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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

REPORT


on the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for

1945





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BOROUGH OF STOUBRIDGE

Mayor:
COUNCILLOR R. DUNN, J.P.

Deputy Mayor:
ALDERMAN A.S. LEATHER, B.E.M.

Acting Medical Officer of Health:
R.L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Petroleum
and Shops Acts:

- ★ A.E.K. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Resumed 23/7/45 after Active Service)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

- ★ E.A. BURN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(On Active Service, 4th March, 1940)

- ★ R.F. ROBINS, A.R.San.I.
(On Active Service, 15th February, 1940)

Temporary Senior Sanitary Inspector, and Inspector
under Petroleum and Shops Acts:

- / ★ J.S. HAWORTH, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
(to 18/7/45)

Clerical Staff:

N.F. COOKSON
(On Active Service, 23rd September, 1940)

A. POWELL (Temp.) MRS. E. MASON.

G.W. NOKE
(On Active Service, 11th February, 1941)

MISS K. YOUNG
MISS A. TONKS (Temp.)

★ - Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

/ - Certificated Smoke Inspector.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1945

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Stourbridge Town Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1945.

Compared with 1944 there were 117 fewer Births and 15 fewer deaths. The Birth Rate for the Borough showed a decrease from 19.52 to 16.19 per thousand of the population and the Death Rate rose from 12.85 to 13.22. For purposes of comparison the Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales (1945) were 16.1 and 11.4 respectively. It is of interest to note that of the 449 deaths recorded for the Borough, 204 related to persons of 70 years and over.

There was little variation in the number of deaths from Influenza, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, which totalled 38 compared with 34 in the previous year. Deaths from Heart Disease declined from 125 to 103 and those from Cancer showed a slight increase from 74 to 81.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever again showed a marked decline from 128 cases in 1944 to 37 in 1945, this being the lowest number recorded in the Borough since 1938. There were no deaths. The number of Diphtheria cases, however, rose from 25 to 47, but of these 21 were of ages 15 to 41 years. There were three Diphtheria deaths (ages 3, 10 and 18 years) and in each case the patient had not been immunised. Consistent progress is being made with immunisation, more particularly with children of pre-school age. Visits and propaganda are proving effective in persuading parents of the high protection which immunisation gives. I would like to thank the Health Visitors for their help in obtaining 'consents'; also Dr. Walker. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Bache and Mrs. Bridgwater for their assistance at the Immunisation sessions.

Notifications of measles rose from 82 to 336 representing a Morbidity Rate of 9.89 per thousand of the population, as against 11.67 for England and Wales. The increased incidence began in November, 1944 and did not assume normal proportions until the following May. Of the 336 cases some 313 were notified in the first four months of the year, (127 in January, 106 in February, 56 in March and 24 in April). There was one death.

On the whole, the health of the Borough during the year can be regarded as satisfactory.

In July we welcomed back our Senior Sanitary Inspector Mr. A.E.K. Kent, who had been serving in H.M. Forces since August, 1939. The temporary Senior Sanitary Inspector Mr. J.S. Haworth left us in July to take up another appointment with a County Borough.

In conclusion I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support I have been given, to Mr. A.E.K. Kent and Mr. J.S. Haworth, and to Mr. A. Powell temporary Chief Clerk, and other members of the Public Health Staff for their co-operation in the work of the Department.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

R.L. CORLETT
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

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.

	<u>Acres</u>
The Area is now	4,214
viz: Stourbridge	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	1,028
Pedmore	1,266
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was	33,140
viz: Stourbridge	19,904
Lye and Wollescote	12,237
Pedmore	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1945 ..	33,960
Number of inhabited house, 1931 ..	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1945 ..	10,310
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931 ..	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1945 ..	not available
Rateable Value	£183,492
Sum represented by a penny rate	£707

Statistical Memorandum

Population Estimated, Mid-year, 1945 ..	33,960
Birth Rate per 1,000	16.19
Birth Rate Average for five years, 1941-45 ..	16.9
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ..	13.22
Death Rate - Average for five years 1941-45 ..	12.17
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births ..	58
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	0.55
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	0.029

SECTION A

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 principal industries are Iron Works, Forgings, Spades & Shovels; Chains, Vices, Anvils, Frost Cogs, Fire Bricks, Gas Retorts, Galvanised, Enamelled and Japanned Buckets, Baths and General Holloware; Aluminium products, Horse Shoes; Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves; Brushes and Brooms; Glazed Bricks.

