T.B. plus.				Class T.B. plus.				Class T.B. plus.			
		Class T.B. minus.	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Class T.B. minus.	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Class T.B. minus.	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Class T.B. minus.
ALIVE.	Discharged as cured.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Disease arrested.	Adults { M. F.	1 5	...	...	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Disease not arrested.	Adults { M. F.	11 31	1 3	6 6	7 9	5 4	5 3	4 3	4 1	13 7	5 2	5 2	6 5	3 ...	14 7	13 16
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CONDITION NOT ASCERTAINED DURING THE YEAR.			35	...	...	...	10	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
LOST SIGHT OF OR OTHERWISE REMOVED FROM DISPENSARY REGISTER.			147	...	1	1	36	1	6	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
DEAD.	Adults { M. F.	...	6 3	3 3	14 8	23 14	...	2 ...	5 6	26 15	33 21	...	...	1 ...	18 13	19 14	...
	Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 ...	1...	...
TOTALS		...	354	19	19	22	60	56	12	24	49	85	7	7	13	37	57
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	10	5	35	50

(b) NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

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 1928, arranged according to the years in which the Patients first came under Public Medical Treatment, and their classification as shown on Form A.

			Previous to 1926.					1926.					1927.					1898.				
			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.	Bones and Joints.	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands.	Total.
Condition at the time of the last record made during the year to which the Return relates.	Discharged as cured.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Disease arrested.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ALIVE.	Disease not arrested.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Transferred to Pulmonary	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CONDITION NOT ASCERTAINED DURING THE YEAR.	Lost Sight of or otherwise removed from Dispensary Register.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dead.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DEAD.	Disease not arrested.	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Children { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Transferred to Pulmonary	Adults { M. F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

One patient notified during the year was engaged in the handling and distribution of milk and appropriate action was taken.

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	12
Patients receiving loan of shelters, including beds ...	11
Advanced cases on domiciliary treatment receiving loans of bed-pans, air-cushions, etc.	33
Cases receiving grants of milk	32

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 32 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 welcomed from anyone reading this Report. Through the kindness of Mr. H. V. Worwood and the Smethwick Insurance Committee, newspapers and periodicals are supplied to the patients at Holly Lane.

We have again to thank Mr. T. Collins, J.P., for the interest he has taken in the wireless receiving set installed at Holly Lane and our thanks are also due to the Smethwick Wireless Society who kindly undertook the maintenance of the installation during the year.

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.—7-30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 2—7-30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Women— Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9—12 a.m.

The number of Smethwick residents dealt with at the Centre during the year was 82, compared with 85 last year, 83 in 1926, 89 in 1925, 64 in 1924, 61 in 1923, 74 in 1922, 73 in 1921 and 120 in 1920.

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	...	...	...	...	...	17
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	35
Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total						82

- B. Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 3,836
- C. Aggregate number of "In-Patient days" of all patients residing in Smethwick ... 31
- D. Number of doses of Salvarsan substitute given ... 875

Pathological examinations made during the year 1928 relating to patients residing in Smethwick:—

For detection of Spirochetes	...	...	...	...	—
For detection of Gonococci	...	...	...	...	266
For Wasserman reaction	...	...	...	...	339
Total					605

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: Cases are sent 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 six 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.
- No. 6. St. Gregory's Hall, Wigorn Road. Fridays.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—

Held in the Chest Clinic, Council House, on Wednesdays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and on Thursdays from 9.30 to 12.30 p.m. and 2 to 4.30 p.m. Also Monday, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (from February, 1929).

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: Daily, (except Saturday), mornings only.

Smethwick Hall: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Inspection Clinics :—

Six Ways: Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Smethwick Hall: Thursday morning.

EYE CLINIC :—

Smethwick Hall: Monday, 9-30 to 12-30 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.
Thursday afternoon.

IONISATION CLINIC :—

Six Ways: Tuesday morning.

CLEANSING STATION (for Scabies, etc.) :—

Six Ways: Daily, mornings only.

DENTAL CLINICS :—

Six Ways: Daily from 9-30 to 5, except Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

High Street: Daily from 9-30 to 5 except Wednesday afternoon.

CHEST CLINIC :—

Council House. New cases seen by appointment on Wednesday from 2-15 to 5-0, Fridays from 11-0 to 1-0, and Tuesdays from 6-0 to 8-30 p.m.

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

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC :—

At Chest Clinic, Council House. Mondays, 9-0 to 1-0 and Fridays from 2-15 to 5-0 p.m. Tuesday evenings from 6-0 to 8-0 p.m. 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 :—

Seventeen midwives reside in the Borough, and a total of 29 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 1-30—2 p.m.

EYE HOSPITAL, CHURCH STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

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

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

Out-patients' Department open daily from 1-30 p.m. (Saturday excepted).

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

Out-patients' Department open daily 9-30—11 a.m.

ORTHOPAEDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL, BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturday) from 1-30—2-30 p.m.

