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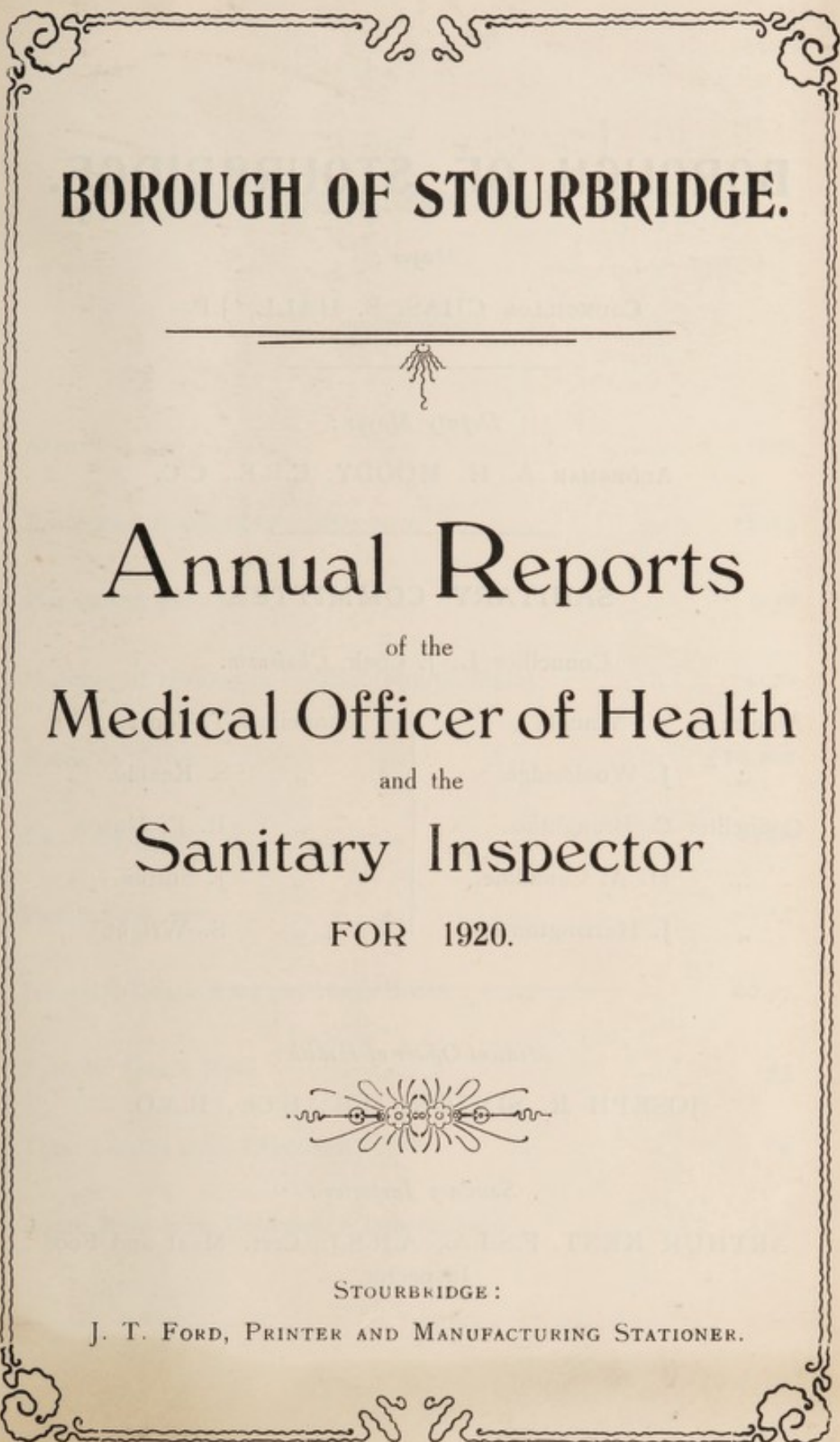
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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.



Annual Reports
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Sanitary Inspector
FOR 1920.



STOURBRIDGE :
J. T. FORD, PRINTER AND MANUFACTURING STATIONER.

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR CHAS. S. HALL, J.P.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN A. H. MOODY, C.B.E., C.C.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Councillor L. J. Cook, *Chairman.*

Alderman W. Waugh.	Councillor T. Jones.
„ J. Wooldridge.	„ S. Keeble.
Councillor C Broughton.	„ B. F. Mason.
„ H. A. Canadine.	„ J. Sutton.
„ J. Harrington.	„ S. Wright.

Medical Officer of Health :

JOSEPH R. SINTON, M.B., B.Ch, B.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector :

ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food
Inspector.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1920.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	1920
Estimated Population middle 1920			...	...	18013
Population per acre		...	...	...	9'38
Number of Houses in District (approximate)				...	4176
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£69,282
Birth Rate, net	...	...	...	...	23'48
Death Rate, net	...	...	...	...	12'15
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births			...	...	80'37
Zymotic Death Rate		...	...	...	'55
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis				...	1'05

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH

VITAL STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Third Annual Report of the health and vital statistics relating to the district for the year 1920.

Area.

The area of the District is 1920 acres, and is sub-divided as follows:—

Stourbridge	...	...	453 acres.
Wollaston	...	...	476 „
Upper Swinford	...	...	991 „

Population.

The population, according to the census of 1911, was 17,316 for the entire district, the population of the sub-districts being :—

Stourbridge	...	...	...	776
Wollaston	...	...	...	3,090
Upper Swinford	...	...	...	3,450

Estimated Population.

