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# BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

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## *Annual Reports*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

for 1938.

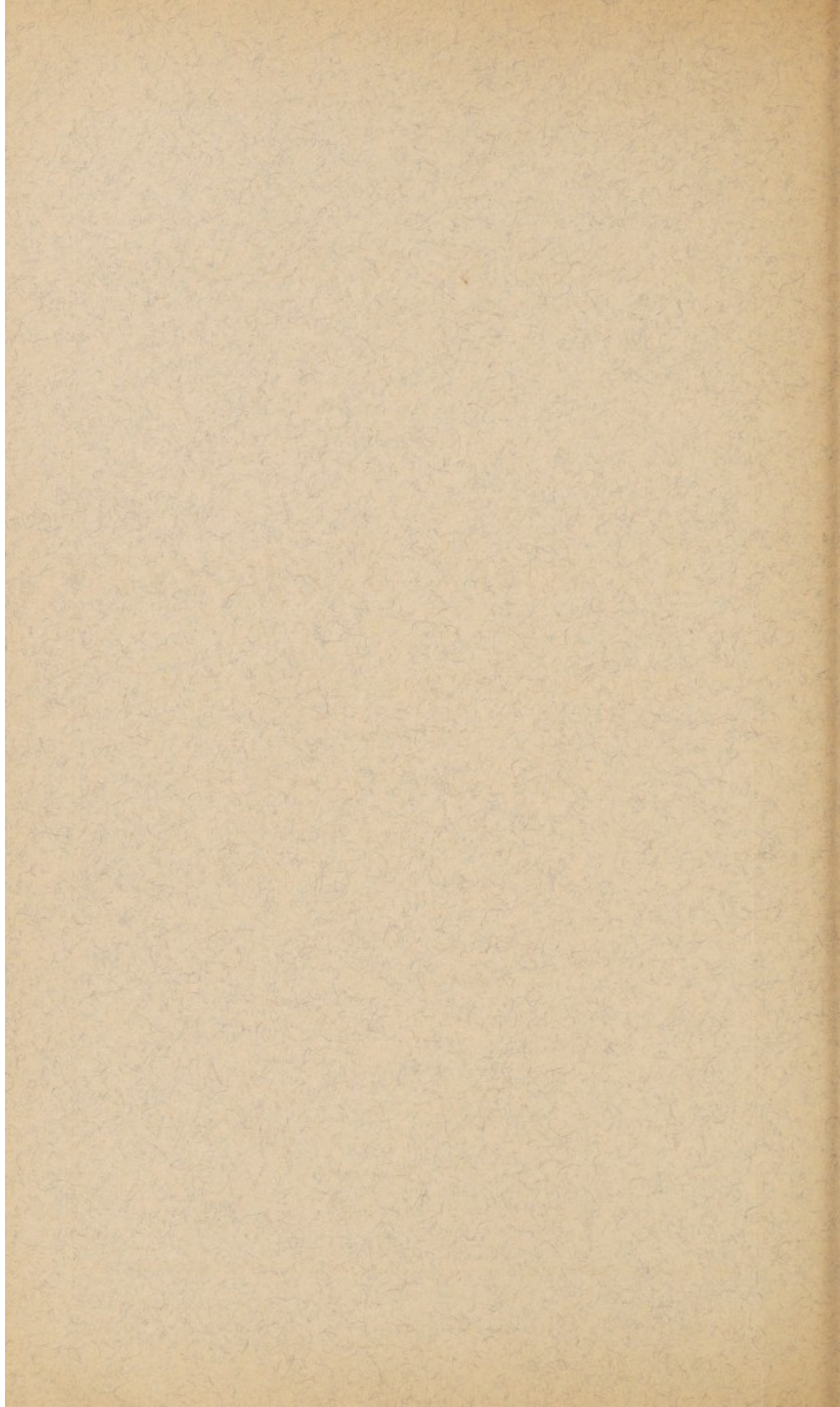
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Stourbridge :

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# BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

*Mayor :*

COUNCILLOR J. A. MOBBERLEY, J.P.

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*Deputy Mayor :*

ALDERMAN G. H. EVESON, C.C.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR RUFUS DUNN, J.P., *Chairman.*

Alderman	Mrs. Francis	Councillor	F. G. Gregory
"	W. T. Harmon, C.C.	"	Mrs. Lunt, J.P.
"	Joseph Wright, C.C.	"	W. Perrins
Councillor	H. Barlow	"	B. Skelding
"	A. A. Bateman	"	J. I. Green

---

*Medical Officer of Health :*

\*GEOFFREY DUDLEY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Sanitary Inspector also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts :*

\*†ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I. (to 30th September, 1938).

\*†A. E. K. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (from 1st October, 1938).

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

\*†A. E. K. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (to 30th September, 1938).

\*†R. HAINES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (to 19th June, 1938).

\*E. A. BURN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (from 18th July, 1938)

\*R. F. ROBINS, A.R.San.I. (from 1st November, 1938).

*Clerical Staff :*

N. F. COOKSON.

R. F. ROBINS (to 31st October, 1938)

J. W. BILLINGHAM (to 8th January, 1938)

MISS E. M. WASSELL (from 1st March, 1938).

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NOTES.— \*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

†Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.



# THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Vital Statistics for the Year 1938.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1938, being my Fourteenth Annual Report.

### SECTION A

#### Statistics and Social Conditions.

The Area was enlarged on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Urban District of Lye and Wollescote, and of the Parish of Pedmore, which was part of the Rural District of Bromsgrove.

	<i>Acres.</i>
The Area is now ... ..	4,214
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge ... ..	1,920
Lye and Wollescote ... ..	1,028
Pedmore ... ..	1,266
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was ...	33,140
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge ... ..	19,904
Lye and Wollescote ... ..	12,237
Pedmore ... ..	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1938 ...	35,130
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 ...	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1938 ...	10,086
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931 ... ..	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1938 ... ..	10,139
Rateable Value ... ..	£173,164
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£640 0 0

The increase in the population was 230 over that recorded for 1937.

#### Statistical Memorandum.

Population Estimated, Mid-year, 1938 .....	35130
Birth Rate per 1,000 .....	12.58
Birth Rate Average for five years, 1934-1938 .....	13.69
Death Rate, Crude .....	10.64
Death Rate, Adjusted .....	11.07
Death Rate—Adjusted—Average for five years 1934-1938 .....	11.69
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births .....	47.51
Infantile Death Rate Average for five years, 1934-1938 .....	45.40
Death Rate from Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases .....	0.09
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	0.63
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	0.058

### Physical Features, General Character and Social Conditions 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 Borough. The height above sea level at the River Boundary is 216 feet, rising to 442 feet at the South Boundary adjoining Bromsgrove Rural District, and to 512 feet on the East side.

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, the industrial portions being principally on the North and North East sides. The South side is wholly residential.

The principal industries are Iron Works, Spades and Shovels ; Chains, Vices, Anvils, Frost Cogs, Fire Bricks, Gas Retorts, Galvanized, Enamelled and Japanned Buckets, Baths and General Hollow-ware ; Horse Shoes ; Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves ; Brushes and Brooms ; Earthenware Sinks ; Glazed Bricks ; Glass Works Pots.

The Borough owns the Gasworks, which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, also, in conjunction with the Urban District of Amblecote, are owners of the Water undertaking.

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

The estimated number of persons unemployed, according to the Registers of the Employment Exchange, at the end of 1938, was 1,500.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

#### BIRTHS.

##### *Live Births.*

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate .....	227	201	428
Illegitimate .....	7	7	14
	<hr/> 234	<hr/> 208	<hr/> 442

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.58

Birth Rate for England and Wales ..... 15.1

The Birth Rate has again decreased and is the lowest on record. There were 19 fewer births than in 1937.

The continual fall in the Birth Rate is a matter of great concern, and since the Death Rate also steadily falls, it means that the number of old people is out of proportion to the number of young ones.

##### *Still Births.*

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate .....	13	14	27
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 27

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births ..... 57.57

The number of Still Births has increased from 15 in 1937 to 27 in 1938.



## DEATHS.

Males .....	198
Females .....	176
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>374</b>

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....	10.64
---	-------

For the purpose of comparison of the Death Rate with the Rates of other Districts, and with that of England and Wales as a whole, regard must be had to the constitution of the population in the matter of proportion of the sexes and age group components. The Registrar-General has, accordingly, issued a Comparability Factor (in the case of Stourbridge, 1.04) by which the Crude Death Rate must be multiplied to obtain an Adjusted Death Rate to allow of such comparison.

Adjusted Death Rate .....	11.07
Death Rate for England and Wales .....	11.6

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (Live and Still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—
Other Puerperal Causes .....	3 6.39
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3 6.39</b>

The Maternal Mortality Rates—per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births—for England and Wales were :—

Puerperal Sepsis .....	0.86
Other Puerperal Causes .....	2.11
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2.97</b>

The Puerperal Death Rate compares unfavourably with that for England and Wales but it is satisfactory to note that there was no death from Sepsis. The causes of the deaths were Renal Disease, Haemorrhage, and Extra-uterine pregnancy, the latter, when it proceeds to the normal expectation of pregnancy, is a very rare event.

In spite of this high Death Rate, the Maternity Services in the Borough are satisfactory. In addition to the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, there are four qualified Midwives, appointed by the County Council, whose services are available in the Borough. There are two Ante-Natal Clinics.

## Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate .....	13	7	20
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	47.51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births .....	46.73
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births .....	71.43

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 53 per 1,000 Live Births.

The Infant Mortality Rate appears to be satisfactory, it being below the average.

#### Causes of Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Total Number of Deaths.	Deaths under one month.
Congenital Abnormalities .....	4	4
Prematurity .....	6	6
Asphyxia .....	2	2
Melaena Neonatorum .....	2	2
Marasmus .....	1	1
Septicaemia .....	1	1
Congenital Syphilis .....	1	—
Myococcal Meningitis .....	1	—
Gastro Enteritis .....	1	—
Pneumonia .....	2	1
	—	—
Totals .....	21	17
	—	—

It will be seen that over 80% of the Infantile Deaths occurred during the first month of life.