DENTAL HOSPITAL, GREAT CHARLES STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Daily from 9—10-15 a.m.

HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL, EASY ROW, BIRMINGHAM :—

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

MATERNITY HOSPITAL, LOVEDAY STREET, BIRMINGHAM :—

Out-patients are seen on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 a.m. and Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 1-45 p.m.

THE BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY has a branch at Cape Hill, Smethwick—surgery hours, 9 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 1928.

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 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mastitis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Purpura fulminans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	5	1	14
Lobar-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia (type not stated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	8
Cellulitis	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cong. Malformation of Heart...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Cong. Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4
Debility, Marasmus, etc.	3	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Premature Birth	16	...	1	2	19	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Injury at Birth	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Atelectasis	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
Accidental Suffocation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Homicide	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	29	2	4	4	39	5	5	8	6	3	2	3	5	1	8	2	87

BIRTHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate 1,375.
Illegitimate 37.

Total 1,412.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR { Legitimate 82.
Illegitimate 5.

Total 87.

Rate, 59'6.
Rate, 135'1.
Rate, 61'6.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

BIRTHS.

Registered: (1) Legitimate, 1375; (2) Illegitimate, 37; (3) Total, 1,412.

Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

(1) Live Births, 1,155; (2) Stillbirths, 33; (3) Total, 1,188.

(1) By Midwives, 1,133; (2) By parents and doctors, 55.

In addition to this number particulars of 251 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, 82; (2) Illegitimate, 5; (3) Total, 87.

Rate per 1,000 births: (1) Legitimate, 59.0; (2) Illegitimate, 135.1; (3) Total, 61.6.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

(1) From Sepsis, 2; (2) from other causes, 4.

The maternal death-rate is 4.2 per 1,000 births, compared with 3.0 in 1927, 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 1927 was 4.11 per 1,000 births.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of cases notified, 21.

Cases treated by Health Department nurses, 13.

Cases treated at Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, 8

Cases resulting in impaired vision, none.

Exudate from the eyes was examined in two instances and gonococci found in one case.

Visits paid to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum by the nurses during the year numbered 197.

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

Notifications for the past years:—

1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918
21	9	11	15	27	31	32	34	61	43	54

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinics continue to increase in a very gratifying manner. The number of weekly sessions was increased from two to three in April, and the result has been to increase the total attendances by about 40 per cent. The attendances are strictly confined to expectant and nursing mothers, and visits from those who should attend an ordinary Infant Welfare Centre are discouraged. A further session was added in January, 1929, and preliminary figures suggest that the attendances for 1929 will be even higher.

In addition to the Ante-Natal Clinics, two weekly Breast-Feeding sessions are held at the Council House on Thursday and Saturday mornings. Nurse Glascodine being in charge. These clinics are growing steadily and are much appreciated.

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

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
42	107	127	241	275	537	1015	1079	1464

MIDWIVES.

During the year 29 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the area; of these 20 were trained and 9 were bona-fide midwives.

A total of 866 births were attended solely by midwives, being 72.9 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 5.

It will be noted that 29 midwives attended 866 confinements, leaving an average of 30 per midwife. If each patient pays the midwife two guineas, a figure which I believe is not received in anything like the majority of cases, the average yearly remuneration of a midwife in Smethwick would be £63, a totally inadequate sum for a well-trained professional woman. The question of the improvement of the qualifications and status of midwives is one which has a strong connection with that of maternal mortality and morbidity. If we are to reduce maternal mortality we must have midwifery of the first quality. If we are to insist on more highly trained midwives with longer periods of training and more difficult examinations we shall have to devise some means by which these highly trained midwives will obtain more adequate remuneration. Insistence on a high degree of professional competence without prospects of adequate financial returns will mean in the end a shortage of midwives. It is difficult to see how the financial status can be improved without State or Municipal intervention; the poorer

classes cannot afford to pay a high fee; the better class engage a doctor. A midwife has extremely responsible duties to perform; life and death often depend on her competence and on her carefulness; she should therefore be a woman of high professional training, combined with a sense of her responsibility, and of good social standing.

Medical aid was summoned in 180 cases by midwives, the doctors' fees being paid by the Corporation in 107 cases.

In August, the Health Committee established a scheme of insurance against the fees of doctors called in by midwives. On the payment of 5/- by the patient at the time she engages a midwife, the Committee undertake to pay the fee of any doctor called in at the time of the confinement and will not seek to recover any part of such fee, as provided by the Midwives Act.

It is too early to form a definite opinion as to the ultimate success of the scheme, but already many patients have taken advantage of it and it seems likely to prove a success.

