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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE



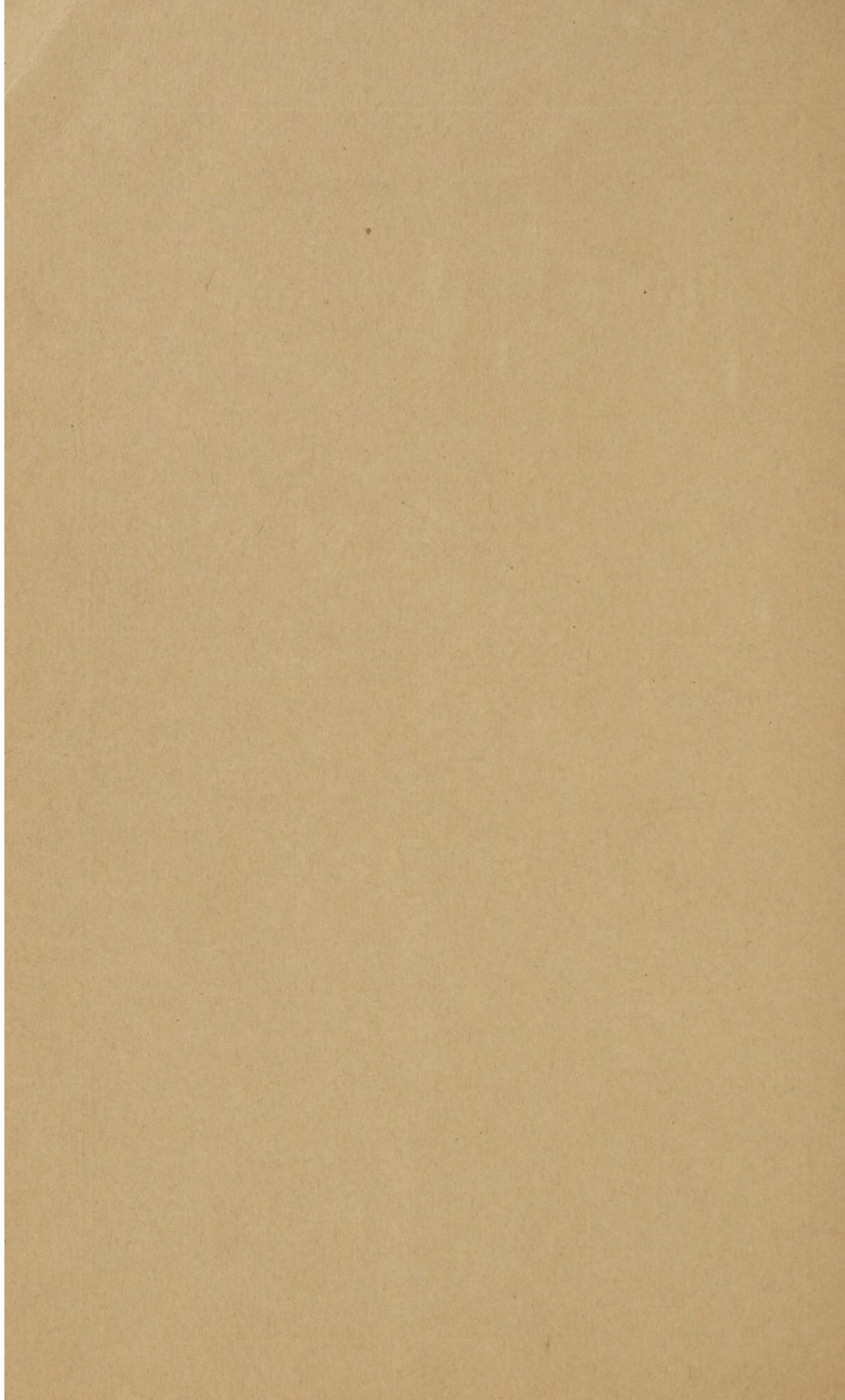
Report

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Department

for the year

1947.



BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE




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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR H. P. JONES, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN MRS. A. H. LUNT, J.P.

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.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*R. F. ROBINS, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

*G. H. STONE, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

(as from 1st February, 1947)

Clerical Staff :

N. F. COOKSON (*Chief Clerk*).

A. POWELL (*Ambulance Officer*).

G. W. NOKE

MISS A. TONKS.

**Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.*

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1947.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The year was marked by a further increase in births, the rate rising from 18.4 to 19.46, representing an increase of 52 births. Deaths for the year rose from 404 to 427, giving a death rate of 11.85 as against 11.45. The Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales were 20.5 and 12.0 respectively.

Despite the severity of the 1946/7 Winter, mortality from respiratory disease did not reflect any untoward variations. In fact the combined deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia (35) were ten less than in the previous year, but Influenza accounted for six deaths as against one, and other respiratory diseases six compared with three.

There was an increase in deaths from Heart Disease—117 as opposed to 104, and deaths attributable to Cancer also rose—73 as against 67.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever rose from 29 cases to 53, but all the patients recovered. Diphtheria prevalence also increased, the number of confirmed cases being 30 as compared with 21. Three cases related to children of pre-school age, 17 to school children, and 10 to ages 19 to 42 years. There were two deaths—both boys (ages 4 years and 5 years).

Diphtheria being an essentially preventable disease, the co-operation of parents is actively sought in the matter of immunisation—both primary and secondary. Satisfactory progress is being made in this field, particularly with children of pre-school age. Much credit is due to the Health Visitors and to Dr. Walker for their efforts, and I must again record my appreciation of the voluntary help given by Mrs. Bridgwater and Mrs. Bache at the Immunisation Clinics.

There was a two-fold increase in Measles notifications (215), giving a Morbidity Rate of 5.97 per thousand, as compared with 9.41 for England and Wales. One death occurred (a child aged two years), in which there were Pneumonia complications. Whooping Cough notifications declined from 80 to 47; there were no deaths.

It is gratifying to record that Scabies again had a much reduced incidence. Twenty-four primary infections and 16 re-infections were treated, compared with 76 and 26 respectively in the previous year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support at all times, and also Mr. A. E. K. Kent, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and other members of the Departmental staff for their loyal and devoted work.

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.

	<i>Acres.</i>
The Area is now	4,214
viz. : Stourbridge	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	1,025
Pedmore	1,269
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 1947	36,010
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947	10,712
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1947: not available.	
Rateable Value	£191,577
Sum represented by a penny rate	£734

Statistical Memorandum.

Population estimated, mid-year, 1947	36,010
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	19.46
Birth Rate—Average for five years, 1943-47	18.24
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	11.85
Death Rate—Average for five years, 1943-47	12.28
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	34
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.58
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.11

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, and the chief industries are holloware and iron-founding, engineering, the manufacture of Forgings, Spades and Shovels, Chains and Vices, Aluminium and Fireclay products, Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves.

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 and District Water Board (with two Members from the Wordsley Ward of the Brierley Hill Urban District Council).

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	344	331	675
Illegitimate	9	17	26
	<hr/> 353	<hr/> 348	<hr/> 701
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			19.46
Birth Rate for England and Wales			20.5

Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	11	7	18
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 20
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births			20.2

DEATHS.