The estimated population at the middle of 1920 is 18,013 being 32 less than the estimated population at the middle of 1919.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The Town rises from the River Stour, which is the boundary of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and is on the north side of the Town. The height above sea level at the River Boundary is 216 feet rising to 326 feet at the Borough Boundary adjoining Bromsgrove Rural District at Upper Swinford. The highest point in the Borough being 406 feet above sea level.

The Subsoil, excepting a portion of the district on the North side, is red sand stone.

The town is principally residential. On the South and West sides there is open Country.

The principal trades carried on are Ironworks, the manufacture of spades, shovels, chains, anvils, and frost cogs, fire bricks, gas retorts, earthenware baths and sinks, skin rugs, and chamois leather ; galvanising works. A few domestic nail shops still exist.

The Borough own the Gasworks, which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, also, in conjunction with the Urban Districts of Amblecote, Lye and Wollescote, are owners of the Water undertaking.

No particular diseases are attributable to the occupations carried on in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

There were 423 births registered belonging to this district, of which 218 were males and 205 females.

20 of the births were illegitimate children (16 males, 4 females).

The Birth Rate was 23·48.

The percentage of illegitimate children to total births is 4·72.

The Birth Rate last year was the lowest recorded, viz. :—16·90.

The previous births and birth rates were as follows :—

		Births.		Birth Rate.
1919	...	305	...	16·90
1918	...	321	...	17·69
1917	...	320	...	17·59
1916	...	366	...	20·52
1915	...	382	...	23·07

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1920 is 25·4.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 181. (89 males and 92 females).

The death rate for 1920 was 10·04.

There were, however, 38 deaths of persons (30 males, 8 females) residents of this Borough, occurring outside the district, which for statistical purposes have to be included in the death rate for this District. These deaths occurred as follows :—

	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Ttl.
The Union, Wordsley	... 11	... 4	... 1	... 16
Corbett Hospital ...	... 5	... 1	... 1	... 7
Bethnal House, Bethnal Green	1	... 0	... 0	... 1
Taylor Home, Sparkhill	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1
Garston, Liverpool	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1
Kidderminster ...	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1
Canal, Amblecote'...	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1

	Stourbridge		Wollaston.		Upper Swinford.		Ttl.
County Lunatic Asylum, Broms- grove	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
Canal, Wordsley	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
H.M. Prison, Winson Green ...	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
Ashton-under-Lyne	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
Hayley Green Infectious Dis. Hospital	1	...	1	...	0	...	2
Private Hospital, Birmingham	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
General Hospital, Birmingham	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
County Lunatic Asylum, Powick	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
Stourport	1	...	0	...	0	...	1
	—		—		—		—
Total	30		6		2		38
	—		—		—		—

Thus making the total deaths belonging to the district 219, and giving a net corrected death rate of 12·15.

The Death Rate for England and Wales is 12·4.

The deaths and death rates of previous years were :—

	Deaths.	Death Rates.
1919	205	11·83
1918	304	18·77
1917	234	14·34
1916	214	13·05
1915	242	14·35

The Death Rates for the years 1916, 1917, and 1918 were calculated from the civilian population, thus accounting for the slightly higher Death Rates for those years.

The mean ages at death of the deaths registered in this district are males 40·0, females 52·2.

The net mean ages of death (i.e., deaths occurring inside and outside the district) are males 42·0, females 56·3.

The mean ages at death of the deaths of persons belonging to this district, but registered outside, being males 51·0, females 60·3.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 34 deaths of infants under one year of age registered in the district.

Stourbridge	...	...	24
Wollaston	...	...	6
Upper Swinford	...	...	4

The infant mortality rate of 1920 was 80·37.

The average number of infantile deaths for the previous 10 years is 35, and the mortality rate 86·61.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1920 is 80·0.

The following table gives the total deaths of infants, and the percentage rates to registered births from 1898, together with percentage rates in England and Wales.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage.	Percentage England & Wales.
1898	...	74	16·2
1899	...	68	14·1
1900	...	77	16·4
1901	...	72	15·0
1902	...	51	10·9
1903	...	58	12·3
1904	...	63	13·5
1905	...	43	10·2
1906	...	52	10·9
1907	...	54	12·4
1908	...	37	8·3
1909	...	66	15·3
1910	...	44	10·8
1911	...	59	13·11
1912	...	39	9·62
1913	...	40	9·66
1914	...	29	7·17
1915	...	43	11·05
1916	...	26	7·10
1917	...	28	8·75
1918	...	29	9·03
1919	...	15	4·91
			...
			9·1
			9·7
			9·7
			8·9

Table Showing Causes of Infantile Deaths and Months in which they occurred.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb	Mch.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Premature Birth ..	2	1	..	..	1	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	10
Convulsions	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Congenital Heart Disease	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Bronchitis	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Enteritis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Spina Bifidia ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infantile Debility	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Specific Pemphigus	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	1	..	..	..	1
Infantile Syphilis	1	..	..	..	..	1
Accidental Suffocation	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Debility	2	2
Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	3	3	2	7	3	2	5	4	1	..	..	4	34

The Health Visitor in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre reports as follows:—

Number of Births notified by the County Medical Officer, January 1st to December 31st, 1920:—males 213, females, 206, still births, 17.

Number of primary visits paid to homes, 395; re-visits, 3843.

Number of attendances at welfare centre, 3752.

Number on Register, 362.

Dr. Lloyd Francis attends weekly (Tuesday afternoon).

Dried milk is supplied at cost price.

The nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is undertaken by the Health Visitor.

Two trained midwives are working in the District in connection with the Welfare Centre.