The complications for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

MOTHER :—	Torn perineum	...	...	...	...	36
	Obstructed labour	...	...	...	...	17
	Prolonged labour	...	...	...	...	25
	Breech presentation	...	...	...	...	7
	Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	...	12
	Placenta prævia	...	...	...	...	1
	Adherent placenta	...	...	...	...	5
	Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	1
	Inertia	...	...	...	...	2
	Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	10
	Vomiting	...	...	...	...	2
	Rise of temperature	...	...	...	...	7
	Eclampsia	...	...	...	...	1
	Other causes	...	...	...	...	14
CHILD :—	Feebleness	...	...	...	...	8
	Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	1
	Discharging eyes	...	...	...	...	14
	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	5
	Jaundice	...	...	...	...	1
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1
	Other causes	...	...	...	...	10
	Routine visits paid to midwives	...	...	...	...	73
	Number of notices received re:—					
	Intention to practice	...	...	...	...	29
	Sending for Medical Help	...	...	...	...	180
	Attendance at Stillbirths (under C.M.B. Rules)	...	...	...	...	7
	Attendance at Stillbirths (under Notification of Births Acts)	...	...	...	...	24
	Cessation of Breast Feeding	...	...	...	...	2
	Liability to be a Source of Infection	...	...	...	...	1
	Laying out dead body	...	...	...	...	1
	Death of Child	...	...	...	...	—

MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES ACT, 1926.

Three 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 eight 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 29,988 as compared with 21,670 in the previous year and 29,565 in 1926.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are six Centres in the Borough, two of which are open on two half-days per week, and four on one-half day per week. In addition the Ante-Natal Clinic is open four half-days per week, making a total of twelve 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 500, compared with 458 in the previous year, and 469 in 1926. The names of 1,306 children were added to the rolls during the year, compared with 959 in the previous year, and 1081 in 1926.

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.	40	41	81
Ditto ...	... Wednesday, 2 p.m.	37	39	76
2. 95, Soho Street	... Tuesday, 2 p.m.	30	33	63
Ditto ...	... Thursday, 2 p.m.	38	31	69
3. Sydenham Road	... Wednesday, 2 p.m.	25	31	56
4. Devonshire Road	... Tuesday, 2 p.m.	26	29	55
5. Oldbury Road	... Friday, 2 p.m.	25	23	48
6. Warley	... Friday, 2 p.m.	28	24	52

The total attendances at the Centres during the year was 23,224, against 21,752 last year, and 22,106 in 1926.

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 on 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 was considerably less than in the previous years, but many remained on the books for a longer period, and the cost during the year showed only a slight decrease, viz., from £343 13s. 7d. to £334 6s. 8d.

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 ordinarily 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 : 171.

Total Cost : £334 6s. 8d.

Average cost per case £1 19s. 1d.

Average duration of case : 18 weeks.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT TREATMENT.

During the period under review 1,128 individual cases received treatment at the Light Clinic, as follows:—

Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	68
Maternity and Child Welfare cases:—					
(a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	143
(b) Babies and Toddlers	...	...	...	...	348
Children of School Age	...	...	...	...	569
Total	...	...	...	...	1,128

These patients made a total of 17,566 attendances during the year:

Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	1,708
Maternity and Child Welfare cases:—					
(a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	2,103
(b) Babies and Toddlers	...	...	...	...	4,152
Children of School Age	...	...	...	...	9,603
Total	...	...	...	...	17,566

The above figures compare with 671 cases, and 10,715 attendances for the year ended 31st December, 1927, and 537 cases and 10,763 attendances for the year 1926.

The following tables show the classes of case treated, and the results obtained during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Treated	Number Discharged	CONDITION ON DISCHARGE.				Continuing Treatment.
			Very much Improved	Improved	In Statu Quo.	Course not completed.	
Pre-tubercular	7	6	...	2	4	...	1
Bones and Joints	6	4	...	2	1	1	2
Abdominal	8	7	...	4	...	3	1
Peripheral Glands	36	33	...	28	...	5	3
Lupus	7	1	...	1	...	...	6
Other Organs	4	3	...	1	2	...	1
Total	68	54	...	38	7	9	14

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	2	2	...	1	...	1	...
Ante-Natal (Normal Cases)	97	89	...	72	5	12	8
Chilblains	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Debility	13	10	...	9	...	1	3
Difficulty in breast-feeding	25	22	...	16	...	6	3
Neuritis	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Post Natal	3	3	1	2	...	...	...
Sciatica	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Total ...	143	129	1	103	5	20	14
(b) Babies and Toddlers :							
Whooping Cough ...	45	34	19	14	...	1	11
Adenitis	12	10	1	7	1	1	2
Anæmia	7	7	...	5	...	2	...
Bronchitis and "colds" ...	37	28	...	22	...	6	9
Constipation	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Debility	73	64	1	43	5	15	9
Delayed Dentition ...	9	9	...	6	...	3	...
Impetigo	3	3	...	1	1	1	...
Insomnia	3	3	...	2	...	1	...
Malnutrition	14	14	1	12	1	...	...
Nervous	3	3	...	2	...	1	...
Not Thriving	17	16	...	12	2	2	1
Pre- and Post-Operation ...	8	8	...	8	...	...	...
Rheumatism	2	1	...	...	...	1	1
Rickets	113	106	5	74	7	20	7
Total ...	348	306	27	208	17	54	42

