

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Smethwick County Borough.

Contributors

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County Borough of Smethwick.

The

Health of the Borough

in

1945.

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

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

JOHN H. WRIGHT, M.B.E., F.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



County Borough of Sunderland

The

Health of the Borough

1945

HUGH BAILEY, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Sunderland County Borough Council,
and Member of the Executive Committee of the
Health and Welfare Committee.

JOHN H. WRIGHT, M.B., B.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

County Borough of Smethwick.

COMMITTEES—1944-1945.

Health Committee :

Chairman : ALDERMAN E. CONDON, M.B.

THE MAYOR	COUNCILLOR A. W. M. BONEHAM.
(COUNCILLOR MRS. E. LEE, J.P.).	COUNCILLOR F. M. H. REAVENHALL.
ALDERMAN C. G. KEMPTON, M.M.	COUNCILLOR MISS E. M. WOODCOCK,
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. FARLEY.	J.P.
COUNCILLOR W. H. PERRY.	

Co-opted Members for the purposes of Maternity and Child Welfare :

MRS. CREWE, MRS. TROTMAN, MRS. HORTON, MRS. WHITEFIELD.

Co-opted Member for Mental Deficiency Purposes :

MISS L. N. BROOK.

St. Chad's Hospital Sub-Committee.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR A. W. M. BONEHAM.

ALDERMAN C. G. KEMPTON, M.M.	COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. FARLEY
COUNCILLOR W. H. PERRY.	COUNCILLOR MISS E. M. WOODCOCK,
	J.P.

The Hollies and War-time Nurseries Sub-Committee :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. FARLEY.

ALDERMAN C. G. KEMPTON, M.M.	COUNCILLOR A. W. M. BONEHAM
COUNCILLOR W. H. PERRY.	COUNCILLOR MISS E. M. WOODCOCK,
	J.P.

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee :

Chairman : THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR MRS. E. LEE, J.P.)

Smethwick Representatives :

ALDERMAN E. CONDON, M.B.	COUNCILLOR R. G. STRONG
ALDERMAN C. G. KEMPTON, M.M.	COUNCILLOR F. BODENHAM
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. FARLEY	COUNCILLOR MISS E. M. WOODCOCK,
	J.P.

Oldbury Representatives :

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSON, C.C.	ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P.
ALDERMAN H. H. ROBBINS, C.A.	COUNCILLOR MRS. V. E. ROSE.
ALDERMAN MRS. SMITH	

Smethwick Representatives on the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital Board :

COUNCILLOR A. W. M. BONEHAM	COUNCILLOR MISS E. M. WOODCOCK,
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. FARLEY	J.P.

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.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Clinical Tuberculosis Officer:

A. WILSON RUSSELL, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health:

§R. M. DYKES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers:

MARGARET E. McLAREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CHRISTINE J. McLEAY, M.B., Ch.B.

Consulting Radiologist:

JAMES F. BRAILSFORD, Ph.D., M.D., Ch.B. F.R.C.P.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator:

JAMES SHAW, M.B., Ch.B.

Vaccination Officer: F. E. CADBY.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: †*JOHN H. WRIGHT, M.B.E.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector: †*F. CADDICK.

Sanitary Inspectors:

†*S. SADLER §†*H. HERBERT †*B. J. DAVIES (To 31/10/45).

Secretary: *GEORGE H. ROE.

Clerks:

§J. P. LITTLE. §H. ELLARBY, A.C.I.S. (To 12/45). FRANCES K. CALLARD. FLORENCE E. HOWLETT. EVELYN M. SMITH. §V. M. LAWTON. §G. T. ALLEN. §EVE McMILLAN (To 4/12/45).	KATHLEEN L. WHISTON. §J. V. PERRINS, D.F.C. §T. H. CUTLER. §P. HAYNE. DOROTHEA HYND. DORIS L. HYDE. MARY L. WHITEHOUSE. ANNIE E. UNDERHILL.
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Nursing Staff:

Superintendent Health Visitor: ‡a||Miss E. WILLIAMS.

Health Visitors:

Miss L. E. ROBERTS (To 30/9/45)	a Miss E. COLLINS.
a Miss J. P. BATES (To 30/6/45).	‡a Miss J. E. ACKERS.
a Miss F. M. SULLIVAN	‡a Miss J. HIGH.
(To 30/9/45)	‡a Miss M. P. O'KEEFE.
‡a Miss S. F. DAVIES.	‡a Miss E. O. CORNS.
‡a Miss H. OWEN.	‡a Miss G. I. EVANS.
‡a Miss E. A. ROBERTS.	‡a Miss R. TAYLOR.

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

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE A. GROSVENOR.	NURSE L. CONEFREY.
NURSE L. CHATWIN.	NURSE W. KENNY.
NURSE A. HEDINGTON	NURSE F. C. CONEFREY
(To 20/11/45)	(From 19/3/45)
NURSE W. M. ASTON.	NURSE N. O. SCRIVENS
NURSE M. A. KING.	(From 16/10/45).
NURSE E. D. STURMAN-SNELLING	NURSE R. MILLINGTON
(To 6/3/45)	(From 6/12/45).
NURSE I. O. FURSE (To 10/9/45)	

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

Matron of "The Hollies," Miss A. M. ROBINSON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Public Analyst: F. C. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

- * Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
- † Meat and Foods' Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
- ‡ Health Visitors' Certificate.
- a State Certified Midwife.
- || State Registered Nurse.
- § On War Service.

ST. CHAD'S HOSPITAL STAFF.

Medical Superintendent :

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

Deputy Medical Superintendent :

A. WILSON RUSSELL, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Resident Obstetrical Officer :

§ JAMES A. CHALMERS, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), M.R.C.O.G.
KENNETH G. P. WORNER, M.D., B.S., L.M., M.R.C.O.G.

Resident Medical Officers :

M. B. CLITHEROE, M.B., Ch.B. (To 14/7/45).
DEREK DENCER, M.B., Ch.B. (To 14/7/45).
J. S. OWEN, M.B., B.Ch. (From 16/7/45).
A. D. ALVAREZ, M.B., Ch.B. (From 16/7/45).

Matron : MISS S. B. PUGH, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Assistant Matron : MISS A. M. FOWLER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Secretary : GEORGE H. ROE, C.R.S.I.

Registrar : W. CECIL SHELTON, F.C.I.S.

Clerks :

H. C. BOWERMAN. L. A. F. MARSH.
LILIAN MUNIER (and Radiographer). F. G. WHITEHOUSE.

Laboratory Technician : MILTON A. BEVIS, A.M.L.T.

§ On War Service.

County Borough of Smethwick.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The most urgent Public Health problem which faced us during the year 1945 was the problem of providing houses for the people, and at no time during the past generation have the housing conditions of the Borough been more unsatisfactory, and at no period during this time has so much distress been caused by unsatisfactory living conditions. It is true that the number of houses which are overcrowded by the standards of the Housing Act, 1935 is approximately only 100, but this standard is low and could not for a moment be considered as satisfactory by even the most unprogressive authority, assuming as it does that the living rooms as well as the bedrooms can be used as sleeping quarters.

The deplorable housing conditions not only cause direct ill-health, both mental and physical, but give rise to indirect difficulties which cause considerable inconvenience. For example, a number of mothers are confined each year in hospital who would in the ordinary way be treated at home, were it not for the fact that the conditions at home make it impossible. In addition, many persons suffering from diseases and disabilities which in normal times could be treated at home are admitted to hospital, not because hospital treatment is necessary, but because no facilities are available in the home.

The Housing Committee in Smethwick have a most unenviable task. In normal times it is an invidious one, but at the present time, when the number of lettings available per month is very small indeed, their difficulties are multiplied a hundred-fold, and however wise they are in their decisions to let houses to particular applicants they cannot escape criticism and resentment from those applicants who have not available the facts which have guided the Committee in their decisions.

A number of these applicants write or call on me personally, and it is very difficult to persuade a would-be tenant who lives as a member of a family of 4 or 5 in deplorable conditions with practically none of the amenities which go to the making of a home, that there are others whose position is even worse, and who therefore must receive priority.

