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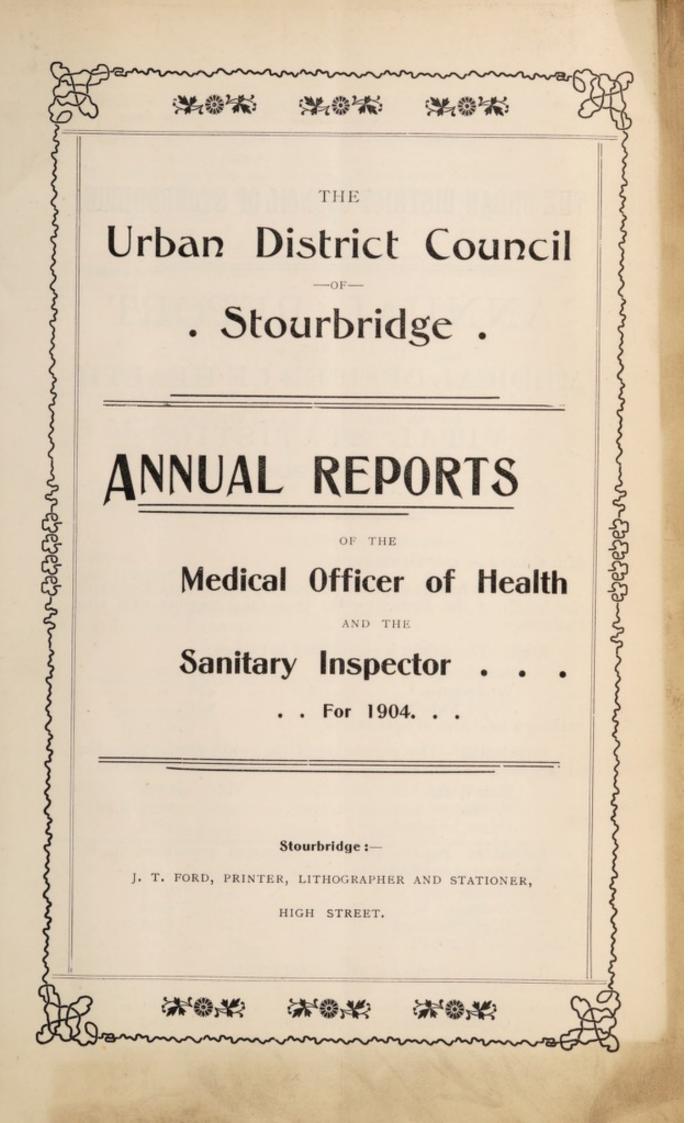
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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STOURBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

VITAL STATISTICS

FOR 1904

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my 3rd Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1904, together with vital statistics.

Area.-The district is sub-divided as follows :--

Stourbridge		 453 a	cres.
Wollaston		 476	,,
Upper Swinford		 991	,,
making a total area of 1920	acres.		

Population.—The population of the entire district according to the census of 1901 was 16302, which is made up as follows:—

Stourbridge	 	10372
Wollaston	 	2655
Upper Swinford	 	3275

Estimated Population.—The estimated population at the middle of 1904 is as follows :—

Stourbridge	 	10714
Wollaston	 	2768
Upper Swinford	 	3308
giving a total of 16790.		

The average number of persons per acre is :--

Stourbridge		 	23.65
Wollaston		 	5.81
Upper Swint	ford	 	3.33

Births.—The births numbered 463, of which 232 were males, and 231 were females.

The birth rate for whole district is 27.57, compared with 468 births and and a birth rate of 28.2 for 1903

The births and birth rates for each district were as follows :---

	No	o. of Births.	Birth Rate.
Stourbridge		313	 29.21
Wollaston		73	 26.37
Upper Swinford		77	 23.27

Deaths.—Total number of deaths belonging to the district is as follows :—

Males		 154
Females		 13+
	Total	 288

giving a death rate of 17.15, compared with 242 deaths and a nett death rate of 14.53 in 1903.

The deaths registered in	each	district w	vere as	follow	s:
Stourbridge	177	compared	with a	142 in	1903.
Wollaston	36	,,	,,	35	,,
Upper Swinford	44	,,	,,	32	,,

There were 31 deaths of persons residents of the district occurring in institutions beyond the district, viz :---

	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.
Workhouse	23	0	2
Corbett Hospital	2	I	0
Infectious Diseases Hospital	Ι	0	0
General Hospital, Birmingha	m I	0	0
Private Hospital, Birminghan	m o	I	0
	·		
Total	27	2	2
thus making total deaths and	death rates :	-	
	Deaths.		Rate.
Stourbridge	. 204	19	.01
Wollaston	. 38		.72

The death rate calculated on the actual number of deaths occurring in the district is 15.30, compared with 12.56 in 1903.

The Registrar General has supplied the following information :

... 13.90

England	and Wa	ales. Y	ear 1904.	
	Annual I	lates per ro	oo living.	
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from seven chief Epidemic Diseases.	Infant Mortality : Annual Death Rate of Infants under 1 year, per 1000 births.
England and Wales	27.9	16.2	1.94	146
76 great towns 142 smaller towns	29·1 27·5	17·2 15·6	2.49 2.02	160 154

These rates are subject to revision.

Upper Swinford ... 46

The mean age at death of the deaths registered in the district is 34 years, compared with 37 in 1903, and the nett mean age at death is 35 years, compared with 40 years in 1903.

The mean age at death is lower this year than last, owing to the fact that there were 35 more deaths in children under the age of 5 years than last year. The increased infantile mortality is due to the very severe epidemic of measles we experienced in the first half of the year, and which accounted for 34 deaths in children under 5 years of age. The higher death rate is also mainly explained in this way.

MONTH	Ι.	Under 1 Year	I5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 and up'rds.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.
January		I	I	0	0	7	I	IO	8	2
February		3	1	0	0	8	4	16	8	8
March		5	7	3	I	13	8	37	18	19
April		5	11	4	I	10	7	38	25	13
May		9	7	Î	3	7	IO	37	19	18
June		5	6	1	õ	3	9	24	17	7
July		3	2	1	0	5	4	15	7	7 8
August		10	1	1	0	10		26	14	12
September		5	0	0	2	5	4 8	20	IO	10
October		I	3	0	0	4	8	16	8	8
November		8	2	0	0	3	6	19	9	10
December		8	Ι	I	1	II	8	30	II	19
Total, 1904		63	42	12	8	86	77	288	154	134
Aver. of Yea 1895 to 19		67	27	10	7	76	70	261	134	128

List of deaths in each month, age, periods and sex.

Street List of Deaths.