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.	
Adenitis	48	37	3	25	4	5	11
Alopecia	12	11	1	7	1	2	1
Anæmia	24	17	1	11	1	4	7
Asthma	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	133	101	4	59	16	22	32
Chilblains	3	2	...	2	...	...	1
Chorea	22	15	4	10	...	1	7
Colitis	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
Croup	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Cystitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Debility	187	151	17	87	25	22	36
Enuresis	6	6	...	3	3	...	...
Malnutrition	6	6	...	4	1	1	...
Nervous	6	5	...	2	1	2	1
Otorrhœa and Mastitis ...	4	3	...	3	...	...	1
Pre-operation	45	44	1	28	9	6	1
Psoriasis... ..	2	2	1	1	...	...	...
Rheumatism	41	31	2	22	3	4	10
Rickets	5	5	...	4	...	1	...
Skin	6	4	...	1	1	2	2
Whooping Cough ...	15	11	4	3	...	4	4
Total ...	569	453	39	272	65	77	116

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Administration.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

During the year 31 canal boats were inspected. Six boats were found to contravene the regulations in the following particulars:—

Structural Defects	...	...	...	...	4
Marking	...	...	...	...	2
Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	1
Certificate not produced	...	...	...	...	3
Painting	...	...	...	...	1

Notices drawing attention to the nature of the defects were served on the owners of the boats, and certificates were received in all cases, showing that the requirements of the notices had been complied with.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Visits paid to factories, workshops, and workplaces numbered 189. and in addition, 68 visits were paid to out-workers' premises. Three 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)	26	2	—
WORKSHOPS ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	163	2	—
WORKPLACES ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	...	—
TOTAL ...	189	4	—

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	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	1	—	—
	unsuitable or			
	defective	2	1	—
	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	6	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.

EXTENSION OF BOROUGH BOUNDARIES.

On April 1st of the present year the Borough was extended by the transference of the Warley District from the Urban District Council of Oldbury. The added district has an area of 571 acres and an estimated population of 10,000.

The number of registered premises included in the added area are as follows:—

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	22
Workshops and workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed premises retailing specially designated milks						6

There were 8 houses in the added area whose closet accommodation consisted of privy-middens.

The sanitary supervision of the enlarged Borough has been maintained without any addition to the Staff. This has been rendered possible by granting motor-cycle allowances to the two District Inspectors and thus considerably increasing the mobility of these members of the staff.

GENERAL.

An examination of the tables on the following pages, showing summaries of the work accomplished by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department will show a considerable increase over former years. This is to some extent accounted for by the increase in the number of houses and other premises consequent upon the extension of the Borough, and also to an intensification of our work under the Housing Act, 1925. It is probably safe to claim that greater use is being made of the provisions in this Act for securing the repair of houses suitable for occupation by the working classes, than in any other town of comparable population in the country.

To quote a few instances from the tables: The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to all types of premises was 20,147 as against 14,807 in 1927 and 11,704 in 1926. The number of sanitary defects found and dealt with amounted to 14,590 as compared with 7,981 in 1927 and 5,836 in 1926. The number of sanitary defects dealt with as the result of investigations of complaints numbered 2,248 as compared with 1,752 in 1927 and 1,940 in 1926.

WATER.

The town continues to be supplied with an excellent water by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company. This water is derived from deep bore holes through red sandstone, and samples which have been taken from time to time in various parts of the town show that the quality is consistently maintained.

During the year the work of securing separate water supply to each house in cases where water was derived from common standpipes has proceeded steadily, and 155 houses have been provided with a separate pipe supply. This work has been done in conjunction with the putting in thorough habitable condition of houses under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925, and is more fully reported on in the section of the Report dealing with Housing.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Smethwick Town Council is one of the constituent authorities of the Tame Basin Joint Committee which employs a full-time Inspector for the purpose of checking the pollution of rivers and streams in the area. The rivers and streams are frequently inspected in this connection.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Important extensions in the drainage and sewerage of the District have been made during the year, and I am indebted to Mr. Roland Fletcher, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following particulars of the new sewerage schemes carried out:—

The Halfords Lane Housing Estate (230 houses) and the Old Chapel Housing Estate (500 houses) have been completely sewered on the separate system.

In the case of the Halfords Lane Estate, the sewers laid include 450 yards of 9-in. foul sewers and 440 yards of 9-in. surface water drains. In the case of the Old Chapel Estate the main sewer is a 3-ft. by 2-ft. egg-shaped sewer 733 yards long which has been completed together with 1,200 yards of 9-in. foul sewer and 1,700 yards of 9-in. surface water drains. The 3-ft. by 2-ft. sewer mentioned above has been laid large enough to take the drainage from the recently added Warley Area, if and when the Warley Pumping Station is dispensed with.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of some half-dozen or so houses situated between the two canals where no sewer is available, and a few rural cottages in the added area of Warley, the whole of the closet accommodation of the town is on the water carriage system. Generally speaking, there is a separate closet for the use of each house. Where, however, houses with common yards share accommodation a standard of one w.c. to two houses is required, and where houses which are the subject of house-to-house inspection under the Housing Act are found to fall below this standard, the requisite number of extra closets is called for.