Realising the difficulties with which the Housing Committee is confronted I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to limit to practical numbers the cases which I recommend to them as special cases which should receive priority on the grounds of health. Practically all the persons who apply to me for assistance in obtaining a municipal house have reasonable grounds for wanting to obtain a house, but if I recommended to the Housing Committee that they should receive priority the Committee's lists for many months ahead would be filled with these only, to the total exclusion of the normal applicants. In justice therefore to the Housing Committee I limit my recommendations to those cases where there is not only overcrowding, but where the provision of houses is necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The progress of new building in Smethwick, as in all other towns, is slow, and the number of new houses completed in the Borough since the war is very small indeed. A number of temporary prefabricated houses has been built and although they are below the standard of municipal houses they are certainly a great advance on the housing conditions of any of the tenants transferred to them, and they have proved of inestimable value to the Borough. The fact that Smethwick is almost completely built up makes our housing problem more difficult than in other towns.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There was a decrease in the number of births during the year from 1,486 to 1,335 giving a birth rate of 18.6 for the year. This was higher than the birth rate for the country as a whole which was 16.1. It is

slightly lower than that of the 126 great towns. The number of infants under one year of age who died was 67, the same as for the previous year, but as the births were lower the infant mortality rate was slightly higher. The rate of 50.4 per 1,000 was however, less than that of the 126 great towns. A rather surprising feature was that the illegitimate death rate was lower than the legitimate death rate for the second year in succession. The number of illegitimate deaths, however, continued to increase. During the years immediately before the war these births numbered about 40, whereas in 1944 there were 70, and in 1945 there were 85. The figures have been doubled.

The death rate at 12.8 is rather lower than that of the great towns which was 13.5 per 1,000.

The deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis were reduced from the rather high figure of last year of 14 to a figure of 9 in 1945. The increase in the death rate from cancer was halted for the first time in 1944, and happily the numbers dying from this disease were lower still in 1945. Respiratory diseases, however, increased from 104 to 130.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were no serious epidemics of any disease during the year, and the incidence of scarlet fever and diphtheria was low. The number of cases of scarlet fever was lower than for many years and there were no deaths. The average number of cases of diphtheria which occurred in Smethwick for the 10 years before the war was 155. The number of cases during the year 1945 was 42, a marked and significant reduction. This reduction was mainly due to the successful immunisation campaign and this is being continued. During the same 10 years before the war there were 81 deaths, while during the past 5 years there were 10 deaths, a reduction to one quarter of the number before the war.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The picture as regards tuberculosis is a gloomy one. The number of cases notified (151) was the highest since 1920, and was approximately double the numbers in the pre-war years. The increase was substantially more in the pulmonary type of the disease; the increase was in both sexes and in most age groups, but was specially marked in young women of 15—25 years of age, and in men of 20—25 years of age, and in both sexes over the age of 55. The causes of the increase are varied, such as the aftermath of war with its long hours of work, with its blackout and consequent lack of ventilation, with overcrowding in shelters and physical strain. The present housing conditions are helping to increase this incidence and to spread infection, and the shortage of hospital accommodation for the infectious cases means that a larger proportion of the child population is exposed to risk, and we must expect an increase in this disease which may take a generation to overcome. The closing of the tuberculosis pavilion at Holly Lane Hospital, due to shortage of staff, is an unqualified tragedy, but no efforts which we have been able to make to secure staff have been of any avail, and the Ministries of Health and Labour have been unable to help us. We shall pay heavily for this closing in the years to come in young lives.

The death rate from tuberculosis has not increased in the same proportion as the number of notifications, but it is 25 per cent. higher than in the year immediately preceding the war.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The number of Smethwick syphilis cases treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham, was 11 in 1937 and 13 in 1938; these figures had increased to 29 in 1944, but there has been a reduction in 1945 to 21. Gonorrhoea on the other hand has sharply decreased from 47 in 1938 to an average of 22 for the past 3 years. The total number of attendances of Smethwick patients was normally 5,000 in 1938; it was a little more than half this figure in 1945.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

There has been no alteration in our scheme for the treatment of mental defectives, but partly owing to the housing situation and partly to the fact that there is a very high percentage of the family population working, our difficulties have increased considerably, especially with low grade cases. We do not own an institution, and all beds allotted to us in Monyhull and Great Barr have been filled. When a new case is brought to our notice which urgently requires institutional care we have immense difficulty in getting an institution to help us owing to the national shortage of places. This shortage is partially due to shortage of staff. There are a number of really urgent and pathetic cases at present in the Borough where the care of the defective is an intolerable burden on the relatives and where the care and supervision is either unsatisfactory or completely lacking.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Our maternity and child welfare activities continue with little change. Our scheme for Home Helps and Domestic Helps struggles along. The difficulty of obtaining suitable women in times of full employment is very great. Rather surprisingly the demand for Home Helps and Domestic Helps is not very large.

The attendances at our post-natal clinic have increased slightly to about 35 per cent. of nursing mothers in the Borough attending. Our municipal midwifery work continues as in previous years, but the number of cases in which it was necessary to call in a doctor decreased very sharply from 240 to 155, the lowest figures for a generation. The average before the war was slightly greater than 250.

DAY NURSERIES.

At the moment of writing there are three day nurseries open in the town, namely in Brasshouse Lane, Edgbaston Road and Norman Road. The day nursery at "The Hollies" was closed in order to enable it to resume its pre-war activities. The day nursery at Holly Lane had to be closed for reasons beyond our control. The numbers attending Brasshouse Lane and Edgbaston Road, however, have increased to 60 and are well attended. The Norman Road nursery has 40 places, but I feel that this number is too high, and except for the summer, I am endeavouring to keep the average down to a maximum of 35. Contrary to the prophecies of various varieties of Jeremiahs we have had no outbreaks of infection at these nurseries, and any visitor can see that the children attending them are in bounding health and above the normal in nutrition. It is becoming, however, more and more difficult to obtain suitable staff.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

The municipal hospital at St. Chad's is much too small for our needs and the difficulties which we have experienced over the past five years in obtaining places for our urgent cases has been very great. A substantial enlargement of this hospital is very necessary, but even more necessary is the erection of a modern nurses' home in the grounds.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Health Committee and all members of the Council for their sympathetic help during a difficult year, and particularly to ex-Alderman Kempton, ex-Councillor Boneham, Alderman Mrs. Farley, Chairman of the Health Committee and Councillor W. H. Perry, Chairman of St. Chad's who have given me very great assistance. The members of my own staff have worked with great keenness and enthusiasm and have done a greater amount of work than they should reasonably have been called upon to do, but they have done it cheerfully. Mr. Roe in particular, Secretary of the department, has been tireless in his endeavours to maintain a high standard of efficiency. To my colleagues in the other departments I must also express my thanks.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

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

Medical Officer of Health.

12th July, 1946.

APPROXIMATE NET EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1946.

	Amount	Rate in the £
	£	s. d.
Prevention of Infectious Diseases ...	874	0.53
Notification of Infectious Diseases ...	98	0.06
Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital ...	4,846	2.92
South Staffs. Joint Smallpox Hospital ...	2	0.00
St. Chad's Hospital	14,194	8.55
Hospital Provision	5,419	3.26
The Hollies	742	0.45
Birmingham Hospitals Contributory Contri- butions	607	0.37
Tuberculosis	10,903	6.57
Venereal Diseases	446	0.27
Vaccination	359	0.22
Blind Persons Act, 1920	3,685	2.22
Mental Deficiency	7,822	4.71
Mental Hospitals	3,795	2.28
Maintenance of Epileptics	74	0.04
Maternity and Child Welfare	8,633	5.21
Midwives Act	756	0.46
Ambulance Service	3,660	2.20
Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 ...	206	0.12
Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915...	116	0.07
Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Order, 1936	12	0.01
Conversion of Waste Water Closets ...	25	0.02
Smoke Abatement	14	0.01
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926 ...	2	0.00
Administration	7,701	4.64
War Damage Insurance	198	0.12
Public Assistance :—		
Hospitals	2,900	1.75
Children's Homes	1,360	0.86
Mental Hospitals	17,260	10.40

Annual Report for 1945.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA : 2,500 acres.

POPULATION : Census, 1931—84,406.

Estimated pre-war : 78,290.

Estimated civilian population 1945 : 71,620.

RATEABLE VALUE : October, 1945 : £428,852.

ESTIMATED PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE : £1,672.

RATES IN THE £ : 16/-. .