Poor Law Relief.

Amount expended in the year £2,991 14s. 8½d. The number of persons receiving relief was 704.

Gratuitous Medical Relief.

This District is well served with Institutions where Medical Relief may be obtained.

The Stourbridge Dispensary, established in 1832, is in Worcester Street, and has a Resident Medical Officer.

Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, is near the Borough Boundary, and is supported by this and surrounding districts. The Birmingham and Dudley Hospitals are also easily accessible.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

This is adequate for all requirements and is pumped direct into the mains from the two deep wells which are situate at Coalbournbrook and Mill Meadow respectively, both being in Amblecote.

A Reservoir at Doctor's Hill in the Borough, serves to augment the pressure, the surplus water during the night going into the Reservoir. The supply is constant. All the houses have galvanized iron supply pipes.

The latest Analysis of the water is as follows :—

	Coalbournbrook	Mill Meadow
	(grains per gallon).	
Total Solid Matter, dried at 212°F.	41.16	37.24
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0020	0.0015
Nitric Nitrogen	0.94	1.26
Combined Chlorine	4.97	2.52
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.005	0.002
Colour through 2 ft. tube	Each almost colourless	
Appearance	Clear	
Hardness before boiling	15.68	15.48
Hardness after boiling	10.20	9.40
Temporary Hardness	5.48	6.08

Both organically very pure.

The Corporation Baths and several works pump water from their own wells. There are still a few houses procuring their water supply from pump wells. These wells are kept under observation. A considerable number of the houses supplement the water supply by having rain water cisterns on their premises.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Stour has no pollution in the Borough but passing through manufacturing districts before reaching here, it sometimes becomes polluted with acid and other waste, but not to any great extent.

Two streams flow through the district. In September one stream was found to be polluted by the overflow of a cesspool, the defect was subsequently remedied. The pollution destroyed a number of fish in a pool fed by this stream

Drainage and Sewage.

The Town was sewered in 1887. The sewage flows by gravitation to a pumping station in the Borough and is pumped to the Stourbridge Main Drainage Boards sewage farms at Whittington, in the Rural District of Seisdon (Staffs.) where it is treated on the Broad irrigation principle.

With the exception of a few houses situate on the outskirts, all the dwelling-houses are provided with water closets and efficient drainage, the drains being intercepted from the sewers with intercepting traps. Four houses have cesspools.

Closet Accommodation.

The conversion of privies into water closets was practically completed in 1909. About 9 cottages and farmhouses together with one brickworks, on the outskirts, still have privies, these houses are situate in localities where there are no sewers. Earth closets are provided at the Cemetery house and two other houses in the Borough. Previous to 1901 some slop water closets were put in, many of these have since been removed and W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus put in. For a considerable time past the Town Council has required a separate W.C. for each new house and additional W.C.'s required at premises where there was one W.C. for two or more houses.

About 5 per cent. of the houses have slop water closets, including those houses where there is a fresh water W.C. inside the house and a slop W.C. outside. With the exception of the few privies mentioned, all the other houses are provided with fresh W.C.'s. The Sanitary Inspector's report gives the list of conversions and additional W.C.'s since 1901.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging is carried out by direct labour, and the refuse is destroyed at the Corporation Destructor, erected in 1904. The ashpits are emptied as required, and the contents of movable ashbins collected weekly. The contents of the very few earth closets are disposed of by the occupiers. The few privies are cleared as required and the contents buried. Four houses have cesspools, two being cleansed by the occupiers and the other two by the Town Council. The contents being spread over farm land.

Movable ashbins commenced to be substituted for ashpits in 1901, and most of the new houses erected since then are provided with movable ashbins. There are 1899 houses having movable ashbins.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector follows mine and gives a detailed account of the inspection of the district.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement.

Number and nature of inspections made by him during the year.

Inspections of houses and premises	...	...	510
Inspections under Housing and Town Planning Act			9
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	55
Visits <i>re</i> Tuberculosis	...	...	40
Re-Inspections and Re-visits	...	...	806
Slaughter-houses	...	...	129
Cowsheds	...	...	64
Workshops	...	...	71
Vans	...	...	32
Preliminary notices served	...	...	114
Preliminary notices complied with	...	...	89
Statutory notices served	...	...	85
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	28

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

There are 11 premises where offensive trades are carried on, viz. : Hide and Skin Dealer 1, Tripe Boiling 3, Leather Dressing 1, Fish Frying 5 and one where Fish Frying, Tripe Boiling and Fat Melting is carried on. One application for the establishment of a fish-frying business was received in December and permission given in January, 1921.

There is only one house let in lodgings. There are no underground sleeping rooms.

Schools.

The water supply of all the schools is from the Water Board's Mains and is satisfactory. No schools were closed during the year. Notices are sent to the schools for the exclusion of scholars from houses where cases of infectious diseases had occurred.

In November, a child attending a private school was found to be suffering from Scarlet Fever. The school was closed by the Mistress and the whole of the class rooms were fumigated and sprayed. A list of the scholars was supplied by the Mistress, but no other case was traced from this school.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Twenty-two persons are registered as Milk Retailers in the district, 13 of whom are Cowkeepers, the remaining 9 being Milk-sellers only. The Cowsheds and Dairies are frequently inspected.

Two Cowkeepers disposed of their cows during the year. One Purveyor of Milk was registered.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

The County Council being the authority under the notification of Births Acts, the Town Council does not carry out the above Order. The Town Council is desirous of having the notification of Births Acts re-transferred from the County Council so that, amongst other matters, the above Order could be administered by the Town Council.

Meat.