SCAVENGING.

The collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse is carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, by the Public Works Department. A weekly collection is maintained and the refuse is disposed of by burning at the Borough Destructor. One additional motor lorry for refuse collection was purchased during the year to cope with the added Warley Area. The supervision of the arrangements for the storage of domestic refuse is carried out by the Health Department, and where ashbins or ashpits are found to be defective notices are served under Section 36 of the Public Health Act. During the year, in response to notices served, 1,118 new ashbins have been provided by owners of property or by the Corporation in the owners' default.

REGISTER OF COMPLAINTS.

A register is kept in which are entered details of all complaints received at the office. These numbered 501, as against 500 in the previous year. In addition to these, a further 1,064 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 1,565. Of this number 19 instances of defective water fittings were reported to the South Staffs. Waterworks Co. and in 22 cases defects in connection with sewers, street gullies, dangerous buildings, etc., were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department.

Inspections on complaint revealed 2,248 defects as compared with 1,752 defects revealed in this section of the work during the preceding year. These defects, which are analysed in the following table, were dealt with at once by the service of preliminary notices on the owners or occupiers.

Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	254
Roofs and Eaves Gutters Defective	...	...	...	...	336
Yard and W.C. Drains Blocked	...	...	...	...	186
Yard Surfaces Defective	...	...	...	...	52
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	65
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	...	...	...	...	30
Floors, etc., Defective	...	...	...	...	116
W.C.'s without proper Flushing Arrangements	...	...	...	...	130
Ashbins or Ashplaces Defective	...	...	...	...	21
Midden-privies Defective	...	...	...	...	4
Water Closets Defective	...	...	...	...	100
Waste-Water Closets Defective	...	...	...	...	27
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	134
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	30
Animals Kept so as to be a Nuisance	...	...	...	...	12
Water Fittings Defective	...	...	...	...	27
Breach of Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	6
Dampness	...	...	...	...	67
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	21
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient Drainage	...	...	...	...	26
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	34
Defective Rainwater Cisterns	...	...	...	...	16
Defective Washboilers and Furnaces	...	...	...	...	55
Defective Plaster of Walls and Ceilings	...	...	...	...	244
Defective Firegrates	...	...	...	...	58
Defective External Brickwork	...	...	...	...	140
Defective Stairs, Handrails, etc.	...	...	...	...	13
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	35
					<hr/>
					2,248
					<hr/>

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to various types of premises for all purposes, are summarised below, together with the defects found. The visits numbered 20,147 as compared with 14,807 in the previous year, and the defects dealt with numbered 14,590 as compared with 8,059 in 1927.

	Visits paid.	Defects found.
Housing Act, 1925	1,017	11,464
Re-visits—Housing Act, 1925	8,206	—
On Complaint	1,565	2,248
Miscellaneous	364	—
Infectious Diseases	261	29
Slaughterhouses	560	—
Private Slaughtering	383	—
Meat and Food Shops	171	—
Meat Regulations	91	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	433	1
Pigsties	40	4
Factories	26	3
Workshops	91	3
Outworkers	68	—
Bakehouses	72	—
Canal Boats	36	5
Markets	127	—
Picture Houses, etc.	12	—
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	96	—
Drains tested	20	2
Smoke Observations	62	25
Visits to work in Progress ...	663	—
Re-Inspections re Notices Served		
(Public Health Acts)	2,811	—
Visits re Refuse Accommodation	1,010	806
Re-visits re Refuse Accommodation	1,228	—
Visits to Schools	2	—
Offensive Trades	2	—
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	2	—
Special Visits to Insanitary		
Property	728	—
	<hr/> 20,147 <hr/>	<hr/> 14,590 <hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS.

In the following table the defects dealt with under the Housing Act, Public Health Acts, and other Enactments, are summarised:—

Dirty Premises	1,219
Roofs, Spouting and Eaves Gutters	1,005
Yard and W.C. Drains Blocked	187
Yard Surfaces Defective	709
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	496
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	31
Floors Defective	1,051
W.C.'s without proper flushing arrangements	153
Ashbins or Ashplaces Defective	1,118
Midden-privies Defective	4
Water Closets Defective	506
Waste Water Closets Defective	20
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	1,111
Overcrowding	30
Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance	14
Water Fittings Defective	27
Smoke Nuisances	29
Breach of Bye-Laws	8
Houses without Sinks	74
Insufficient Water Supply	155
Dampness	361
Dangerous Buildings	4
Defective and Insufficient Drainage	97
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	8
Defective Plaster of Walls and Ceilings	1,222
Rainwater Cisterns defective	22
Washboilers defective	444
Firegrates	641
Staircases and Handrails	824
Doors, etc.	916
Defective External Brickwork	1,057
Miscellaneous	1,047
	<hr/>
	14,590

PROSECUTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

In 12 instances owners of property were summoned for failure to comply with Statutory Notices served calling for the abatement of nuisances. In 10 instances the work required was completed before the date of the hearing, and the summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs. In the remaining two cases the Magistrates made Orders for the execution of the work and for payment of costs. In each of these cases the Order of the Magistrates was obeyed without further reference to the Court.