STREET.	No. of Deaths	STREET.	No. of Deaths
STOURBRIDGE.		Summer Street	4
Angel Street	. 3	Talbot Street	3
Bank Street	-	Theatre Road	2
Bagley Street		Union Street	4
Baylie Street	-	Victoria Street	I
Beale Street		West Street	4
Birmingham Street		Wheeler Street	3
Bowling Green Lane		Worcester Street	5
Brook Street		Yardley Street	4
Chapel Street			
Clark Street		WOLLASTON.	
Cleveland Street		Bowling Green Lane	I
Cherry Street		Bridgnorth Road	8
Cemetery Road		Duncombe Street	I
Cecil Street	2	Fir Grove	I
Cliff		Firmstone Street	2
Coventry Street	0	Gladstone Read	2
Court Street		High Street	5
Church Street		King Street	7
Duke Street		Ridge Street	2
Enville Street		Vicarage Road	5
Foster Street		Wood Street	2
Green Street	0		-
Glebe Lane	6	UPPER SWINFORD.	
Giles Hill		Back Lane	I
Hanbury Passage		Brook Road	I
Hagley Road	3	Chawnhill	I
Heath Street	3	Corser Street	4
Hemplands		Field Lane	2
High Street	4	Furlongs	2
Hill Street	2	Greenfield Terrace	2
Lion Street		Glass House Hill	I
Mamble Road	2	Hagley Road	7
Market Street	6	Heath, The	3
Mill Street	3	Heath Lane	6
Mount Street	5	High Street	I
New Road	I	Love Lane	4
New Street	4	Norton Road	4
Norton Road	2	Shepherd's Brook	2
Pargeter Street	1	Worcester Lane	3
Park Street	3		5
Parkfield Road	I	Workhouse	25
Pool Street	I	Corbett Hospital	3
Queen Street	I	Infectious Diseases Hosp.	I
Round Court	I	General Hospital, B'ham.	1
Swan Street	2	Private Hospital, B'ham.	I
Short Street	I		
South Avenue	3	Total	288

Infantile Mortality.— There were 63 deaths of children under 1 year of age :—

Stourbridge		 44
Wollaston		 9
Upper Swinfe	ord	 IO

The percentage of deaths in children under 1 year to births registered was 13.58, compared with 12.39 for last year.

The average number of deaths in children under I year for previous 9 years is 67.

The percentage rates for previous years and the percentage rates in England were as follows :---

	No. of		Percentage
Year.	Deaths.	Percentage.	England and Wales.
1895	70	15.0	16.1
1896	63	14.1	14.8
1897	82	17.7	15.6
1898	74	16.5	16.0
1899	68	14.1	16.3
1900	77	16.4	15.4
1901	72	15.0	15.1
1902	51	10.0	I 3·3
1903	58	12.39	

Table showing causes of Infantile Deaths and Months in which they occurred.

CAUSE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec	Total
							_						-
Premature Birth			2		4	I		1		I	I	3	13
Diarrhœa								6	2				8
Broncho-Pneumonia	I		I	I		I			I		2	• •	7
Measles		I		2	Ι		I						5
Debility						I		I	I			2	5
Rickets							1					2	3
Congenital Heart Dis.		I				I							2
Inanition			I		I								2
Dentition			I									I	2
Suffocation					I			I					2
Spinia Bifida								I			I	••	2
Bronchitis									I		I		2
Marasmus		I											I
Intestinal Tuberculosis				I									I
Imperfect Aeration of					-								
Lungs				I				1.4					I
Pulmonary Tuber-	10.1	11.155			100								1
culosis	1.1				I								1
Jaundice					I								I
Pneumonia						I							I
Convulsions					•••	10	I						I
Whooping Cough				. * *							I		I
Congenital Obliter-													
ation of Bile Duct .											I		I
Difficult Birth											I		I
Total	I	3	5	5	9	5	3	10	5	1	8	8	63
rotat		3	3	3	9	2	3	10	3	-	0	0	03

The Health Missioner reports to me as follows :---

"During the year 1904 I have visited 244 infants and paid 734 visits.

"I think the infant feeding among the labouring class is on the whole satisfactory for the past year, more infants having been fed at the breast, and less bread, etc., given than during any year that I have worked here. This applies to women with three or more children.

"On the other hand, there are a number of young women with "their first infant with no breast milk, or very little.

"These women are rather difficult to deal with, they can generally afford to buy any patent food that takes their fancy at the most impressionable moment, and the one selected is generally that advised by the mid-wife in attendance. The mid-wife, if she does nothing worse, invariably advises a little gruel until the milk comes.

"As we are likely to have the certified mid-wife with us for some time to come, I think she might be given some definite instruction as to the making of artificial mother's milk, barley water, albumen water, etc."

With these last remarks of the Health Missioner I entirely agree. Among the poorer classes, any advice the mid-wife may think fit to give (and this she is rather fond of giving), is, in the majority of cases, faithfully carried out. Therefore it is important the mid-wife should be taught to give that advice which will be for the welfare of both mother and child.

I may here also remark that I am of the opinion that a great amount of good would result if girls in the higher standards of our Elementary Public Schools received instructions in the elements of Hygiene and also concerning the feeding and general care of infants. It is to the rising generation that we must chiefly look to for reform.

Zymotic Diseases:—The number of zymotic deaths during the year was 54, and the zymotic death rate was 3.21 per 1000 of population, compared with 11, and a rate of .66 for 1903.

	St	ourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.
Measles		24	5	11
Scarlet Fever		I	0	0
Whooping Cough		3	0	0
Enteric Fever		2	0	0
Diarrhœa		6	2	0
			_	
Г	`otal	36	7	II

The zymotic deaths were as follows :---

The zymotic death rate per 1000 population for the different localities being :--

Stourbridge	 	3.36
Wollaston	 	2.22
Upper Swinford	 	3.35

The death rate for each disease was :---

	St	ourbridge.	Wollaston.	Swinford.
Measles		2.24	1.80	3.32
Scarlet Fever		.09	0	0
Whooping Co	ugh	•28	0	0
Enteric Fever		·18	0	0
Diarrhœa		•56	•76	0

The zymotic death rate for this year is higher than that for any previous year I have got recorded (since 1895).

This high zymotic death rate is entirely due to the 40 deaths from measles.

Measles.—I regret to have to record a very serious outbreak of measles in the district, commencing in the beginning of the year and continuing until the autumn. The disease not being notifiable in this district, it is quite impossible for me to state how many cases occurred, but from information I obtained it was quite evident that a large majority of children under the age of 5 years were afflicted. This disease accounted for no less than 40 deaths, of which 35 occurred in children under 5 years of age.

One death took place in April, at the Workhouse (the child being 6 years old).

roportion of deaths to	1000 deaths :	
Whole District		 138.88
Stourbridge		 117.65
Wollaston		 131.57
Upper Swinford		 239.13

The percentage of deaths of children under 1 year to total deaths of children under 1 year is 7.93.