Males	230
Females	197
	<hr/> 427

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.85
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	—
Other Maternal causes	1

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

Abortion with Sepsis	0.10
Abortion without Sepsis	0.06
Puerperal Infections	0.16
Other Maternal Causes	0.85

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	13	10	23
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 24

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of age :

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	34.23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	34.07
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	38.46

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 41 per 1,000 Live Births.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	2	—
6. Respiratory Tuberculosis	9	12
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	4	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	1
9. Influenza	3	3
10. Measles	1	—
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	1	—
13. Cancer of Buc : cav : and aesoph (M) ; uterus (F)	1	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	4
15. Cancer of breast	—	8
16. Cancer of all other sites	32	16
17. Diabetes	—	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	21	23
19. Heart Disease	63	54
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	7	4
21. Bronchitis	15	8
22. Pneumonia	8	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1
26. Appendicitis	—	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	5	3
28. Nephritis	5	4
29. Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Maternal causes	—	1
31. Premature Birth	3	2
32. Congenital Malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	4	7
33. Suicide	7	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
35. Other violent causes	3	3
36. All other causes	18	27
	<hr/> 230	<hr/> 197
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		73
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		—

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

Public Health Officers.

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

Laboratory Facilities.

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

Ambulance Facilities.

Two Ambulances and a Sitting-case Car are under the control of the Public Health Committee. The Service is manned day and night by three whole-time drivers and is provided free to Borough residents within certain mileage limits.

During the year, increasing use was made of the Ambulance facilities. The total number of cases dealt with was 2,222 involving 20,826 miles, as compared with 1,665 calls and 15,062 miles covered in the previous year, showing an increase of over 500 calls. Of this total some 667 calls (6,535 miles) related to sitting car cases.

Eighty-four patients from Bromsgrove Rural District and 15 from Amblecote Urban District were conveyed to hospital, by arrangement with these Authorities.

Nursing in the Home.

The Stourbridge District Nursing Association—a voluntary organisation—employs two Nurses, whose services are available to Stourbridge and Pedmore residents.

There is a similar voluntary organisation at Lye. The Lye and Wollescote Nursing Association—which also employs a Nurse.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

In the early part of the year, the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at 40, New Road, Stourbridge, passed from the control of a voluntary committee to that of the Worcestershire County Council.

As the Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare, the County Council arrange School Clinics, Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare sessions, Orthopaedic Clinics, etc.

Lye is also provided with a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, with the same facilities as at Stourbridge.

Prevention of Diphtheria.

Monthly Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics were held at both Stourbridge and Lye throughout the year, and are provided free by the Borough Council. The Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre premises as follows:—

Stourbridge (40, New Road)	.....	Third Friday in the month 10 a.m.—12 noon.
Lye (Orchard Lane)	.....	Third Thursday in the month 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Scabies.

Scabies infection declined considerably during the year. Twenty-four patients, compared with 76, had first infections, and 16 other patients had re-infections. Treatment with Benzyl Bensoate Emulsion has proved very effective, and in all 59 treatments were given. The majority of the patients were of school age.

Scabies being a family disease, steps are taken to follow up family contacts and to impress on them the necessity of treatment at the same time, either at the Clinics or at home.

My thanks are again due to Nurse Davies, Nurse Lawson and Nurse Wall for their assistance at the Clinics and to local Doctors for their co-operation.

Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of Beds.</i>
North Worcestershire Joint Isolation.	Hayley Green, Halesowen	Infectious Disease	46
		Tuberculosis	19
Mary Stevens Maternity Home	Stourbridge	Maternity	16
Corbett	Amblecote	General	100

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies to the area of the Borough of Stourbridge is controlled by the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1909 and is composed of twelve members nominated by the Borough of Stourbridge, and the Urban District Councils of Amblecote and Brierley Hill. It operates three pumping stations, two of which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and the third in Brierley Hill.

At each of the pumping stations there are two boreholes ; these are tubes protected for part of their full depth and generally penetrate into the upper Bunter Sandstone, middle Bunter and Pebble Beds of the Lower Bunter Sandstone. The whole of the supply is pumped into two well defined areas of supply, the high level and the low level. The high level area, the consumption of which averages 400,000 gallons per day is normally supplied by the Coalbournebrook Pumping Station and a Standby is available at Mill Meadow Station. Both these Stations are in Amblecote. A balance tank for this area is available at Wychbury Hill and has a capacity of 350,000 gallons.