PROSECUTION UNDER COUNCIL'S BYE-LAWS RELATING TO NUISANCES.

On August 23rd a pig keeper was summoned for keeping swine within a distance of 60 feet from a dwelling house, and for storing offals and wash in uncovered receptacles, contrary to the Bye-Laws of the Corporation with respect to nuisances. The magistrates took a serious view of the case and imposed the maximum penalty of £5. Eventually the nuisance was abated by the discontinuance of the keeping of swine on the premises.

LETTERS AND NOTICES SENT OUT.

Letters	...	...	...	...	...	1,597
Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	1,030
Secondary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	162
Statutory Notices under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	276
Statutory Notices under Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, re Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	602
Statutory Notices, Sec. 3 Housing Act, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	898
Preliminary Notices ditto	...	...	...	...	...	73
Cleansing Notices re Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	38
Canal Boats Acts Notices	...	...	...	...	...	6
Circulars	...	...	...	...	...	407
						5,089

The above Table gives some indication of the extent to which the work of the Department is increasing from year to year. The number of Preliminary Notices has increased from 843 in 1927 to 1,030 in the present year. Statutory Notices served in 1927 numbered 183 as against 276 in 1928. The number of Notices under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925, has increased from 523 to 971. The number of letters I have found it necessary to write to owners of property and others, has been 1,597 this year, as against 1,174 last year. The total number of notices and letters this year amounts to 5,089 compared with 3,555 in 1927.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The collections and analyses of soot deposits in various districts of the town were discontinued last year and have not been re-commenced. 62 observations of factory chimney stacks have been made during the year and 25 smoke nuisances recorded. In each case the written intimation required by Sub-Section 4 of Section 1 of the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act 1926, was given and a Statutory Notice served. This action has generally brought about the desired improvement and in no case has it been necessary to prosecute an offender.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

During the year under review, house-to-house inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, have been made of 1,017 houses, as compared with 615 inspected in the previous year. 971 Notices have been served on the owners of these houses requiring the execution of repairs necessary to render the houses in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. This figure compares with 523 Notices served in the previous year. 428 Notices were complied with by the owners, and at 62 houses the required repairs were executed by the Corporation in the owners' default. At the close of the year there were 660 houses where work was in progress. The good results which are being achieved by the work performed under the Housing Act, 1925, are not confined to those shown in this published record. Quite a number of owners of property are voluntarily carrying out repairs and reconditioning on an extensive scale, and the majority of landlords are giving far greater attention to the execution of ordinary maintenance repairs than has been hitherto the case.

INSANITARY PROPERTY.

During the year 10 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and Closing Orders were made in each case. Four of these houses were demolished by the owners without the service of Demolition Orders.

OVERCROWDING.

The occupation of houses by two or more families continues to be a serious evil, and there appears to be little or no diminution in the number of houses so occupied. In almost every case the accommodation occupied by sub-tenants is less adequate and less sanitary than that afforded by the houses which are scheduled as unfit for human habitation.

Overcrowding due to the house shortage is, in my opinion, a greater evil at the present time than the slum problem.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	568
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts.—	
(i) By the Local Authority	427
(ii) By other bodies or persons	141

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	4,601
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1,017
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(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	1,002

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	679
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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	971
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	428
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	62
(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	916
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	763
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	10

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	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	10
(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

N.B.—Four houses were demolished by the owners without Demolition Orders being made.

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 403, as compared with 377 in the previous year, 27 additional dairymen having been registered during the year and one removed from the register.

The number of cowsheds is 7.

During the period under review, 433 visits were paid to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, as compared with 331 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.

Two licences to bottle and sell "Grade A" milk.

Two licences to pasteurise and sell pasteurised milk.

One licence to sell "Certified" milk.

Five supplementary licences to sell pasteurised milk.

Five supplementary licences to sell "Grade A" milk.

Two supplementary licences to sell "Grade A" (Tuberculin Tested) milk.

Thirty-seven samples were submitted to the University Public Health Laboratory for examination for bacterial count. The results have shown that the "Grade A" milk bottled in the Borough is of excellent quality, the bacterial count having been consistently low and well below the permissible limit. The resultant pasteurised milk from both depots in the town where pasteurising is carried out under licence, have also shown a low bacterial count. It is satisfactory to record that at one depot the milk received for pasteurisation is of excellent quality and usually shows, even before treatment, a bacterial count considerably below the limit demanded by the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Order for "Grade A" milk.