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOUSES IN THE BOROUGH : 21,139.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

					1945	1944
BIRTHS :	Males	...	...	...	692	770
	Females	...	...	...	643	716
Total					1,335	1,486
Illegitimate Births included in						
above total					85	70
Birth-rate per 1,000 population					18.6	20.6
DEATHS :	Males	...	...	...	485	457
	Females	...	...	...	432	425
Total					917	882
Death-rate per 1,000 population					12.8	12.2
INFANT DEATHS :	Males	...	...	...	41	39
	Females	...	...	...	26	28
Total					67	67
Infantile Mortality :						
Legitimate					50.4	45.9
Illegitimate					47.06	28.5
Total					50.18	45.0
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks					40	42
Neo-natal Mortality					29.9	28.3

					1945	1944
					No.	Rate per 1,000 population
DEATHS FROM :						
Enteric Fever					—	—
Measles					1	0.01
Whooping Cough					1	0.01
Diarrhoea and Enteritis					—	—
(under 2 years)					9	0.12
Diphtheria					5	0.07
Scarlet Fever					—	—
Influenza					3	0.04
Cancer					143	2.05
Respiratory Diseases					130	1.80
Pulmonary Tuberculosis					57	0.80
Other Forms of Tuberculosis					6	0.08
Cerebro Spinal Fever					—	—
Road Traffic Accidents					8	0.11

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEARS 1945 1944

	Smethwick.	England and Wales.	County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—					
BIRTHS :—					
Live	18.6	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still	0.56	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40
DEATHS :—					
All Causes	12.8	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.04	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—					
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	46	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	6.7	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—					
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Typhoid Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.49	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough	3.21	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria	0.58	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas	—	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.13
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	11.26	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia	10.71	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—					
ABORTION :—					
Puerperal Infection	1.46	0.24	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.
Others (No. 147)	0.72	1.22	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.
Total	2.18	1.46	12.65	8.81	3.60
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal Fever	4.36	9.93	15.87	15.87	15.87
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—

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

Year	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 Tuberculosis	Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Cancer
1921	25.46	11.11	88.28	0.69	2.27	0.68	0.22	0.85
1922	21.39	11.22	86.12	0.67	2.31	0.78	0.32	1.13
1923	20.24	10.82	65.49	0.79	1.82	0.93	0.17	1.04
1924	20.19	10.12	74.79	0.41	1.87	0.67	0.17	1.20
1925	18.36	10.36	80.11	0.52	1.91	0.77	0.24	1.10
1926	18.35	10.39	65.86	0.37	1.88	0.79	0.10	1.26
1927	17.0	11.9	78.6	0.61	2.26	0.84	0.05	1.19
1928	17.1	10.0	63	0.28	1.52	0.69	0.10	1.11
1929	17.8	13.4	79.8	0.70	2.58	0.95	0.12	1.23
1930	18.0	10.4	66.4	0.41	1.17	0.67	0.11	1.28
1931	18.0	11.2	69.6	0.57	1.63	0.62	0.10	1.24
1932	15.2	10.5	78.4	0.23	1.36	0.52	0.09	1.53
1933	14.4	10.8	62.0	0.16	1.60	0.62	0.05	1.44
1934	15.7	10.6	56.9	0.22	1.60	0.57	0.14	1.20
1935	14.7	11.1	60.9	0.31	1.10	0.59	0.06	1.56
1936	15.5	10.5	59.9	0.18	1.60	0.54	0.02	1.47
1937	14.6	11.5	52.5	0.27	1.64	0.70	0.02	1.35
1938	15.3	11.0	62.2	0.25	1.28	0.70	0.10	1.59
1939	14.8	10.7	54.5	0.26	1.04	0.52	0.05	1.79
1940	15.3	14.0	41.9	0.14	2.72	0.61	0.07	1.86
1941	15.09	13.9	60.0	0.18	2.10	0.84	0.06	1.89
1942	17.2	12.0	54.5	0.16	1.81	0.70	0.08	1.92
1943	18.6	13.08	64.5	0.24	2.03	0.84	0.05	2.15
1944	20.6	12.2	45.0	0.26	1.14	0.80	0.07	2.05
1945	18.6	12.8	50.4	0.08	1.53	0.79	0.08	1.99

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

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

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1941	220	3.06	1	0.4
1942	150	2.07	—	—
1943	128	1.77	2	1.5
1944	132	1.83	—	—
1945	100	1.39	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

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

Year	Cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000 population	Number of deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1941	52	0.72	—	—
1942	47	0.64	2	4.2
1943	22	0.30	—	—
1944	44	0.61*	3	6.8
1945	42	0.58	5	11.9

The number of children immunised during the past two years is as follows:—

	1945	1944
Under five years of age	1,006	973
From five to fifteen years of age	480	606
Totals	1,486	1,579

At the 31st December, 1945, it was estimated that 51.88 per cent. of the child population under five, and 84.08 per cent. of children from five to fifteen were protected against diphtheria.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER.

No case of typhoid or paratyphoid fever was notified during the year.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Five cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified, and there were no deaths. During 1944 the number of cases was 4 with 2 deaths compared with 5 and 1 death in 1943.

WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES.

Whooping Cough and Measles were prevalent during 1945, showing an incidence higher than for the country as a whole.

	Cases Notified		Attack-rate per 1,000 population	
	1945	1944	1945	1944
Whooping Cough	230	164	3.21	2.27
Measles	807	222	11.26	3.08

SMETHWICK & OLDBURY JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

STATEMENT OF CASES ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

	Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1944.				Number of Cases Admitted during 1945				Cases Discharged, Died, or Transferred to other Institutions during 1945.				Number of Cases in Hospital on December 31st, 1945.			
	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 :																
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	1	3	4	35	42	3	4	35	42	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	15	15	...	...	15	15	...	...	1	1
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	...	...	7	7	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	6	6	...	...	7	7	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	1	2	...	3	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Streptococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Septic Rash ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
OLDBURY :																
Diphtheria ...	...	...	11	11	3	3	66	72	...	1	66	67	3	2	11	16
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5	...	1	3	4	...	...	1	1
Mumps ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	7	9	2	...	7	9	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
WEST MIDLANDS JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD :																
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	...	...	14	14	9	13	146	168	6	11	145	162	3	2	15	20

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													Cases removed 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		All ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and upwards
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	100	1	5	5	5	12	48	13	6	2	2	1	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	42	...	1	2	4	4	17	4	5	5	...	...	...	42	5	1	3	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	23	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	2	9	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Malaria	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	61	1	2	2	...	...	10	5	3	12	6	15	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Pneumonia	51	1	2	4	3	2	5	1	...	6	8	11	8	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	230	28	33	37	38	24	65	2	...	2	...	...	1	6	1	...	...	4	15	7	...
Measles	807	52	94	127	121	99	278	18	10	7	1	...	...	8	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	1341	92	139	177	171	141	426	44	26	45	20	39	21	80	37	2	1	3	9	15	7

TUBERCULOSIS.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The following table shows the notifications received and the attack rate with the deaths and death-rate for each year since the commencement of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912:—

	Notifications received :		Attack Rate per 1,000 of the population :		Deaths		Death rate	
	Pulmon-ary	Other forms	Pulmon-ary	Other forms	Pulmon-ary	Other forms	Pulmon-ary	Other forms
1913	318	50	4.3	0.68	64	20	0.87	0.27
1914	143	167	1.9	2.2	84	14	1.15	0.19
1915	229	103	3.1	1.4	79	15	1.09	0.21
1916	204	117	2.6	1.4	91	12	1.16	0.15
1917	206	126	2.6	1.6	103	6	1.31	0.07
1918	194	80	2.5	1.0	97	11	1.27	0.14
1919	260	60	3.5	0.8	87	9	1.19	0.12
1920	146	31	1.9	0.4	62	24	0.81	0.31
1921	88	14	1.1	0.18	53	17	0.68	0.22
1922	112	17	1.4	0.2	61	25	0.78	0.32
1923	80	18	1.02	0.2	73	14	0.93	0.17
1924	110	18	1.39	0.2	53	14	0.67	0.17
1925	74	24	0.9	0.3	61	19	0.77	0.24
1926	94	16	1.2	0.2	61	8	0.79	0.10
1927	87	38	1.1	0.49	65	4	0.84	0.05
1928	73	25	0.8	0.29	59	9	0.69	0.10
1929	108	34	1.2	0.4	81	11	0.95	0.12
1930	76	19	0.89	0.22	57	10	0.67	0.11
1931	80	29	0.93	0.33	53	9	0.62	0.10
1932	65	20	0.76	0.23	44	8	0.52	0.09
1933	55	16	0.64	0.19	53	5	0.62	0.05
1934	72	19	0.85	0.22	48	12	0.57	0.14
1935	95	19	1.15	0.23	49	5	0.59	0.06
1936	81	21	0.99	0.25	44	2	0.54	0.02
1937	77	4	0.95	0.04	57	2	0.70	0.02
1938	78	20	0.97	0.25	56	8	0.70	0.10
1939	89	15	1.11	0.19	40	4	0.52	0.05
1940	52	15	0.72	0.20	44	5	0.61	0.07
1941	83	10	1.15	0.14	61	5	0.84	0.06
1942	102	28	1.40	0.38	51	6	0.70	0.08
1943	92	20	1.27	0.27	61	4	0.84	0.05
1944	126	17	1.74	0.23	58	5	0.80	0.07
1945	151	26	2.1	0.37	57	6	0.79	0.08

The following table shows the total NEW CASES, i.e., all PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS and also NEW CASES coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health from the death returns, transfers from other areas, etc.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	1945				1944			
	Pulmonary.		Other forms.		Pulmonary.		Other forms.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5	—	—	2	3	2	—	2	2
5 to 10	3	4	1	1	2	4	1	2
10 to 15	2	5	2	4	2	1	2	2
15 to 20	6	11	—	3	6	3	—	2
20 to 25	16	13	—	2	6	13	1	—
25 to 35	16	15	2	2	22	11	2	3
35 to 45	18	7	—	—	14	6	1	—
45 to 55	14	8	—	1	15	7	—	—
55 to 65	13	8	1	1	16	2	—	—
65 upwards	5	2	1	2	1	3	—	—
TOTALS	93	73	10	19	86	50	9	11

