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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE



Annual Reports
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Sanitary Inspector
FOR 1924.



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



BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

RANDLE L. MATHEWS, Esq., J.P.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN LT.-COL. A. H. MOODY, C.B.E., J.P., C.C.

SANITARY COMMITTEE :

Alderman L. J. Cook, M.R.I.P.H., *Chairman.*

Councillor F. W. Biggs

„ C. Broughton, J.P.

„ Mrs. Francis

„ J. Harrington

Councillor J. B. Share

„ J. Sutton

„ H. S. Walker

„ S. Wright, J.P.

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.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Vital Statistics for the Year 1924.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1924, being my seventh Annual Report.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this Report is curtailed, and the details are those which the Ministry suggest should be included.

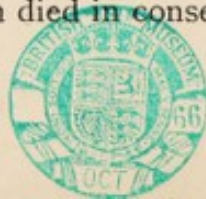
General Statistics.

Area of the District	...	...	...	1920 acres
Population according to figures supplied after the Census in 1921	...	...	...	18023
Population, figures supplied by Registrar General (1924)	...	...	...	18500
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	4251
Number of inhabited houses (1924)	...	...	...	4429
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	4608 approx.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1924)	...	...	...	4710 approx.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£74,862
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£289 (net)

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Births—Legitimate	187	167	354
Illegitimate	5	4	9
Total			363
Birth Rate	...	...	19.54
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	18.8
Deaths—Males	...	...	89
Females	...	...	105
Total			194
Death Rate	...	...	10.44
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	12.2

No woman died in consequence of childbirth.



3
CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1924		1923	
	M	F	M	F
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Influenza	4	4	1	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal meningitis	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	6	7	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	2	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	16	6	14
Rheumatic Fever	—	1	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	2	10	12	9
Heart Disease	15	14	13	16
Arterio-Sclerosis	1	1	3	1
Bronchitis	10	12	10	12
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	7	6	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	—	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	—	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	—	4	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases and Pregnancy and Parturition	—	—	—	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	6	4	6	7
Suicide	3	2	2	1
Other Deaths from Violence	4	1	3	2
Other Defined Diseases	16	22	29	23
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	89	105	109	110

Infantile Deaths.

Total Deaths of Infants under one year, 23 (Males 14, Females 9). One was an illegitimate infant.

Infantile Death Rates per 1000 births—63.36.

Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales, 75 per 1000 births.

The causes of deaths were as follows:—Premature Birth 7, Broncho-Pneumonia 4, Infantile Debility 2, Bronchitis 2, and one each from the following causes—Rachitis, Influenzal-Pneumonia, Syncope, Marasmus, Suffocated in bed (Inquest), Convulsions and Gastro-Enteritis, the latter death occurring outside the Borough. Inquests were held in respect of three deaths.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 10 deaths. Influenza 8, Diarrhoea 1, Rheumatic Fever 1. The Zymotic Death Rate is .53.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Ages.												Total No of Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 and upward			
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	1	—	—	2	—	9	5	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	2	6	18	14	1	1	1	1	—	46	25	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Puerperal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	1	1	—	4	1	2	4	6	12	6	40	—	16
Erysipelas	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	10	—	—
Chicken Pox	7	6	5	6	12	44	12	1	1	—	—	—	94	—	—
Acute Anterior Polio-Myelitis	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ..	9	8	10	10	20	69	28	6	10	7	19	19	205	30	16

Seven of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Old Swinford Hospital and one at the Cottage Homes. The remaining 38 cases occurred in 35 houses, 4 being in one Council house and the other 31 in 31 different houses. 8 of the cases occurred in Worcester Street and 3 in Norton Road. 14 of the patients attended Hill Street School and 10 were under school age. Of the 38 cases one occurred in a house with one bedroom where there were 3 occupants, 15 in houses of 2 bedrooms occupied as follows:—4 by 3 persons, 1 by 4 persons, 2 by 5 persons, 4 by 6 persons, 2 by 7 persons, 1 by 8 persons and 1 by 11 persons. 19 in houses of 3 bedrooms occupied as follows:—2 by 3 persons, 5 by 4 persons, 4 by 5 persons, 1 by 6 persons, 4 by 7 persons, 2 by 8 persons, and 1 by 12 persons. 3 occurred in houses of 4 bedrooms, 2 occupied by 6 persons and 1 by 7 persons.

Each of the nine cases of Diphtheria occurred in a different house, one being a Council house.