The distribution of the Infantile Deaths throughout the Borough was as follows :—

Stourbridge .....	15
Lye and Wollescote .....	5
Pedmore .....	1
	—
	21
	—

#### Causes of Death.

The Deaths were distributed as follows :—

	Internal Deaths.	External Deaths.	Total Deaths.
Stourbridge .....	173	73	246
Lye and Wollescote .....	72	44	116
Pedmore .....	10	2	12
	—	—	—
	255	119	374
	—	—	—



### Comments on Causes of Death.

Heart Disease again accounted for by far the largest number of deaths, viz., 96 out of 374, *i.e.*, more than 1 in 4; in addition there were 20 deaths from other circulatory diseases, making 116 in all, or 31% of the total deaths. There were 22 deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage. There were 10 deaths from Influenza. Respiratory Diseases accounted for 31 deaths. Twenty-four deaths were due to Tuberculosis, 22 from Pulmonary and 2 from Non-Pulmonary. These figures show a slight increase over those for 1937, when 18 deaths were due to Tuberculosis—16 being Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary. Twenty-seven deaths were certified as being due to Senility.

### Zymotic Diseases.

There were 3 deaths from Zymotic Diseases during 1938, as compared with 17 in the previous year.

The Deaths were as follows :—Diphtheria, 2; Diarrhoea, 1; giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.09.

The Death Rate per 1,000 population for Diphtheria was 0.06, as compared with a Rate of 0.07 for England and Wales, while the Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births for Diarrhoea was 2.3, as compared with 5.5 for the country as a whole.

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
1 Typhoid Fever, etc....	—	—
2 Measles	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	2	—
6 Influenza	9	1
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2
9 Respiratory Tuberculosis	16	6
10 Other Tuberculosis	1	1
11 Syphilis	3	—
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	1	1
13 Cancer	24	24
14 Diabetes	3	1
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage	7	15
16 Heart Disease	48	48

## CAUSES OF DEATH—(Continued).

					M.	F.
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	3
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	8	8
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	16	9
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	1
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	2
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	2	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	4	7
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	3
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	10	5
32	Senility	...	...	...	9	18
33	Suicide	...	...	...	6	2
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	6	2
35	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	15	11
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	—
SPECIAL CAUSES (included in No. 35 above)					—	—
	Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Total					198	176

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	48
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

Deaths from Diphtheria are mainly preventable, but for this to take place early treatment is essential. It cannot be too strongly urged that any child suffering from a sore throat or any hoarseness of the voice should be seen by a doctor at once. Parents of young children would be well advised to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Town Council for immunisation against this disease.



**SECTION B.**  
**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**  
**FOR THE AREA.**

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**I. (i) Public Health Officers.**

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on Page 3.

**(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.**

Examination of clinical material (Sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

**(ii) (b) Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Cases a motor ambulance is provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee..

For Non-Infectious Cases. Two motor ambulances under the control of two local Committees, which are affiliated to the Home Service Ambulance Committee, and kept respectively at the Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street (Stourbridge), and in the yard at rear of Fire Station, Lye.

These facilities are adequate, and there are no restrictions as to distance or boundary.

**(ii) (c) Nursing in the Home.**

**(a) GENERAL.** The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organisation, employs two Nurses, whose services are available for residents in the Stourbridge and Pedmore Areas. The Lye and Wollescote Nursing Association, also a voluntary organization, employs a nurse.

**(b)** There is no provision for Professional Nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases treated at home, excepting Ophthalmia Neonatorum, cases of which are attended by the Infant Welfare Centre Nurse.

**(ii) (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

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.

The Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week from 2 till 4-30 p.m., and every morning from 9 till 10 o'clock.

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

Milk and other foods are given in necessitous cases or supplied at a low cost. The County Milk Scheme for mothers and infants has been adopted by this Welfare Committee.

An Assistant Medical Officer of the County attends at the Centre on Tuesday afternoons, and on the first and third Wednesday afternoons in each month.



An Orthopaedic Clinic, under the auspices of the Worcestershire County Council, is held daily at the Centre, for massage and remedial exercises.

An Ante-natal clinic is held at the Centre on the first and third Tuesday mornings in the month, and is attended by Dr. Irene Hastilow. An Ante-natal clinic is also held at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home on the second and fourth Tuesdays, and is attended by Dr. Eileen Bulmer. The Clinics are proving a great help to local medical practitioners.

A monthly Dental Clinic, especially for toddlers and young children, has recently been arranged to be held at the Centre on Saturday mornings.

A Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge. The Centre is under the control of the Corbett Hospital. Grants are made by the Worcestershire and Staffordshire County Councils. The Medical Officer attends on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.—the former for women and children and the latter for men. Intermediate Treatment for women is by arrangement; for men, each evening except Sunday and Monday.

Clinics for Immunisation of Children against Diphtheria are held by arrangement at the Town Hall, Stourbridge, and the Infant Welfare Centre, Lye. The Clinics are provided free by the Borough Council.

A Clinic for Investigation of Mental Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, each Friday, at 1-45 p.m. This is under the control of the County Council and the Medical Superintendent of the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove, is in charge of it.

The School Clinic is held every Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon in the special building attached to Envile Street School. It is under the control of the County Council and one of the Assistant County Medical Officers is in charge.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Dispensary, Greenfield Avenue, Stourbridge. It is provided by the Worcestershire County Council.

The Health Visitor (Miss E. E. Noke, S.R.N., S.C.M., Certs. Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses and for Maternity and Child Welfare Workers, also Diploma for Health Visitors) reports as follows :—

Notifications of Births received from County Medical Officer :—

Males, 162 ; Females, 146 ; Still Births, 13 ; Total Number of Live Births, 308.

Total Number of Children attending the Centre	686
Total Attendances during the Year	6493
Under one year	3904
Over one Year	2589
Total Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinic	358
New Patients	103
Total number of patients	132
Total visits paid to homes	4322
First visits	277
Re-visits under one year	1354
Re-visits over one year	2691
Ante-Natal First Visits	56
Re-visits	73



A special Toddlers Clinic is held on the first and third Wednesdays in each month. This is intended for the supervision of the health of children between the ages of one and five years.

*Infant Life Protection Act, 1908.*

*Children and Young Persons Act, 1930.*

Three children have been under supervision during the year, one child has left the District.

The homes are satisfactory.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Three cases have been treated. Two children made good recoveries but one died in hospital.

**County Milk Scheme.**

101 applications have been made under the Scheme and 742 pints of Milk, 110 lbs. of dried Milk and 494 bottles of Emulsion and Malt were supplied.

(ii) (e) **Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.**

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of beds.</i>
North Worcs. Isolation.	Hayley Green, near Halesowen.	Infectious Diseases	60
"	"	Tuberculosis	17
"	"	Smallpox	... 8
Corbett	Amblecote, near Stourbridge.	General	... 100
Sutton Road Institution	Kidderminster	Maternity	... 6
"	"	Poor Law	225
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home.	Stourbridge	Maternity	... 16

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green. Cases are admitted also from the Boroughs of Halesowen, Kidderminster and Bewdley, the Urban District of Stourport and the Kidderminster Rural District.

This Hospital has three wards for Infectious Diseases, containing 59 beds, 29 for males and 30 for females, and one ward with one bed for Enteric Fever. The Tuberculosis block has two wards, with 14 beds, and three shelters for males. At the Smallpox Hospital there are two wards, each containing 4 beds.

Sandfield House (Wordsley) is now a Public Assistance Institution under the Staffordshire County Council.

The Corbett Hospital, which is a General Hospital, is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, but is used by inhabitants of this Borough. It is a voluntary hospital, and has 36 beds for males, 32 for females, and 26 for children. There is also one isolation bed, and six private beds. The cases admitted are approximately 60 per cent surgical and 40 per cent medical.



A Clinic for the treatment of Hay Fever is held at the Corbett Hospital each Friday, at 2-0 p.m., from May to September. Treatment is given by Doctor Gifford, one of the Honorary Surgeons, and is by ionization. Although the number of patients treated has not been large, considerable benefit appears to have resulted.

One male and one female bed are allotted to the Venereal Disease Treatment Centre, for use when necessary. The small ward formerly used for maternity cases has been abolished, because of the provision of the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, as, with the exception of extremely abnormal cases, very little maternity work is done.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum requiring In-patient treatment are sent either to Kidderminster or to Dudley General Hospitals, while arrangements are made by the Health Visitor for treatment of other cases at home.

Cases requiring medical attention are sent by the Public Assistance Officer to the Sutton Road Institution, Kidderminster, a Home with 120 beds for males and 91 for females, and 14 cots. In addition there is a Maternity Ward with 6 beds and 4 cots, while 191 beds are provided for vagrants.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are treated at the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, by arrangement with the County Council.

Cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia are treated at the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, by arrangement with the County Council.

Cases of combined Pregnancy and Venereal Disease requiring In-patient treatment are admitted to Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.

Tuberculosis cases requiring Sanatorium treatment are sent by the County Council to Knightwick, Hill Top, Bromsgrove or Hayley Green. Orthopaedic cases in children—Tuberculosis or otherwise—are sent by arrangement to the "Woodlands," Northfield, Birmingham.

A special clinic for Ear, Nose and Throat cases was established at the Corbett Hospital, under Mr. Bernard G. Goodwin, F.R.C.S. Similiar cases are also treated at the Queen's, General, and Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals, Birmingham.

In addition, considerable use is made by inhabitants of the Birmingham Hospitals for all purposes.

Special departments for the treatment of Ophthalmic Diseases are held at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Thursdays, at 9 a.m., and at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, on Thursdays, at 2 p.m.; for the treatment of Orthopaedic conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Mondays, at 10-0 a.m. and for Ear, Nose and Throat conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

An Orthoptic Clinic for the treatment of squints was commenced at the beginning of the year, at the Corbett Hospital, and is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Great benefit is resulting from this new method of treatment.