It is in the low level area of supply that the major part of the Borough of Stourbridge is situated. The consumption in this area is in the region of 1,400,000 gallons per day averaged throughout the year, and is normally supplied now by the Tack Lane Pumping Station. This Station has been only in full operation since January, 1948, and has provided a bountiful supply of water of a much softer quality than has hitherto been available in the area.

The Board proposes to develop this Station still further by the provision of a Duplicate pumping plant.

Standby plant is available at Coalbournebrook Pumping Station and at Mill Meadow for the supply of the low level area.

A balance tank of 500,000 gallons capacity is situated at Doctor's Hill.

Particulars of samples taken are included in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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. Four tips were in use, viz. : Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street ; Wollaston Hall Estate ; Bromley Street, Lye ; and Hay Green, Lye.

SECTION D.

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

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Details of the inspections carried out during the year will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.**Small Pox.**

No case was reported during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty-three cases, as against 29, were reported during the year. The type of disease was of a mild nature and all the patients recovered.

Diphtheria.

There were 30 confirmed cases, as compared with 21, during the year, and two proved fatal—one being a child who had received immunisation treatment a few years previously, but who had not received a "boosting" injection.

Eleven of the patients had been immunised, and of the remaining cases ten were of ages 19 to 42 years. All received hospital treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Some 640 children—463 being of pre-school age—were completely immunised during 1947. In addition 293 school children were given re-invigorating injections.

The following is a record of Immunisation in the Borough since 1935 :

Year	<i>Alum Precipitated</i>		<i>Toxoid Anti-toxin</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Toxoid</i> 2 inj.	<i>Mixture</i>		
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	
1946	536	—	536	
1947	640	—	640	
	3508	3493	7001	

At the end of 1947, out of an estimated child population of 7,670, 5,403 children under 15 years of age had been immunised, 1,447 of them being under five years of age.

NOTE.—During the years 1935, 1936 and 1937, some 3,009 children received one injection of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. No account of these has been taken in calculating the number of children completely immunised.

Table showing the Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Case Mortality Rate.</i>	<i>Immunised Children. Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
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	—
1946	21	1	4.76	7	—
1947	30	2	6.66	11	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	633	51	—	91	1
	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Disease	Under 1 Year	AGES										Total No. of Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		1 —	2 —	3 —	4 —	5 —	10 —	15 —	20 —	35 —	45 —	65 and upwards		
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	2	5	23	12	2	6	—	—	—	38	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	3	12	5	1	7	2	—	—	30	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	12
Erysipelas Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	4	6	10	7	8	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Measles	12	23	27	40	26	67	14	3	3	—	—	—	2	1
TOTALS	21	30	39	49	42	114	31	7	26	5	4	1	76	15

NOTE: Of the hospital cases, all except three were admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital, Halesowen.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	3	2	—	—	2	4	—	—
25	...	...	5	6	—	—	1	3	—	—
35	...	...	4	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
45	...	...	4	1	—	—	1	2	2	—
55	...	...	4	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
65 and upwards	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	...	...	22	10	—	—	9	12	4	—

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.58 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.31 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.11 as compared with 0.19 in 1946.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1947.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1947 ...	81	76	16	16
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	22	10	—	—
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	—	2	—	1
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	103	88	16	17
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ...	12	15	1	2
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year ...	91	73	15	15

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF
STOURBRIDGE.

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 1947.

The major part of the work has, of necessity, been devoted to Housing, and the number of complaints (principally relating to housing defects) received during the year, serve as an indication of the increasing deterioration of the unfit house.

Shortages of labour and materials have again been detrimental to the repair of houses not in all respects fit for habitation and in many instances owners desirous of undertaking repairs have been placed in the invidious position of not being able to secure the services of a builder for many months.

The present inability to condemn the unfit house has also been a matter of grave concern during the year. Extensive use has been made of the provisions of the Public Health Act to secure minimum repairs necessary to permit the continued occupation of such premises but the resultant state, though structurally sound, cannot be considered satisfactory either by the tenant or by the Council.