The Infants' Department of Hill Street Council School was closed for one day on 14th February for the purpose of disinfection of the School and again from and including 11th March to 14th March. All the Departments of St. Joseph's R.C. School were closed on 25th February and the entire School disinfected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
5—10 ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
10—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ..	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1
20—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35 ..	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45 ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS..	6	3	2	4	2	6	1	1

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Borough is efficient. There was no occasion for the taking of any action or proceedings for refusal to notify. No death occurred of a non-notified case.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
NOTIFIED.	TREATED.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
March 8	Home	--	Yes	—	—	—
March 27	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—

Causes of Sickness.

Chickenpox was very prevalent, 94 cases being reported compared with 60 in 1923. In June the Town Council again scheduled Chickenpox as a notifiable disease for one year until 30th June, 1925. No case of Smallpox occurred in the District. The number of cases of Diphtheria, viz.:—9, was the same as in the previous year, whilst Scarlet Fever increased from 15 in 1923 to 46 in 1924. The cases of Pneumonia increased from 27 in 1923 to 40 in 1924.

In December a case of Malaria was reported in a person who had never been out of England; the patient was a female, age 32, and about three years ago was a cook in an Infirmary in Norfolk, where there were a considerable number of Malaria cases. Since leaving Norfolk she held situations in several hotels. In December she went to the General Hospital, Birmingham, for treatment.

Three cases of Acute Polio Myelitis occurred during the year. The cases were in no way connected with each other.

Smallpox and Vaccination.

No case of Smallpox occurred during the year. A high percentage of the children born is vaccinated during infancy.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and Institutions.

Professional Nursing at home. The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organization, employs 2 Nurses, whose services are available for residents. A portion of the District, viz., Old Swinford has a Parochial Nurse.

The Stourbridge Dispensary is a voluntary dispensary under the supervision of a Resident Medical Officer.

There is no provision for professional nursing of cases of Infectious Disease treated at home.

Midwives. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. There are 6 Midwives practising in the district, one being in connection with the Local Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at No. 40, New Road, is under the control of a Voluntary Committee and a contribution is made by the Town Council to the funds of this Committee. The Town Council own the premises occupied by the Centre.

A School Clinic at the Infant Welfare Centre and a Tuberculosis Clinic at the Dispensary are controlled by the County Council.

Sanatorium treatment of Tuberculosis is administered by the County Council.

There is no provision for the treatment of Venereal Diseases in the Borough, but cases are treated, amongst other places, at the Corbett Hospital, which is just outside the Borough Boundary.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council :—

Tuberculosis	...	Hayley Green and Knightwick, both situated outside the Borough and under the control of the County Council.
Maternity	...	None.
Children	...	None.
Fever	...	Stourbridge and Halesowen Hospital.
Smallpox	...	Ditto.
Other	...	Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, Staffs., supported by this and the surrounding districts.

The Treatment of Tuberculosis, including Sanatoria, is under the control of the County Council.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Hayley Green, as well as a Smallpox Hospital, are provided by the Local Authorities of the Borough of Stourbridge, Urban District Council of Lye and Wollescote, and the Rural District Council of Halesowen.

The Smallpox Hospital is kept in readiness for any case which might occur.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers in the district.

The Corbett General Hospital is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and is supported by this and the adjoining districts. There are 32 beds.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) For Infectious Cases a motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance, which is kept at the Fire Station, and a Motor Ambulance provided by the Territorial Association and kept at Mr. Weaver's Garage, High Street.

Health Visitor's Report.

Notifications of Births received from the County Medical Officer January 1st to December 31st, 1924 :—

Males	...	...	...	182
Females	...	...	...	160
Still Births	...	...	...	9
			—	351

Number of Primary visits paid to homes	...	345
Re-visits to children under one year of age	...	1875
Re-visits to children over one year of age	...	2101
		—
		4321

Attendances at Infant Consultation Centre :—

Number of Children in attendance at the Centre during		
1924	...	459
Total number of attendances	...	3695

The Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week from 2 till 5 p.m., and every morning from 9 till 10.

Dr. Lloyd Francis attends at the Centre weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

Virol and Dried Milk are supplied at the Centre.

A Milk Fund has been provided by the Ladies of the Committee, which has been generously aided by the Mayor's Distress Fund. Milk, Cod Liver Oil, etc., are given from this Fund in cases of sickness and distress.

Ladies of the Committee assist at the Welfare Centre in helping to weigh the babies and giving tea to the mothers.

Simple "talks" on Health Subjects are given by visiting ladies and the Health Visitor.