The percentage of deaths in children between the ages of I and 5 years to total deaths at this age period is 69.04.

Ν	IONTH.		Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford
February			0	I	0
March			7	I	0
April			II	I	3
May			5	0	2
June			0	0	• 4
July			I	I	2
August		••••	0	I	0
	Totals	·	24	5	11

The deaths occurred in the following months :---

P

This table shows that the disease was at its highest during the months of March, April, May and June.

Owing to the severity of the outbreak, I was in May, instructed by you, at the request of the Local Government Board, to specifically report to them thereon. I did so in the early part of June, a copy of such report being herewith appended. Further remarks from me are therefore here unnecessary, but I wish to draw your attention to the small percentages (with perhaps one exception) of children under 5 years of age attending public schools at the time these various schools were closed, and, also as such a large percentage of the deaths were in children of this tender age, I emphasize my condemnation of the unwise practice of parents sending their children to school before being compelled to do so, especially considering that they do so, not from any particular interest they may have regarding the child's mental welfare, but most generally as a matter of convenience to themselves.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STOURBRIDGE.

EPIDEMIC OF MEASLES, 1904.

TO THE SECRETARY,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Sir,

In accordance with your request made to the above Council, I have the honour to submit my Report on the Epidemic of Measles which has occurred in this district.

The District is divided into three localities, viz.:—Stourbridge, (population, estimated to middle of 1903, 10,608); Wollaston, (population, 2,733); Upper Swinford, (population, 3,298); making a total population for the entire district of 16,639.

The Epidemic commenced in February in the Wollaston district (and Ward), and one death occurred in this month. It extended to the West Ward (Stourbridge), which adjoins the Wollaston Ward, and during the month of March 7 deaths occurred in the West Ward and one in the Wollaston. The disease then extended to the South and East Wards of Stourbridge, the former being the most affected, and a few cases occurred on the fringe of the Upper Swinford district (and Ward), immediately adjoining Stourbridge South Ward.

In the month of April there were 14 deaths, occurring as follows :---

Wollaston Ward, 1; West Ward (Stourbridge), 6; South Ward (Stourbridge), 4; East Ward (Stourbridge), 1; Upper Swinford, 2.

During May the disease principally affected the South, East, and Upper Swinford Wards, and 7 deaths occurred, viz.:—South Ward (Stourbridge), 1; East Ward (Stourbridge), 4; Upper Swinford Ward, 2.

	Total No. of	At	Age Perio	ds,
WARD.	Deaths at all Ages.	Under 1.	I and under 5	5 and under 15
Wollaston	 3	1	2	10000-00
West (Stourbridge)	 13		10	3
South do.	 5	2	3	
East do.	 5	I	4	1
Upper Swinford	 4		4	
	30	4	23	3

The following table shows Deaths, Age Period, and Ward in which they occurred.

It will be seen from the above table that the great majority of deaths (90 %) occurred in children under 5 years of age. There were 22 deaths in children under 3 years, giving a percentage of 73.3.

The death rates per 1000 of population are—Stourbridge, 1.38; Wollaston, 1.09; Upper Swinford, 1.21.

The disease not being notifiable it is impossible to state how many cases occurred. I received valuable assistance from the School Attendance Officers, who continually informed me as to the number of absentees from the various schools on account of measles.

I have had occasion to recommend the closing of all the schools in the district in the following order :---

Date of	C 1 1	117 1	Period		ntage Atte	
Closing.	School.	Ward.	Closed	. Boys.	Girls.	Infants.
Feb. 29th.	Wollaston St. James	Wollaston	1 cal. mo	nth 89.6	88.0	62.5
Mar. 12th.	Enville Street	West	3 weeks	89.8	87.2	71.0
Mar. 21st.	Wollaston Rd. Girls	West	2 weeks		82.7 N	o Infants at-
Mar. 22nd.	Wollaston Rd. Boys	West	2 weeks	89.1	tei	nd this Sch'l
Apr. 11th.	Hill Street	South	4 weeks	90.2	72.2	60.0
Apr. 11th.	Enville Street	West	4 weeks	On re-opening	about 23%	were absent
Apr. 11th.	Wollaston Rd.	West	4 weeks	On re-opening	about 17%	were absent
			Constant and	Upper Mixed.	Lower Mixe	ed. Infants.
Apr. 26th.	Roman Catholic	South	4 weeks	91.5		69.4
	Ct. Tabala	East		Boys.	Girls.	
Apr. 27th.	St. John's	East	4 weeks	93.6		87.6
May 9th.	Oldswinford Upp	per Swinford	4 weeks	94'3	82.3	73.5
May oth.	Hill Street	South	2 weeks	On re-opening	about 30%	were absent
June 6th.	Oldswinford Upp	per Swinford	4 weeks	On re-opening	about 32%	were absent

As such a large percentage of deaths occurred in children under 5 years of age, I procured the following information of the percentage attendance of children under the age of 5 years, attending the various schools at time of closing :— Percentage Attendance.

		Percer	itage Attend	1
St John's			83.3	
Roman Catholic			35.6	
Enville Street			60.4	
Hill Street			51.0	
Wollaston St. Jam	es'		42.3	
Oldswinford			52.1	

In commenting on the above, considering the increased predisposition of young children contracting, and also the high mortality from, not only measles, but also other infectious diseases, I most strongly condemn the practice of parents sending their children to school before the compulsory age of 5 years.

In all but one of the fatal cases death resulted from lung complications, and in several cases medical advice was not obtained until such complications had occurred.

Many parents look upon the disease as an unavoidable childs' ailment, and on this account do not realize the necessity of proper isolation and skilled treatment.

Means adopted to prevent spread of the disease :---

- (a) Closing and disinfection of day schools.
- (b) I also obtained sanction of the Council on April 25th, to write to Clergymen and Managers of Sunday Schools requesting them to discontinue holding their Sunday Schools and other assemblies of children and young persons in connection with their places of worship for one month. This request was courteously complied with in most cases.
- (c) At my request the Sanitary Committee ordered the printing of Cards as follows : —

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STOURBRIDGE.

MEASLES.

Hints on its Prevention and Cure.

- I. Children are not bound to have measles.
- 2. Avoid exposing your children to infection.
- Do not allow children to run in and out of houses where children are suffering from measles.
- 4. Do not send any of your children to school when you have a case of measles in the house, nor until all in your home have been free from the disease for at least one month.
- Measles is more fatal in young children than in older ones, and so it is especially important that precautions should be taken to prevent young children getting the disease.
- Children suffering from the disease should be kept in bed until the rash and cough have gone.
- Medical advice should be obtained in the early stages of the disorder to be efficacious. It is ridiculous of parents trusting to household remedies in severe cases of this disease.
- During an epidemic of measles, DON'T let your children go to places where other children assemble if it can be avoided.