The deaths from tuberculosis during 1945 and 1944 are shown as follows:—

AGE PERIODS.	1945				1944			
	Pulmonary		Other forms		Pulmonary		Other forms	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
1 to 5	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
5 to 15	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 45	18	15	—	—	22	16	—	1
45 to 65	13	5	1	—	13	3	—	—
65 upwards	3	1	—	1	1	2	—	—
TOTALS ...	36	21	3	3	37	21	2	3

The number of cases remaining on the Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1945 was 674, viz.:—

Pulmonary—Males ...	304	Non-Pulmonary—Males ...	57
Females ...	228	Females ...	85
	<u>532</u>		<u>142</u>

Attendances at the Chest Clinic were as under:—

	1945	1944
First examinations	733	793
Re-examinations	994	857
Consultations	1,346	1,287
Mantoux Tests	160	157
Artificial-pneumothorax	730	588
Gold Treatment	122	63
Artificial light treatment	1,900	795
Total attendances	<u>5,985</u>	<u>4,540</u>
Number of X-Ray examinations	1,494	1,457
Visits to patients at Home:—		
(a) By Health Visitor	1,028	1,350
(b) By Clinical T.O.	281	265
Patients admitted to Sanatoria	121	142
Patients discharged from Sanatoria	102	116
Patients died in Sanatoria	20	13
Patients remaining in Sanatoria at end of year	51	51

TABLES SHEWING ADMISSIONS to, and DISCHARGES from, SANATORIA during the Year 1945.

NAME OF INSTITUTION	Number of Cases in Sanatorium on January 1st, 1945.				Number of Cases admitted during 1945.				Cases discharged or transferred to the Chest Clinic.				Number of Cases in Sanatorium on December 31st, 1945.				Number of Deaths.	
	Males	Females	Children	Total	Males	Females	Children	Total	Males	Females	Children	Total	Males	Females	Children	Total	Males	Females
Holly Lane Hospital ...	7	3	...	10	22	15	...	37	22	14	...	36	...	...	...	...	7	4
Romsley Hill Sanatorium ...	9	2	..	11	30	26	...	56	28	20	...	48	8	7	...	15	3	1
Crossley Sanatorium, Cheshire ...	2	6	...	8	2	13	...	15	2	11	...	13	2	7	...	9	...	1
Creaton Sanatorium, N'thampton	9	3	...	12	6	4	...	10	10	3	...	13	4	4	...	8	1	...
Royal Nat. Sanatorium, Ventnor..	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	...	...
The Woodlands, Northfield ...	1	..	...	1	...	1	5	6	...	1	2	3	1	...	3	4	...	...
The Forelands, Bromsgrove ...	...	...	4	4	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	...	...
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital, Oswestry ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	..	...
Totals ...	28	14	4	46	63	60	8	131	62	49	2	113	18	19	10	47	11	6

Classification on admission to the Institution	Condition at time of discharge.	*Under 3 months.			3—6 months.			6—12 months.			More than 12 months.			Totals.			Grand Totals.
		M.		Ch.	M.		F.	Ch.	M.		F.	Ch.	M.		F.	Ch.	
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.																	
Class T.B. minus.	Quiescent ...	...	4	5	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	8	...	14
	Not quiescent ...	...	3	5	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	10	...	15
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Class T.B. Group 1.	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Not quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Class T.B. Group 2.	Quiescent ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Not quiescent ...	...	...	3	...	2	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	3	8	...	11
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Class T.B. Group 3.	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3
	Not quiescent ...	...	15	12	...	17	13	...	...	2	2	...	...	34	27	...	61
	Died in Institution	...	9	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	...	14
Totals (Pulmonary)		...	31	28	...	24	27	...	4	6	...	...	...	59	61	...	120
NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS																	
Bones and Joints.	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Not quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	7	1	...	8
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Not quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Organs.	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Not quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peripheral Glands	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Not quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals (Non-Pulmonary)		...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	1

*Note.—Patients whose stay in Residential Institutions has not exceeded 28 days are not included in this table.

RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARY DURING THE YEAR 1945.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				TOTAL.				Grand Total
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A. (1) Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the beginning of the Year	235	177	7	12	32	43	40	38	267	220	47	50	584
(2) Transfers from Authorities of areas outside that of the Council or Board during the Year	7	6	...	1	...	1	...	2	7	7	...	3	17
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. Number of New Cases diagnosed as tuberculous during the Year	35	34	5	5	...	...	...	...	35	34	5	5	79
(1) Class T.B. minus	41	26	...	1	...	...	...	...	41	26	...	1	68
(2) Class T.B. plus	...	...	...	...	1	8	5	4	1	8	5	4	18
(3) Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
C. Number of cases included in A. and B. written off the Dispensary Register during the Year as:—	3	6	...	...	3	2	1	1	6	8	1	1	16
(1) Recovered	36	23	...	1	1	2	4	1	37	25	4	2	68
(2) Dead (all causes)	13	8	...	1	...	...	...	1	13	8	...	2	23
(3) Removed to other Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(4) For other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
D. Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the end of the Year	266	206	12	17	33	48	43	43	299	254	55	60	668

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES.

	1 Jan., 1945	31 Dec., 1945
No. of cases on Register	36	27

No. of Allowances authorised during the year :

(a) Maintenance Allowances	...	...	...	...	34
(b) Discretionary Allowances	...	...	...	...	12
(c) Special Payments	...	...	...	...	3

No. of Allowances ceased during the year :

1. *Maintenance Allowances*—

(a) Resumed employment	...	...	...	...	25
(b) Out of Scope	...	...	...	...	18
(c) Died	...	...	...	...	2
(d) Left district	...	...	...	...	2
(e) No dependants—admitted to Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	9

2. *Discretionary Allowances*—

(a) Dependants income increased	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Resumed work	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Out of Scope	...	...	...	...	1

The amount of allowances paid—

	1944	1945
Maintenance allowance	£2,456 0 0	£2,666 9 6
Discretionary allowances	£37 0 0	£57 16 0
Special payments	£28 0 0	£16 4 0
	£2,521 0 0	£2,740 9 6

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

The following is an extract from the Return of Mental Defectives as on 1st January, 1946, submitted to the Board of Control:—

	M.	F.	Total
Number of cases in Institutions (excluding cases on licence)	31	27	58
Number of cases on licence from Institutions...	6	6	12
Number of cases under Guardianship ...	5	6	11
Number of cases in "places of safety" ...	4	2	6
Number of cases under Statutory Supervision	141	103	244
Number of cases in receipt of Poor Law Relief:—			
(a) In Institutions	1	2	3
(b) Domiciliary	8	5	13

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By arrangement, treatment is available for Smethwick patients at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the figures below are taken from the report received from the Medical Director of the V.D. Department:—

A.—Number of Smethwick patients dealt with at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

	1937	1938	1943	1944	1945
Syphilis	11	13	16	29	21
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	40	47	27	9	30
Conditions other than Venereal ...	49	70	116	96	80
	<u>100</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>131</u>

B.—Total number of attendances at the Out-patient Clinic of all persons residing in Smethwick ...

4,325 4,973 2,535 2,383 2,536

REGULATION 33 B.

Only two forms were received, and these related to two different women. One left the district before she could be traced, and the other was visited by a member of the nursing staff. The results of these latter visits were not very satisfactory, as the girl concerned was out of her mother's control, and only came home at irregular intervals.

In no case were two forms received relating to the same person.

INFESTATION.

There are at present 3 orderlies employed, one whole time at the Firs Clinic, and two part-time, one at the Firs Clinic, and the other at the Cape Clinic. There are 16 weekly sessions at the latter, and 3 at the former.

These ladies have been extremely helpful in reducing the incidence of lousiness, and have given excellent advice to mothers when attending the Clinics.

The attendants visit the schools with the Health Visitors, and when facilities permit, cleanse the children at the schools; otherwise they are cleansed at the Clinics.

During 1945 there were 20,546 children examined in the schools for cleanliness, of whom 1,577 were found unclean. Of these, 549 were treated at the Firs Clinic with 2,221 treatments, and 39 at the Cape Clinic with 407 treatments.

The large number of treatments per case is due in the main to re-infestation by a small number of regular offenders, who are well known to the departments officers, but who are more or less incorrigible.

The source of these infections is often the adult members of the families, but it is difficult to prove this is so, and in many cases where it is known treatment has been offered but it has been difficult to secure the necessary co-operation.

Baths are also given to the children when they visit the clinics in a filthy condition.

The number of children cleansed per session cannot really be estimated; the number fluctuates greatly, e.g., 80 may be cleansed one week, and 20 the next.