The Borough Council is the owner of the Gas Undertaking, whose Works are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, and Amblecote and Stourbridge are Constituent Members of the Stourbridge & District Water Board (with two Members from the Wordsley Ward of the Brierley Hill U.D.C.).

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

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

B I R T H S

Live Births

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ..	..	250	251	501
Illegitimate ..	..	26	23	49
		<u>276</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>550</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.19
Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.1

Still Births

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ..	..	2	6	8
Illegitimate ..	..	1	-	1
		<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 16.46

DEATHS

Males	..	..	..	249
Females	..	..	..	200
				<u>449</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.22
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis ..	..	-
Other Maternal Causes ..	..	-

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

Abortion with Sepsis ..	..	0.25
Abortion without Sepsis ..	..	0.08
Puerperal Infections ..	..	0.24
Other ..	..	1.22

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ..	18	12	30
Illegitimate ..	1	1	2
	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>32</u>

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births ..	..	58.18
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births ..	..	59.88
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births		40.81

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 46 per 1,000 Live Births.

CAUSES OF DEATH

			M.	F.
1. Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	1	1
5. Diphtheria	...	...	1	2
6. Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	11	8
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	-	-
9. Influenza	...	...	-	1
10. Measles	...	...	-	1
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	-	-
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	-	1
13. Cancer of Buc; cav. and aesoph (M); uterus (F)	...	...	6	6
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	5	4
15. Cancer of breast	...	...	-	9
16. Cancer of all other sites	...	...	34	17
17. Diabetes	...	...	2	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	30	22
19. Heart Disease	...	...	53	50
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	5	2
21. Bronchitis	...	...	12	9
22. Pneumonia	...	...	11	5
23. Other respiratory diseases...	...	...	6	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	5	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	2	-
26. Appendicitis	...	...	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	5	9
28. Nephritis	...	...	5	7
29. Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	...	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	...	...	-	-
31. Premature Birth	...	...	5	4
32. Congenital Malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	...	...	6	7
33. Suicide	...	...	3	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	1	2
35. Other violent causes	...	...	6	5
36. All other causes	...	...	32	20
			<u>249</u>	<u>200</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 81
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(i) Public Health Officers

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on Page 2.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities

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

(ii) (b) Ambulance Facilities

Two motor ambulances and a car for sitting cases are under the control of the Public Health Committee.

During the year, 1696 patients were transported and a total mileage of 15,893 covered, as compared with 1812 patients and 15,405 miles in the previous year.

The Council's Ambulance Service also covers by arrangement the parishes of Hagley, Clent, and part of Belbroughton in the Rural District of Bromsgrove and in addition the Urban District of Amblecote. Under these arrangements 59 patients from the Bromsgrove Rural District and 25 from the Urban District of Amblecote were conveyed during the year, and are included in the total figure given.

(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 to residents in the Stourbridge and Pedmore areas. The Lye and Wollescote Nursing Association, also a voluntary organisation, 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 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 the afternoons of Tuesday and Wednesday in each week.

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

General Provision of Health Services
for the Area (cont.)

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Centre on Monday mornings, also on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and is attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer. (An Ante-natal Clinic is also held at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home on the second and fourth Tuesdays, and is attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer).

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.

A monthly Dental Clinic, especially for toddlers and young children, is held at the Centre on Saturday mornings.

There is a second Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at Orchard Lane, Lye under the control of the County Council and with the same facilities as the Stourbridge Clinic.

Prevention of Diphtheria

Clinics for Immunisation of children against Diphtheria were held as required at Stourbridge and Lye. The Clinics are provided free by the Borough Council.

SCABIES

Throughout the year Clinics were held weekly as necessary at the former First Aid Post, Stourbridge and at the Welfare Centre premises Lye. Baths etc. are provided by the Borough Council and the preparation used in treatment was Benzal Benzoate Emulsion.