Food Inspection is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances who is a Certificated Inspector of Meat and other Foods. In the report following this is a list of the various articles of Food condemned during the year.

There are 21 Retailers of Meat in the District. Two Butchers are Sausage Makers.

A public abattoir has not been established. Slaughtering is done at 10 annually licensed and 2 other Slaughter-houses (one registered, one licensed). These are regularly inspected.

In March, the carcass of a bullock affected with general Tuberculosis was condemned. In April and in September, carcasses of frozen lamb were condemned. No other cases of disease were met with.

No Seizures of Meat took place.

The following are the numbers of Slaughter-houses existing at the dates stated :

		In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered	...	2	1	1
Licensed	...	21	10	11
		—	—	—
Total	...	23	11	12
		—	—	—

The Slaughter-houses are mostly in good condition and regularly lime-washed. In 1911, the walls of most of the Licensed Slaughter-houses were cemented to the height of about 5 feet, and the floors repaired or renewed.

Other Foods.

Visits are frequently made to Bakehouses, Fish Shops, and Food Stores. A considerable amount of various food stuffs were condemned by the Sanitary Inspector, but no cases of seizure were made. The Bakehouses are mostly in good condition and frequently lime-washed,

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 10 deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the year, giving a Zymotic death-rate of .55 per 1,000 of the population.

The deaths were as follows :—

Influenza	...	...	...	5
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	1
				—
				10
				—

Measles and German Measles.

Measles was prevalent during the year, but only one death occurred.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-one cases were notified during the year, and occurred in six months of the year, as will be seen in the following table.

MONTH.	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Total.
February	1	...	2	3
June	1	...	...	1
September	2	2	...	4
October	2	2	...	4
November	7	...	1	8
December	8	3	...	11
Total	21	7	3	31

Fifteen cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There were no deaths.

List of Cases and Deaths since 1909.

Year.		Cases.		Deaths.
1909	...	195	...	7
1910	...	66	...	0
1911	...	48	...	1
1912	...	27	...	0
1913	...	31	...	0
1914	...	95	...	2
1915	...	96	...	1
1916	...	24	...	0
1917	...	3	...	0
1918	...	3	...	1
1919	...	14	...	0
1920	...	31	...	0

Diphtheria.

Sixteen cases were reported during the year, as follows :—

Month.	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Total.
January	.. 2	... 0	... 0	... 2
February	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1
March	... 1	... 0	... 1	... 2
May	... 0	... 0	... 1	... 1
June	... 3	... 0	... 0	... 3
July	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1
August	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 1
October	... 0	... 1	... 0	... 1
December	... 2	... 2	... 0	... 4
Total	... 11	... 3	... 2	... 16

Thirteen cases were removed to the hospital.

There were two deaths, both occurring at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and were boys, aged 6 and 2 years respectively.

Enteric Fever.

One case was notified during the year. This case was apparently contracted outside this District, as the patient had, for several weeks, been staying at a seaside hotel.

The following table gives the number of cases notified each year for the last 20 years.

1901	...	5	1911	...	2
1902	...	10	1912	...	3
1903	...	8	1913	...	3
1904	...	7	1914	...	0
1905	...	19	1915	...	3
1906	...	4	1916	...	1
1907	...	9	1917	...	3
1908	...	1	1918	...	1
1909	...	8	1919	...	0
1910	...	5	1920	...	1

List of Notifications of Infectious Disease.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Pneumonia ..	3	2	9	11	4	3	1	..	1	5	3	..	42
Scarlet Fever ..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	4	8	11	31
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ..	1	4	3	1	3	1	4	3	1	6	2	1	30
Diphtheria ..	2	1	2	..	1	3	1	1	..	1	..	4	16
Tuberculosis (Other) ..	..	2	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	4	..	..	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	5
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	4
Measles and Ger- man Measles ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals ..	9	12	17	14	9	11	7	4	8	22	17	18	148

Street List of Notification of Infectious Diseases.

STREET.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular.
Angel Street ...	I	I			
Bagley Street ...				I	
Baylie Street ...		I			
Bell Street ...	I				
Birmingham Street ...				I	
Beale Street ...	I				
Bowling Green Road ...	I				
Brick Kiln Lane ...				I	
Bridgnorth Road ...	2	I		I	
Bridle Road ...			I		
Brook Street ...	3	I		2	I
Cathcart Road ...					I
Cecil Street ...	I			I	I
Chapel Street ...		I			
Church Street ...	I	I		I	
Cleveland Street ...	I				
Clifton Street ...	I			I	
Cobden Street ...	I			I	
Corser Street ...	I				
Court Street ...		I		I	
Duncombe Street ...				I	
Duke Street ...		2			
Enville Street ...				I	
Farlands Road ...	I				
Field Lane ...			I		
Fir Grove ...		I			
Greenfield Avenue ...		I			
Green Street ...					I
Hanbury Passage ...			I		
Hagley Road ...	4			I	
Hall Street ...				2	
High Street, Stourbridge ...			I		
High Street, Wollaston ...	I				
Hungary Hill ...		I			
King Street ...	I	I		2	
Laburnum Street ...				I	
Mamble Road ...				I	
Market Street ...	I	I			
Mount Street ...					I
Mount Road ...	I				
Mill Street ...				I	I
Norton ...	I				
Park Street ...				I	

Street List of Notification of Infectious Diseases.—*Continued.*

STREET.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Phthisis	Other Tubercular.
St. Mary's Lane ...	...			1	2
South Avenue ...	...	1	1		
South Road ...	...			1	
Summer Street ...	...			1	
Swan Street ...	...			2	
The Heath ...	...			1	
Theatre Road ...	...				1
Union Street ...	2				
Valley Road ...	...	1			
Vicarage Road ...	2			1	
West Street ...	...				1
Witton Street ...	...			1	
Worcester Street ...	2				
Total ...	31	16	5	30	10

The Town Council supplies Diphtheria Anti-toxin free to Medical Practitioners, and prompt use is made of this remedy.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Three cases occurred during the year one of which, viz.: a child, aged 2 years, proved fatal. The cases were in no way connected with each other, and no trace of the origin of any of them could be discovered.