Water supplies have again received special consideration and advantage has been taken of the more simple procedure brought about by the amendment of the Public Health Act, 1936, by the Water Act of 1945 to demand a supply of water in pipes to houses in two instances.

COMPLAINTS.

A total of 287 complaints was received during the year 1947. These related principally to housing defects.

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	748
Inspections under Housing Regulations	17
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	52
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	103
Visits re Tuberculosis	31
Re-inspections and re-visits	2371
Slaughter of pigs on private premises	397
Dairies and Cowsheds	55

Factories	44
Bakehouses	37
Food Stores and Food Preparation Premises	97
Shops	125
Shops (<i>re</i> unfit food)	291
Vermin Infestation (excluding Rats and Mice)	65
Rats and Mice Infestations	106
Water Supplies	31
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	262
Refuse Tips	—
Common Lodging House	8
Pig sties	54
Smoke Nuisances	18
Marine Stores	11
Pools and water courses	28
Number of Notices served during the year :	
Preliminary Notices served	362
Statutory Notices served	227

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 362. These, in general, took the form of letters giving particulars of defect and suggestions as to repairs necessary to remedy the defects.

	<i>No. of Notices.</i>	<i>No. of houses or premises affected</i>
General defects of houses	87	135
Defective rain water spouting	2	2
Defective roofs	14	32
Defective floors	1	1
Dangerous chimneys	2	2
Dampness	4	4
Water in cellars	6	7
Defective sanitary conveniences	28	30
Defective drainage	31	78
Defective outbuildings	4	6
Unfit water supply	2	2
Defective dustbins	146	210
Accumulations of refuse	4	4
Verminous Premises	1	1
Shops Acts—Contraventions	5	5
Tents, Vans, etc., Nuisances	4	19
Factories—Defective/Inadequate Sanitary accommodation	5	5
Factories—Defective windows	1	1
Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regu- lations—Contraventions	1	1
Food and Drugs Act—Contravention	1	1
Miscellaneous	13	14
	<hr/> 362	<hr/> 560

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1497.

	No. of Notices.	No. of premise affected.
<i>Public Health Act, 1936 :</i>		
Repairs of drains (Section 39)	2	7
Provision of dustbins (Section 75)	44	40
Cleansing of verminous premises (Section 83)	1	1
Abatement of Nuisances (Section 93)	122	83
Provision of wholesome water supply (Section 138)	4	3
Requisition for Information (Section 277)	18	41
<i>Housing Act, 1936 :</i>		
Notices to appear before Council (Section 11)	8	4
Demolition Orders (Section 11)	10	7
Notices to appear before Council (Section 12)	2	2
Closing Orders (Section 12)	1	1
Notices to Quit (Section 155)	6	6
Notice before entry (Section 157)	1	1
Requisitions for Information (Section 168)	5	7
<i>Rent Restrictions Act, 1933 :</i>		
Certificates	3	3
	<hr/> 227	<hr/> 206

Result of the Service of Notices :

Preliminary Notices complied with

269
(including 39 Notices
brought forward from
1946).

Statutory Notices complied with

170
(including 37 Notices
brought forward from
1946).

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)	527
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	684
(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	6
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	17
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	13
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	291
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of <i>informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their officers	81
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	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	93
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	36
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4
(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	7
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7

(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 I
- (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

During the year 1947 five houses were repaired after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and one after informal action.

Forty houses were repaired after formal action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, four of these by the Local Authority after the owner had failed to comply with Nuisance Orders made by the Justices. Repairs in default were also in progress at four other houses at the end of the year.

Eighty houses were repaired after informal action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Demolition Orders.

Seven Demolition Orders were made during the year in respect of the following houses, all of which were in a state of disrepair bordering on the dangerous :

- 1 and 2, Hanbury Hill, Stourbridge.
- 48, Pedmore Road, Lye.
- 3, Rufford Road, Stourbridge.
- 4, 8 and 10, Mill Street, Stourbridge.