Issued by order of the Sanitary Committee of the Urban Council of Stourbridge.

(Signed),

JOHN WARR, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee. H. WILBERFORCE FREER, Medical Officer of Health. Commenting on the above, I am convinced that the closing of schools, in order to be a means of preventing the spread of infectious disease, should be general on the onset of a threatened epidemic, as in this district most of the schools draw their scholars from all parts of the district.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. WILBERFORCE FREER.

Stourbridge,

P

June, 1904.

Scarlet Fever,—Twenty-three cases of scarlet fever were notified to me during the year, occurring in each month, as shewn in table below, of which 9 were removed to the infectious hospital :—

MONTH.	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Total.
January	 1	0	0	T
February	 Ť	0	2	3
March	 3	0	2	5
April	 õ	0	0	õ
May	 I	0	Ó	I
June	 I	0	0	I
July	 0	1	0	I
August	 0	0	0	0
September	 0	0	0	0
October	 6	0	I	7
November	 2	0	0	2
December	 2	0	0	2
Totals	 17	I	5	23

One death occurred in Wheeler Street.

The disease has been far less prevalent than in the past 2 years, there having been 39 cases and 2 deaths in 1903, and 96 cases and 6 deaths in 1902.

Proportion of deaths to 1000 deaths :-

		1904	1903	1902
Stourbridge		4.90	6.06	6.57
Wo!laston		0	25.00	22.45
Upper Swinford		0	0	93.02
Percentage of deaths	to ca	ases notifie	ed :—	
		1904	1903	
			-905	1902
Stourbridge		5.88	4.00	2.26
Stourbridge Wollaston				

Year.		Cases.	Deaths.	Per cent. of deaths to cases notified.
1898		44	0	
1899		31	3	9.67
1900		76	3	3.96
1901		120	3 5 6	4.16
1902		96	6	6.25
1903		39	2	5.13
Average years 189		67.66	3*16	4.67
1904		23	I	4.34

Table showing number of cases, number of deaths, and percentage of deaths to cases notified.

I stated in my last Annual Report that the decrease in the number of cases proved that the preventive measures available, viz : isolation and disinfection were important factors in checking the spread of this disease. The continued decline in the incidence of this disease confirms this statement.

Whooping Cough.—This disease has been somewhat prevalent during the year, and accounted for 3 deaths. Whooping cough and measles are not infrequently associated.

Diphtheria.—The district has been entirely free from this disease during the year, no case having been notified to me.

Last year there were two cases, one of which was imported from Aston.

It is gratifying to note that no death has occurred from this disease since 1900.

Table showing number of cases notified and number of deaths :

Year.		Cases.	Deaths.
1896		15	8
1897			0
1898		36	2
1899		4	0
1900		11	2
1901		14	0
1902		4	0
1903		2	0
1904		0	0
verage o om 1896 t	f years	6.5	1.3

Enteric Fever.—Seven cases were reported during the year, compared with 8 in 1903, and 10 in 1902.

Five of the cases were removed to the Hospital.

Two deaths occurred, both being males, between the ages of 25 and 65 years, one at the Hospital and the other at No. 21, Green Street.

All of the cases occurred in the Stourbridge locality.

I was unable to trace the origin of the disease in three of these cases. As regards the other four cases, insanitary conditions were found, all of which were immediately remedied.

Year.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.
1895	 3	0
1896		0
1897	 5 5 6	I
1898	 6	0
1899	 8	0
1900	 25	3
1901	 5	I
1902	 IO	3
1903	 8	3
Average of 1895 to 1	8.62	1.55
1904	7	2

Table showing number of cases and number of deaths :---

The percentage of deaths to cases notified during the year was 28.57, compared with 50 in 1903, and 30 in 1902.

Proportion of deaths to 1000 deaths :---

		1904.	1903.	1902.
Stourbridge		9.80	18.18	13.12
Wollaston		0	25.00	0
Upper Swinfe	ord	0	0	23.25

Diarrhœa.—This disease was responsible for 8 deaths (all in children under 1 year), compared with 2 for 1903, and 4 for 1902.

Six of the deaths occurred in Stourbridge, and 2 in Wollaston. (I may mention that no deaths have occurred in Upper Swinford during the past 3 years).

Proportion of deaths to 1000 deaths :---

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Stourbridge	 26.46	6.06	19.73
Wollaston	 52.63	25.00	20.42

The percentage of deaths to total deaths of children under I year is, Stourbridge 13.59, and Wollaston 22.22, and for the whole of the district 12.69.

Year.		Deaths.	Death Rate
1898		9	•56
1899		9	•56
1900		I	.06
1901		2	.13
1902		4	•24
1903		2	.15
Average of years 1898 to 1903.		4.2	.27
1904		8	.47

Table showing deaths and death rates for six years, 1898 to 1903, and compared with 1904:---

It will be seen from the above table that the death rate from this disease is higher this year than it has been since 1899, and considerably above the average for the six previous years. This is, in great measure, explained by the unusually hot weather we experienced during the year.

List of	Notificati	ons of	Infectious	Diseases.
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DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep,	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever Enteric	 I 2	3	5 1	0	I I	I	I I	· 0 I	0	7	2	2	23 7
Erysipelas Puerperal	 2	2 0	0 I	1 0	I O	I O	0	I O	I O	0	I O	I O	II I
Total	 5	5	7	I	3	3	2	2	I	7	3	3	42

STREET.		Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever.	Total
STOURBRID	GE.					
Birmingham Street		 1	I		1	2
Brook Street		 2				2
Cleveland Street		 I				I
Clifton Street		 I				I
Coventry Street			I			I
Church Street				I		I
Enville Street			I			I
Green Street			I			I
Gig Mill					I	I
Hagley Road		 I		I		2
Hanbury Passage				I		I
Hill Street		 2				2
High Street		 I	2	I		4
Lawn Street		 I				I
Lower Hill Street				I		I
Mamble Road			I			I
Norton Road		 . 1				I
Red Hill		 I				I
Wheeler Street		 2				2
Witton Street		 I				I
Worcester Street		 2				2
WOLLASTO	N.					
Bridgnorth Road				3		3
High Street				1		I
Laburnam Street		 I				I
UPPER SWINF	ORD.					
Field Lane				I		I
Hagley Road	••••	 I				I
Heath Lane	••••	 3		I		4
High Street		 I				I
						1
Totals		 23	7	II	I	42

Street List of Notifications of Infectious Disease.

counted for 38 deat	hs, vız. :— Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.
Stourbridge	22	4	2
Wollaston	2	i	0
Upper Swinford	4	3	0
	—		-
Totals	28	8	2

The proportion of deaths to 1000 deaths :---

aco

	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.
Stourbridge	107.83	19.60	9.80
Wollaston	52.63	26.31	0
Upper Swinford	86.97	65.20	0

Nine of the deaths from Bronchitis and one from Pneumonia occurred in infants under 1 year, and 4 deaths from Bronchitis and 3 from Pneumonia in children of 1 year and under 5 years of age.

