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BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

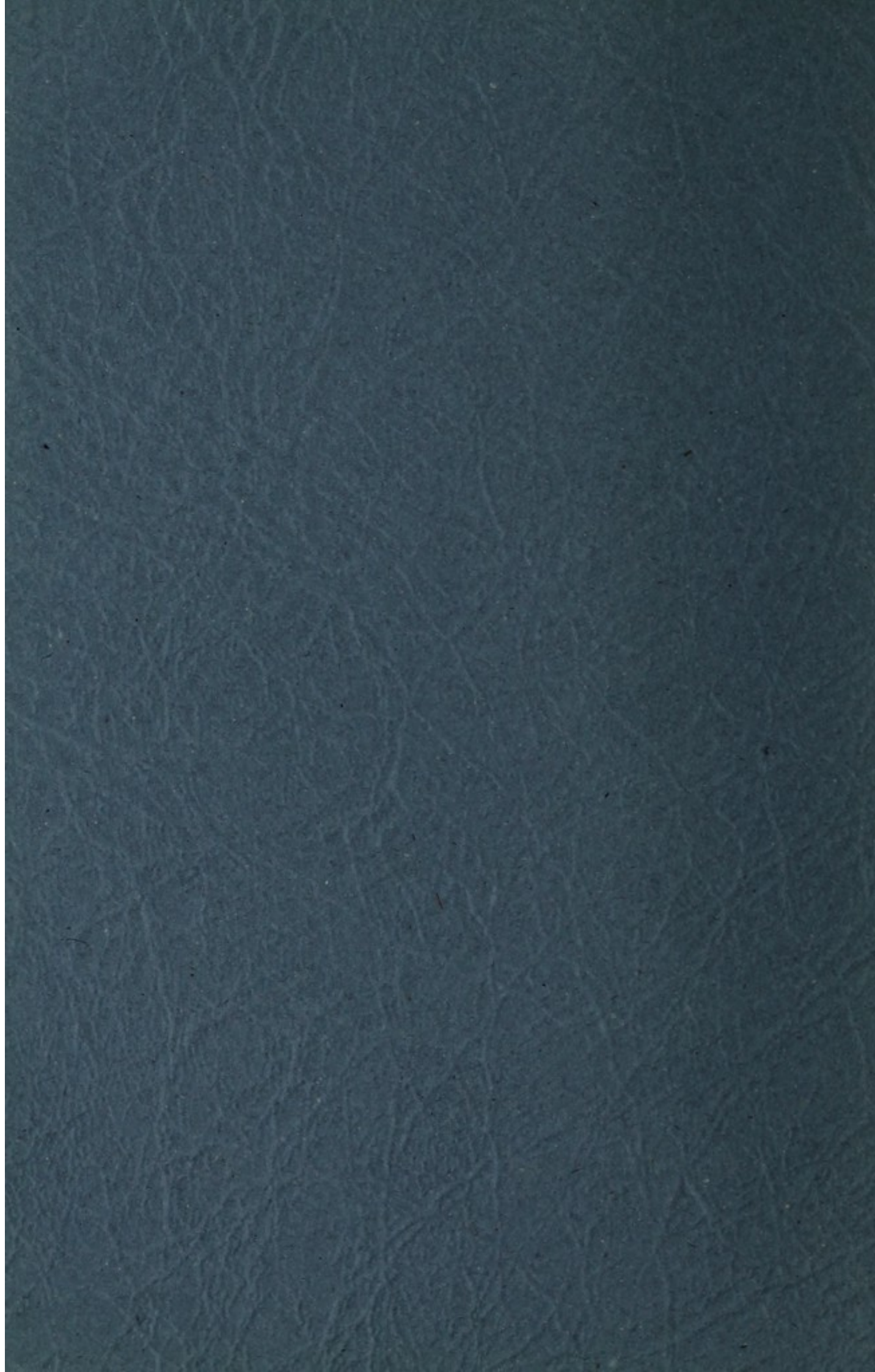
Medical Officer of Health

and

The Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

*Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Tamworth.*





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BOROUGH OF TAINWORTH

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1900

BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Borough of Tamworth

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR M. R. TURNER, J.P., Chairman.

COUNCILLOR L. MORRIS, Vice-chairman.

Alderman A. BRIDGEWATER, Alderman G. H. JONES,
J.P. J.P., O.B.E.

Councillor F. A. ALLSOPP	Councillor Miss C. M. COLEMAN
„ H. BITHELL	„ F. W. MORGAN, J.P. (Mayor)
„ W. H. BROWN	„ W. A. PEEL
„ T. H. CLIFFORD	„ G. H. SMITH, J.P.