Scarlet Fever.

Most of the cases are isolated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. No return cases were discovered.

Pneumonia.

Forty-two cases were notified, spread over the entire year, excepting the months of August and December.

Malaria.

The two cases notified were returned soldiers who had evidently contracted the disease abroad.

No case of Dysentery or Trench Fever was reported.

Bacteriological aid to the diagnosis of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Tuberculosis and other diseases, is available at the County Council Laboratory, Shire Hall, Worcester, and is taken advantage of by the local Medical Practitioners.

No Small pox occurred and no Vaccinations under the Public Health (Small pox prevention) Regulations, 1917, were done.

Measles, Mumps, and Whooping Cough were very prevalent during the year, but no schools were closed. The Head Teachers keep me informed of the number of absentees, presumably on account of these and similar ailments.

Arrangements for Isolation and Disinfection.

Cases are isolated at the Stourbridge and Halesowen Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Hayley Green. All houses are fumigated with Formaldehyde and in some cases sprayed with a solution of Formalin.

Verminous Persons.

No facilities for cleansing and disinfection are provided, but liquid soap and disinfectant fluid are supplied to any one upon application, and instructions given as to the use.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Thirty cases were reported during the year. There were 19 deaths, and the death-rate per 1,000 of population was 1·05.

The following table gives the number of deaths and death-rates per 1,000 population for the whole district since 1901.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
1901	17	1·04	1911	16	·92
1902	16	·97	1912	12	·68
1903	24	1·44	1913	15	·85
1904	18	1·07	1914	20	1·13
1905	18	1·06	1915	18	1·06
1906	14	·81	1916	11	·67
1907	22	1·27	1917	14	·85
1908	20	1·14	1918	14	·86
1909	20	1·13	1919	11	·60
1910	18	1·01	1920	19	1·05

Other Tubercular Diseases.

Ten cases were reported and seven deaths occurred, none being from Tubercular Meningitis.

The notification of Tuberculosis is generally observed. Cases discovered not having been notified are rare, and in such instances the attention of the Medical Practitioner concerned is called to the omission. One such case occurred during the year, but it appeared that the Medical Practitioner certifying the death had only attended the patient the day before death happened.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

Only two deaths were recorded, both being infants under one year of age.

Cancer.

There were 25 deaths from this disease during the year, Stourbridge 18, Wollaston 5, Upper Swinford 2.

The Deaths and Death Rates for the past 10 years were :—

Year.	Stour- bridge.	Wol- laston.	Upper Swinford.	Total Deaths.	Death Rates.
1911	9	2	4	15	·85
1912	12	4	1	17	·97
1913	12	2	2	16	·91
1914	11	3	7	21	1·18
1915	10	2	2	14	·84
1916	9	3	3	15	·91
1917	10	4	4	18	1·10
1918	10	8	10	28	1·72
1919	17	3	2	22	1·20
1920	18	5	2	25	1·38

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This work is carried out by a Voluntary Organisation, having premises at No. 24, New Road.

Some time ago this Town Council applied unsuccessfully to the Local Government Board to have the Notification of Births Act re-transferred from the Worcestershire County Council, I consider it is desirable that this Act should be administered locally in conjunction with the local Voluntary Organisation.

Sanitary Administration.

The Sanitary Staff consists of the Inspector of Nuisances and an Assistant.

The Stourbridge and Halesowen Joint Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is the Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital, and there is also provision for isolation of smallpox cases. The accommodation has been found to be adequate. During 1920, 28 cases were sent there from this Borough. The Hospital Committee consist of representatives of the Councils of Stourbridge, Lye and Wollescote, and Halesowen.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Acts of 1890 and 1907, also the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, have been adopted by the Town Council. In December, 1910, the Local Government Board issued a Confirming Order scheduling the following trades as "Offensive Trades" in this district, viz. :—The trade of Hide and Skin Dealer, Fat Dealer, Gut Scraper, Leather Dresser, Glue Maker, Size Maker, Fat Melter or Extractor, Blood Dryer, and Fish Fryer.

Since the Incorporation of the Borough, in 1914, the Bye-Laws have been revised.

Housing.

General Housing Conditions. There are 4,176 inhabited houses in the Borough. At the end of the year 26 houses of the 131 being erected on the Heath Estate by the Town Council were completed and occupied. Seven houses were erected by private enterprise, including three bungalows. Three houses, closed as unfit for habitation became unoccupied. One of these will be demolished, one is to be repaired, whilst the remaining one has been utilised as a store place to release a house, previously used as a store place, for habitation.

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, at the middle of the year was 18,013, being 32 less than the preceding year.

There are numerous applications for houses which are being erected by the Town Council, viz. :—131 at the Heath Estate, the erection of these is progressing, and 177 at the Grange Estate which will be commenced early in 1921.

No important changes of population is anticipated, although the Registrar General's estimate shows a decrease.

Overcrowding. No serious cases of overcrowding came under observation, but several instances where more than one family occupy one house were met with. In most of these cases one of the families would leave when other accommodation is available.