**Legislation in Force.****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	...	...	...	1825
Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	...	1866
Stourbridge Improvement Commissioners Act	...	...	...	1891
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	...	1894
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, 6th April,				
	1891, 26th Nov. 1901, and 30th Aug., 1909			
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (parts)	16th Feb., 1910			
Public Health Act, 1925, (except Secs. 21, 22 and 44)	30th Aug. 1927			
ditto	(Secs. 21, 22 and 44) 26th Sep. 1927			

**BYELAWS.**

Offensive Trades	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Blood Boiler		Leather Dresser		
Blood Drier		Size Maker		
Bone Boiler		Soap Boiler		
Fat Melter or Fat Extractor		Tallow Melter		
Fellmonger		Tanner		
Glue Maker		Tripe Boiler		
Gut Scraper				
Markets and Fairs	...	...	...	14th Aug. 1867.
Markets	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
W.C.'s to be supplied with Water	...	...	...	29th July 1895.
Nuisances	...	...	...	20th Oct. 1911.
Public Baths	...	...	...	13th Oct. 1916.
Libraries	...	...	...	13th Oct. 1916.
Mortuary	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Omnibuses	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Cleansing of Footpaths, etc., Earthclosets and	...	...	...	
Cesspools	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
New Streets and Buildings	...	...	...	7th April, 1927.
Behaviour of Passengers in Vehicles	...	...	...	2nd Feb. 1927.
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	2nd April 1930.
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	9th April 1930.

**MORTUARY.**

During the year the bodies of eighteen people were conveyed to the Mortuary, the causes of death being as follows :—

	Residents	Non-Residents
Natural Causes	9	1
Accidents	1	—
Suicides	7	—
	—	—
	17	1
	—	—



## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

There has been no alteration in the water supply.

The supply is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

There is no filtration, the water being pumped direct into mains. There is, however, a Reservoir at Doctor's Hill, Stourbridge, serving to augment the pressure, the surplus water during the night going into the Reservoir.

Following are the results of the analyses of two samples of the Town water, taken in April and October respectively.

	No. 1	No. 2
<i>Physical Characters :</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>
	<i>Deposit very</i>	<i>Deposit none.</i>
	<i>slight brown.</i>	
<i>Chemical Examination. (Results in parts per 100,000).</i>		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	Trace	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	50	55
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	44	47
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	7	9.8
Hardness, Permanent	13	14
" Temporary	15	20
" Total	28	34
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0008	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001	0.003
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.9	1.1
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.006	0.013
Toxic metals	None detected.	None detected.

Samples of the Town's water supply are taken monthly in the districts of each of the three Authorities served by the Water Board, and reports are exchanged.

The bacteriological analyses of the samples submitted by this Department were as follows : —

Date	No. of Colonies developing upon		Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count
	Agar in 2 days at 37°C	in 3 days at 22°C.	
January	Nil	10	Nil
March	2	4	Nil
April	2	10	Nil
June	2	20	Nil
August	2	30	Nil
October	6	6	Nil
December	Nil	20	Nil

B. Typhosus and Cl. Welchii were absent from all of, and Streptococci were not detected in any of, the samples.

The supply is obtained from three boreholes : (1) Coalbournbrook, 501 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds ; (2) Mill Meadow, 350 feet deep, sandstone ; (3) Tack, (Wordsley), 210 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds. The latter two are standbys. Nos. 1 and 2



are in the Urban District of Amblecote and No. 3 in the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

The Corporation Baths and several works pump water from their own wells. A considerable number of houses supplement the water supply by having rain-water cisterns on their premises, many being underground.

#### **PEDMORE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY.**

In my Annual Report for 1937, I referred to the condition of this water supply. The supply is derived from two springs connected by means of agricultural pipe lines to a collecting tank approximately 400 ft. away from which the pipe lines lead to the various houses supplied. A further pipe line conveyed water from another spring to the collecting chamber, while in addition numerous surface water drains discharged either into the pipe line or direct into the reservoir. The springs and reservoir are on the slope of a hill; the field itself is generally used for the grazing of cattle, and is nearly always water-logged.

Towards the end of 1937 samples of the water were submitted for examination, and the water was found to be polluted and unfit for drinking. As I stated in my last Report, during the early part of 1938 the surface water drains to the reservoir and pipe line were cut off, and one of the springs was fenced round. After the execution of these works a further sample of the water was taken and was found to be fit for drinking and greatly improved.

In October, however, further samples were taken which on analysis showed evidence of contamination, and were unfit for drinking purposes. The matter was reported to the November Meeting of the Public Health Committee, and instructions were given for samples to be taken from each of the houses supplied, and also from the collecting chamber. At the same time I wrote to the users of the water advising them that all water used for drinking purposes should be boiled.

During November and December further samples were taken, and at the Meeting of the Public Health Committee held in December I submitted the following Report :—

10th December, 1938.

#### **PEDMORE WATER SUPPLY.**

Samples of water have now been examined bacteriologically from the Collecting Chamber and all the houses supplied from the Pedmore Private Water Supply. In each instance the Analyst reports that there is evidence of contamination and that the water is unfit for drinking. A table appended shows the extent of the contamination in each case.

The condition of the water has been discussed with Mr. H. E. Monk, the County Analyst and Bacteriologist, and he considers that each sample is polluted and, furthermore, that there is a risk that such pollution may become dangerous. He considers that there are relatively large numbers of bacillus Coli present and that they are of faecal type. The condition, therefore, is in all probability one of fairly massive pollution of excretal nature at some stage before the water reaches the reservoir. It is obvious that there is definite and serious potential danger.

It is my opinion, as it was in my Report to you of the 17th January, 1938, on this same water supply, that the use of this water for domestic purposes should be discontinued.

GEOFFREY DUDLEY,  
Medical Officer of Health..



Premises.	Chemical Examination. (Results in parts per 100,000)		Bacteriological Examination.				
	Albuminoid Ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	No. of Colonies developing upon Agar In 2 days at 37°C. In 3 days at 22°C. (per 1 m.l.)	Coli-Aerogenes (presumptive Coli) Count per 100 m.l.	Bacillus Typhosus per 200 m.l.	Cl. Welchii per 250 m.l.	Strepto-cocci
Five Houses,							Not detected.
School Row, Pedmore	0.007	0.16	270	1400	180	Nil	Nil
Bank Farm ...	0.012	0.14	60	1200	160	"	"
Wyychbury Cottage (Pearson)	0.016	0.27	160	1100	180	"	"
Wyychbury Cottage (Vine)	0.016	0.27	220	1300	180	"	"
The Meadows Cottages (Freeman)	0.014	0.27	520	1700	180	"	"
Post Office, Pedmore	0.012	0.27	260	1600	180	"	"
Collecting Chamber	0.014	0.27	800	2600	180	"	"
Hall Cottages (Lees)	0.015	0.27	210	1800	180	"	"
Hall Cottages (Attenborough)	0.017	0.27	460	2100	180	"	"
The Hollies (Greenfield)	0.016	0.29	320	2100	180	"	"
Farm House (Osborn)	0.019	0.3	280	2200	180	"	"
Cottages next Post Office	0.012	0.29	330	2400	180	"	"
Pedmore Farm (Woodbridge)	0.018	0.29	280	2400	180	"	"
The Hollies (Harris)	0.019	0.28	440	3800	180	"	"
Meadow View (Partridge)	0.021	0.28	460	3700	180	"	"
Pedmore Hall Farm	0.017	0.27	680	5300	180	"	"
Pedmore House	0.019	0.29	700	5500	180	"	"
Pedmore Rectory	0.011	0.24	420	2700	180	"	"
Springfield Cottage	0.031	0.25	520	1300	180	"	"

Between the date of submission of the samples and the Meeting of the Public Health Committee a further house, "Springfield Cottage," was found to be connected to this supply and a sample of the water was sent for examination, the results of which are included in the table.

At a special Meeting of the Public Health Committee instructions were given for Notices under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 to be served upon the owners, requiring them within twenty-eight days to provide or secure the provision of a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the inhabitants of the houses.

The houses and farms, with four exceptions, are the property of the Feoffees of Oldswinford Hospital, Stourbridge, who also own the land on which the springs and collecting chamber are situated. Objections from the Steward to the Feoffees were laid with the Minister of Health on the ground that sufficient time was not allowed to carry out the requirement of the Local Authority.

During the early part of 1939 certain works were carried out. The agricultural pipes conveying water from two of the springs to the collecting chamber were replaced by glazed stoneware socketted pipes properly jointed, the third spring was disconnected entirely from the supply, and the inspection chambers provided in the course have been reconstructed and formed more efficiently to protect the water against surface water contamination.

Since the execution of these works samples of the water have been examined and present very marked improvement both chemically and bacteriologically, and show that the water is now fit for drinking.

Two of the privately owned houses have now been connected to the mains of the Stourbridge and District Water Board, and Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, served in respect of the five houses at School Row have required the Feoffees similarly to connect these houses to the Town's supply. I understand, also, that the owners of the other two privately owned houses are at present considering the desirability of changing over.

Although at the moment the water is fit for drinking I am, nevertheless, still of the opinion that it would be advisable for all the houses to be connected to the Town mains, which run in close proximity to the properties. By reason of the fact that the field is at most times waterlogged, and is used for grazing of cattle, there is I think, a serious potential danger of the water becoming polluted from broken pipes, and leaky joints of pipes and brickwork of inspection chambers.

The diminution of quantity during drought, poor pressure in the supply pipes, and the fact that when the water is used for the coolers at the farms the supply to the houses is either completely or partially stopped are additional reasons why this supply should be discontinued.

The inadequacy of the supply also presents a difficulty in case of fire. Recently in 1939, a fire occurred at one of the premises supplied by this private supply; delay resulted in obtaining water but eventually it was obtained from a private pool and later from the main supply of the Stourbridge and District Water Board.