The Infant Consultation Centre Committee consists of President and Treasurer, Mrs. Evers (White Hall); Secretary, Miss Evers; Joint Treasurer, Mr. A. G. Wedgwood; Town Council Representative, Councillor Mrs. Francis; Worcestershire County Council Representative, Miss M. E. Palfrey, J.P.; Health Visitor, Miss E. E. Noke (State Registered Nurse, C.M.B. Certificate, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses and for Maternity and Child Welfare Workers, also the Diploma for Health Visitors recognized by the Board of Education and Ministry of Health).

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the Analyst to the County Council.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided free of charge to local Medical Practitioners.

Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, Etc.

The following are the Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District, with the date of adoption :—

Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	1866
Stourbridge Improvement Commissioners Act	...	...	1891
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	1891
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890	...	...	26 Nov. 1901
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907	...	...	April, 1910
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890, Part III.	...	...	Dec. 1901
Byelaws :—			
New Streets and Buildings...	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Nuisances	...	...	20th Oct., 1911
Offensive Trades	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Slaughterhouses	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures	...	...	10th Jan., 1917
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	10th Jan., 1917
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	26th June, 1916
Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements and Cleansing of Earthclosets and Cesspools	...	...	10th Jan., 1917

Sanitary Administration.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which follows this, gives details relating to Sanitary Administration in the Borough.

Public Health Staff.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector. One half of the salaries of these Officers is contributed by Exchequer grants.

The Sanitary Inspector has the diplomas of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods. The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and Shops Acts.

There is also a Clerk—Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	17
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection :—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	484
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	11
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3
(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	...	...	...	...	...	149

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	31
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	0
(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 became 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 sent requiring defects to be remedied	64
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By Owners	43
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning &c., Act, 1909 :—

(1) Number of Representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	3
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit	3
(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

Other Matters.

In September I had a communication respecting cases of Tuberculosis which had occurred amongst the Employees of a Laundry in the district, and, in company with the Sanitary Inspector, made an inspection of the premises. The principal matter which I considered might be arranged differently was the sorting of the articles of soiled linen, especially handkerchiefs. These are sorted in the centre of a room without any precaution to remove any infected matter from the sorter. I suggested that the sorting might be done on a wire covered bench with an air extraction fan under to draw the air from the articles whilst being sorted.

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 1924.

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 1924, being my Twenty-fourth Annual Report.

Complaints.—124 Complaints were received relating to various insanitary conditions as compared with 97 in the previous year.

Inspection of District.—The number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 2764. These were as follows:—General inspection of houses and premises, 484; Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 11; Infectious Diseases, 65; Tuberculosis Cases, 14; Re-inspection and re-visits, 1815; Slaughterhouses, 166; Dairies and Cowsheds, 43; Workshops, 36; Vans, 80; Bakehouses, 29; Premises where Offensive Trades carried on, 21.

In making these inspections, 1508 sanitary defects, nuisances or contravention of your Bye-laws were found. There were 2099 defects not remedied at the end of 1923, and these, together with 1508 defects met during the year 1924, make a total of 3607 insanitary conditions. 1064 defects were remedied during the year, thus leaving 2543 insanitary conditions unabated.

The drains at 5 houses were tested with the Smoke Machine.

Notices.—176 Preliminary intimation notices were sent during the year, most of them being in the form of a letter. The subjects to which they referred were as follows:—General defects of houses, 66 notices relating to 149 houses. Defective rain water spouting and cisterns, 6 notices applying to 18 houses. Insufficient and defective sanitary conveniences, 16 notices, 40 houses. Defective drains, 13 notices, 40 houses. Defective slop W.C.'s, 5 notices, 25 houses. Cleansing rooms after Tuberculosis, 2 notices, 2 houses. Obstructed drains, 16 notices, 53 houses. Defective ashpits and ashbins, 5 notices, 29 houses. Also the following notices, dangerous walls, 6; Shops Acts offence, 1; Outworkers' Lists not sent, 10; Accumulations or Deposits, 9; Defects at Dairies and cowsheds, 4; Slaughtering on unlicensed premises, 2; Unregistered milk-sellers, 4; Defects at slaughterhouses, 1; Carrying on offensive trade without permission, 2; Overcrowding, 2; Defects at bakehouses, 2; Undrained stable, 1; Pig keeping, 2; Smoke nuisance, 1.

In the cases of general defects at houses the letters gave a detailed account of the defects and suggestions as to the work required.

112 Notices had been complied with at the end of the year, the work in connection with 46 notices was in progress and in respect of 18 notices nothing had been done.

Offensive Trades.—During the year you gave permission for the establishment of 1 Fish Frying business and 1 Tripe Boiling. There are now 10 Fish Fryers ; 6 Tripe Boilers ; 1 Hide and Skin Dealer : 1 Fat Melter and 1 Leather Dresser.