(b) **MEAT, etc.**

The number of slaughterhouses on the Register continues the same as last year, viz., 14—9 licenced and 5 registered. 560 visits have been paid to slaughterhouses as compared with 969 during 1927, and 389 visits were paid to Meat and Food shops and market stalls, as against 345 in the previous year. 383 additional visits were made under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, in connection with the slaughter of pigs on private premises, as against 380 such visits in the previous year. The number of animals and carcasses examined was 2,056 as against 3,246 in the previous year.

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

			Before Slaughter.	During Slaughter.	After Slaughter.	Total.
Oxen	...	...	46	45	237	328
Cows	...	...	5	7	11	23
Calves	...	...	4	2	11	17
Sheep	...	...	138	122	441	701
Pigs	...	...	156	48	783	987
			349	224	1,483	2,056

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 :—

Five Pig's Heads—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	72½ lbs.
Five Sheep's Plucks—Strongylus Rufescens and Flukes	...	...	...	17 „
Seven and a half Ox Livers—Distomum Hepaticum	...	...	...	104 „
Six Pig's Heads, Mudgeons, Frys and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	135 „
Five Pig's Livers—Cloudy Swelling	...	...	...	34 „
Four Pig's Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	30 „
One Leg of Pork—Hæmorrhages	...	...	...	4 „
Ten Bananas—Unsound	...	...	...	2 „
Thirteen Sheep's Livers—Distomum Hepaticum	...	...	...	19½ „
Two Sheep's Lungs—Strongylus Rufescens	...	...	...	4 „
Two Sheep's Plucks—Strongylus Rufescens	...	...	...	11 „
One and half Heifer's Livers—Distomum Hepaticum	...	...	...	21 „
One Pig's Head, Liver and Mudgeon—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11 „
One Pig's Lungs—Strongylus Paradoxus	...	...	...	2 „
Five Pig's Mesenteries—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4½ „
One Pig's Liver—Distomum Hepaticum	...	...	...	14 „
One Pig's Head and Mesentery—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11 „
One Ox Liver—Flukes and Abscesses	...	...	...	15 „
One Sheep's Liver—Flukes and Abscesses	...	...	...	3 „
Two Bullocks' Livers—Flukes	...	...	...	21 „
One Pig's Liver—Cirrhosis	...	...	...	8 „

Two Bullock's Livers—Abscesses	...	...	...	53	„
One Bullock's Liver—Abscesses and Flukes	...	...	...	15	„
Two Sheep's Livers—Cirrhosis	...	...	...	6	„
One Pig's Carcase and all organs—Oedema	...	...	...	30	„
One Pig's Carcase and organs—Acute Inflammation and Septicæmia	...	...	...	100	„
One Sheep's Pluck—Inflammation	...	...	...	3	„
One Pig's Liver—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	6	„
Three lbs. Beef—Bruised	...	...	...	3	„
One Pig's Head and Stomach—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	10	„
One Pig's Head and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	16	„
Two Pig's Intestines and Stomachs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	15	„
Two Pig's Heads, Frys and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	20	„
One Pig's Kidney—Nephritis	...	...	...	20	„
Three Pig's Frys and Mesenteries—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	12	„
One Pig's Intestines, Stomach and Spleen—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	26	„
One Pig's Mesentery and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	20	„
One Pig's Carcase and Organs—Immature and Fevered	...	...	...	8	„
Three Pig's Heads, Collars, Lungs, Livers, Spleens, Stomachs, and Intestines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	158	„
Five Heads, Four Stomachs and Intestines and Three Frys—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	113	„
One Bullock's Forequarters, Ribs and Brisket, Liver, Lungs, Mesentery, Intestines and Spleen—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	185	„
One set of Pig's Lungs and Trimmings—Pleurisy	...	...	...	6	„
Tomatoes—Unsound	...	...	...	487	„
				1,855½	lbs.

PROSECUTION UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

On the 22nd November, the first proceedings taken in the Borough under the above Regulations were instituted against a butcher for slaughtering four pigs for sale for human consumption without having not less than three hours before the time of slaughtering, delivered to the Local Authority, notice of the date and time and of the place at which slaughtering would take place. The circumstances of the case were, that an Inspector who was engaged on Housing Inspections in Ada Road, was attracted by the prolonged squealing of pigs, and on making his way to the back of certain premises, found four pigs which had just been slaughtered by a butcher. He saw the pigs put into sacks and carried to a waiting motor van. The pigs were later seen by an Inspector, being dressed at a slaughterhouse in the town. The butcher pleaded guilty and said that he had committed the offence in ignorance of the Regulations. The Magistrates said that they had had evidence that the provisions of the Regulations had been adequately published and ignorance could not be pleaded in excuse. The offence was regarded as a serious one and the Chairman of the Magistrates said that they were dealing with the matter lightly in imposing a fine of 40/-.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

330 samples were taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and submitted to the Public Analyst, as against 263 samples in the previous year. 26 samples of Milk were certified as not genuine. This compares with 11 samples in the previous year. The percentage of adulterations was 8.18 as against 5.32 in the previous year. Legal proceedings were instituted in 5 cases, and the vendors cautioned in the remaining cases. The total fines and costs amounted to £20 12s. 0d. as compared with £9 5s. 0d. last year. Of the 267 samples of milk obtained, 174 were procured in course of delivery.