### **Foxbrake, Pedmore, Water.**

A sample of water from a Spring on Wychbury Hill providing the only available supply for the occupants of four cottages was examined and found to be grossly polluted with matter of animal origin and totally unfit for drinking purposes. The houses were included in a Clearance Order, two of them, the house occupied by the owner and the adjoining one, being excluded from the Confirming Order, for action under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936. Upon consideration with the Public Health Committee, however, the owner expressed the wish that Demolition Orders should be made and the houses are now demolished.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Stourbridge area was sewered in 1887 and the Lye and Wollescote area about 1900. The Main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board, consisting of representatives of the Stourbridge and Amblecote Councils. The Sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards, and 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 W.C.'s and efficient drainage, the drains being intercepted from the sewers with intercepting traps. A number of houses have cesspools, most of these being recently erected.

Apart from development of new Housing Estates, no extension of sewers has taken place during the year.

### **Pollution of the River Stour.**

The River Stour which flows through Stourbridge has been known for a number of years to be seriously polluted by trade waste. This matter has for many years engaged the attention of the County Council in their capacity as an Authority under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts and following the appointment of a County Sanitary Officer arrangements were made for him to survey the river.

During the course of this survey, undoubted pollution was discovered to be arising from certain Works engaged in galvanizing in the Borough where the spent acid after use was discharged into a culvert which eventually reached the River Stour.

The County Council thereupon decided to apply to the Minister of Health for the necessary sanction to take proceedings against certain firms whose waste was found to be entering this culvert. A local Inquiry into this application by the County Council was held at Stourbridge by the Ministry of Health, but at the time of writing the Minister's decision is not known.

It should be understood that the firms concerned in the application made to the Ministry by the County Council are not the only ones polluting the River, but that these firms were selected as a test case rather than as a comprehensive attempt to cover the whole of the sources of pollution.

The information given above has been supplied to me by the County Medical Officer who states that efforts to improve the River have not been confined to the Stourbridge area, but that action has been taken to deal



with pollution arising both before the River enters Stourbridge and after it leaves there.

### Closet Accommodation.

Most of the houses are provided with Water Closets, the exceptions being cottages situate in localities where there are no sewers. There are a number of slop W.C.'s but these are gradually being converted to W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus. The Sanitary Inspector's Report gives details of conversions and additions.

### Public Cleansing.

The Scavenging is carried out by direct labour and is dealt with by controlled tipping, being spread over small areas, covered and levelled. At the end of the year there were three tips in use, viz., Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street; Wollaston Hall Estate; Bromley Street, Lye.

Ashpits are emptied as required, and the contents of movable ashbins collected weekly. The few privies are cleared as required, the contents being buried. Cesspools are emptied and the contents either tipped down sewers or spread over farm land.

Three motor freighters were in use during the year. One is used for refuse collection on three days in each week, and for cleansing of street gullies at other times. All these vehicles are very satisfactory. The other conveyances are horse-drawn.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement as required by Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, as to the number and nature of inspections made during the year :—

Inspections of houses and premises .....	592
Inspections under Housing Regulations .....	231
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations .....	2004
Overcrowding .....	201
Visits re notifiable disease .....	161
Visits re Tuberculosis .....	46
Re-Inspections and Re- Visits .....	1571
Slaughter-houses .....	2525
Dairies and Cowsheds .....	102
Factories .....	127
Bakehouses .....	21
Food Stores .....	109
Offensive trade premises .....	23
Shops .....	105
Vermin infestation .....	89
Water Supply .....	47
Smoke Nuisances .....	23
Schools .....	3
Petrol .....	15
Vans .....	14
Pools .....	4
Corporation Refuse Tips .....	12
Common Lodging Houses .....	8



### **Shops and Offices.**

The systematic inspection of Shops in the Borough has been carried out during the year, the work being more fully described in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

No action has been taken as yet with regard to the inspection of offices for ventilation, uncleanness or overcrowding.

### **Camping Sites.**

There are no licensed camping sites in the Borough, nor have any licences been issued authorising the use of moveable dwellings.

By reason of two well known beauty spots being in the very near vicinity of Stourbridge no campers are found in the Borough.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

Byelaws were adopted in April, 1930, limiting the emission of black smoke to three minutes in the half hour.

During the year 23 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with alleged smoke nuisances and three preliminary intimation notices served ; these nuisances were subsequently abated.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

Mr. G. N. Maynard, the Borough Surveyor, has furnished me with the following details of the new and enlarged Corporation Baths, work on which was commenced during the year :—

“During the year 1938 work on the above contract was actively commenced and by the 31st December the shell of the new building was practically completed.

The Open Air plunge is being deepened to give a maximum depth of water for diving purposes of 9' 9" and the closed bath plunge is being widened by 3 feet. The closed bath hall has been widened to give terraced accommodation for spectators which together with a new balcony will accommodate 375 persons. The plunges will have a paved strip all round for the exclusive use of bathers who will have to pass through precleansing rooms and footbaths before entering the water.

New dressing rooms are being provided giving accommodation for 540 persons in all with 91 cubicles. Clothes will be stored and distributed on the basket system.

There is a new administration block with Committee rooms over and the Slipper baths are being modernised throughout. Under the administration block is a basement with heating, filtration and chlorination plants.

The swim water in the indoor bath will be circulated once every four hours and that in the open air bath once every six hours and will be maintained at the standard of purity recommended by the Ministry of Health. The temperatures of the outdoor and indoor swims will be maintained 72° and 74° respectively. Modern Laundry equipment is to be installed for towels, costumes, etc.”

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools within the Borough which are open to the public.



### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Six council houses and fifteen other houses were found to be infested with bugs. During the year all these houses were treated, the treatment consisting of fumigation with Cimex Fumigant, or spraying with Zaldecide. In instances of severe infestation woodwork was removed and the flame of a blow lamp applied. Hydrogen Cyanide was not used and the use of Ortho-dichlorobenzene was discontinued.

The furniture and household effects of persons moving to Council houses from houses showing any evidence of infestation are suitably treated, and in some cases furniture has been destroyed by burning. Such tenants are subsequently visited to make certain that no infestation has arisen at the new premises.

One house was disinfected by Cimex, Ltd., as an experiment, but in the other instances the work was carried out by the Local Authority.

### **Schools.**

It was neither necessary to close any School during the year on account of the incidence of notifiable disease, nor to issue any certificate to cover decreased attendances owing to the prevalence of infectious disease.

Notices are sent to schools giving particulars of scholars from houses where cases of notifiable infectious diseases have occurred, and requests made for the scholars to be excluded from school for a specified period.

The water supply generally at the schools is ample, all the schools being supplied direct from the water mains.

### **Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.**

*Burial Grounds.* There are six Burial Grounds in use in the district ; Stourbridge Cemetery ; Lye Cemetery ; the Roman Catholic Cemetery ; and the Churchyards of Old Swinford, Wollaston, and Pedmore.

There are also "closed" graveyards at the Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church and Friends Meeting House.

Sunday funerals at the Stourbridge Cemetery are not allowed, except in cases receiving sanction of the Town Council, through me.

## **SECTION D.**

### **HOUSING.**

#### **1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	332
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	379
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	231
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	264



(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	235
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	97

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	72
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under sections, 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	4

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	—

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	54
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	48

(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	2



## 4.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(A) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the									
year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein						...	...	...	234
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein						...	...	...	1339
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during									
the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
(C) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the									
year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases							...	...	143

**Housing.**

429 new houses were erected during the year, 214 of them by the Local Authority under the Housing Acts to rehouse persons displaced by slum clearance.

Good progress has been made during the year in slum clearance, 53 demolition orders on individual unfit houses and closing orders on 2 parts of buildings being made. In addition undertakings have been accepted in respect of 14 houses, reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act, in lieu of demolition orders.

Representations were made in April in respect of six Clearance Areas comprising 64 houses with an ascertained population of 226, while in September an additional 9 Areas were declared comprising 89 houses and 304 occupiers.

On the 1st February an Inquiry was held, by an Inspector of the Ministry, into the application of the Council for confirmation of 7 Clearance Orders made in 1937. The Orders, comprising 65 houses, were confirmed without modification. A further Inquiry was held in July in respect of 6 Clearance Orders made in April when 8 houses were excluded from the confirming orders for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act.

Extensive repairs have been carried out at many houses, in several instances including the substitution of separate sculleries and water closets for wash houses and sanitary conveniences used in common. Details as to the general repairs carried out are included in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

48 individual unfit houses have actually been demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 and 4 houses have been demolished in anticipation of such formal procedure, the numbers of persons displaced being 160 and 6 respectively. 20 houses have been made fit as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12 of the Housing Act, and 26 as a result of informal notices preliminary to such formal procedure.

24 families became overcrowded during the year by reason of children attaining the ages of one or 10 years. 21 cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, the number of persons concerned in such cases being 143. At the end of the year, 195 dwellings were overcrowded, the numbers of families and persons dwelling therein being 234 and 1339 respectively.



## SECTION E.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## Milk Supply.

Details of the action taken with regard to milk are included in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed ...	1075	399	70	7800	3169
Number inspected ...	1038	388	69	6797	3077
All diseases, except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases con- demned ...	—	—	—	4	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	35	24	—	14	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis ...	3.4	6.2	—	0.27	0.39
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	45	37	—	—	221
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4.3	9.5	—	—	7.3

The total weight of meat condemned was approximately 2 ton, 15 cwt., 3 qr., details as to the causes of condemnation being included in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There is no meat marking scheme, under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in force in the Borough.

### **Adulteration, etc.**

During the year the Council accepted an offer of the Worcestershire County Council to examine, free of charge, samples of food and drugs taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and in November the Sanitary Inspectors were appointed by the County Council as Sampling Officers.