Death rates per 1000 of population :---

	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.
Stourbridge	1.15	.37	.18
Wollaston	.72	•36	ο.
Upper Swinford	1.30	.90	0

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, (Phthisis).—There were 18 deaths from this disease, viz.:—Stourbridge, 14, Wollaston 2, Upper Swinford 2; compared with 24 in 1903, viz.:—Stourbridge 15, Wollaston 6, Upper Swinford 3.

The proportion of deaths to 1000 deaths being-Stourbridge 68.62, Wollaston 52.63, Upper Swinford 43.47.

Death rates per 1009 population were-Stourbridge 13.0, Wollaston .72, Upper Swinford .60.

The comparison of death rates per 1000 population :--

1904			1.02	
1903			1.44	
1902			.97	
1901			1.04	
1900			.74	
In England and	Wales the	death rate in	1902 was	1.23,

1901 ,, 1·26, 1900 ,, 1·04.

Voluntary Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Though personally I am in favour of a voluntary system, I do not at the present time recommend its adoption, owing to the fact that medical opinions differ considerably as to the benefits that may result from the notification of the disease.

The principal reasons from a Public Health point of view why I am in favour of notification of this disease, are :---

1. Immediate detection of insanitary conditions, such as overcrowding, dampness, and insufficient lighting and ventilation of houses.

2. Being able to give instructions regarding precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Chest Diseases. - Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy

3. To be able to supply patients with suitable receptacles for sputum.

4. When thought advisable to notify employers of sufferers, so that the necessary precautions may be taken for the safety of fellow workers.

5. Disinfection of houses in cases of removal.

In my opinion all houses where deaths have occurred from this disease should be disinfected and cleaned.

Bacteriological Examination.-The Worcestershire County Council have undertaken to make bacteriological examination in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Enteric Fever, and Diphtheria free of charge.

These examinations will be useful, in that they will confirm the diagnosis in obscure cases.

Cancer.—This disease caused 15 deaths, viz. :-Stourbridge 9, Wollaston 3, Upper Swinford 3.

The deaths in 3 previous years were :--

I

	1903	1902	1901
Stourbridge	 13	7	7
Wollaston	 I	4	I
Upper Swinford	 τ	I	2

Comparison of	the	proportion of	deaths to	1000 deaths	being :
		1904	1903	1902	1901
Stourbridge		44.11	78.78	46.05	37.43
Wollaston		78.94	25.00	81.60	24.36
Upper Swinfor	d	65.21	27.02	23.25	40.80
Death rate per 1000	o of	population :-	-		
Stourbridge		.84	1.53	·66	.67
Wollaston		1.08	•36	1.48	.37
Upper Swinfor	d	90	.30	.30	·61

The Registrar General's report for 1901 stated that in this year the mortality from the disease was higher than in any previous year, and in his report for 1902, he states that the cancer mortality amongst females exceeded previous records.

Comparison of death rates for whole district per 1000 of population :--

	1904	 	.89
	1903	 	.90
	1902	 	.72
	1901	 	·61
England & Wales	1901	 	.84
	1902	 	·84

Precautions taken to prevent spread of notifiable Infectious Diseases :--

All cases were visited by me and your Sanitary Inspector, and all sanitary defects found were attended to.

At one house where 2 cases of enteric fever occurred, the drains were generally defective.

Disinfection.-Every infected house was disinfected with Formalin, and the bedding and clothing were taken to the Infectious Hospital for disinfection by super heated steam.

Disinfecting solution was supplied to the occupiers for cleansing purposes.

I may add that all the public schools were closed and fumigated on account of the outbreak of measles (not notifiable in this district), and one school was closed for 4 days for disinfection and cleansing purposes owing to the occurrence of scarlet fever.

Factory and Workshops Acts. 1.-Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

				Number of	
Premises.			Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Workshops (including Laundries Workplaces Homeworkers' Premises	Worksho 	op 	156 2 30	23 I 2	0 0 0
To	otal		188	31	0

2.-Defects found.

	Nur	nber of Dei	fects.
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*			
Want of cleanliness	12	12	
Want of Ventilation	2	2	
Overcrowding	3	36	
Other nuisances			
+Sanitary (insufficient	2	2	
unsuitable of delective	2	2 I	
not separate for sexes .	1	1	1
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act : Breach of special sanitary requirements for			
bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)	8	8	2
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107) Giving out work to be done in premises which	2	2	
are infected (S. 110)	2	2	
Total	. 40	40	2

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

+For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, was adopted in 1902. Separate accommodation is required, but as there are not any factories or workshops employing large numbers of workers in this district, therefore no standard of sufficiency.

3.-Other Matters.

Class. Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :	Number.
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) Action taken in matters re- (7
ferred by H.M. Inspectors Notified by H.M. Inspector	7
Public Health Acts, but Reports (of action taken) sent to	
not under the factory Act H.M. Inspectors (S. 5)	5
Homework :	Number of
Lists of Outworkers (S. 107) : Li	sts. Outworkers
	22 68
Addresses of Outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities received from other Authorities	38
(received from other Authorities	4
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :	earing Apparel
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises	2
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110)	2
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904	208
Total number of workshops on Register	208

A detailed account of the work done under this act is included in the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

Midwives' Act.—Although this act has not, as yet, actually come into force, it has given me satisfaction to see a marked improvement in the method the midwives in this district carry out their duties.

Prosecutions.—There were 5 cases taken before the magistrates during the year, each with successful results. They were :—I overcrowding, I insanitary premises, I polluted well water, 2 recovery of expenses incurred in providing water closets.

House Accommodation.—Three houses were closed by the owners during the year, on account of defective state.

One house, which had been previously closed by order of the magistrates, was repaired and re-opened.

Two were demolished by order of the Council and 2 by the owner.

Six houses in Theatre Road, closed by the owner in 1901, after notice, were demolished.

Seventy-six houses were built during the year. Many of these houses are adapted to the requirements of the average artizan.

In my Annual Report for last year I stated that the number of houses built in 1903, viz.:—74, was double the number of houses erected in any one year during the six previous years. It is evident that private enterprise has been stimulated through the steps the Council took regarding the Housing question.

Water Supply.—A few houses in the district still procure their water supply from wells, but most of the houses are supplied by the Stourbridge Water Works Company, During the year 3 samples of water were condemned by the County Analyst.

Burial Grounds.—There are three. This Council's Cemetery, and the Oldswinford and Wollaston Churchyards.