Some 103 patients, compared with 150 in 1944 received treatment. Twenty-two were under 5 years of age, 72 were of school age, and 9 were either married or single women. Most of them received two or more baths, involving 216 paintings. There were 20 cases of re-infection after the first course of treatment. The necessity of all infected members of a household being treated at the same time is impressed upon parents. It has not, however, been possible to extend bathing facilities at the Clinics to male adults owing to staffing difficulties, but in such cases Emulsion is supplied with directions and advice so that treatment can be carried out at home.

I am grateful to Nurse Davies, Nurse Lawson, Nurse Wall and other lady volunteers for their assistance at the Clinics and to local doctors for their co-operation.

(ii) (e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>No. of beds</u>
North Worcs. Joint Isolation	Hayley Green, near Halesowen	Infectious Disease	46
"	"	Tuberculosis	17
Stourbridge & Halesowen Joint	Lutley, Halesowen	Small Pox	8

(11) (c) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary (cont.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>No. of beds</u>
Mary Stevens Maternity Home	Stourbridge	Maternity	16
Corbett	Amblecote, Nr. Stourbridge	General	100

SECTION CSanitary Circumstances of the AreaWater

The Stourbridge and District Water Board is responsible for the Water Supply which was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. The supply is constant. Several Works and the Corporation Baths pump water from their own wells.

Following are the results of the chemical examination of two representative samples of the Town's Water Supply, taken in April and December respectively:

	No. 1	No. 2
Physical Characters:	Clear, odourless Deposit, none.	Clear, odourless Deposit, none.
Chemical Examination		
(Results in parts per 100,000).		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	... None	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C)	... 55	61
Solids in Solution. After ignition	... 48	53
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	... 9.7	9.4
Hardness, Permanent ...	... 17	16
" Temporary ...	... 19	24
Total ...	... 36	40
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	... 0.002	0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	... 0.003	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	... 1.0	1.1
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	... None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	... None	0.03
Toxic Metals ...	... None detected	None detected
Free Chlorine on receipt ...	... 0.002	0.002

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Colonies developing</u> <u>upon Agar</u>		<u>Coli-Aerogones</u> <u>(Presumptive Coli)</u> Count
	in 2 days at 37°C	in 3 days at 22°C.	
January 1st	2	2	-
February 9th	-	1	-
March 8th	-	-	-
April 25th	2	4	-
May 23rd	-	-	-
June 21st	-	-	-
July 26th	-	-	-
September 17th	-	2	-
December 18th	-	- 9 -	-

SECTION C
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area
Water (cont.)

Cl. Welchii were absent from all the samples, and Streptococci were not detected

Samples of unchlorinated water taken by the Water Board Engineer, were satisfactory.

The approx. number of dwelling houses supplied from the Mains direct to the houses was 10,185 and by means of stand-pipes 120.

Drainage and Sewerage

The main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board. 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.

Public Cleansing

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

SECTION D

Housing

Housing work is referred to in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Inspection was carried out during the year by the Sanitary Inspector. Details will be found in his report.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious
and other Diseases

Small Pox

No case was reported during the year.

Scarlet Fever

Thirty-seven cases, or 1.08 per thousand of the population, were reported during the year, as compared with 128 in the previous year.

The incidence was the lowest in the Borough since 1938 and the type of disease was of a mild nature. There were no deaths.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Other Diseases
(cont.)

DIPHTHERIA

Forty-seven cases of Diphtheria, equivalent to an incidence of 1.38 per thousand of the population, were notified during the year. There were three deaths (ages 3, 10, and 18), giving a case mortality of 6.38. In each case of death the patient had not been immunised.

Of the 47 cases notified, eleven were recorded as having been immunised. They were of a mild type.

Twenty-one of the cases were of ages 15 years to 41 years.

All the patients were admitted to Hospital. Domiciliary treatment for this disease is not encouraged.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The total number of children who have now been immunised is as follows:—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Alum Precipitated Toxoid</u> <u>2 Inj.</u>	<u>Toxoid-Antitoxin</u> <u>Mixture</u>	<u>Total</u>
1935	-	3	3
1936	-	-	-
1937	247	46	293
1938	201	23	224
1939	61	35	96
1940	-	112	112
1941	65	1397	1462
1942	17	1806	1823
1943	563	71	634
1944	507	-	507
1945	671	-	671
	<u>2332</u>	<u>3493</u>	<u>5825</u>

Of the children immunised during the year 480 were of pre-school age.