One informal sample of milk was submitted to the Public Analyst, the report being :—Fat, 4.2% ; Solids not fat, 9.0%.

### **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

As and when required samples are submitted to the County Laboratory at Worcester.

### **Nutrition.**

Nutrition on the whole is fairly good, and no bad cases of under-nutrition have come to my notice during the year.

## **SECTION F.**

### **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

#### **Small Pox.**

No case was reported during the year. No cases have occurred in the Borough since 1931.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

The type of disease was again of a mild character. Only 25 cases, or 0.71 per thousand of the population were reported during the year as compared with 29 in the previous year and 62 in 1936. The cases were of a sporadic nature.

Removal to hospital took place in 19 instances, or 76 per cent. of the cases notified. There were no deaths from the disease. The cases were distributed fairly evenly throughout the Borough. There were 4 cases in children of pre-school age.

The cases occurred in 24 households, two cases having occurred in one house, the one being a return case. 9 of the patients resided in council houses.

The bedroom accommodation at the houses where the cases occurred was as follows :—two bedrooms, 2 cases ; three bedrooms, 21 cases ; four bedrooms, 2 cases.

#### **Diphtheria.**

49 cases of Diphtheria, equivalent to an incidence of 1.39 per thousand population, were notified during the year, as compared with 81 in the previous year and 33 in 1936. Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year with an increased incidence in the first three months of the year, a continuation of a mild outbreak which commenced at the end of 1937.



The type of disease was very mild in comparison with that experienced during the two previous years. There were two deaths from the disease, giving a percentage case mortality of 4.08. The case mortality for 1937 was 3.70 ; for 1936, 15.5 ; and for 1935, 16.3.

One of the deaths was a boy who did not receive any medical attention until seven days after the onset of the illness. The other case was a boy of 3 years of age notified on the 13th July, who was treated in Hospital and discharged on the 19th August ; on the 29th of that month the boy died, the causes of death being Broncho pneumonia and debility following Diphtheria.

The total number of patients admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital was 46 or 93.8 per cent. In the three instances where the patients received domiciliary treatment there were proper facilities for isolation and nursing.

In five instances 2 cases occurred in one house. With the exception of one instance the subsequent patient was notified to me within a day or so of the primary case, but in the other instance the first case was notified on the 17th March, and the second case on the 6th April. In the meantime it was found that the father was a carrier and he was removed to Isolation Hospital on the 20th March.

Five carriers or suspected carriers were found to have positive swabs and were removed to Hospital for treatment.

At the request of the Head Teachers concerned some of the scholars at 3 schools were swabbed, but in each instance with negative results.

In the case of a few of the patients the source of infection could be ascertained, but for the greater part no obvious connection between the cases could be discovered.

One case occurred in a house with one bedroom, fourteen in houses with two bedrooms, thirty-two in houses with three bedrooms, one in one house with four bedrooms, and one in a house with five bedrooms. Twenty-five of the patients resided in council houses.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.** At the October Meeting of the Public Health Committee I was asked to give a report on the progress of the immunisation scheme, and the following report was submitted to the Committee at their November Meeting :—

14th November, 1938.

#### **Report on Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The Council's Scheme whereby material is supplied free for the purpose of immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced in the early part of 1935. In September, 1935, you decided to supply local medical practitioners with the material, free of charge, the doctors to make their own arrangements with the parents for any fee charged for the actual injection.

Every effort to bring to the notice of the Public the advantages of immunisation has been made. On four occasions the elementary schools in the Borough have been circulated, pamphlets advising the treatment have been widely issued in schools and public libraries, and on the first Birthday of each child born in the Borough a letter is sent to the parents offering immunisation. In addition your Chairman has at times made



reference to immunisation at Council Meetings. Use has also been made of the Health Visitors, and talks have recently been given at the Stourbridge and Lye Infant Welfare Centres.

Up to the Autumn of 1937 the material used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid and one injection only was given, but some fourteen months ago the manufacturers stated that they considered that more efficient immunisation resulted by the giving of two injections with a fortnight's interval between them, and I have now adopted this method as a routine.

In only one series of cases, viz., the children at the Cottage Homes, has any other method been used; at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health, 3 injections of Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture are given to such children.

So far, 3,440 children have been immunised in the Borough.

Year	Alum Precipitated Toxoid.		Toxoid-Antitoxin.	Total
	1 Inj.	2 Inj.	Mixture	
1935	1,813	—	3	1,816
1936	972	—	—	972
1937	224	247	46	517
1938	—	112	23	135
Totals	3,009	359	72	3,440

In addition 20 children have received a first injection under the 2 injection method, but, in spite of many requests, failed to attend for the second one necessary to complete the treatment. Under the 2 injection method the first one is so small that unless a second one is given the child cannot expect to derive any benefit.

Of the total children immunised 804 have been done by local medical practitioners and 2636 by myself.

It is not possible to give as a percentage the number of children at present attending the elementary schools of the Borough who have been immunised by reason of the fact that many children are of pre-school age when the treatment is given while others who received treatment when the scheme was commenced have since left, but for your guidance I have to say that the number of elementary school children in the Borough at the present time is 4542.

The total number of immunised children who have subsequently developed Diphtheria is, to date, 18, (a percentage of total number of children immunised of 0.53) as follows:—

Year	No.	Remarks.
1935	3	In one of the cases the child had been only partly immunised; the three injection method had been used but only two of the injections had been given, this being before the patient came to live within the Borough of Stourbridge. Of the other two cases, one was only immunised 12 days before the onset of the disease, but in the other case four months had elapsed. The three cases were mild, and made complete recoveries.



Year	No.	Remarks.
1936	3	Each had received a single injection of A.P.T. between 4-8 months previous.
1937	6	Two of the children had received a single injection only a month before the onset. Each of the others had received a single injection of A.P.T. between 18 months and 2 years before.
1938	6	Five had received a single injection between 18 months and 3 years previously. The other had received a double injection of A.P.T., only 3 months prior to date of onset.

In each instance the child made an early and complete recovery.

**Table Showing Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria.**

Year	Total Cases	Deaths	Mortality Rate	Immunised Children. Cases	Deaths
1935	110	18	16.3	3	—
1936	33	5	15.1	3	—
1937	81	3	3.7	6	—
1938	49	2	4.08	6	—
	<hr/> 273	<hr/> 28		<hr/> 18	<hr/> —

GEOFFREY DUDLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

The position at the end of the year was materially the same. An additional 89 children had been immunised, making a total for the year of 224, of whom 23 had received 3 injections of Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture, and no further cases or deaths had been reported. Of this number, 122 were of pre-school age and 102 were school children.

The cases vary very much in severity and I cannot emphasise too strongly the necessity of obtaining medical advice in any doubtful case of sore throat or hoarse voice; early treatment is essential. At the same time prevention is always better than cure and efficient immunisation will prevent the disease in the great majority of cases. All children should be immunised as soon as they reach the age of one year. It is my considered opinion that immunisation is so satisfactory that it should be made compulsory.

#### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

12 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were reported during the year, 7 of them being patients at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home but not normally resident in the Borough.

All the patients made good recoveries.

Notification is satisfactory. Facilities for all necessary treatment are provided by the County Council.



### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

6 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported during the year. One of the cases, a child whose parents were not residents of the Borough, was at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home.

Of the five cases in children resident in the Borough, three made complete recoveries. One of the children was still under observation and receiving treatment at the end of the year, whilst the other baby subsequently died, the cause of death being congenital syphilis.

### **Pneumonia.**

There were 52 cases notified during 1938, as compared with 20 in the previous year. 25 deaths occurred.

### **Erysipelas.**

22 cases were reported, as compared with 10 in 1937.

No deaths occurred. Streptococcal infections are common but as a rule respond well to early and adequate treatment with the Sulphonamide group of drugs.

### **Cerebro-Spinal Fever.**

3 cases were notified to me during the year, while in addition the Medical Officer of Health of Birmingham informed me that a Stourbridge child in one of the Birmingham Hospitals was also suffering from the disease. Three deaths occurred. This disease is now being treated with the Sulphonamide group of drugs and particularly with M and B. 693; great hopes are entertained that treatment will be successful.

### **Acute Rheumatism.**

Cases of this disease are still occurring, especially in the east side of the Borough where the subsoil is of clay. Some have cardiac complications and others chorea.

In my Annual Report for 1937 I mentioned that with the help of neighbouring Local Authorities, the Local Education Committee were endeavouring to form a special school for rheumatic children. I understand that whilst no material progress was made with the scheme during the year, a Committee was set up, an architect appointed, and several sites inspected.

It is to be hoped that the scheme will materialise at an early date because there is no doubt that prolonged rest does lead to great improvement in rheumatic children whose hearts are diseased.

### **Epidemic Catarrhal Jaundice.**

During the months of January and February about 60 cases of this condition occurred in the Boys Department of one of the elementary schools. Nearly all the boys were affected; in most cases the condition ran a mild course but a few of the boys were quite ill for some days; all made good recoveries. The epidemic was almost completely confined to boys but a small number of girls were affected; these were sisters of affected boys. I am unable to add anything to the etiology of the disease, but the most likely method of spread appears to be by naso-pharyngeal droplet infection.



### General.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases has been similar to that in 1936, 169 cases being reported as compared with 163 in the previous year.

Diphtheria is the disease which has caused the most concern, as some of the cases are very severe. Early use of anti-toxin is urged even in doubtful cases, and is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Borough Council. Doubtful throats and nasal passages are swabbed as a routine. Contacts in the house are all swabbed and contacts at school are also swabbed if there are more than three cases in a class. Specimens are examined by the County Bacteriologist. Immunisation against Diphtheria has been practised as in previous years.

Anti-scarlatinal serum is not provided free, but it is used in severe cases. In the Isolation Hospital it is used in most cases; undoubtedly it is useful in preventing or alleviating complications and in shortening the period in hospital. Sulphonamide is now being used in many Streptococcal conditions and appears to be replacing anti-scarlatinal serum. It is very efficacious.