Bakehouses.—There are 18 in the district. One notice was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories respecting the want of lime-washing at one place. The limewashing was done.

Factory and Workshop Act.—There are 256 Workshops on the Register. The trades carried on are as follows :—Bag Making, Baking, Basket Making, Brewing, Boot Repairing, Bucket-handle Making, Bucket Shears Making, Cabinet Making and Upholstery, Chain Making, Chamois Leather Dressing, Cycle Repairing, Decorating, Dress Making, Eating House, Frost Cog Making, Glass Engraving, Horse-shoe Making, Horse Shoeing, Jewellery and Watch Repairing, Joinery, Knitting, Ladies' Outfitting, Letter Cutting, Millinery, Motor Repairs, Motor Body Building, Nail Making, Picture Framing, Plumbing, Railway Wagon Repairing, Rug-clipping Dressing, Saddlery, Sheet-metal Cutting, Smithy (General), Stonemasonry, Tailoring, Tin and Whitesmith, Tripe Dressing, Wheelwright.

Notices of defects at Factories and Workshops were received from the Factory Inspector as follows :—

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| (1) | Dirty Bakehouse | ... | ... | Cleansed and whitewashed. |
| (2) | Dirty Workroom | ... | ... | Cleansed and redecorated. |

Common Lodging Houses.—There are three Common Lodging Houses, one being licensed, the other two old registered ones. The returns of the number of lodgers sleeping at these houses during the year totalled as follows :—(The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied).

Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers above 10 and under 21.		Lodgers under 10 years of age.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
9250	1829	93	17	32	65	11286

Outworkers' Lists.—Thirty-one lists of Outworkers were received during the year, containing 56 names of Outworkers, 31 being residents outside this District. The names of the latter were sent to the Local Authorities in whose District they resided. No names of Outworkers were received from other Local Authorities.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.—During the year 11 houses were inspected under these Regulations.

The following two houses were reported to your Sanitary Committee as being unfit for human habitation, and upon the recommendation of the Committee you made Closing Orders, as follows :—

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|--|
| 28th January | ... | No. 21, Pedmore Road (Shepherd's Brook). |
| 25th February | ... | No. 1, Darke's Yard, High Street. |

At the end of the year these houses were still occupied.

On 11th July, 1923, at the request of the Owner of No. 21, Pedmore Road, I supplied a detailed specification of the repairs necessary at this house, and as no repairs had been done, the Town Council, at a Meeting on the 24th September, 1923, ordered a Notice under Sec. 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, to be served. This was served on 12th October, 1923. The Owner interviewed the Sanitary Committee about this and other houses on 15th October, 1923, when he promised to see if he could get the repairs done. On 1st January, 1924, he wrote stating that he considered the house could not be repaired and that it was not safe for the Tenant to continue in occupation; and asked the Council to make a Closing Order. Your Sanitary Committee considered the matter at their Meeting on 14th January, 1924, and recommended the Town Council to issue a Closing Order. On 28th January this recommendation was adopted by the Town Council and a Closing Order was served on 15th February, 1924. This property, together with other properties in the vicinity, changed Ownership during the year; at the end of the year nothing had been done in the way of repairs and the house was still occupied.

In May, 1920, an Inquiry was held in respect of an Appeal against Closing Orders made by the Town Council relating to Nos. 13, 15 and 17, and Nos. 1 and 2, at rear of Nos. 13 and 15, Green Street. In May, 1921, the Ministry of Health sent an abridged Specification to the Owner and requested that the work specified should be done.

As the work set out in the abridged specification had not been carried out the Ministry of Health was informed of the continued neglect, and, on 1st August, 1924, a statement of the repairs done, and those specified which were not done, was sent to the Ministry. On 14th August, 1924, a Ministry of Health Inspector met the Owner, his Solicitor, the Assistant Solicitor of the Town Council and myself and inspected the property. The Owner was requested to complete the work, specified by the Ministry of Health, and he eventually did so. At the conference on 14th August, 1924, the Owner gave a verbal undertaking to convert the back-to-back houses into through houses when any one of the present houses becomes vacant. On 11th November, 1924, the Ministry was informed that the work had been completed, and reminded of the undertaking given by the Owner as to conversion of the back-to-back houses. At the end of the year none of the houses had been vacated.