At the end of the year it was estimated that 46% of children of pre-school age had been completely immunised, and 74% of those of school age.

NOTE: During the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 some 3009 children were given one injection of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. These figures have now been omitted from calculations of the number of children in the Borough completely immunised.

Table showing Incidence
and Severity of Diphtheria

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Immunised Children</u>	
				<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1935	110	18	16.3	3	-
1936	33	5	15.1	3	-
1937	81	3	3.7	6	-
1938	49	2	4.08	6	-
1939	40	7	17.5	11	-
1940	71	2	2.81	9	-
1941	87	5	5.74	8	-
1942	21	-	-	2	-
1943	18	1	5.5	5	-
1944	25	2	8.0	9	-
1945	47	3	6.38	11	-
	<u>582</u>	<u>48</u>		<u>73</u>	<u>-</u>

DYSENTERY

There were eleven cases of Dysentery, three being Flexner and the remainder Sonne. I am glad to state that the Flexner cases were extremely mild. One of the 'Flexner' patients was admitted to Hospital and made a rapid recovery and the other two in the same household were discovered as a result of examining the contacts.

In regard to the Sonne cases the dates of onset were 6th, 10th, 13th and 18th April, 19th May, 28th June and 28th July. Seven of these cases were admitted to Hospital and all quickly responded to treatment. The source of infection was not discovered.

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

Disease	A G E S											Total No. of Cases	Cases Admitted to Hospl.	Deaths
	Under 1 Year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65 and Upwards			
Scarlet Fever	-	4	-	3	-	17	8	1	4	-	-	37	22	-
Diphtheria	-	1	1	2	2	8	12	7	11	3	-	47	47	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	9	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	6	4	16	-	16
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	5	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	18	10	10	12	10	1	-	-	-	-	69	1	2
Measles	22	35	40	51	47	134	2	3	2	-	-	336	2	1
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	1	1	3	-	11	8	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Totals	36	59	51	66	62	173	26	14	27	16	1	536	83	22

TUBERCULOIS
New Cases and Mortality during 1945

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-
15	3	3	-	-	2	3	-	-
25	1	5	-	-	2	2	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	11	-	1	11	8	1	-

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.55 per 1000 of population as compared with 0.49 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was the same as for 1944, viz; 0.029.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON
THE REGISTER AT END OF 1945

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
No. of cases on Register 1st January, 1945	79	68	18	18
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations	9	11	-	1
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification	-	1	-	-
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous quarter which have been restored to Register during the quarter	1	-	-	-
	89	80	18	19
No. of cases removed from Register during the year	15	8	2	-
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year ...	74	72	16	19

Public Health Department,
Stourbridge.
October, 1946.

T H E A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R
F O R T H E Y E A R 1 9 4 5 .

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Stourbridge Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a Report on the work of
your Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1945.

I recommenced my duties as your Chief Sanitary Inspector on
23rd July, 1945, on release from H.M. Forces. Mr. J. S. Haworth, who
had held the post of Temporary Sanitary Inspector during my absence,
had resigned a week previously.

The work of the Department has proceeded satisfactorily through-
out the year but the continued absence of the two Additional Sanitary
Inspectors on war Service, and the lack of any temporary assistance, has
restricted the inspectorial work. The permanent clerical staff, too, had
not returned from war Service at the end of the year.

The position relative to Housing is extremely difficult. Apart
altogether from the inability to secure the demolition of the unfit house
the problem of repair of the house capable of repair is far from satis-
factory. The restrictions of materials and labour have rendered it
difficult to secure extensive repairs and one can not but wonder whether
the problem of the presently unfit house - the house now capable of repair
but which, if not repaired soon, will in two or three years be incapable
of repair at a reasonable cost - is not being relegated too far into the
background.

The organisation of a campaign for the destruction of rats, a new
venture, was extremely successful and fully justified the time given to
its execution.