House Refuse.—The erection of a Refuse Destructor, opened in November, is, from a sanitary point of view, a momentous acquisition, in that it will remove the objectional method of tipping offensive refuse in places often unavoidably undesirable.

Drainage—Nearly all the houses are drained to the sewers which were laid down 18 years ago, and a great majority of houses are now provided with water closets. The Stourbridge Main Drainage Board convey the sewage to Whittington Farm, where it is treated on the broad irrigation principle.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with bake-houses, slaughter houses, dairies and cowsheds, common lodging houses, the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and the general abatement of nuisances.

Bye-Laws.—The existing Bye-Laws were approved by the Local Government Board in 1890, and are at present being revised.

Vaccination.—A number of parents still avail themselves of the opportunity of taking their children outside the district in order to have only one vesicle produced, which affords very imperfect protection against small pox.

Small Pox.—No case occurred. Considering that several of the neighbouring districts had cases to deal with during the year, it is indeed fortunate that this district has entirely escaped. It is important that provision for the isolation of small pox should be made. I trust that this question will receive the early consideration of the Council.

In conclusion, I will here record the measures adopted with a view to benefiting the public health during the past few years.

This district is now provided with an Infectious Diseases Hospital (scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria), Public Baths, Recreation Ground, and Refuse Destructor.

I would I were able to add to this list—1st, Suitable provision for the isolation of small pox; 2nd, an Abattoir; 3rd, a Mortuary.

Appended are L. G. B. Schedules, together with a table of comparison of various diseases.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. WILBERFORCE FREER,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., LONDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

years.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO	THE DISTRICT.	Number Rate.*	12 13		288 17.15
cs of Whole District during 1904 and previous years.		registered	in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	II		31
and		912h	o edtsed Residents reg Ittrib	IC		
904	olic	duq and	Deaths in Institut	6		
iring 1	IN THE	At all Ages.	Rate.*	8	16.47 15.56 17.51 15.47 15.47 15.47 18.65 13.89 12.85 12.85 12.85 12.85 12.56	15.30
rict du	GISTERED ICT.	At all	Number	7	255 243 243 246 246 266 302 266 302 212 237 237 212 209 212 209 212 249	257
nole Dist	TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.	Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	9	150°86 141°57 177°10 162°28 141°96 164°17 150°62 109°20 123°93 123°93 123°93	I 3.585 257 I 5.30
of WI	TOTAL	Under 1	Number	2		63
istics	Births.		Rate.*	4	29.98 28.49 28.67 28.67 28.67 28.67 28.95 28.32 28.32 28.32 28.32 28.32 28.99 28.12	463 27.57
Vital Statisti	BIR		Number	3	464 445 445 456 479 479 478 467 468 468 468 465	463
Vita		Population	estimated to middle of each year.	2	15475 15615 15757 15901 16045 16191 16339 16639 16639 16639	16790
Table I.			YEAR.	I	1895 1895 1897 1898 1899 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 Averages for years 1895 to 1903 to 1903	1904

÷

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

	D.	t year. Deaths under	12 14 17 13 13 10 10 10	IO
years.	SWINFORD	Deaths at all Ages.	41 44 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45	46
ious	UPPER SV	Births registered.	86 86 86 86 86 86 86 86 87 88 86 88 86 86 88 86 88 86 86 86 86 86	77
Separate Localities in 1904 and previous years	UP	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	3216 3226 3226 3236 3246 3246 3257 3267 3267 3267 3267 3298 3257 3298	3308
(F 31)		Deaths under 1 year.	13 13 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	6
190	WOLLASTON	Deaths at all Ages.	39 44 48 41 41 41 41 40 49 40 41 41	38
s in	ALIC	Births registered.	88 84 84 84 85 85 69 69 76	73
alities	W	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	2465 2497 2530 2563 2563 2595 2663 2663 2663 2663 2595 2733 2597 2597	2768
Loc	E.	1 year. Deaths under	45 56 55 57 57 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 53 54 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55	44
ate	RIDG	Deaths at all Ages.	167 158 158 151 180 180 218 187 152 165	204
epar	STOURBRIDGE	Births registered.	284 310 286 310 295 304 304 313 313 313 313 301 301	313
of	STO	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	9794 9892 9991 10092 10093 10295 10398 10398 10503 10503 10503	10714
stics	ICT.	Deaths under Deaths under	70 63 63 68 58 58 58 58 58 68 68	63
tati	ISTR	Deaths at all Ages.	255 243 246 246 246 266 266 244 244 244 244 261 261	288
Vital Statistics	LE D	Births registered.	464 445 4456 4456 4478 4478 4478 467 468 467 468 465 465	463
Yit	WHOLE DISTRICT	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	15475 15615 15615 15757 15901 16045 16045 16489 16639 16639	16790
Table II.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	Ylar.	1895 1895 1895 1897 1898 1899 1899 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 1895 1903 1895 1903	1904

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904. Table III.

DI INTECLIOUS DISEASE NOLLIEU AUTING LIE I EAF 180%.	Cases Notified in whole District. Total cases notified in to Hospital from each each Locality. Locality.	ou JRe q	Juder r to 5. 5 to 15. 15 to 25. 25 to 65. 65 and Wollastd Wollastd Wollastd Wollastd Wollastd	7 IS I 8 2 5 4 2 7 1 5 1 7 1 7 1 5 1 7 7 1 5 5 4 5 5 4 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 4 4 2 5 5 5 4 4 5 5 5 5	7 16 3 14 2 30 5 7 10 4
Cases of Intectious 1		At Ag	r to 5.		
Table III. Cases		Number of the second se	NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. At all Ages.	Small-pox Cholera Diphtheria Membraneous croup Erysipelas 23 Typhus fever 7 Relapsing fever 7 Relapsing fever 1 Puerperal fever 1 Plague 1	Totals 42

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

	I	eaths Dist	in or rict at	belonį Subjo	ging to	o whol Ages.	e	longing	hs in o to Loc all Age	calities
Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Stourbridge	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.
Small-pox Measles Scarlet Fever Whooping-cough Diphtheria and Mem-	3	5 1	29 1 2	6				24 I 3	5	11
braneous croup Croup Typhus Fever Enteric (Other continu'd	2					2		2		
Epidemic influenza Cholera Plague Diarrhœa Enteritis Puerperal fever	8	8						6	2	
Erisipelas Other septic diseases Phthisis Other tubercular diseases	0	I	1	I	4	10 1	I	14 I	2	2
Cancer, malignant disease Bronchitis Pneumonia Pleurisy	28 8 2	9 1	4 3	2		10 5 1 1	5 10 1 1	9 22 4 2	3 2 1	3 4 3
Other diseases of Res- spiratory organs Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver Venereal diseases	1 5					1 4 1	I	1 3 1		2
Premature birth Diseases and accidents of parturition Heart diseases Accidents	2	13 2 2		I	I	1 19 1	9	7 2 21 3	3 7	3
Suicides All other causes	10000	20 63	2 42	I 12		2 27 86	49 77	3 1 77 204	1 10 38	15 46

Table of Comparison of various Diseases.