At the Firs Clinic lethane is being used for the cleansing of the children's heads. D.D.T. has been used, but the nurse reports that the best results appear to be with lethane.

At the Cape Clinic Pro-Scabin is being used with excellent results. The nurse claims that the nits are loosened and can be combed out more easily than after treatment with lethane.

Co-operation from the school teachers has been excellent, and the help they give is greatly appreciated. Many of the teachers, as soon as a verminous head is discovered, either ring up the Health Visitor, or even send or bring the child to the clinic to be treated at once.

With regard to the co-operation of parents, this has been good on the whole. There have been however, several cases where the mothers have strongly objected to their children being cleansed at the clinic; but after they have been dealt with they have left the clinic feeling satisfied that everything is being done in the interests of the child, and have promised to do better in the future.

ST. CHAD'S HOSPITAL.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE YEARS 1944 AND 1945.

(A) IN-PATIENTS.

	1945	1944
1. Total number of admissions (including infants born in Hospital)	2,774	2,820
2. Number of women confined in Hospital ...	562	639
3. Number of live births	561	627
4. Number of still-births	18	22
5. Number of deaths among the newly-born (i.e., under four weeks of age)	24	19
6. Total number of deaths among children under one year (including those given under 5) ...	29	31
7. Number of maternal deaths among women admitted to hospital for confinement ...	1	5
8. Total number of deaths	153	162
9. Total number of discharges (including infants born in Hospital)	2,617	2,634
10. Duration of stay of patients included in 8 and 9 above. Number of cases whose total stay was for the following periods:—		
(a) Under four weeks	2,418	2,473
(b) Four weeks and under thirteen weeks...	317	279
(c) Thirteen weeks or more	35	44
11. Number of beds occupied (excluding cots in maternity wards): average during the year...	125.3	125.9
12. Number of surgical operations under general anaesthetic (excluding dental operations)...	926	965

(B) OUT-PATIENTS.

There is at present no out-patient department in connection with St. Chad's Hospital.

CLASSIFICATION OF IN-PATIENTS WHO WERE DISCHARGED
FROM OR WHO DIED IN THE INSTITUTION DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

Disease Groups				Children under 16 years of age		Men and Women	
				Dis- charged	Died	Dis- charged	Died
A.	Acute Infectious Disease	...	...	4	—	8	1
B.	Influenza	...	...	—	—	—	—
C.	Tuberculosis :—						
	Pulmonary	...	...	5	—	29	4
	Non-pulmonary	...	...	4	2	5	2
D.	Malignant Disease	...	...	—	—	42	19
E.	Rheumatism :—						
	(1) Acute Rheumatisms (Rheu- matic Fever) together with sub-acute rheumatism and chorea	...	...	9	—	5	1
	(2) Non-articular manifestations of so-called "rheumatism" (muscular rheumatism, fib- rositis, lumbago and sciatica)	...	...	5	—	32	—
	(3) Chronic arthritis	...	...	—	—	7	—
F.	Venereal Disease	...	...	—	—	1	—
G.	Puerperal Pyrexia :—						
	(a) Women confined in Hospital	...	...	—	—	2	—
	(b) Other cases	...	...	—	—	—	—
H.	Other diseases and Accidents con- nected with pregnancy and childbirth	...	...	—	—	107	—
I.	Mental Diseases :—						
	(a) Senile Dementia	...	...	—	—	1	—
	(b) Other	...	...	—	—	—	—
J.	Senile Decay	...	...	—	—	—	—
K.	Accidental Injury and Violence	...	...	9	—	28	1
	In respect of cases not included above :—						
L.	Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	...	...	38	2	30	16
M.	Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	49	1	79	10
N.	Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	1	2	73	14
O.	Diseases of the Digestive System...	...	...	374	5	286	24
P.	Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	...	...	9	—	123	10
Q.	Diseases of the Skin	...	...	11	—	19	—
R.	Other Diseases	...	...	24	28	66	7
S.	Mothers and Infants discharged and not included in above figures :—						
	Mothers	...	...	—	—	560	—
	Infants	...	...	539	—	—	—
T.	Any persons not falling under any of the above headings	...	...	17	—	16	3
				1,098	40	1,519	113
				2,770			

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, 1945.

St. Chad's Hospital :—

Routine urine examinations	...	...	...	279
Urea clearance tests	...	...	...	11
Urea concentration tests	...	...	...	22
Zondeck-Asheim tests (sent out)	...	...	...	3
Urine for T.B.	...	...	...	6
Routine blood counts	...	...	...	413
Differential counts	...	...	...	73
Reticulocyte counts	...	...	...	11
Blood Cholesterol (sent out)	...	...	...	1
Widal examinations	...	...	...	23
Blood urea estimations	...	...	...	71
Blood sugar estimations	...	...	...	33
Blood groups (recorded)	...	...	...	38
Sedimentation rates	...	...	...	148
Van-den-Bergh reactions	...	...	...	7
Wassermann reactions (sent out)	...	...	...	30
Gonococcal fixation tests (sent out)	...	...	...	9
Kahn reactions	...	...	...	18
Bleeding and clotting times	...	...	...	3
Blood chloride estimations	...	...	...	3
Blood Cultures	...	...	...	14
Blood protein estimation	...	...	...	1
Faeces Occult blood	...	...	...	65
Faeces for Typhoid-dysentery	...	...	...	53
Faeces for T.B.	...	...	...	18
Test meals	...	...	...	62
Sheep Cell agglutination tests	...	...	...	2
Rhesus reactions	...	...	...	2
Nose and Throat swabs	...	...	...	55
Swabs for K.L.B.	...	...	...	10
Vaginal swabs	...	...	...	61
Other swabs for bacteriology	...	...	...	127
Penicillin sensitivity tests	...	...	...	9
C.S.F. routine examinations	...	...	...	82
C.S.F. for W.R. (sent out)	...	...	...	18
C.S.F. Lange	...	...	...	5
Peritoneal or Pleural fluids	...	...	...	27
Sputum for T.B.	...	...	...	92
Sputum for Bact. or vaccine	...	...	...	24
Streptococcal groups (Lancefield)	...	...	...	1
Blood fragility	...	...	...	1
Laboratory examinations for sick or new staff	...	...	...	54
Post Mortem examinations	...	...	...	68
Surgical sections	...	...	...	202

2,255

Holly Lane Hospital :—

Sputum for T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	37
Pleural fluid examinations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Swabs for Bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	4
Routine urine examinations	...	...	...	...	...	2
Faeces for T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swabs for K.L.B.	...	...	...	...	...	68
Laboratory examination for sick staff	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood culture	...	...	...	...	...	1
Penicillin sensitivity	...	...	...	...	...	1
Post Mortem examinations	...	...	...	...	...	1
						123

Chest Clinic :—

Swabs for Bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sputum for T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	25
Urine for T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pleural fluids	...	...	...	...	...	4
Routine urine examinations	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sedimentation rate	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood counts	...	...	...	...	...	1
Differential count	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kahn reaction	...	...	...	...	...	1
						58

"The Hollies"

Sedimentation rates	...	...	...	...	...	12
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

School Clinics :—

Routine urine examinations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood counts	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sedimentation rates	...	...	...	...	...	21
Widal examinations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sheep Cell Agglutination test	...	...	...	...	...	1
						31

Ante-natal Clinics (THE FIRS) :—

Vaginal swabs	...	...	...	...	...	8
Blood counts	...	...	...	...	...	5
Kahn reactions	...	...	...	...	...	159
Rhesus reactions	...	...	...	...	...	154
Blood groups	...	...	...	...	...	154
Differential count	...	...	...	...	...	1
						481

Ante-natal Clinics (CAPE)— continued :—

Blood counts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Differential count	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kahn reactions	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Rhesus reactions	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Bloods groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
							187

Adoption Cases :—

Kahn reactions	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Wassermann reactions (sent out)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							27

Public Health Department :—

Faeces for Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Widal examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							8

General Practitioners :—

Blood counts	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Faeces for Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							5

TOTAL SPECIMENS FROM ALL SOURCES—3,187.

The work of the laboratory has steadily increased during the past 12 months, and it will be seen that many of the health centres of the Borough are now availing themselves of the service offered by the laboratory; this should be encouraged.

In 1944, 118 specimens were examined from outside sources, but in 1945, 725 such specimens have been received. The issue of Penicillin continues to be controlled by the laboratory, and its increased usage has met with excellent results. The transfusion service continues with close collaboration with the regional transfusion laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Cant.

(Signed) C. W. TAYLOR.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

General :—

St. Chad's Hospital, situated in Hagley Road, Birmingham, contains 147 beds for the reception of medical, surgical, maternity and gynaecological patients.

Tuberculosis :—

Holly Lane Hospital, Smethwick. 20 beds for advanced and chronic cases.