A considerable number of old small houses still exist, some of these have in recent years been renovated and repaired. The general defects found consisted of general depreciation of the building, roofs, and inside plaster, broken floors, want of sinks and water taps inside, sanitary conveniences used in common, unsatisfactory arrangements, such as sculleries in basement, and back yards common to several houses. Very few courts exist, and these are well situated as regards air space. There are 30 back-to-back houses. Four of these have back doors and six have through ventilation by means of windows, at four others there is through ventilation through the larders. A number of back-to-back houses have been converted into through houses in the past.

Owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining labour to carry out extensive repairs, very little progress was made during the year in the repair of property.

Difficulty is experienced in having extensive repairs done to houses, principally owing to the available labour being absorbed in the erection of new houses. Smaller repairs have been done.

The conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, are generally satisfactory, but some houses still have one water tap common to several houses; with respect to closet accommodation, water closets are mainly provided, and where there is one water closet for two or more houses these cases are brought to the notice of the Sanitary Committee, in view of a W. C. being provided for each house. The refuse disposal is satisfactory. Eight additional water closets were provided during the year.

No Unhealthy Areas were reported during the year.



HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1. General.

(1)	Estimated Population ...	...	...	18,013
(2)	General Death-rate ...	...	...	12.15
(3)	Death-rate from Tuberculosis ...	...	...	1.05
(4)	Infantile Mortality ...	...	...	80.37
(5)	Number of Dwelling-houses of all classes ...			4,176
(6)	Number of Working-class Dwelling-houses ...			3,757
(7)	Number of New Working-class houses erected			30

2. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

I.—Inspection :—

(1)	Total number of Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	...	...	510
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection District) Regulations, 1910 ...			9
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...			6
(4)	Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	...	...	32

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices :—

	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	4
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers :—

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit	
(a)	By Owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders become operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	21
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
(a)	By Owners	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

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

(1)	Number of Representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	6
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5)	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

IV. Unhealthy Areas :—

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement schemes under (a) Part I or (b) Part II of the Act of 1890 ...	0
V. Number of houses not complying with the Building Bye-Laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc, Act, 1919 ...	0
VI. Staff engaged on Housing Work, with briefly the duties of each Officer ...	3

(Borough Surveyor who acts as Architect, and has a whole time Assistant Architect. The Assistant Surveyor devotes part of his time to the Housing Work.)

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. SINTON,

Medical Officer of Health.



— THE —

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND MEMBERS
OF THE STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit to you a report of the work done in my department during the year 1920, being my Twentieth Annual Report

Complaints.

During the year 92 complaints were received relating to various nuisances and insanitary conditions.

The average number of complaints received during the past 10 years is 123.

Inspection of District

The number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 1752. These were as follows :—

General inspections of houses and premises	510
Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations)	9
Infectious disease	55
Tuberculosis cases	40
Re-inspections and re-visits	806

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	129
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	64
Workshops	...	...	...	...	71
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	45
Vans	...	...	...	...	32
					1752

In making these inspections 843 sanitary defects, nuisances or contraventions of your Bye-laws were found.

There were 1,903 defects not remedied at the end of 1919, and these, together with the 843 defects met with during the year 1920 make a total of 2,746 insanitary conditions requiring attention.

1055 defects were remedied during the year, thus leaving 1,691 insanitary conditions unabated.

The large number of defects not remedied is accounted for by reason of some defects only at houses having been attended to, leaving other work to be done later. In these cases the records of the work done will be completed when the work is finished. Some houses have been undergoing repair as long ago as 1914, and still in hand.

The following table gives details of the various inspections and re-inspections made during the past 10 years :—

Year.	Premises.	Houses under the Inspection of District Regulations, 1910.	Slaughter-Houses.	Workshops.	Cowsheds and Dairies	Bake-houses.	Infectious Diseases.	Tuber-culosis.	Vans	Re-Inspections
1910	611	33	171	132	67	59	84		28	1232
1911	457	172	203	124	92	53	67		22	1558
1912	439	188	273	86	98	30	38	40	42	2347
1913	485	177	191	54	70	85	47	77	32	2164
1914	475	103	155	45	81	59	109	53	48	1846
1915	601	68	165	78	100	35	106	49	59	1154
1916	464	26	188	81	124	73	142	38	34	981
1917	437	18	184	44	67	50	120	34	62	711
1918	277	22	134	22	60	34	15	30	32	478
1919	437	24	96	39	62	66	45	26	35	866
1920	510	9	129	71	64	45	55	40	32	806

The drains at 7 premises were tested with the Smoke Machine,

Prosecutions.

The following is a list of legal proceedings instituted during the year:—

Date.	Premises.	Offence.	Result.
11th June	47 Union Street	Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance. Sec. 94, P.H.A., 1875	Ordered to execute work within four months
11th "	48 " "	Ditto do.	Ditto
11th "	1 Birmingham Street	For permitting a house to be occupied after closing order. Sec. 32, H.T.P.A., 1919	Fined £2
23rd July	1 " "	For occupying a house after closing order. Sec. 32, H.T.P.A., 1919	Fined £1
23rd "	3 " "	Ditto do.	Ordered to pay costs
23rd "	5 " "	Ditto do.	Case withdrawn
5th Nov.	5 " "	Ditto do.	Fined £1
5th "	100 Bridgnorth Road	Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance. Sec. 94, P.H.A., 1875	Adjourned for one month
5th "	101 " "	Ditto do.	Ditto
10th Dec.	100 " "	Ditto do.	Adjourned for two months
10th "	101 " "	Ditto do.	Ditto

The following cases were taken under the Food Control Orders:—

5th March.	Overcharging for meat.	Fined £50.
5th June.	Failing to produce Invoice re purchase of Potatoes	Fined £5 and £1/1/0 costs.
5th "	Ditto do.	Fined £5 and £1/1/0 costs.
5th "	For not keeping a Record of purchases of Potatoes	Fined £5 and £1/1/0 costs.
5th "	Ditto do.	Fined £5 and £1/1/0 costs.