		1898	I	1899	19	1900	Igoi	10	1902	12	E I	1903	Six years' average.	ears' age.	1904	04
Disease.	No. of deaths	t Death- s rate.	h- No. of deaths	f Death rate	No. of deaths	Death rate	No. of deaths	Death	No. of deaths	Death rate	No. of deaths	Death rate	No of deaths	Death	No. of deaths	Death rate
Phthisis	~ .	05.	6	95.	12	.74	17	1.04	16	26.	24	1.44	I4'3	88.	18	20.I
Respiratory Diseases	40	2.57	7 25	1.52	62	3.82	37	2.26	52	3.15	42	2.22	4.3	2.64	39	2.32
Small Pox	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Measles	12	52.	4	.24	4	.24	I	90.	:	:	:	:	3.2	12.	40	2.38
Scarlet fever	:	:	3	81.	ŝ	81.	5	o£.	9	98.	63	21.	3.1	61.	I	50.
Diphtheria and Mem-	13	.12	:	:	61	.12	:	:	:	:	:	:	9.	1 0.	:	:
Whooping cough	:	:	1	.43	2	0£.	I	90.	I	90.	:	:	2.3	.12	e	LI.
Enteric fever	:	:	:	:	3	81.	I	90.	3	81.	ŝ	81.	9.1	OI.	61	11.
Diarrhœa	6	.56	6 9	95.	1	90.	61	.12	4	•24	61	.12	4.5	22.	~	74.
Enteritis	:	:	:	:	13	08.	9	.36	10	۶.	61	.12	4.3	92.	:	:
Cancer	н	90.	6 8	.49	II	49.	IO	09.	12	22.	15	06.	9.2	65.	15	68.

ANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

Urban District Council of Stourbridge.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1904, being my fourth annual report.

During the year I received and attended 97 special Complaints, and in attending to these complaints, and in making general, and house to house inspections, I met with 849 nuisances, defects, or breaches of your Bye-laws. 185 sanitary defects were brought forward from the year 1903, making a total of 1034, and during the year 1904, 929 defects were remedied, leaving 105 at the end of the year. I made 630 inspections of houses and premises, and 1188 reinspections.

The number of preliminary notices served was 239, compared with 168 in 1903. 208 notices were complied with, and a number of nuisances were abated after verbal notice.

254 statutory notices were served by your orders, after my monthly reports to your Sanitary and General Purposes Committee, against 208 in 1903. The following table describes the notices and gives results :—

Act and Sec. under which notice was served.	No. of notices.	Com- plied with.	Prose- cutions taken.	Not compl'd with.	Work in progress to comply with notices.
Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 94	84	56	2	18	8
,, ,, Sec. 36	127	IOI	2	21	3
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890,					
Sec. 32	12	12			
", ", Sec. 33 Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847,	3	2		I	
Sec. 74	21	21			
Factory and Workshop Act, 1902		2			
Notices under Bye-laws	5	5			
Totals	254	199	4	40	II

During the year you ordered 16 prosecutions to be taken, but it was only necessary to take out 6 summonses, and one of these was withdrawn before being served, as I happened to meet the owner of the property to which it referred, and he immediately had the work put in hand; in the remaining 9 cases the work was commenced after the persons concerned were informed that legal proceedings were to be instituted. Details of the 5 cases are given in the following table:—

Council meeting.	Premises.	Offence or cause of Prosecution.	Results.
May	No. 1, Court 13, Mount Street	Overcrowding	17th June, ordered to im- mediately abate the nuis-
"	26, Vicarage Road	Defective premises	ance, and pay costs. 17th June, ordered to do the work required, and pay costs.
Sept.	Park Hill Lodge, Valley Road	Polluted well	7th October, well ordered to be closed, and costs to be paid.
Nov.	30, King Street	Recovery of expenses for providing a sufficient w.c.	Owner paid full amount of expenses & court fees
	3I, ,,	37 33 3 1) upon receipt of summons

I had occasion to apply for a Magisterial Order for admittance to premises for the purpose of examining as to the existence of a nuisance.

Factory and Workshop Act.

There were 208 Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, the classes of work being carried on being :- Baking, Basketmaking, Brewing, Botanic Beer-making, Boot-repairing, Brushmaking, Cabinet-making, Chain-making, Carriage-building, Clogger, Coffin-making, Cooper, Cycle-repairing, Dress-making, Engraving, Glass-engraving, Hosiery, Horse Shoes, Horse-shoeing, Jewellery, Joinery, Laundry, Leather-dressing, Letter-cutting, Millinery, Nailmaking, Plasterer, Picture-framing, Plumbing, Rug Clipping Dressing, Saddlery, Sewing Machine-repairs, Smithy, Stone Masonry, Tailoring, Tripe-dressing, Umbrella-making, Watch-making, Wheelwright, White-smith. I made 188 visits to Workshops during the year, and the defects found were-12 want of cleanliness, 2 want of ventilation, 3 overcrowding, and 6 other defects. At 2 workshops there was insufficient sanitary accommodation, and at 2 others the sanitary convenience were defective. I certified to your Sanitary Committee that two workshops required lime-washing, and legal notices were served upon the occupiers, who complied with them. At one workshop there was no sanitary convenience and you ordered me to prosecute the occupier, he, however, provided a water closet when informed of the pending legal proceedings.

Two notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories complaining of workshops, one of which was dirty, and the other illventilated. These defects were subsequently remedied. During the year I received 22 lists of outworkers, containing 68 names of persons who were outworkers, 38 of whom resided outside the district, and I forwarded the names to the various Councils in whose district they resided.

Bakehouses.

There are 30 Bakehouses on the Register, two bakehouses having been given up during the year, and one additional registered. I made 90 inspections. Five notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories respecting defects in bakehouses, and these were attended to. Four bakehouses had new floors laid, two were ventilated, two were repaired and had extra windows put in. I had occasion to send 6 preliminary notices regarding lime-washing of ceilings, and these were complied with. In 2 cases the Factory Inspector complained that the troughs were not moveable and the wall behind were not lime-washed; in these two cases, and several others I subsequently met with, the occupiers had the troughs either mounted on castors or made as to be easily moved.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 33 registered Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk in the district, 23 being cowkeepers, and the remaining 10 being purveyors of milk only. There are 34 cowsheds in the district. Two persons ceased carrying on business during the year, and 3 persons were registered. During the year I made 91 inspections, and met with 3 cases of overcrowding and several where the cowsheds required limewashing, and had occasion to report the 3 cases of overcrowding and 2 cases of neglect to limewash. Notices were sent, and 2 cowsheds were enlarged, and in the other the number of cows were reduced. At one place pigs were being kept in the cowshed, but were removed after my visit.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two registered houses in the town, and the returns of the lodgers each night at these two houses total for the year 4413 adult males, 1522 adult females, 3 males between 10 and 21 years, 173 males and 12 females under 10 years of age, making a total of 6123, compared with 5656 in 1903. I found one house being used as a common lodging house which was not registered.