Cases of Streptococcal Tonsillitis have been frequent and undoubtedly mild cases spread the infection, causing Scarlet Fever in one patient and perhaps Puerperal Fever in another.

Sputum from many suspected chest cases is examined for Tubercle Bacilli.

Most cases of Diphtheria are removed to hospital. The removal of Scarlet Fever cases depends on whether efficient isolation and proper nursing can be carried out at home; in many cases it is difficult—the patients are then removed.

Fumigation of rooms which have been occupied by patients suffering from infectious disease is carried out upon request, and where the patient has been treated at home. Bed clothing is always disinfected.

All Scarlet Fever patients admitted to hospital are immunised against Diphtheria before discharge.

The notification of pneumonia is not in all respects satisfactory; although it is clear which types of the disease should be reported, it is not always easy to diagnose them clinically and I believe that some cases are reported which need not be, and vice versa, cases which need not be reported, sometimes are. Further, it is difficult to know how to utilise the information when it is received, beyond seeing that adequate nursing provision is made. The services of the local Nursing Association are used in some of these cases and are much appreciated.

No official action has been taken in the use of Serum in the prophylaxis or treatment of Measles. I am aware of a small number of cases which have been treated with Immune Globulin (Placental Extract); the children were given the treatment on account of debility from some other condition—Coeliac disease in one case—the cases were definitely attenuated and no complications occurred.

Measles and whooping cough cases are not at present admitted to the Isolation Hospital; the hospital is to be enlarged in the near future and I hope that severe cases of these diseases will then be able to be admitted.



### INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The following tables give details of the Notification of Infectious Diseases during the year.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	2	4	2	1	1	3	2	—	3	3	25
Diphtheria ...	12	5	10	7	1	1	5	2	3	1	2	—	49
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	2	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	12
Pneumonia ...	2	6	3	15	8	9	2	—	—	3	4	—	52
Erysipelas ...	2	1	4	1	3	2	—	4	1	1	1	2	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	6
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	18	18	21	27	18	15	10	11	7	6	10	8	169

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS,) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

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 upwards.			
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	—	2	10	9	—	2	—	—	—	25	19	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	5	2	24	13	2	2	—	—	—	49	46	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	—	—	—	12	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	2	8	2	8	9	8	12	2	52	31	25
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	4	7	3	22	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	3	3
<b>Totals</b> ...	6	1	2	6	6	43	24	17	28	12	19	5	169	103	30



**Table Showing Incidence of Infectious Diseases in Different Parts of the Borough.**

Disease.	Stourbridge.	Lye and Wollescote.	Pedmore
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	15	—
Diphtheria ... ..	42	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	10	2	—
Pneumonia ... ..	24	27	1
Erysipelas ... ..	5	17	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	5	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	2	1	—
Totals ... ..	98	69	2

### **Cancer.**

There were 48 deaths from cancer as compared with 65 in 1937, the males and females being of equal numbers. In the male the primary growth occurred in the alimentary canal in 13 cases; the youngest person being 38 years and the oldest 76 years. In the female, the primary growth was in the alimentary canal in 8 cases, the average age at death being 66 years. The breast was the site of election in 3 cases, the uterus in 2 cases and the ovary in 1 case.

There was no relation between the organs affected and the occupation.

Men engaged in the production of Tar at the Corporation Gas Works are examined quarterly for the occurrence of warts or suspicious evidence of Tar Cancer.

Treatment by radium and deep X-rays is provided for suitable cases at some of the Birmingham Hospitals. More use is being made of these methods of treatment.

### **Prevention of Blindness.**

No action was taken by the Council under Section 176 of the 1936 Act.

There is a Voluntary Blind Institution in the Borough providing work for afflicted persons, but there is no Institution for treatment.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
5	...	...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
15	...	...	4	7	—	2	5	1	—	—
25	...	...	5	6	1	1	4	3	1	1
35	...	...	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
45	...	...	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
55	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	15	18	2	4	16	6	1	1

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.63 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.46 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.058 as compared with 0.057 in 1937.

There were four non-notified Tuberculosis deaths, or 16.7% of the total deaths from the disease. Notification of Tuberculosis in the Borough is efficient and there was no occasion for the taking of any proceedings or action for refusal or failure to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation or area in the Borough.

## SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1938.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1938 ...	79	61	23	24
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	11	16	1	4
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	3	—	1	—
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ...	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	94	77	25	28
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ...	32	21	9	4
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year ...	62	56	16	24



It is encouraging to note that there were 29 less cases on the register at the end of the year than at the beginning but there were six more deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis than in 1937.

#### **Tuberculosis After-Care Committee.**

The Stourbridge Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, formed at the end of 1937, has met regularly during the year and has done excellent work.

The object of an After-Care Committee is the supervision of patients after their discharge from Sanatoria, the duties including the consideration of applications for food allowances and for services of nurses, the supply of shelters, bedsteads and bedclothing, and the re-housing of Tuberculosis patients.

Two families were re-housed by the Housing Committee following requests from the After-Care Committee for favourable consideration, whilst in another instance the Housing Committee re-housed the family of a sub-tenant of a tubercular patient, with beneficial results to the patient. Other cases submitted for consideration had not been re-housed at the end of the year.

Recommendations for grants for food allowances were forwarded to the County Health Department in seven cases.

#### **Anti-Tuberculosis Propaganda.**

A cinematograph lecture on "Tuberculosis : Its prevention and Cure," was given in the Assembly Hall at King Edward VI Grammar School, Stourbridge, on Thursday the 3rd February, 1938. The lecture, which was arranged by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council and the Stourbridge Corporation, was given by Dr. Harley Williams, the Medical Commissioner of the Association. The lecture was attended by upwards of 400 people, and was both instructive and elucidating.

As this will be my last Annual Report, I having resigned my office in March, 1939, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the help and consideration which I have at all times received from them.

I am,  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
GEOFFREY DUDLEY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,  
and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901  
on 1st July, 1938).

## 1.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	51	14	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power...	76	—	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engin- eering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...			
Total ...	127	14	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecu- tions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...				
Overcrowding (S.2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...				
Sanitary (S.7) { Insufficient ...	2	1		
Conveniences { Unsuitable or defective ...	5	5		
{ Not separate for sexes ...	—	—		
Other offences ...	12	6		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total ...	19	12		



# THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1938

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a Report of the work done in my Department during the year 1938 this being my First Annual Report.

### COMPLAINTS.

369 complaints were received, as compared with 236 in the previous year.

### INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The number of inspections made during the year was 8,033 against 10,093 during the previous year. The inspections were as follows:—General Re-inspection of Houses and Premises, 592; Inspections under Housing Regulations, 231; Re-inspections under Housing Regulations, 2,004; General Re-inspections, 1,571; Infectious Diseases, 161; Tuberculosis, 46; Slaughter-houses, 2,525; Dairies and Cowsheds, 102; Factories, 127; Bakehouses, 21; Food Stores, 109; Offensive Trade Premises, 23; Shops, 105; Vermin Infestation, 89; Overcrowding, 201; Smoke Nuisances 23; Vans, 14; Schools, 3; Refuse Tips, 12; Petroleum, 15; Water Supplies, 47; Pools, 4; Lodging Houses, 8.

The drains at 23 premises were tested during the year.

The number of sanitary defects, nuisances and contraventions of your Bye-laws was 7,863. The number of defects remaining unattended to at the end of 1937 was 12,611, making a total of 20,474. During the year 7,922 defects were written off as having been remedied leaving 12,552 insanitary conditions either unabated or not taken off the records at the end of the year.

## NOTICES.

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 303, mostly in the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to repairs.

The Notices are set out in the following table with particulars as to the premises affected :—

		<i>No. of Notices</i>	<i>No. of Houses or Premises affected.</i>
General Defects of Houses	...	72	145
Sanitary Conveniences	...	11	22
Defective Rain Water Spouting	...	4	4
Overcrowding	...	1	1
No "Permitted No." in Rent Book	...	13	21
Cleansing Rooms after Tuberculosis	...	4	4
Dangerous Buildings	...	3	3
Drain Defects	...	23	52
Unfit Water Supply	...	4	3
Defective Dustbins	...	103	199
Pig Keeping, Nuisance	...	1	1
Contravention of Demolition Orders	...	2	2
Accumulation of Refuse	...	12	8
Meat Regulations, Contraventions	...	4	4
Vans, Nuisances	...	3	3
Milk and Dairies Orders, Contraventions	...	5	5
Factories Act, Contraventions	...	2	2
Rat Infestation	...	1	1
Smoke Nuisances	...	3	3
Petroleum, Storage without licence	...	1	1
Shops Acts, Contraventions	...	9	9
No Escape in case of fire (S.34 Factory Act)	...	8	7
No Intervening Ventilated Space	...	2	2
Miscellaneous	...	12	11
		<hr/> 303	<hr/> 513

In addition to these Notices, 44 matters were referred to the Borough Surveyor and 10 to the Water Board.

At the end of 1937 there were 80 Notices uncomplished with, these, with 303 served during 1938, make a total of 383 in the Record Book. During 1938, 282 Notices were complied with; the work in respect of 32 Notices was in progress at the end of the year, and 69 were outstanding.