Closing Orders.

One Closing Order only was made during the year, in respect of part of the building No. 103, High Street, Lye.

Undertakings.

Following upon a Notice to Appear under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, an undertaking not to use for human habitation was accepted by the Borough Council in respect of No. 37, Waste Bank, Wollescote, Stourbridge.

There still remains in the Borough a large number of houses which would normally have been dealt with either under the provisions of Section 11 or Part III of the Housing Act, 1936.

Until such time that more houses are built this type of dwelling is being kept weatherproof by carrying out minor repairs only.

As this type of house becomes vacant a thorough inspection is carried out, and where it is considered incapable of repair appropriate action is taken.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

Sixty-five visits were made in connection with vermin infestation (excluding Rats and Mice).

Eleven houses were successfully treated for bug infestation and one for fleas.

By arrangement with the County Borough of Walsall, that authority's disinfection service was used to fumigate with HCN the contents of two houses badly infested with bugs—prior to re-housing of the tenants in Corporation owned property.

Subsequent visits to the new addresses have proved the effectiveness of the treatment.

In one instance formal action under the Public Health Act was necessary to secure effective disinfection.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS.

Throughout the year numerous caravans have at different times occupied land in various parts of the Borough. The majority of these were dealt with by informal action but in three instances formal action was necessary.

In December the Public Health Committee authorised the issue of licences permitting three caravans to remain on farm premises for a period of two calendar months, the occupants being employed on agricultural work.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Premises used for :

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

During 1947, four new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream in sealed cartons and one for the sale of loose ice cream.

At the end of the year, there were twenty premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and ten for its manufacture and sale.

Samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The fat content varied between 7.2% and 1.2%, the majority being over 3%. Bacteriologically the majority were in provisional Grades I and II.

(b) Preparation of Preserved Foods.

There were ten premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Preserved Food, principally sausages and all were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Fish Frying.

There was no change in the number of premises registered—19. All premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ADULTERATION.

Seventy-seven informal samples and five formal samples were submitted for analysis, as follows :—

Milk (ordinary)	.....	42
Milk (Tuberculin Tested)	.....	7
Milk (Pasteurised)	.....	8
Milk (Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised)	.....	6
Milk (Sterilized)	.....	3
Ice-cream	.....	16

One sample of milk was found to be deficient in fat ; subsequent samples were satisfactory.

In one instance only was extraneous water found in milk, a follow-up sample also showed some extraneous water, but an "appeal to the cow" sample did not. The cause was attributed to negligence after cleaning the churns. No further trouble has been experienced. All other samples were genuine.

MILK SUPPLIES.

There are thirteen producers of milk within the Borough, with a total of approximately 250 cows.

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

Forty retailers are registered as dairymen.

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

BACTERIAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Forty-six samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, as under :

<i>Type of Milk.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>	<i>Tests applied.</i>	<i>Results of Tests.</i>	
			<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	6	Methylene Blue	6	—
		Phosphatase	6	—
Pasteurised	12	Methylene Blue	12	—
		Phosphatase	12	—
Sterilized	2	Methylene Blue	2	—
		Phosphatase	2	—
Heat Treated	6	Methylene Blue	3	—
		Phosphatase	5	1
Tuberculin Tested	13	Methylene Blue	9	4
		Tubercle bacilli	1	—
		B. Coli	6	1
Raw Milk	7	Methylene Blue	7	—
		B. Coli	3	—

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS 1936-1946.

The following Licences were granted during the year :—

Dealers' Bottling Licence :

Tuberculin Tested

1

Dealers' Retailing Licences :

Tuberculin Tested

4

Supplementary Licences :

Tuberculin Tested

3

Pasteurised

5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

There is no Government Centralised Slaughterhouse in the Borough.