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

Article Analysed.	Total Samples.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.
Milk	257	231	26
Pasteurised Milk	1	1	—
Sterilized Milk	3	3	—
Skimmed Milk	6	6	—
Cream	8	8	—
Butter	4	4	—
Margarine	6	6	—
Lard	3	3	—
Cheese	3	3	—
Brawn	1	1	—
Sausage	6	6	—
Polony	5	5	—
Corned Beef	1	1	—
Genoa Cake	3	3	—
Cherry Cake	3	3	—
Dundee Cake	2	2	—
Tea	1	1	—
Coffee	2	2	—
Condensed Milk	2	2	—
Plum Jam	1	1	—
Flour	2	2	—
Pepper	2	2	—
Mustard	2	2	—
Cream of Tartar	2	2	—
Arrowroot	2	2	—
Seidlitz Powder	2	1	1
	330	303	27

**TABLE OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND
DRUGS ACTS FOR THE YEAR, 1928.**

Date of Purchase.	Sample No.	Deficiency.	Results.	Penalty.	Costs
				£ s. d.	s. d.
21.2.28	4882	10 per cent. Fat.	Dismissed on payment of Analyst's Fee, 15/-		15 0
27.3.28	4914	10 per cent. Fat.	Dismissed on payment of costs		1 0 6
29.3.28	4919	20 per cent. Fat.	Convicted	2 0 0	2 0 6
13.6.28	4991	50 per cent. Fat.	Convicted	10 0 0	2 1 0
16.11.28	5117	10 per cent. Fat.	Convicted	2 0 0	15 0
				£14 0 0	£6 12 0

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD) REGULATIONS,
1927.**

The following articles submitted to the Public Analyst have been examined also for the presence of preservatives. In every case the samples were found to be free from preservative or thickening substances.

Article Examined.	Total Samples.
Milk	257
Skimmed Milk	6
Cream	8
Brawn	1
Sausage	6
Polony	5
Corned Beef	1
Cheese	3
Genoa Cake	3
Cherry Cake	3
Dundee Cake	2
Plum Jam	1
Condensed Milk	2
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Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in County Borough of Smethwick, 1928

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex.	All Ages.	0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
ALL CAUSES		M	434	50	7	12	14	19	49	134	187	62
		F	365	37	7	4	12	11	43	100	96	75
1 Enteric fever		M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Smallpox		M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Measles		M	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Scarlet fever		M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping cough		M	5	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	5	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
6 Diphtheria		M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
7 Influenza		M	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...
		F	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
8 Encephalitis lethargica		M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Meningococcal meningitis		M	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system		M	35	...	...	...	1	5	13	15	...	...
		F	24	...	1	...	2	3	12	5	1	...
11 Other tuberculous disease		M	4	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
		F	5	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	...
12 Cancer, malignant disease		M	49	...	...	...	...	...	6	25	13	5
		F	43	...	...	...	...	1	4	19	15	4
13 Rheumatic fever		M	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
		F	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
14 Diabetes		M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
		F	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2
15 Cerebral hemorrhage, etc.		M	19	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	4	6
		F	32	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	15	9
16 Heart disease		M	85	...	...	...	...	4	5	24	28	24
		F	76	...	...	...	1	3	4	19	27	22
17 Arterio-sclerosis		M	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
		F	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	4
18 Bronchitis		M	19	...	...	1	...	1	...	4	6	7
		F	18	2	...	1	...	...	1	3	5	6
19 Pneumonia (all forms)		M	49	10	3	4	4	1	5	16	6	...
		F	35	7	1	1	1	...	5	8	7	5
20 Other respiratory disease		M	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
		F	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum		M	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1
		F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
22 Diarrhoea, etc.		M	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Appendicitis and typhilitis		M	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...
		F	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
24 Carbuncle of liver		M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
		F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 Acute and chronic nephritis		M	17	...	...	...	1	...	1	8	2	...
		F	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	1
26 Puerperal sepsis		M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth		M	22	20	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
		F	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29 Suicide		M	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
		F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
30 Other deaths from violence		M	11	2	...	...	3	2	3	1	...	...
		F	10	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	2	4
31 Other defined disease		M	79	7	2	3	4	4	9	13	15	13
		F	57	3	1	...	2	2	6	16	10	17