**STATUTORY NOTICES.**

<i>Kind of Notice.</i>	<i>No. of Notices.</i>	<i>No. of Houses or Premises Affected.</i>
<b>HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—</b>		
Notice before Entry .....	12	12
Notice of Clearance Order .....	105	201
Notice of Compulsory Purchase Order .....	7	22
Notice to appear before Council .....	147	71
Demolition Orders .....	108	54
Closing Orders .....	6	2
Determination of Closing Orders .....	2	2
Notice to Repair .....	23	13
Notice of Intention to do work in default .....	5	5
Requisition for Information .....	53	153
Notice to Occupier to Quit .....	166	166
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 :—</b>		
Provision of Sanitary Accommodation in Workplace .....	1	1
Removal of Noxious Matter .....	2	2
Provision of Dustbins .....	4	4
Abatement of Nuisances .....	7	7
Provision of Wholesome Water Supply .....	22	22
<b>BYELAWS, TENTS, VANS, ETC. :—</b>		
For Water Supply—Privy Accommodation .....	1	1
<b>TOWNS IMPROVEMENT CLAUSES ACT :—</b>		
For Provision of Rainwater Spouting .....	1	1
	<hr/> 672	<hr/> 739

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The Trades carried on are :—

Fish Frying	...	...	...	29
Tripe Boiling	...	...	...	9
Leather Dresser	...	...	...	1

Two fish friers transferred their businesses to new premises.

Three businesses, viz., two fish frying and one tripe boiling, are subject to annual permissions.

One new business was commenced during the year.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

Rag and Bone Dealer distributing toys from vehicle. Fined 10/-.

### BAKEHOUSES.

There are 18 Bakehouses in occupation, 10 in Stourbridge and 8 in Lye. During the year one bakehouse changed ownership. The business of one other was removed to other premises. A complaint was received from the Factory Inspector about the dirty condition of one place. This received attention.

### FACTORIES ACT 1937.

There were 254 Factories on the Register at the end of the year. The following is an extract from the Factory Register :—

Baking ...	16	Holloware ...	27
Basket Making ...	1	Horse Shoeing ...	1
Boot Repairing ...	28	Iron Founders and	
Brewing ...	4	Engineers ...	21
Bricks ...	3	Jewellery and Watch	
Bucket Handle Making	1	Repairing ...	8
Chain Making ...	6	Joinery ...	9
Cabinet Making and		Laundry ...	5
Upholstering ...	8	Malting ...	2
Carriage Building and		Motor Repairs ...	23
Wheelwrights ...	3	Nails ...	2
Cycle Repairs ...	6	Plumbing, etc. ...	6
Chamois Leather		Picture Framing ...	1
Dressing ...	2	Reflector Making ...	1
Dressmaking and		Saddlery ...	2
Tailoring ...	24	Sheet Metal Cutting ...	7
Electrical Engineering		Smithy (General) ...	3
and Wireless ...	5	Spades and Shovels ...	8
Fire-lighter Making ...	2	Stained Glass ...	1
Food Preparing ...	3	Stone Masonry ...	2
Frost Cog Making ...	9		

The following complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year :—

- (1) No means of artificial lighting to sanitary conveniences and no means of fastening door on the inside of womens convenience.
- (2) No intervening ventilated space.
- (3) No intervening ventilated space.
- (4) Insufficient screening to entrance of sanitary conveniences and no means of fastening door of womens convenience.
- (5) No sanitary convenience.
- (6) No intervening ventilated space.
- (7) Drainage of premises.

The causes of complaints were remedied in every case, excepting the last mentioned.

During the year 7 additional water closets were provided, one privy was abolished and 2 pail closets were provided in its place. One washbasin was fixed. 2 water closets were properly screened and one intervening space ventilated. The work was carried out after informal action.



### Section 34.

(Means of Escape in Case of Fire)

Examinations under the provisions of this Section were carried out by my Department from the commencement of the Act until the end of the year when the Borough Surveyor was authorised by the Council to carry out such examinations.

35 inspections were made during this period and in 12 instances the Means of Escape were found to be insufficient. Informal Notices were sent in each case, and at the end of the year 6 had been complied with.

Certificates were issued in respect of 23 Factories.

### OUTWORKERS.

Twenty lists were received containing the names of 66 Outworkers, 42 of whom resided outside the Borough. In addition, two lists were received from other Authorities containing the names of 2 Outworkers resident in the Borough.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 2 Common Lodging Houses.

The following are the returns of the number of lodgers. (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.	
5513	—	—	—	—	—	5513

These figures show a decrease of 477 on the previous year.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There was no change of occupation of any slaughterhouse. The total number is still 24 ; 14 of which are subject to annual licence, the licences in respect of 8 being issued on the understanding that no claim for compensation will be made in the event of renewal of the licence being refused should a Public Abattoir be provided in the Borough. Three of the licences issued are in respect of one slaughterhouse.

Total number of visits made during the year to slaughterhouses was 2525, and to food stores, 109. In addition, visits are paid to shops. There are 3 places where cooked meat is prepared for sale and these are frequently inspected.

The percentages of slaughtered animals inspected were :—  
Cattle, excluding cows, 96.5 ; Cows, 97.2 ; Calves, 98.5 ; Sheep, Lambs, 87.1 ; Pigs, 96.7.

Total weight of meat condemned 2 ton 15 cwt. 3 qrs. This amount is slightly in excess of that condemned in 1937.

A resolution to the effect that Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 should be applied to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs, was considered and adopted by the Town Council at their Council Meeting in January.

45 licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act were issued during the year.

The following describes the meat which was condemned and voluntarily surrendered :—

Tuberculosis	.....	Oxen : 55 heads ; 28 lungs ; 12 livers ; 2 intestines ; 1 stomach ; 1 udder ; 1 fore- quarter ; 17 lb. beef. Pigs : 4 carcasses and offals ; 196 heads ; 27 frys ; 41 intestines and mesenteries ; 4 shoulders.
Distoma Hepaticum	.....	29 ox livers ; 1 ox lungs ; 9 sheep livers.
Strongylosis	.....	5 sheep livers.
Echinococci	.....	6 ox livers ; 10 ox lungs.
Abscesses	.....	6 ox livers ; 1 ox lungs ; 2 pig's frys ; 2 pig's heads.
Angiomatosis	.....	2 ox livers.
Melanosis	.....	1 ox liver.
Cirrhosis	.....	4 ox livers ; 1 pig's liver.
Actinomycosis	.....	1 ox head
Mastitis	.....	5 udders
Fevered condition	.....	1 sheep carcase and offals.
Suffocation	.....	1 sheep carcase and offals
Pneumonia	.....	1 sheep carcase and offals.
Septicaemia	.....	1 sheep carcase and offals.
Swine Erysipelas	.....	2 pig's carcasses and offals.
Bruising	.....	20 lb. Beef.
Inflammation	.....	1 ox liver ; 1 ox lungs ; 1 ox intestines ; 5 pig's frys.

### MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 128 names of Milk Dealers as follows :—

Producers	...	...	...	...	11
Retailers in the Borough	...	...	...	...	40
Retailers from outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	25
Retailers of Sterilized	...	...	...	...	45
Wholesale Traders	...	...	...	...	7

Two retailers were registered during the year and one farm was demolished. One retailer took new premises which were registered. Several retailers ceased business.



Licences held in the Borough under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders :—

				<i>Residing Inside.</i>	<i>Residing Outside.</i>
Pasteurised—Producer	...	...	...	—	—
„ Retailer	...	...	...	—	2
Accredited Bottler	...	...	...	1	—
„ Retailer	...	...	...	3	2
Tuberculin Tested Bottler	...	...	...	—	—
„ „ Retailer	...	...	...	1	3

The licence held by one Accredited Milk Bottler is issued by the Worcestershire County Council as he is a producer, one new licence to retail Accredited milk was issued.

102 visits were made, mostly to cowsheds. A number of dirt tests were made all of which were satisfactory, and 10 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

In December 1938 a sample of milk was obtained from a County Council Home in the Borough and was supplied to them as Pasteurised Milk. On enquiry it was found that the dealer, who, in previous years had pasteurised milk under licence from this Authority but had discontinued the process and had not renewed his licence, had recommenced pasteurisation without a licence. The Report of the Analyst showed a high bacterial count and the presence of *B. Coli* and also stated that the Phosphatase test indicated that the milk had not been properly Pasteurised.

The matter was reported to the Public Health Committee and early in 1939 an application was received from the dealer for a licence to Pasteurise. This was refused but the Committee decided not to institute legal proceedings.

### HOUSING.

231 houses were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 92 in Stourbridge and 139 in Lye and Wollescote.

71 houses were reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 for Demolition Orders, and 2 parts of buildings under Section 12 for Closing Orders.

Undertakings were accepted in respect of 14 houses.

53 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders were made during the year.

### Demolition Orders.

#### *Stourbridge :*

34, Cherry Street ; 26 Grange Lane ; 2 and 4, The Cliff ; 2/3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, Court 5, Coventry Street ; 19 and 21, Hemplands Road ; 16 Glebe Lane ; 2 and 4, Rufford Road ; 21, 23 and 25, Lawrence Street ; 80 and 84, Norton Road ; 26 and 28, Birmingham Street ; 55, Wheeler Street.

#### *Lye and Wollescote :*

3, Oldnall Road ; 14 and 15, Bott Lane ; 22 Bott Lane ; 4 and 5, Rufford Street ; 137, Cemetery Road ; 50, Pedmore Road ; 3, Crabbe Street ; 84 and 86, Cemetery Road ; 4, Brook Street ; 38 and 39 Hill Street ; 16, Talbot Street ; 44, Park Street ; 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93 and 95, Stourbridge Road.

*Pedmore :*

Cottage occupied by Gretton, Hagley Road ; 1 and 2, Ellenthorpe Cottages ; 2 Cottages, Foxbrake, Pedmore Lane.

**Closing Orders.***Stourbridge :*

16, High Street ; and 94, Norton Road.

**Undertakings Accepted.***Stourbridge :*

**To Convert.** Nos. 13, 1 back 13, 15, 2 back 15, Green Street, into 2 houses ; Nos. 3 and 5, St. Mary's Lane, into one house.