Romsley Hill Sanatorium, near Halesowen. (Birmingham Corporation). 17 beds reserved for Smethwick patients.

For Surgical Tuberculosis. Cases are sent to "The Woodlands," Northfield and "The Forelands," Bromsgrove.

Maternity :—

There are 27 beds for maternity cases at the Council's Municipal Hospital.

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

Children :—

The Council has an arrangement with the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, for the treatment of children. Most of the Smethwick children are, however, treated at St. Chad's Hospital.

Fever :—

Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick (total 98 beds). All types of infectious diseases are now treated.

Smallpox :—

South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital, Moxley, near Wednesbury.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

*Infant Welfare Centres :—*There are seven Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough, and sessions are held as stated below :—

The "Firs," Cooper's Lane	...	Monday/Thursday	2—4 p.m.
The Cape, Durban Road	...	Tuesday	2—4 p.m.
		Wednesday	9—11 a.m.
Sandwell, St. Stephens Church Hall			
Cambridge Road	...	Wednesday	2—4 p.m.
Oldbury Road, Oldbury Road			
Schools	...	Friday	2—4 p.m.
Warley, St. Gregory's Church Hall,			
Wigorn Road	...	Friday	2—4 p.m.
Bearwood Baptist Hall, Rawlings			
Road	...	Monday	2—4 p.m.
Londonderry, Community Hall,			
Hurst Road	...	Tuesday/Thursday	2—4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out at all the above Centres.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Held at the Firs Clinic, Cooper's Lane as stated below :—

Monday	9—11 a.m.
Tuesday	2—3 p.m.
Wednesday	9—11 a.m.
Wednesday	2—3 p.m.
Friday	9—11 a.m.

Cape Clinic, as stated below :—

Tuesday	9—11 a.m.
Thursday	9—11 a.m.
Thursday	2—3 p.m.

Post-Natal Clinic.

Held at the "Firs" Clinic, Cooper's Lane as stated below :—

	Friday	9—11 a.m.
Cape Clinic, Durban Road	... Monday	9—11 a.m.

Chest Clinic.

Held at the "Firs" Clinic, Coopers Lane :

	Monday	6—8 p.m.
	Wednesday	2—4 p.m.
Thursday—Treatment Clinic only		
(Refills) no new cases seen ...	Friday	2—4 p.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinics.

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham. Daily, except Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.—12 noon, and 5—7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.—12 noon.

School Clinics.

Two School Clinics are provided, one at the Cape Clinic, Durban Road, and one at the "Firs" Clinic, Cooper's Lane. The days and times of attendance are as follows :—

"Firs" Clinic :

Inspection Clinic		Tuesday	9-30—12 noon
Treatment Clinic		Monday	9-30—12 noon
		Tuesday	9-30—12 noon
		Wednesday	9-30—12 noon
		Thursday	9-30—12 noon
		Friday	9-30—12 noon
Eye Clinic		Monday	2—5 p.m.
		Thursday	2—5 p.m.

Cape Clinic, Durban Road :

Inspection Clinic		Friday	9-30—12 noon
Treatment Clinic		Monday	2—5 p.m.
		Tuesday	2—5 p.m.
		Thursday	2—5 p.m.
Skin Inspection Clinic		Wednesday	2—5 p.m.
Skin Treatment Clinic		Monday	9-30—12 noon
		Tuesday	9-30—12 noon
		Wednesday	9-30—12 noon
		Thursday	9-30—12 noon
		Friday	2—5 p.m.

Dental Clinics.

Held at the "Firs" Cooper's Lane, and at Cape Clinic, Durban Road, as stated below:—

The "Firs." Daily—9-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m. and 2—5 p.m. (except Monday and Wednesday afternoons).

Cape Clinic, Durban Road. Daily—9-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m. and 2—5 p.m. (except Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, and alternate Friday mornings).

Ultra-Violet Radiation Clinic:—

The "Firs," Cooper's Lane—Wednesday morning and Friday morning.

X-Ray Examination:—

At the "Firs" Clinic by appointment.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

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.

Midwives.

Thirteen midwives reside in the Borough, and a total of 13 notified their intention to practise in the area during the year.

Chemical Work.

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

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Cases: Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital Committee have two Motor Ambulances, which are kept at the Isolation Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick. (Telephone: Smethwick 0159).

For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: 5 Ambulances are kept at the Borough Ambulance Depot, Highway Garage, Londonderry. Telephone: Smethwick 0673 or Fire Station, Rolfe Street.

Other Institutions available for the District:

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham (Central 8611).

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

Queen's Hospital, Bath Row, Birmingham (Midland 2327).

Out-patients' Department open daily at 9 a.m. (except Sundays).

Children's Hospital, Ladywood Road, Birmingham (Edgbaston 2957).

For children under 12 years of age. Daily from 1-30—2-30 p.m. (except Saturdays and Sundays).

Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham (Victoria 1101).

Out-patients' Department, Upper Priory, Birmingham. Daily (except Saturdays and Sundays) from 1 p.m.

Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham (Central 6711).

Out-patients' Department open daily from 9—10 a.m. (except Sunday).

Skin and Urinary Hospital, John Bright Street, Birmingham (Midland 5921). Out-patients' Department open daily from 1-30 p.m. to 3 p.m. (except Saturday and Sunday).

Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Edmund Street, Birmingham (Central 6576). Out-patients' Department open daily 9-30—11 a.m. (except Saturdays and Sundays).

Royal Cripples' Hospital, Broad Street, Birmingham (Midland 3804). Out-patients' Department open daily (except Friday, Saturday and Sunday), from 1-30—2-30 p.m.

Dental Hospital, Great Charles Street, Birmingham (Central 3456). Daily from 9—10-15 a.m. (except Sunday).

Midland Hospital, Easy Row, Birmingham (Central 1421). Out-patients' Department open daily 9—10-30 a.m., afternoon appointments only (except Sunday).

Maternity Hospital, Loveday Street, Birmingham (Aston Cross 2508). Out-patient's are seen on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 a.m., and Tuesday and Friday at 1-30 p.m.

The Birmingham General Dispensary has a branch at Cape Hill, Smethwick (Telephone No. Sme. 0659), 2—4 p.m. daily (except Wednesday and Sunday).

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945.

CAUSE OF DEATH	0-1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-2 m'ths	2-3 m'ths	3-4 m'ths	4-5 m'ths	5-6 m'ths	6-7 m'ths	7-8 m'ths	8-9 m'ths	9-10 m'ths	10-11 m'ths	11-12 m'ths	Total
Anencephalus	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miliary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toxic Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Uraemia	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	7
Broncho-pneumonia	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Harelip and Cleft Palate	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Spina Bifida	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malf. of Heart	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Haemorrhagic Disease of New-born	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congen. Debility & Marasmus	...	...	1	1	2	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Premature Birth	20	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Atelectasis	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Asphyxia (Violent Death)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Intra-cranial Haemorrhage	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTALS :—	32	2	2	4	40	8	3	1	5	3	2	3	2	...	...	...	67

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1945.

BIRTHS.

The number of births notified during the past five years under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by transferred notifications, was as follows:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Live Births	1,058	1,254	1,343	1,501	1,293
Stillbirths	26	37	46	43	38
	<u>1,084</u>	<u>1,291</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>1,544</u>	<u>1,331</u>

Comparison with the returns of the local Registrar shows that very few births escape notification.

HEALTH VISITING.

The Council employs a Superintendent and thirteen health visitors who are also School nurses, the equivalent of seven whole-time visitors being engaged in Maternity and Child Welfare work. The number of visits paid during the two years was:—

	1945	1944
(i) To Expectant Mothers	First Visits 564	879
	Total Visits 1,220	1,762
(ii) To Children under one year of age...	First Visits 1,286	1,439
	Total Visits 4,887	5,827
(iii) To Children between one and five years of age	Total Visits 7,159	8,550

The total number of visits paid by the health visitors during the past six years is as follows:—

1940	23,507	1943	30,033
1941	26,981	1944	24,730
1942	26,349	1945	21,572

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council is seven, with ten sessions weekly; the total attendances during the past five years was:—

	Under 1 year	1—5 years	Total
1941	13,760	6,968	20,728
1942	17,675	6,459	24,134
1943	20,119	7,094	27,213
1944	20,765	6,584	27,349
1945	20,903	5,729	26,632

	Under 1 year	1—5 years	1945	1944
Number of children attending for the first time	...	...	1,108	1,348
	...	...	258	339
		Total	<u>1,366</u>	<u>1,687</u>
Number of children on the registers at end of year:	Under 1 year	...	959	1,229
	1—5 years	...	1,837	1,851
		Total	<u>2,796</u>	<u>3,080</u>

The number of children under one who attended for the first time equalled 87.5 per cent. of the notified births in 1944 and 83.2 per cent. in 1945.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	1945	1944
Number of cases notified	8	9
Cases treated by health visitors	—	—
Number of cases notified	3	9
Cases resulting in impaired vision	—	—
Home visits	13	48

Notifications during the past ten years:—

1936	23	1941	14
1937	9	1942	8
1938	14	1943	8
1939	5	1944	9
1940	6	1945	8

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

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

1920	42	1933	3,771
1921	107	1934	4,312
1922	127	1935	5,169
1923	241	1936	5,044
1924	275	1937	5,201
1925	537	1938	6,226
1926	1,015	1939	6,739
1927	1,079	1940	6,336
1928	1,465	1941	7,221
1929	2,253	1942	8,526
1930	3,760	1943	8,988
1931	3,859	1944	10,093
1932	3,509	1945	7,452

During 1944, 1,617 individual women attended the clinic, during 1945 the number was 1,455.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Individual patients attending ...	266	394	352	500	474
Percentage of notified births ...	24	30	26	32	35
Total attendance	844	1,054	996	1,345	1,255

Care of Premature Infants.