The Winter Closing Hours for Shops were fixed at 7.0 p.m. on
Fridays and Saturdays and 6.0 p.m. on any other week day except the weekly
half-holiday (subject to the customary exceptions).

In the interests of economy this Report is again presented in a
reduced form.

COMPLAINTS.

A total of 152 complaints were received during the year 1945. These related principally to housing defects and to vermin (including Rats and Mice) infestations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following data is given in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

The numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of houses	..	357
Inspections under Housing Regulations		102
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations		189
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	..	107
Visits re Tuberculosis	..	40
Re-inspections and revisits	..	415
Slaughter of pigs on private premises		310
Dairies and Cowsheds	..	31
Factories	..	31
Bakohouses	..	14
Food Stores and Food Preparation premises		25
Shops	..	51
Shops (re unfit food)	..	172
Vermin Infestation (excluding Rats and Mice)		92
Rats and Mice Infestations	..	189
Water Supplies	..	63
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc	..	18
Refuse Tips	..	22
Common Lodging Houses	..	20
Pig sties	..	27

No. of Notices served during the Year:-

Preliminary Notices served or given verbally	257
(These, in general, took the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to the repairs or other action necessary)	
Statutory Notices served	89

STATUTORY NOTICES.

The Statutory Notices served were as follows:-

	No. of Notices	No. of Houses or Premises affected
<u>Public Health Act, 1936:</u>		
Defective drainage (Sec. 39) ..	1	5
Defective w.c.s (Sec. 45) ..	7	12
Provision of Dustbins (Sec. 75)	13	13
Removal of Noxious Matter (Sec. 79)	1	1
Verminous premises (Sec. 83) ..	1	1
Abatement of Nuisances (Sec. 93)	9	9
<u>Housing Act, 1936:</u>		
Repairs (Sec. 9) ..	35	34
Demolition Orders (Sec 11) ..	4	2
Closing Order (Sec. 12) ..	3	1
Requisition for information (Sec 168)	3	1
Notices to Quit (Sec. 155) ..	3	3
<u>Factories Act, 1937:</u>		
Defective sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7)	2	2
<u>Rent etc Restrictions Act, 1933:</u>		
Certificates	9	9
	<u>89</u>	<u>93</u>

Result of the Service of Notices:-

Preliminary Notices complied with	..	136
Statutory Notices complied with	..	52

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	337
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					371
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	86
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					102
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	73
(iv)		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	...	...	...	...	68

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

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of <u>informal</u> action by the Local Authority or their officers	15
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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:

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	34
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:				
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	7
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				-

3.	(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-
	(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	9
	(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
	(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-
4.	Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:	

It is not possible to supply any accurate figures in relation to overcrowding. The influx of families during the war, and the commencement of the return of demobilised members of the armed Forces, combined with the shortage of houses, render a further complete survey necessary.

423 houses were inspected for housing defects, 86 of which were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. 68 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit, and 73 unfit, for human habitation; the latter have been recorded for action as and when circumstances permit.

Fifteen houses were rendered fit after informal action, 7 after formal action under the Housing Act and 12 after formal action under the Public Health Act.

Demolition Orders:

It was necessary in April, 1945, to make Demolition Orders for breach of Undertaking in respect of Nos. 39 and 40, Crabbe Street, Wollescote. Demolition Orders had been made initially in June, 1944; the owner appealed to the County Court and Undertakings to convert the two houses into one and carry out work necessary to render the premises fit for human habitation within a period of six months, were accepted.

On a further appeal, in July, 1945, the County Court Judge, with consent of both parties, accepted an Undertaking to convert and repair within a period of nine months and the work was in progress at the end of the year.

Nine houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

Closing Orders:

One part of a building - certain rooms occupied by the caretaker at No. 88 High Street, Stourbridge - was closed during the year.

Undertakings:

Consequent on the service of formal notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, your Public Health Committee accepted, on 12th February, 1945, an Undertaking to carry out specified works at Nos. 1 and 2, Stocking Street, Wollescote. The work was almost completed at the end of the year.

The work carried out was extensive and included the demolition of an external washhouse used in common and the erection of a separate scullery and water closet at each house.

Repairs:

Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, requiring extensive repairs, were served in respect of 34 dwelling-houses. Seven had been complied with by the end of the year.