In my Annual Report of 1913 I commented upon Washhouses and W.C.'s being jointly used by several houses and situated in common yards, these being in full view of all the houses in the various yards, so that privacy was impossible. In 1912 I suggested to several property Owners the desirability of removing such structures and erecting a scullery with sink and washing boiler, to each house, with a W.C. having access from the scullery. During 1912 four houses were improved in this manner, and in 1913, 22 were provided with separate sculleries in place of common washhouses. During 1924, four houses were each provided with a scullery and internal W.C. Altogether 80 houses have been provided with a separate scullery and in most cases the entrance to W.C. is from the scullery. At 12 other houses the work was in progress at the end of the year. I provide the Owners with plans and specifications. During the year 1924 plans and specifications were supplied for the provision of sculleries and W.C.'s at 14 houses.

Slaughterhouses.—In 1914 there were 15 Slaughterhouses, 10 being subject to annual licences. There are now 10 Slaughterhouses in the district. One Slaughterhouse was demolished, another one was rebuilt, and one which was not previously annually licensed changed ownership during the year and an annual licence was granted to the new owners. The Slaughterhouses are as follows :—

Mr. P. B. Barnes	...	33, Worcester Street.
Mr. W. A. A. Broadway	...	65, Enville Street.
Mr. W. Harris	...	115, Bridgnorth Road.
Mr. H. T. Harding	...	127, Bridgnorth Road.
Mr. T. W. Jones (etc.)	...	rear 13, Coventry Street.
Messrs. H. & J. Parkes	...	rear 15, Coventry Street.
Messrs. H. & J. Parkes	...	Hagley Road.
Mr. T. V. Parkes	...	The Heath.
Mr. F. T. White	...	53, Enville Street.
Mr. W. Yardley	...	148, Hagley Road.

The Slaughterhouse previously used by Mrs. S. C. Mason was taken down and a new Slaughterhouse erected and licences issued to Mrs. Mason, Mr. T. W. Jones, and Mr. F. Powell to use it. The licence to erect was issued upon an undertaking being given that should the Town Council at any time erect an Abattoir no claim for compensation would be made in the event of a renewal of the licence being refused. A similar understanding was given when a new Slaughterhouse was erected in 1923 by Mr. P. B. Barnes.

Public Abattoir.—The question of the provision of a Public Abattoir was considered in 1911, and a Special Committee went fully into the subject, but owing to anticipated opposition of the local Meat Traders, the matter was not proceeded with. In 1919 representatives of the local Meat Traders' Association approached me on the subject, and the question was again considered by your Sanitary Committee, but, principally on account of the high cost of building at that time, no recommendation was made.

At your Sanitary Committee Meeting in December, 1923, the matter was again considered when it was decided that the Committee appointed to consider and report on Refuse Disposal should also deal with the Abattoir question. This Committee had not made a report on the subject at the end of the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—During the year the following were registered :—8 Retailers of ordinary milk, 6 of whom reside outside the district. 8 Retailers of bottled milk and one Wholesale Dealer who is also registered as a Retailer. There are now on the Register 15 Producers who are also Retailers; 15 Retailers living in the district and 12 Retailers from outside the district; 19 Retailers of bottled milk, and one Retailer of bottled milk living outside the district who is also registered as a Wholesale Dealer.

Defects were found at 4 Cowsheds. These were remedied. Preliminary Notices were sent to 4 Unregistered milk sellers, who afterwards applied for registration.

There are approximately 86 Cows in the Borough.

Meat and Food Inspection.—There was no meat or other foods seized, but the following articles were condemned and destroyed:—6 tins of fish, 19 tins of fruit, 2 boxes of prawns, and 1 beast's liver.

Disinfection.—68 Houses and approximately 500 articles of bedding and clothing were disinfected. The rooms at two houses which had been occupied by patients who had suffered from Tuberculosis were stripped of wallpaper, sprayed and thoroughly disinfected. The Infant Department of Hill Street Council School and the whole of St. Joseph's R.C. School was disinfected in February.

Waterclosets.—The conversion of a pan to a W.C. was done during the year. 18 Additional W.C.'s were provided and 4 slop W.C.'s were converted into fresh-water flushing W.C.'s.

The number of privies converted into waterclosets since 1901, and the additional W.C.'s provided, are as follows:—

Waterclosets in place of privies...	...	1059
Additional waterclosets provided	...	205
Slop waterclosets converted into fresh-water flushing W.C.'s	... ..	56

Shops' Act.—There are 514 Shops on the Register. In February, 1923, you called attention to the provisions of these Acts, by advertisement in the local press. Several shop keepers were warned of offences, but no proceedings were taken.

Petroleum Acts.—Forty-five Petroleum Licences were issued, 31 to store Petrol only, 12 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and 2 to store Carbide of Calcium only. 22 Notices of Storage of Petrol under the Regulations made under the Locomotives on Highways Acts, were received.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT,

Sanitary Inspector.



200.