During the year 1945 notification was received of 108 babies who weighed 5½-lbs. or less at birth. Of these 32 were born at home, and 76 in hospital. 30 of those born at home survived at the end of one month; none died during the first 24 hours. Of the babies born in hospital 59 survived at the end of one month, and 10 died during the first 24 hours.

Special provision is made for the conveyance by ambulance of premature infants, to hospital.

The follow-up of infants discharged from hospital is secured through the Obstetrics Officer in St. Chad's Hospital, who is also Medical Supervisor of Midwives, and who, as a member of the Public Health Department, is also in close touch with the Health Visitors whom he instructs.

Care of Illegitimate Children.

The Council has an arrangement with the Smethwick Branch of the Birmingham Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare, and makes a financial grant. The local authority and Diocesan Council work very closely together, and the scheme provides for complete liaison.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Number of bookings	665	773	729	796	602
Ante-natal visits	2,918	3,892	4,123	3,426	3,596
Cases attended	559	642	664	716	588
Nursing Visits	12,894	13,987	15,415	14,437	12,959

The number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during 1944 was 240 and during 1945, 155. These figures are in connection with domiciliary cases and include municipal and independent midwives.

MATERNITY TREATMENT.

From the 1st April, 1935, maternity cases were received in St. Chad's Hospital, and the following extracts from the return made to the Ministry of Health relate to the year ended, 31st December, 1945.

Number of maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds)	...	...	...	27
Number of maternity cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	565
Number of expectant mothers admitted during the year	...	...	...	52
Average duration of stay (maternity cases)—days	...	...	...	14.45
Average duration of stay (expectant mothers)	...	...	...	5.79
Number of cases delivered by—				
(a) Midwives	...	...	...	519
(b) Doctors	...	...	...	43
Number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2
Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	...	...	—
Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution:—				
Supplementary feed	...	...	...	90
Complementary feed	...	...	...	121
Wholly breast-fed	...	...	...	388
Number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—
Number of Maternal deaths	...	...	...	1
Cause of death:—				
Heart attack and Pulmonary Embolism	...	...	...	...
Number of Infant deaths:—				
(i) Still-born	...	...	...	18
(ii) Within 10 days of birth	...	...	...	20
Causes of death:—				
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	1
Haemorrhagic disease of the new-born	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	12
Prematurity Abnormal Labour	...	...	...	1
Anencephalic	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	2

Maternal Deaths.

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

1944 (1) Sepsis — (2) Other causes 6.

1945 (1) Sepsis 2 (2) Other causes 1.

The Maternity mortality rate for the past twenty years was:—

1925	4.1	1932	5.4	1939	3.4
1926	3.5	1933	3.2	1940	2.6
1927	3.0	1934	5.3	1941	2.7
1928	4.2	1935	3.3	1942	3.9
1929	5.2	1936	2.3	1943	2.1
1930	4.5	1937	2.5	1944	3.9
1931	1.9	1938	3.3	1945	2.1

The rate for England and Wales was 1.46 for 1945 and 1.93 for 1944.

Child Life Protection.

Ten individual foster mothers are registered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1939, and at the end of the year each had one child in her care. The Health Visitors act as the Child Protection Visitors.

Adoption of Children.

During the year 43 persons gave notice under section 7 (3) of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939. Supervision is given by the Child Protection Visitor and at the end of the year, 14 children remained on the register.

Home Helps and Domestic Help.

One full-time Home Help was employed during the year, and assisted five cases. The Domestic Help scheme was put into operation in September, 1945; 21 applications for the help were received, and 7 of these cases were assisted.

The Department is experiencing very great difficulty in securing suitable women to act as Domestic Helps, and at the time of writing this report only one whole-time is available.

Day Nurseries.

The first War-time Nursery, which was established at "The Hollies" in January, 1941, was closed at the end of September, 1945, to enable the institution to resume its peace-time activities, i.e., the care of rheumatic, marasmic, and other weakly children. The remaining four nurseries continued throughout the year, and as the following table shows, there was little slackening in the demand. At the time of writing the nursery at Holly Lane is closing, the children remaining on the register being transferred to other nurseries.

The total attendances during 1945 was 46,741, a daily average (excluding Saturday) of 196. The number of individual children at present on the register is 198.

Nursery	Number of Places	Total Attendances 1945	Average daily Attendances
1. The Hollies (closed 30/9/45) ...	50	6,749	36
2. Brasshouse Lane (opened 12/1/42)	60	11,385	46
3. Holly Lane (opened 13/4/42) ...	33	6,254	25
4. Edgbast n Road (opened 22/6/42)	60	14,715	59
5. Norman Road (opened 14/12/42)	40	7,638	31

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

I beg to submit my report on the Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1945. Although hostilities ceased well before the end of the year under review, this is still a war-time report, since the conditions militating against full efficiency continued, and indeed worsened, right up to the end of the year. The report is in the attenuated form prescribed by the Ministry of Health for war-time annual reports.

In each report since 1940 I have drawn attention to the inevitable deterioration in the sanitary condition and state of general repair of working-class house property, and I have also made a number of special reports to the Council on the same subject. This steady deterioration is reflected in the complaint rate. Whereas in pre-war years the number of complaints received averaged about 800, the number in 1943 was 1,015, in 1944 it rose to 1,422 and in the year under review, 1945 it had reached 1,480, the highest number ever recorded.

The total visits paid by Sanitary Inspectors for all purposes was 12,599 and (except for the year 1944 when the number rose to 15,696) this is higher than in any other war year. The high figure for 1944 is accounted for by the fact that throughout that year I had three district Inspectors who were able to devote practically the whole of their time to public health work; also extended hours of duty were in operation throughout the year.

Staff.

In October, 1945, Mr. B. J. Davies, District Sanitary Inspector, left the service of the Council, having obtained an appointment with the Gipping Rural District. The Health Committee tried, without success, to replace this Inspector, and the position is still vacant at the time of writing this report—July, 1946.

Conclusion.

I wish to express grateful thanks to my deputy, Mr. F. Caddick, and to District Inspector, Mr. S. Sadler, who, between them, have throughout most of the period of the war, done their best to keep going the duties normally assigned to four men, and in addition have rendered valuable services to the Civil Defence organisation of the town.

I gratefully acknowledge the support I have received throughout the year from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, from the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paul, and from the officials of all other departments.

JOHN H. WRIGHT,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The total number of visits paid to all premises for all purposes was 12,599 compared with 15,696 in the year 1944. These inspections are summarised in the following table:—

TABLE I.

Housing Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	25
Housing Act Re-visits	...	...	...	...	221
Housing Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	35
Inspections on Complaint	...	...	...	...	2,071
Re-visits re Notices served	...	...	...	...	5,589
Inspections re Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	...	608
Re-visits re Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	...	784
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	229
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	27
Meat and Food Shops	...	...	...	...	257
Meat Regulations	...	...	...	...	6
Private Slaughtering	...	...	...	...	84
Markets Inspected	...	...	...	...	45
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	70
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	38
Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	314
Factories	...	...	...	...	50
Pigsties	...	...	...	...	53
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	...	...	...	...	1,146
Insect Pests and Vermin	...	...	...	...	34
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	51
Visits re Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	62
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	15
Visits re Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	4
Visits re Waste Water Closet Conversions	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	739
Total					12,599

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS.

The following table gives a summary of the various defects encountered in the course of visits paid to all types of premises, together with the number of defects remedied under each heading:—

TABLE II.