The number of home-fed pigs slaughtered on private premises totalled 367, of which 361 were inspected. Eight heads, 2 livers and 4 mesenteries, a total weight of 1 cwt. 26 lbs., were found to be affected with tuberculosis and voluntarily destroyed.

The percentage of pigs examined found to be affected with tuberculosis was 3.05.

In addition, 291 visits were made to shops, etc., for the inspection of foodstuffs and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	T.	C.	Q.	LB.
Fish	—	7	1	25
Butter and margarine	—	1	2	10
Bacon and ham	—	—	1	15
Flour and cereals	—	1	1	13
Cheese	—	—	1	10
Fruit	—	1	1	4
Sugar	—	—	1	3
Pearl Barley	—	1	1	—
Eggs	—	—	1	2
Sweets	—	—	—	11
<i>Canned Foods :</i>				
Canned Meat	—	1	—	12
Canned vegetables	—	3	—	26
Canned fruit	—	1	1	5
Canned soup	—	—	—	20
Canned fish	—	—	2	12
Canned jam	—	—	3	—
Canned milk	—	5	—	2
Other preserved foods	—	—	1	23
	1	6	3	25
Pork (from private slaughters)	—	1	—	26
	1	8	—	23

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, twelve licences were renewed during the year.

WATER SAMPLING.

The water samples submitted for examination during the year 1947 were as follows :—

<i>Public Supplies :</i>	<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Bacteriological.</i>
Stourbridge and District Water Board		
High Level Supply	—	8
Low Level Supply	4	15
Bore Holes	3	3
South Staffordshire Water Supply	1	1
Private Supplies :		
Chawn Hill Cottage	1	1
Pedmore Hall	2	2
High Trees, Iverley	1	2
6A Hungary Hill	1	1
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 33

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Without exception the reports on the public supplies, both from the Stourbridge and District Water Board and the South Staffordshire supply, were excellent. Bacteriological counts were very low, whilst chemical examinations have been constant.

The supplies were equally satisfactory as to quantity. They are not liable to plumbo solveny but samples are examined periodically for lead contamination.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from the Mains direct to the houses was 10576 and by means of standpipes, external to the houses, 90 (approximately).

The following are results of the chemical examination of five representative samples of the Town's Water Supply, taken during the year :—

Low Level.

20th Feb. 1947 21st July, 1947.

No. 1 No. 2

Physical Characters.

Clear, odourless Clear, odourless
Deposit none. Deposit none.

pH 7.4

pH 7.4

Chemical Examination (results in parts per 100,000)

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	None	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	56	45
Solids in Solution, after ignition	49	36
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	12	11
Hardness Permanent	15	13
Hardness Temporary	20	16
Hardness Total	35	29
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.002	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	1.0	0.82
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.013	None
Toxic Metals	None detected.	None detected
Free chlorine on receipt	0.002	0.002

High Level.

23rd June, 1947. 1st Oct., 1947.

No. 3

No. 4

*Physical Characters.**Clear, odourless. Clear, odourless**Deposit very slight brown pH 7.0* *Deposit none pH 7.8***Chemical Examination (results in parts per 100,000)**

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	.....	slight trace	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	.....	30	56
Solids in Solution. After ignition	.....	26	49
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	.....	4.4	9.8
Hardness Permanent	.....	7	13
Hardness Temporary	.....	15	17
Hardness Total	.....	22	30
Free and Saline Ammonia	.....	0.0006	0.13
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	None	0.003
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.....	None	1.0
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	.....	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	.....	None	None
Toxic Metals	.....	None detected. None detected	
Free chlorine on receipt	.....	—	0.004

Low Level Bore Hole.

10th Nov., 1947.

No. 5.