**Not to use for human habitation.** No. 7, High Street, Wollaston.

*Lye and Wollescote :*

**To Convert.** Nos. 23, 24 and 25, Careless Green, into 2 houses.

**To repair.** Nos. 2 and 3, Brook Street ; and No. 40, Dudley Road.

**Not to use for human habitation.** No. 7, Gin Gridden.

2 Closing Orders were determined during the year.

**Clearance Orders.**

In April, 1938, 6 Clearance Areas were made in respect of 64 houses with 226 occupiers, namely :—

Green Street	Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 1 back 13, 15, 2 back 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 30, 28, 26, 24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, and 4.
Foxbrake	Houses occupied by Eveson, Taylor, Johnson and Southall.
Rectory Road	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and Nos. 3 and 5, St. Mary's Lane.
Hanbury Passage	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
Careless Green (Two Areas)	Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

In September 9 Areas were declared in respect of 89 houses with 304 occupiers, namely :—

Grange Lane	Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 1, 3, and 5.
Norton Road	Nos. 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
Skeldings Lane	Nos. 138, 139, 140, 141, High Street, Lye, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11, Skelding's Lane, Nos. 38, 39 and 40, Talbot Street, Lye.
Stourbridge Road Stamermill	Nos. 203, 205, and 207.
Stourbridge Road, Lye (Two Areas)	Nos. 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37.



Union Street, Lye (Two Areas)	Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, Union Street, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Cross Street, Lye, Nos. 4 and 5, Union Passage, Lye, and Nos. 7 and 8 Chapel Street, Lye.
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An Inquiry was held on the 1st February, 1938 in respect of 7 Clearance Areas, comprising 65 houses, declared in May, 1937. The Orders were confirmed without modification.

An Inquiry was also held on the 26th July, 1938, in respect of 6 Clearance Areas, comprising 64 houses, declared in April, 1938. 8 houses were excluded from the Confirmation Orders ; namely :—

Nos. 13, 1 back 13, 15, and 2 back 15, Green Street, Stourbridge.

Nos. 3 and 5, St. Mary's Lane, Stourbridge.

Cottages occupied by Messrs. Johnson and Taylor, Foxbrake, Pedmore.

The Inquiry in relation to the 9 Orders made in September, 1938 was not held until January, 1939.

53 houses were demolished after Demolition Orders ; 89 after Clearance Orders ; 3 were lost by conversion of back to back into through houses, and 5 parts of buildings were closed.

In addition 4 houses were demolished in Anticipation of Demolition Orders, and 3 houses were closed on Undertakings not to use them for human habitation.

4 houses were repaired under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 by order of the Public Health Committee under my Supervision and in accordance with my plans and specifications.

These were Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Attwood Street, Lye, at a cost of £451 12s. 2d. and No. 43, Pargeter Street, Wollescote, at a cost of £37 17s. 6d. The expenses were subsequently declared to be private improvement expenses and the rents of the houses are being collected by the Council in the case of the Attwood Street property, the cost of the repairs at Pargeter Street being paid on demand.

23 Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, were served requiring the execution of work at 13 premises. 5 of the Notices were complied with during the year, while at the end of the year the repairs at the remaining 8 were in progress.

No Certificates were issued under Section 51 of the Housing Act, 1936.

As in the past, requests have been received from owners of property for inspection to be carried out and for plans and specifications prepared for the alteration, additions and repairs to houses.

In most instances sculleries with water closets, having access from inside, and coalplaces are provided to replace detached washhouses and water closets used in common. Also, in some instances where conditions permitted, there has been a small modification of this procedure, and in addition to the above a larder with ventilation to the external air has been provided.

As reported in previous years, it was a common practice to erect houses with detached washhouse used in common, and nail-making shops at the



rear. These latter, as they fell into disuse, were converted into wash-houses but in many instances the water supply was not laid on to them and two or more houses had the use of a stand pipe in the common yard.

Therefore, by the erection of a scullery against each house the unsatisfactory practice of washing cooking utensils and dishes in the living room is obviated.

During the year plans and specifications were supplied for these alterations to be carried out at 47 houses.

#### **WATER SUPPLIES.**

This subject has been dealt with very fully in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health and there is very little to add.

The water supplies, both public and private, have been kept under constant supervision during the year, and sampling has been carried out frequently.

In addition to the samples mentioned earlier, a sample taken from a well supplying an isolated cottage at Wollaston was submitted for analysis and found to be unfit for drinking purposes. The cottage is at present void.

Samples were also taken from two wells supplying cottages in Pedmore Lane, Pedmore. The analysis showed that there was evidence of pollution but not dangerous. In these instances boiling was recommended.

#### **DISINFECTION.**

At 100 houses the rooms which had been occupied by persons suffering from infectious disease were fumigated. At 39 houses the rooms which had been occupied by Tuberculosis patients were thoroughly sprayed with Formaldehyde Solution, the walls stripped and the paper removed and burned.

Bedding and clothing taken to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection amounted to approximately 560 articles.

Various wards at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home were fumigated at the request of the Matron.

Also the shelters loaned to Tuberculosis patients by the Worcestershire County Council were fumigated and re-decorated when required.

#### **SANITARY CONVENIENCES.**

39 additional water closets were provided. In 21 instances the water closets were rebuilt in a different position, usually nearer to the house. 11 slop water closets, (tipper closets), were taken out and replaced with water closets with approved pedestal basins and fresh water flushing cisterns. 44 sculleries with water closets having access there-from were erected. Repairs were carried out to 82 water closets including the provision of 8 new pedestal basins.

#### **ASHPITS.**

13 ash-pits, used in connection with 19 houses, were abolished. Dustbins were provided at 58 houses.

#### **HOUSE REFUSE TIPS.**

The continued use of acid waste and creosote on the Refuse Tips in the Borough has kept them free from cricket infestation.

#### **VERMIN.**

21 houses were sprayed and fumigated on account of bug infestation.



**GENERAL SUMMARY OF OTHER SANITARY WORK  
CARRIED OUT AND INSANITARY CONDITIONS  
REMEDIED.**

**Dwelling Houses.**

Baking Ovens removed	...	2
Baths, additional, provided	...	4
Bedrooms, floors repaired	...	32
Bedrooms, new floors	...	16
Bedrooms, new skirting board-	ing	...
	...	120
Cleansed, white washed and	redecorated	...
	...	120
Chimneys (repaired)	...	44
Chair Rails and Picture Rails	provided	...
	...	28
Ceilings, plaster renewed or	repaired	...
	...	43
Cellars filled in	...	1
Cellar Lights, new Gratings	and Frames provided	...
	...	18
Cellars, cleaned out and	limewashed	...
	...	6
Coal places, new, erected	...	35
Demolished (or closed)	...	149
Damp-proof courses put in	...	29
Door sills, new, put in	...	33
Doors, additional	...	95
Doors, repaired and rehung	...	63
Doors, renewals	...	48
Doors, weather boards pro-	vided	...
	...	2
Floors repaved or repaired	...	69
Firegrates repaired or re-	newed	...
	...	21
Firegrates, additional provided	...	25
Food places repaved	...	3
Food places, new, provided	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	61
Roofs renewed	...	22
Repaired throughout	...	100
Sculleries, new, erected	...	44
Sculleries repaved	...	23
Stairs, repaired	...	26
Stairs, handrails provided	...	33
Stairs, renewed entirely	...	1
Through ventilation provided	...	3
Ventilating air bricks put in	Bedrooms	...
	...	12

Wash-houses, thoroughly re-	paired	...
	...	1
Wash-houses, washing boilers	provided or repaired	...
	...	46
Wash-houses, supplied with	Water Taps	...
	...	3
Wash-houses taken down	...	17
Wash-houses, floors renewed	...	4
Walls, external rebuilt	...	3
Walls, cemented internally	...	36
Walls, matchboarding re-	moved	...
	...	9
Walls, internal replastered	...	127
Walls, pointed or cemented	externally	...
	...	45
Windows made to open	...	21
Windows, new, additional,	put in	...
	...	109
Windows, larger, put in	...	1
Windows, repaired or re-	newed	...
	...	71
Windows, Sash Cords, Weights,	and Pulleys provided	...
	...	43
Yards, paved	...	24
Paving repaired or relaid	...	21

**Sinks.**

Brick Sinks removed	...	14
New additional earthenware	put in sculleries or wash-	houses
	...	32
Earthenware Sinks in place	of Brick	...
	...	14
Earthenware Sinks renewed	...	8
Sink waste pipes put in	...	1
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	2

**Water Supply.**

Water Taps put inside houses	or sculleries	...
	...	58

**Drains.**

Relaid	...	2
Reconstructed	...	27
New chambers put in	...	13
Ventilated	...	18

New, put to houses	...	11
Additional gullies put in	...	30
Gullies renewed	...	7
Repaired	...	5
Obstructions removed	...	122
Drains tested	...	18

**Ashpits**

Removed	...	13
Houses, ashbins provided	...	58
Houses, ashbins renewed	...	123

**Rain Water Spouting.**

New additional spouting at fronts of houses	...	10
New additional spouting at rears of houses	...	8
Spouting repaired or renewed at front	...	46
Spouting repaired or renewed at rears	...	49

Downpipes lengthened or reconstructed	...	28
Box Gutters in footpath	...	5

**Water Closets.**

New, erected	...	21
Additional provided	...	39
New Basins put in	...	53
Flushing Apparatus repaired or renewed	...	34
Fresh water w.c.'s in place of slop w.c.'s	...	11
W.C. Water Supply pipes renewed	...	3
Other Repairs	...	73

**Other Matters.**

Offensive accumulations removed	...	4
Overcrowding nuisances abated	...	21
Smoke nuisances abated	...	3

**SHOPS ACTS.**

At the end of the year the number of shops on the Register was 796.

Alterations to Sanitary Conveniences were effected at a number of premises. Warnings were given in cases where offences were alleged to have occurred, and information was supplied to many shop keepers as to keeping of records and various other matters.

**PETROLEUM ACTS.**

Eighty-three licences were issued, 73 to store Petrol only, 6 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and 4 to store Carbide of Calcium only. The sum of £50 was received as fees for these licences.

The licences were in respect of 73,224 gallons of Petrol and 8,838 lbs of Carbide of Calcium.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. K. KENT,

*Sanitary Inspector.*