	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Dirty Premises	261	260
Defective roofs, spouting and eaves gutters ...	557	426
Blocked drains and W.C's.	137	135
Defective yard and passage surfaces	10	13
Defective sinks and waste pipes	51	36
Accumulations of offensive matter	9	8
Defective plaster of walls and ceiling	513	358
Defective ashbins	489	513
Defective water closets	205	177
Rats and Mice infestations	38	25
Insufficient lighting and ventilation	74	53
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	2	2
Defective water fittings	49	24
Smoke nuisances	2	—
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	1	—
Houses without sinks	2	—
Dampness	138	98
Insufficient water supply	38	27
Insect pests and vermin infestations	20	15
Defective or insufficient drainage	22	22
Inadequate food storage accommodation	3	—
Inadequate coal storage accommodation	2	—
Insufficient means of heating	1	—
Defective or inadequate washboiler accommodation	67	61
Defective external brickwork and chimneys ...	159	91
Defective floors	149	113
Defective firegrates	98	68
Defective stairs and rails	23	19
Defective rain water cisterns	2	—
Defective woodwork of windows, doors, etc. ...	192	180
Insufficient cooking arrangement	2	1
Miscellaneous defects	107	80
Total	3,423	2,805

WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is supplied with water by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The quality and quantity have been well maintained. Derived from deep boreholes through red sandstone, the water has a hardness of 16 to 17 parts in 100,000.

There are now only 1.1 per cent. of houses in the town sharing a common water supply. The position with regard to water is set out below:—

	Houses	Population	Percentage
Internal water supply ...	20,346	69,175	95.9
Separate outdoor supply ...	625	2,125	3.0
Communal water supply ...	247	840	1.1

PROSECUTIONS.

Legal proceedings were instituted in thirteen cases against owners of property for non-compliance with Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances. In six of these cases the summonses were withdrawn, the

work required being completed or in hand before the date of the hearing. In the remaining seven cases the Magistrates made Orders for the execution of the work required and these Orders were complied with.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN THE OWNERS DEFAULT.

In certain cases the Corporation is empowered to comply with the terms of notices served upon owners of property in case of the owners default and without reference to the Courts.

During the year the Corporation have executed work and charged the owners with the cost thereof in the following cases:—

- (1) Cleansing or repair of blocked or defective drains and repairs to defective W.C's. under Section 49 of the Smethwick Corporation Act. ... 47 cases.
- (2) The supply of galvanised iron ashbins with covers ... 120 cases.
- (3) The execution of maintenance repairs under the Housing Act, 1936 ... 1 case.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

During the year five samples of milk were submitted to the University of Birmingham Public Health Laboratory for biological examination for the detection of tubercle bacilli. All five samples gave negative results.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination, viz., 153, is the highest for many years. The results of the examinations are summarised in the following table:—

TABLE III.

Type of Milk	No. of Samples	Tests Applied	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	... 51	Plate Count	31	18
		Phosphatase	47	—
		Methylene Blue	27	24
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	... 45	Plate Count	18	26
		Phosphatase	40	1
		Methylene Blue	20	25
Tuberculin Tested	... 13	Methylene Blue	4	9
		Coliform	6	7
Heat Treated	... 2	Phosphatase	2	—
		Methylene Blue	—	2
Sterilized	... 34	Phosphatase	34	—
		Methylene Blue	34	—
Raw	... 8	Plate Count	8	—
		Methylene Blue	8	—
		Coliform	5	3

Summary of Percentages

Milk examined for Bacterial Count—43.6 per cent. unsatisfactory

Milk examined for efficiency of heat treatment (Phosphatase)—8 per cent. unsatisfactory.

Milk examined for keeping quality (Methylene Blue)—39.2 per cent. unsatisfactory.

(b) *Other Foods.*

The articles of food which it has been found necessary to condemn for diseased or unsound conditions are summarised in the table below. In all cases the food was surrendered and destroyed or was disposed of as to prevent its use for human food. The total weight of condemned material was 25 tons 2 cwts. 11 lbs. 7 ozs., compared with 3 tons 2qrs. 15 lbs. 10 ozs. in the previous year. The principal reasons for this year's high figure were two consignments of Rye Meal weighing 15 tons 2cwts. which were in a state of fermentation due to damage by water and 5 tons of Pea Pickings, included under the heading vegetables in the table, which were attacked by grubs.

TABLE IV.

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat	...	...	1	0	1	2	9
Fish	...	...	—	12	3	5	2
Vegetables	...	...	5	13	0	5	0
Fruit	...	...	—	18	0	6	6
Fats	...	...	—	—	3	2	1
Canned Milk	...	...	1	2	1	17	2
Biscuits	...	...	—	—	2	16	0
Cheese	...	...	—	—	2	0	2
Flour	...	...	—	1	3	5	0
Sugar	...	...	—	6	0	19	4
Tea	...	...	—	1	1	1	0
Sweets	...	...	—	—	3	4	11
Salt	...	...	—	1	0	5	8
Vinegar	...	...	—	—	—	11	10
Eggs	...	...	—	—	—	17	0
Rye Meal	...	...	15	2	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	—	—	1	5	—
			25	2	0	11	7

HOME REARED PIGS SLAUGHTERED FOR HUMAN
CONSUMPTION ON PRIVATE PREMISES.

The following table shows the number of pigs slaughtered and inspected, together with a statement as to the amount and nature of disease encountered in such pigs.

TABLE V.

Number of pigs killed	...	...	...	...	...	118
Number of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	118
Number found diseased:—						
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis:—						
(i) Whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	...	...	3
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	6
(iii) Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	7.64
(b) Tuberculosis only:—						
(i) Whole carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	3
(iii) Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3.39

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY OF ARTICLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS SUBMITTED
TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST AND THE RESULTS OF THE
ANALYSES.

Article Analysed					Total Samples	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	...	...	...	...	97	96	1
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	...	27	27	—
Semolina	...	...	...	...	5	5	—
Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
Mixed Spice	...	...	...	...	6	6	—
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Glycerine	...	...	...	...	6	6	—
Cough Mixture	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Mustard	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Salt	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Saccharine	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Aspirins	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Syrup of Figs	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Indian Brandee	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Backache Pills	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Gravy Salt	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	7	5	2
Zinc Ointment	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Boracic Ointment	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
Petroleum Jelly	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
Indian Cerate	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Vapour Rub	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Corn Paste	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Cod Liver Oil in Chocolate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Flour	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Egg Substitute	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Sugar	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Kruschen Salts	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
Ice Cream Powder	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Flavourings	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Coffee Extract	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Chocolate Spread	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pea Flour	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Chocolate Cup	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Beer	...	...	...	...	9	9	—
Sulphur Ointment	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
					223	211	12

**Cause of Deaths at different Periods of Life in the
County Borough of Smethwick, 1945.**

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex	All Ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
ALL CAUSES		M	485	41	4	8	48	137	247
		F	432	26	2	5	48	107	244
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	...	M	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
		F	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
6. Tuberculosis and Respiratory System ...	...	M	36	1	1	—	18	13	3
		F	21	—	—	—	15	5	1
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	M	3	—	—	2	—	1	—
		F	3	1	—	1	—	—	1
8. Syphilitic Disease	...	M	4	—	—	—	—	3	1
		F	4	—	—	—	—	3	1
9. Influenza	...	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
10. Measles	...	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
12. Acute Infections Encephalitis	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M), Uterus (F)	...	M	8	—	—	—	—	2	6
		F	6	—	—	—	1	2	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	M	9	—	—	—	1	3	5
		F	12	—	—	—	2	4	6
15. Cancer of Breast	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	13	—	—	—	4	6	3
16. Cancer of all other Sites	...	M	53	—	—	—	3	16	34
		F	42	—	—	—	8	12	22
17. Diabetes	...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
		F	3	—	—	—	—	1	2
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	M	47	—	—	—	1	10	36
		F	53	—	—	—	—	12	41
19. Heart Disease	...	M	118	—	—	—	5	26	87
		F	117	—	—	1	4	19	93
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	M	16	—	—	—	1	3	12
		F	18	—	—	—	—	3	15
21. Bronchitis	...	M	39	1	—	—	3	18	17
		F	28	1	—	—	—	11	16
22. Pneumonia	...	M	21	6	—	—	2	10	3
		F	14	2	1	—	2	5	4
23. Other Respiratory Diseases... ..	...	M	4	—	—	—	1	1	2
		F	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	...	M	15	—	—	—	—	10	5
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
25. Diarrhoea under two years	...	M	6	6	—	—	—	—	—
		F	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	...	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
		F	4	—	—	1	—	2	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	M	11	—	1	—	1	4	5
		F	14	1	—	—	2	4	7
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	M	5	1	—	—	—	2	2
		F	13	—	—	—	1	7	5
29. Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	...	F	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	...	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Premature Birth... ..	...	M	10	10	—	—	—	—	—
		F	10	10	—	—	—	—	—
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	M	11	11	—	—	—	—	—
		F	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
33. Suicide	...	M	5	—	—	—	1	2	2
		F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
34. Road-Traffic Accidents	...	M	6	—	1	2	—	1	2
		F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
35. Other Violent Causes	...	M	6	—	—	1	2	3	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
36. All other Causes	...	M	43	3	1	1	9	7	22
		F	24	—	—	1	3	3	17