As in previous years, plans and specifications have been supplied to owners for repairs and improvements to existing properties.

Verminous Premises:

92 visits were made in connection with vermin infestation. (excluding rats and mice). In one instance only, formal action under the Public Health Act was necessary to secure effective disinfection.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed camping grounds within the Borough.

On two occasions caravans were found on land not licensed to be used for moveable dwellings. Removal was secured as a result of informal action.

A third case, that of a widow and three sons living in a tent, after ejectment on a Court order, came to the notice of the Department. The family was eventually accommodated in requisitioned property.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Premises used for:-

(a) Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice Cream.

Two new premises were registered for the sale and manufacture of Ice Cream. At the end of 1945 the number of premises registered in the Borough was 19; 1 for manufacture only, 7 for sale only, and 11 for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream.

(b) Preparation of Preserved Foods.

There are 10 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Preserved Food, principally sausages.

No new registrations were effected during the year - visits have shown the premises to be in general in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Fish Frying.

With two premises newly registered during 1945, there were 18 premises registered for Fish Frying at the end of the year.

One application for registration was rejected on the grounds of the insanitary and generally unsuitable state of the premises and the absence of suitable cooking and cleansing arrangements.

Minor repairs were carried out at three of these premises during the year.

ADULTERATION.

Twenty-three samples were submitted for analysis, as follows:-

Description of Article	Formal	Informal
Milk	5	9
Pineapple flavoured beverage	1	-
Jelly	2	-
Mixed Pudding spice	1	-
Patent Medicine	2	-
Orange Squash	-	2
Cream Fritter powder	-	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>

One informal sample of Orange Squash was reported as being 40% deficient, with but one-and-a-half gallon of fruit juice per ten gallons. Suitable action was taken and the second sample was genuine.

All other samples were genuine.

In addition, one sample of bun flour and one of scone mixture were submitted for bacteriological examination. These were reported as unfit for food and the stocks at the shop concerned were condemned and surrendered.

MILK SUPPLIES

There are twelve producers of milk within the Borough, with a total of approximately 240 cows.

The total number of retailers supplying milk (including shop keepers selling Sterilised milk in bottle only) is 139.

Fourty-four retailers are registered as dairymen.

Thirty-one visits were made to cowsheds and dairies which, in spite of labour difficulties, were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

A number of dirt sedimentation tests were made, with satisfactory results.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Three samples were submitted for bacteriological examination - one of fresh milk and two of heat-treated milk.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS.

Ten Licences were issued during the year, as follows:

Dealers' Bottling Licences:	Tuberculin Tested	2
Supplementary Licences:	Tuberculin Tested	3
	Pasteurised	5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

There is no Government Centralised Slaughterhouse in the Borough. The number of pigs slaughtered on private premises totalled 281, of which 276 were inspected. Seven heads, 1 loin and 1 fry, a total weight of 113lb., were found to be affected with Tuberculosis and condemned and destroyed.

In addition, 172 visits were paid to shops, etc., for the inspection of food stuffs and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption and surrendered:-

	ton	cwt.	qtr.	lb.
Fish		1	1	0
Butter, margarine and cheese		1	1	1
Flour and cereals		3	3	16
Biscuits and Cake mixture		1	1	14
Fruit		2	1	21
Bacon			1	18
Sausage			2	22
Eggs and Dried Egg			1	14
Miscellaneous items			1	2
Canned foods:				
Canned Meat		1	3	4
Canned Vegetables		1	0	21
Canned Fruit				7
Canned Soups			1	4
Canned Fish		1	3	7
Canned Jam				10
Canned Milk		1	3	20
		19	0	13
Pork (from private slaughters)		1	0	1
Total Weight	1	0	0	14

The Department has continued to co-operate with the Ministry of Food in ensuring the diversion through appropriate channels of items of unfit food with salvage value.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Twenty-five licences to slaughter, under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were renewed during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

Twenty-five samples of the Town's water supply were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year; all were satisfactory.