*Physical Characters.**Clear, odourless.**Deposit very slight brown.***Chemical examination (results in parts per 100,000)**

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	.....	Slight trace.
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	.....	37
Solids in Solution. After ignition	.....	33
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	.....	4.4
Hardness Permanent	.....	8
Hardness Temporary	.....	14
Hardness Total	.....	22
Free and Saline Ammonia	.....	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.....	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	.....	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	.....	None
Toxic Metals	.....	None detected.
Free Chlorine on receipt	.....	—

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

	Number of Colonies developing upon Agar in two days in three days at 27° C. at 22° C.		Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count.
Low Level.	(per one ml.)		(per 100 ml.)
January 22nd	Nil	Nil	Nil
February 20th	Nil	Nil	Nil
March 20th	4	100	5
March 26th	Nil	6	Nil
April 2nd	Nil	Nil	Nil
May 7th	Nil	Nil	Nil
July 14th	2	4	Nil
July 21st	Nil	4	Nil
August 22nd	Nil	Nil	Nil
September 16th	2	2	Nil
October 14th	Nil	3	Nil
October 28th	Nil	2	Nil
November 13th	2	2	Nil
December 3rd	1	2	Nil
December 18th	5	70	Nil
(From Tack Bore-hole) :			
September 24th	2	20	Nil
November 9th	2	10	Nil
High Level.			
April 15th	2	20	Nil
May 21st	1	1	1
August 7th	Nil	5	Nil
August 27th	4	10	Nil
September 24th	2	40	Nil
November 5th	1	20	Nil
November 19th	Nil	1	Nil
December 10th	5	30	Nil
(From Coalbournbrook Bore-hole) :			
October 1st	Nil	2	Nil

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Rosary and Mabel Cottages.

In my Report for 1946 I referred to the prolonged negotiations proceeding to secure a wholesome supply of water to Rosary and Mabel Cottages, situated above the level of the highest reservoir and above the ordnance datum to which the Water Board was under statutory obligation to supply water.

Early in the year under review notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by the Water Act of 1945, were served upon the Owners of the cottages. In consequence, a standpipe, boxed and locked, was installed at a point about 100 yards from the cottages, a proportion of the cost being borne by the Borough Council. This is a temporary measure pending the extension of mains to cover future development of adjoining land.

High Trees, Iwerley.

Statutory action has also been necessary during the year to secure the provision of a piped supply at High Trees, Iwerley. This house, on the Borough boundary was formerly served by a rain water supply.

In this instance connection was ultimately made by arrangement with the Seisdon R.D.C. to the South Staffordshire supply.

6a, Hungary Hill.

This house, adjacent to the railway, is served from the supply of the Railway Executive (which is purchased in bulk from the Stourbridge and District Water Board). The reports were satisfactory.

Pedmore Hall.

This supply has continued to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS AND PADDLING POOLS.

During the year two samples of water from the Corporation Swimming Baths were submitted for chemical analysis and twelve for bacteriological examination.

The supply is taken from the Baths own well and is chlorinated; the bacteriological examination revealed that the chlorination was effective and that the bacteriological counts were kept within safe limits.

One sample of water taken from the Paddling Pool in a Public Park proved to be unsatisfactory. Use of the Paddling Pool was discontinued and the water drained.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	64	10		
(2) Factories not included in : (1) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938	151	34	4	
(b) Other	—	—	—	
(3) Other Premises under the Act (Excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	
TOTAL	215	44	4	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred :		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	2	—	7	—

OUTWORKERS.

Nineteen lists were received, containing the names of 43 outworkers, 23 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The premises of outworkers resident in the Borough are satisfactory.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Seventy-five Licences were issued during the year—64 to store petroleum spirit only, 4 to store petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium, 3 to store carbide of calcium only, 1 to store carbide of calcium and rubber solution, and 3 to store cellulose and cellulose thinners.

These licences authorised the storage of 83,248 gallons of petroleum spirit, 8,758 lb. carbide of calcium, 100 lb. of rubber solution and 700 gallons of cellulose solution and cellulose thinners.

The sum of £48 was received as fees for the licences.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. K. KENT,

Sanitary Inspector.