The cases taken before the Magistrates in previous years were:—

1901	4.	1902	18.	1903	15.	1904	6.	1905	13.
1906	1.	1907	1.	1908	4.	1909	5.	1910	3.
1911	1.	1912	1.	1913	7.	1914	15.	1915	7.
1916	3.	1917	1.	1918	1.	1919	1.	1920	9.

Offensive Trades.

The following Offensive Trades are carried on in the district. Fish Fryers, 6. Hide and Skin Dealers, 1. Fat Melter, 1. Leather Dresser, 1. Tripe Boilers, 4. An application received in December for permission to open a Fish Frying Business, was granted in January, 1921.

Bakehouses.

There are 14 Bakehouses. 3 of which are Factories. One new Bakehouse was erected during the year, and extensive alterations to another Bakehouse was being carried out.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

26 persons are registered as Milk Sellers. 13 of whom are Cow-keepers in the Borough. There are approximately 88 Cows kept.

Factory and Workshop Act.

At the end of the year there were 225 Workshops on the register. I made 71 inspections.

The following Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories:—

23rd Mar.	Factory, Bowling Green Road.	No Sanitary Convenience.
7th Sep.	Factory, South Avenue.	Defective Sanitary Convenience.
7th Sep.	Factory, Mamble Road.	Defective Sanitary Convenience.

In the first case a temporary convenience was provided. In the two latter cases the defects were remedied.

Outworkers' Lists.

Twenty-three lists of Outworkers were received during the year, containing the names of 67 Outworkers, 41 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The names of 12 Outworkers, resident in the Borough, were received from other Local Authorities.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two old registered houses and one licensed house. The returns of the number of lodgers sleeping at these houses during the year were as follows:—(The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied, and not the individual lodgers staying at the houses; thus one person lodging at a house for seven nights is counted seven times).

MONTH.	Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers above 10 & under 21.		Lodgers under 10 years.		Total.
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	
January ...	877	167			35	21	1100
February ...	771	160			35		966
March ...	781	171			56		1008
April ...	672	111			14	14	811
May ...	832	122				35	989
June ...	811	122			35		968
July ...	669	101			27	1	798
August ...	783	123	1		4	4	915
September ...	629	97			14	15	755
October ...	681	105			7	7	800
November ...	668	105				28	801
December ...	670	101				28	799
Total ...	8844	1485	1		227	153	10710

The totals in previous years were:—

YEAR.	Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers under 21 and above 10		Lodgers under 10 years.		Total.
	Males.	Females	Males	Females	Males.	Females	
1914	9667	1372	5	18	64	129	11255
1915	7961	1162	51	26	65	95	9360
1916	7542	1062	44	211	35	188	9046
1917	8007	1175		12	70	116	9380
1918	8574	1295	77	76	104	7	10133
1919	8942	1245		129	86	256	10658

One of the lodging-houses had no lodgers during the year, partly on account of ill-health of keeper. At this place there is accommodation for 6 persons.

Slaughterhouses.

In 1914, there were 15 Slaughterhouses, 10 being subject to annual licenses.

There are now 12 Slaughterhouses.

The annually licensed places are as follows :—

Mr. Wm. Harris	...	...	Bridgnorth Road.
Mr. G. A. Parkes	...	...	Bridgnorth Road.
Mr. T. W. Jones and Mr. G. Beddoes	...	...	Rear 7 Coventry Street.
Messrs. H. and J. Parkes	...		Rear 8 Coventry Street.
Mr. S. C. Mason	...	...	Rear 7 Coventry Street.
Mr. W. A. A. Broadway	...		Enville Street.
Mr. F. T. White	...	...	Enville Street.
Messrs. Marsh & Baxter, Ld.			97 High Street.
Mr. W. Yardley	...		Hagley Road.
Mr. T. V. Parkes	...	...	The Heath.

The other Slaughterhouses being :—

Mr. R. Tottey	...	...	High Street.
Mr. S. Hill	...	...	Hagley Road.

The annual license issued to Messrs. Marsh & Baxter, is for a Slaughterhouse previously licensed, without date, to Miss Hobson. The annual license issued to Mr. Yardley is for a Slaughterhouse, presumably registered, which was previously occupied by him, but closed during the period Mr. Yardley's son was in H.M. Forces.

Public Abattoir.

This matter was considered in 1911 but not proceeded with on account of local opposition. In February, 1919, the matter again came before your Sanitary Committee, but no definite action has yet been taken.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The following articles of Food were condemned during the year :—

Butter, 107lbs.
Bacon, 22½lbs.
Fish, 514lbs.

Potatoes, 5 tons.
 Carcass of Bullock (Tuberculous) 1092lbs.
 Carcass of Sheep, 40lbs.
 Carcass of Sheep, 48lbs.
 Rabbits (English) about 40lbs.
 Also the following Tins of Canned Foods:—
 Condensed Milk, 659; Tomatoes, 124; Peaches, 4;
 Pears, 3; Apricots, 3; Pineapple, 7; Salmon, 12;
 Sardines, 6; Beef, 12.

There were no seizures of Food exposed for sale.