Seven samples of water from wells at two cottages on the Borough boundary were examined during the year. The results of the bacteriological examinations were as follows:-

Date	Colonies developing upon agar		Coli-aerogenes (presumptive coli)		Stropt- ococci
	In 2 days at 37°C	In 3 days at 22°C	total count	faecal coli	
1 January	400	1,800	90	25	Present
23 February	20	320	1	-	Absent
8 August	70	800	180+	8	Absent
17 September	240	2,500	180+	7	Absent
7 November	180	1,700	180+	50	Absent
18 December	800	5,400	180+	14	Absent
19 December	320	2,700	180+	10	Absent

With the exception of the second sample each was heavily polluted and quite unfit for drinking. The second sample whilst fit for drinking, was taken before the effects of a shock dose of chlorine had passed off. The tenants have, of course, been advised repeatedly that water must be boiled before use.

Initially, tests of the drains revealed pollution into the wells, but repair of the drainage systems failed to stop the pollution.

The cottages concerned are some considerable distance from the nearest Town supply main and, additionally, are some 26 feet above the level of the nearest reservoir, thereby precluding water being taken to the properties by gravitation.

The Public Health Committee has been in consultation with the Stourbridge and District Water Board on the matter and early in 1946 joint proposals were submitted to the County Council.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

There were 178 Factories on the register at the end of the year.

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

- (1) Defective and dirty sanitary conveniences
- (2) Insufficient screening of sanitary conveniences
- (3) Defective automatic flushing apparatus.
- (4) Insufficient sanitary conveniences
- (5) No artificial lighting in sanitary convenience
- (6) Dirty sanitary conveniences
- (7) Insufficient sanitary conveniences
- (8) Dirty sanitary conveniences
- (9) No intervening ventilated space between workroom and sanitary convenience
- (10) Unsuitable sanitary accommodation
- (11) Dirty sanitary convenience
- (12) Dirty sanitary conveniences.
- (13) Limewashing required
- (14) Defective flushing to conveniences

In two instances statutory notices under Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, were served requiring the provision of additional sanitary conveniences.

The occupier of one of the factories concerned provided a chemical closet; at the other factory an additional water closet was erected.

Four other additional water closets were provided after informal action.

At the end of the year the work in connection with two of the complaints was in hand; all others had been satisfactorily remedied.

OUTWORKERS

Sixteen lists were received containing the names of 47 outworkers, 32 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The premises of outworkers resident in the Borough are satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION)

Working in close conjunction with the Ministry of Food (Infestation Division), Rodent Control was exercised very satisfactorily throughout the year.

In April and May a full treatment of sewers, including baiting of each manhole, was carried out and was very successful.

A successful campaign on the River Stour, which forms the northern boundary of the Borough, was carried out with the co-operation of the Brierley Hill and Amblecote U.D.C.'s and the Great Western Railway Company, Ltd., for which a waiver of charge was allowed by the Ministry of Food.

The stretch of river, approximately four-and-a-half miles in length, has on its banks three refuse tips, two railway goods' yards, and several factories, including a skin factory.

Open and hole baiting was carried out in sections and the 'takes' were exceptionally good, particularly in those sections near the factories and tips. It is estimated that at least 3,500 rats were killed on the river banks alone.

Elsewhere in the Borough systematic block control has been practised and individual houses, factories, piggeries, fowl pens, etc., have been cleared.

REFUSE TIPS

One privately-owned refuse tip used for the disposal of furnace clinker and ashes harboured a large infestation of crickets. The tip, too, was on fire.

The application of a proprietary tip dressing considerably reduced the infestation and steps were also taken to secure daily covering of the face.

Apart from some rat infestation the Corporation tips have been satisfactorily and scientifically maintained.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Sixty-six licences were issued during the year - 56 to store Petroleum Spirit only, 7 to store Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium, and 3 to store Carbide of Calcium only.

The licences covered the storage of 68,040 gallons of Petroleum Spirit and 7,895 lb. of Carbide of Calcium.

The sum of £43. 10. 0d. was received as fees for these licences.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee (of which I am Hon. Secretary), formed at the end of 1937, continues to do excellent work.

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

Four families were re-housed by the Housing Committee following representations from the After-Care Committee for priority consideration.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

A. E. K. KENT

Sanitary Inspector.

October 1946.