Sale of Food and Drugs' Act.

Five samples were taken, viz. :-2 milk. I whisky, I pepper, I butter. They were sent to the County analyst and found to be genuine.

Infectious Diseases.

I visited premises and enquired into 37 cases of infectious disease, and in several instances found sanitary defects, which were subsequently dealt with. 30 houses were disinfected, and about 180 articles of bedding and clothing were sent to the Hospital for disinfection.

Offensive Trades.

The offensive trades carried on in the district are tripe boiling, fell-monger, and leather dressing. One person ceased carrying on business as a tripe boiler, and there are now 5 persons carrying on this class of trade.

Slaughter-houses.

Two applications for renewal of licenses were granted, and I received three notices of change of occupation of slaughter-houses. There are 21 registered and licensed slaughter-houses in the district. During the year I made 104 inspections, and only met with one lot of bad meat, this was immediately destroyed by the owner. An open drain was taken out of one slaughter-house, another one was efficiently drained, and one had the floor relaid. At one slaughter-house pigs were kept in a stye inside, the stye was subsequently partitioned off.

I found 8 persons who were slaughtering pigs for sale on unlicensed premises, and I had occasion to report these matters to your Sanitary Committee. The Committee decided that the delinquents should be warned of the offences. This question of pig killing upon unlicensed premises is a grevious point with butchers who have to have licensed slaughter-houses and conform with your Bye-laws regulating these places. Then, whilst the carcases and meat on licensed premises are constantly under supervision, there is absolutely no control of the meat sold from unlicensed places.

A general excuse made by those who slaughter on unlicensed premises is, because there is no place, other than private slaughterhouses, where they can take their pigs to be slaughtered, and that the few pigs they kill would not permit the erection of a slaughterhouse.

If a public abattoir were provided in the district it would meet the requirements of house-holders who occasionally kill a pig, and the facilities afforded to butchers by a public abattoir may possibly be the means of closing many of the private Slaughter-houses.

Water Supply.

There are now about 24 houses in the district supplied with well water. During the year I sent 7 samples of water to the County Analyst, two of which he pronounced unfit for drinking purposes. One well was closed by Magisterial Order, and one well closed early in 1905 by the owner. Two other samples, from the same source, taken at different times, were considered unfit for drinking purposes. The owner of the house where these samples were taken, was quite willing to put in the town water if the Water Company would bring their mains to the front of his house. This matter was brought before your Sanitary and General Purposes Committee, and the Water Company approached. The Company took their mains down as required, early in 1905. Two houses were supplied with town water during the year.

General Summary.

	Totals	T	otals
Houses repaired and made fit for	a o turo	Wash-houses repaired	12
habitation	29	Cases overcrowding abated	IO
Houses closed by owners as unfit		Wells filled up	3
for habitation	3	W.C.'s altered and repaired	17
Houses demolished by order of	3	W.C. flushing apparatus repaired	9
Council	2	W.C. flush cisterns provided	4
Houses demolished by owners	100	Internal W.C. soil pipes ventilated	2
after having been closed as		Additional water closets provided	5
unfit for habitation	8	Privies converted into W.C 's	132
Houses cleansed and limewashed	42	Ashpits repaired and filled up to	-)-
" damp proofs courses put in	21	ground level	28
" ventilated	16	ground level	
" external walls cemented	5	ashpits	96
" roofs repaired	31	ashpits	3
" provided with new rain	5-	Stables drained	2
water spouting at front	15	Accumulations of refuse removed	13
" R. W. spouting repaired	5	Pig keeping offences abated	12
at front	30	Fowl keeping nuisances abated	3
,, provided with new R W.	5-	Blood deposited in manure middin	2
	13	Pony kept in house cellar	I
, R W. spouting repaired		Manure middins built	3
at rear	24	Smoke nuisances abated	2
" R. W. gutters under foot-		Visits to vans at fair ground	28
path put in	8	Workshops, uncleanly, remedied	12
Cellars drained	3	,, ill ventilated, remedied	2
Cellars lighted and ventilated	3	" overcrowding abated	3
New earthenware sinks provided	11	" other defects remedied	6
Sinks repaired	6	" insufficient sanitary ac-	
Sink waste water pipes provided	25	commodation	2
Yards paved or re-paved	51	" defective sanitary con-	
Drains' cleansed, repaired or	-	veniences	2
relaid	134	Cowsheds, overcrowding abated	3
New trapped gullies provided	40	" required limewashing	8
House floors relaid	IO	Slaughter-houses, floors relaid	I
Defective house walls made		", drained, and drainage	
secure	12	defects remedied	2
Wash-houses rebuilt	2		

No. c	of houses drains tested wit	h smol	e machine	 29
,,	Official letters written			 277
,,	Notices served			 493
,,	Notices complied with			 407
,,	Notices outstanding			 86

House Refuse.

The system of house to house collection of refuse has progressed a little during the year, and there have been less applications for removal of house refuse,

4268 loads of ashes and refuse, and 1066 loads of ashes and excrement have been removed, being the contents of 4142 ashpits and privies and 9256 portable receptacles, and the number of houses from which refuse was removed during the year was 14965.

At the end of 1904, there were 226 houses provided with portable receptacles, compared with 130 at end of 1903, and 49 at end of 1902.

I received, and paid to your Clerk, $\pounds 2$ 115. 8d., being charges for removing trade refuse during the year.

The system of having portable ashbins for house refuse is becoming more popular, but there are many places in the town, such as the houses along the routes of the trams, where the refuse has to be brought in the front street, and where the refuse has to be carried by hand up flights of steps, where the provision of portable bins would facilitate the removal of refuse. In November, 1902, I brought this matter before the Sanitary Committee, and the outcome was, the consideration of adopting Bye-laws under Sec. 26, sub-sec. 2 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, in view of compelling, where necessary, the provision of portable receptacles for house refuse.

In 1903, these Bye-laws were brought before your Bye-law Committee, but, as yet, nothing further has been done.

Privy Conversion.

During the year 132 privies have been converted into water closets, and 5 additional W.C.'s provided. Two conversions were done by your orders, and the expenses recovered from the owner.

Petroleum Acts.

There are 5 licensed retailers of petroleum in the district.

During the year I paid many visits to places where petroleum was likely to be stored, and tested two samples of petroleum.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant, ARTHUR KENT, A.R. SAN. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