The carcass of the Bullock was sent to the Birmingham Salvage Department for utilization.

Infectious Disease.

95 inspections of premises where cases of Infectious Disease or Tuberculosis occurred, were made.

28 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

62 Houses were disinfected, and about 500 articles of Bedding and Clothing were sent to the Isolation Hospitals for disinfection, and several lots of Bedding destroyed at the Destructor.

In April, 1919, owing to an outbreak of Diphtheria at Old Swinford Hospital, I made an inspection of the Schools in company with the County Medical Officer, the Medical Officer of the Hospital and your Medical Officer of Health, and subsequently submitted a specification of repairs and alterations suggested for the improvement of the sanitary conditions. These improvements have been carried out.

The Tuberculosis Shelter belonging to the Town Council was removed from Corser Street and erected in Church Street in July, and in December it was removed from Church Street and erected in Queen Street. The Shelter belonging to the County Council was removed from Love Lane in March and erected in Duncombe Street.

Water Closets.

No conversions of privies into water closets were done during the year, but eight additional water closets were provided, and four Slop W.C.'s were converted into fresh-water flushing W.C.'s.

The following table gives the number of privies converted into water closets since 1901, also the additional W.C.'s provided. There are very few privies remaining, and these are in localities where there are no sewers.

Year.	W.C.'s in place of Privies.	Additional W.C.'s.	Fresh Water flushing W.C.'s provided in place of Slop W.C.'s.
1901	237	0	0
1902	140	0	0
1903	140	7	0
1904	132	5	0
1905	142	11	0
1906	60	5	0
1907	74	6	0
1908	107	4	0
1909	11	1	0
1910	2	9	0
1911	4	10	3
1912	5	11	13
1913	2	14	9
1914	0	18	1
1915	2	3	0
1916	0	10	3
1917	0	0	1
1918	0	2	0
1919	0	7	0
1920	0	8	4
	<u>1058</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>34</u>

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.

During the year nine houses were inspected under the above Regulations.

The following were reported to your Sanitary Committee as unfit for human habitation, and Closing Orders were made.

Date of Council Meeting.	Situation of Premises.	Remarks.
26th January ..	1 Unwin Passage	Vacated April, since used as a Storeplace.
26th " ..	2 " "	
23rd February...	33 Mount Street	
26th July ...	33 Coventry Street	Occupiers left.
27th September	5 Birmingham Street	
29th November	Two Vans, Beech Road	

A Closing Order in respect of No. 5 Birmingham Street was made on 24th November, 1919, but owing to an error in the printed report of your Sanitary Committee, it was found necessary to again make a Closing Order.

During 1919, Closing Orders were made in respect of the following premises:—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Green Street; Nos. 1 and 2 at rear of 7 and 8 Green Street; Nos. 1, 3, 5, Birmingham Street; Nos. 1 and 3, Vicarage Road.

Nos. 1 Birmingham Street, and 3 Vicarage Road, became vacant.

At your Town Council Meeting on 29th November, 1920, the question of demolition of Nos 1, 3 and 5 Birmingham Street, was considered, and Notices served fixing the 18th January, 1921, as the date of further consideration.

No. 1 and 3 Vicarage Road are to be repaired.

No further steps, other than Notices upon Occupiers, were taken in respect of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Green Street.

Appeals to the Ministry of Health were made against the Closing Orders relating to Nos. 4, 5 and 6 Green Street and Nos. 7, 8 and 9, and Nos. 1 and 2 at rear of 7 and 8 Green Street.

An Inquiry was held on 4th May, 1921, in respect of the Appeal against the Closing Orders of the latter five houses. The decision was adjourned to enable the Owner, within four months, to submit a scheme for the reconstruction and repair of these houses. A specification was submitted early in 1921.

An Inquiry in respect of an Appeal against the Closing Orders relating to Nos. 4, 5 and 6 Green Street, was held on 20th May, 1920. The Appeal in these cases was dismissed by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry requested, in view of the general house shortage, that the Town Council would refrain from putting the Closing Orders into execution for the present.

In May, 1920, the Agent of No. 1 Birmingham Street let this house. Legal proceedings were taken on 11th June, under Sec. 32 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919, and a fine of £2 was imposed. On 23rd July, proceedings were taken against the Occupier, when a fine of £1 was imposed. On the same day, proceedings were taken against the Occupier of No. 3 Birmingham Street, and the Occupier was ordered to pay the costs. On 5th November, proceedings were taken against the Occupier of No. 5 Birmingham Street, for continuing to occupy the house and a fine of £1 was imposed.

During the year, two houses in a common Yard, where there was originally a joint Wash-house and W.C., were each provided with a separate Scullery and W.C., the latter opening into the Scullery.

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, &c.

In accordance with the Home Office Circular of 25th August, 1920, I made inspections, by instructions of your Sanitary Committee, of the Theatre and the two Cinema Houses in the Town. On 16th November, I submitted a report of the condition of the Theatre, and was instructed to send a copy to the Local Magistrates' Clerk.

Other Matters.

An extensive pollution of a water-course supplying a pool at Old Swinford Castle, came under my observation in September. The pollution destroyed a considerable number of fish. The cause was traced to an overflowing Cesspool, and the Cesspool was emptied and provision made to prevent a recurrence of the nuisance.

Shops' Act.

There are 492 Shops on the Register. No legal proceedings were instituted, but many traders were warned respecting the exhibition of Notices of Assistants half-holiday and provision of seats.

Petroleum Acts.

During the year, 18 licenses to store Petrol, 15 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and one to store Carbide of Calcium were issued.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT,

Inspector of Nuisances.