Medical Officer of Health:

A. MATHIESON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

H. BIRCHWOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

(appointed by the Staffordshire County Council)

Miss E. CURRIE, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse
(retired June, 1947)

Miss M. RYDER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Miss M. A. LINDQUIST, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
(appointed May, 1947)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Tamworth for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,678
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	12,480
(Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	11,711
(Census, 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	8,032
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	3,226
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	2,785
Persons per Acre	...	...	...	...	...	4.6
Rateable Value—December, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	£72,984
Product of Id. Rate—December, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	£284

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	... 248	131	117
Illegitimate	... 11	6	5
	259	137	122
	259	137	122

Birth Rate 20.7

Still Births—		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	6	3	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
		<u><u>6</u></u>	<u><u>3</u></u>	<u><u>3</u></u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 22.6

Deaths from all Causes	Total.	Male.	Female.
	143	85	58

Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 11.4

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	8	7
Illegitimate	...	—	—
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u><u>8</u></u>	<u><u>7</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 30.8

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate
live births ... 32.2

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate
live births ... 0.0

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male.	Female.
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	2
Other Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilis	—	—
Influenza	1	1
Measles	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—
Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer	14	10
Diabetes	—	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	12	5
Heart Disease	14	14
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2
Bronchitis	14	8
Pneumonia	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach	—	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature Birth	2	—
Congenital Causes, etc.	4	1
Suicide	—	—
Road Traffic Accident	—	—
Other Violent Causes	—	1
All Other Causes	13	9
Totals, all Causes	<u>85</u>	<u>58</u>

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates
of certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947.
(Provisional Figures).**

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census.)	London Adm. County	TAMWORTH
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
Births:—					
Live ...	20·5	23·3	22·2	22·7	20·7
Still ...	0·50	0·62	0·54	0·49	0·4
Deaths:—					
All Causes ...	12·0	13·0	11·9	12·8	11·4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Whooping Cough ...	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·02	—
Diphtheria ...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	—
Influenza ...	0·09	0·09	0·08	0·08	0·16
Smallpox ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	—	—
Measles ...	0·01	0·02	0·02	0·01	—
Notifications:—					
Typhoid Fever ...	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·01	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0·05	0·06	0·05	0·05	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1·37	1·54	1·37	1·31	0·24
Whooping Cough ...	2·22	2·41	2·02	2·80	4·00
Diphtheria ...	0·13	0·15	0·14	0·14	—
Erysipelas ...	0·19	0·21	0·18	0·22	0·24
Smallpox ...	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00	—
Measles ...	9·41	9·13	9·58	5·29	9·77
Pneumonia ...	0·79	0·89	0·68	0·64	1·68
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	41	47	36	37	30
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5·8	8·0	3·7	4·8	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified together with the age groups.
INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Total Cases Notified											Total Deaths	Cases admitted to Hospital				
		Under 1 year	1 and 2 under 2	2 and 3 under 3	3 and 4 under 4	4 and 5 under 5	5 and 10 under 10	10 and 15 under 15	15 and 20 under 20	20 and 35 under 35	35 and 45 under 45	45 and 60 under 60			60 and over			
	
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (Including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	21	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	50	5	6	6	8	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	122	9	10	13	13	27	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	203	15	17	19	25	35	66	7	3	6	1	6	3	8	4	...	...	...

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children under 5 years immunised during the year	129
Number of children between 5 and 15 years immunised during the year	35
Percentage of children under 5 years who have been immunised	31.0
Percentage of children between 5 and 15 years who have been immunised	86.6
Percentage of children under 5 and up to 15 years who have been immunised	65.2

Material used was A.P.T.

TUBERCULOSIS.**New Cases and Mortality during 1947.**

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	3	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	6	1	—	5	2	—	—
	14		1		7		—	

HOUSING—POST-WAR PROGRAMME.**Proposed Scheme.**

Fazeley Road: Erection of 206 houses (254 dwellings).

Amington Road: Erection of 76 houses (96 dwellings).

The Ministry of Health had approved, as first part of the programme, the erection of 48 houses (66 dwellings) Fazeley Road and 40 houses (52 dwellings) Amington Road.

During the year, 36 houses (50 dwellings) were completed on the Fazeley Road site, giving the following accommodation: 22 three-bedroom type houses, 14 two-bedroom and 14 one-bedroom type flats.

Work was commenced on the erection of the houses on the Amington Road site.

HOSPITALS.

General.

The Tamworth Hospital is situated in the Borough but also serves the surrounding districts.

All general medical and surgical work is carried out by local practitioners and consultants from Birmingham Hospitals.

There is no resident medical staff.

The number of beds available is seventy, and special services provided by the hospital include X-Ray and Massage.

The Public Assistance Hospital can accommodate eighty-two patients.

Maternity.

There is no public Maternity Home provided by the authorities. Beds are available for maternity cases at the Lichfield Public Assistance Hospital.

There are two private Maternity Homes in the Borough.

Infectious Diseases.

The Tamworth Isolation Hospital is administered by the Tamworth Joint Hospital Board, consisting of representatives of the Borough and Rural District Councils.

The majority of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occurring in the Borough are removed to hospital.

Accommodation is provided at Walsall Isolation Hospital for cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and for other cases requiring isolation, arrangements are made with adjoining authorities.

The Tamworth Joint Hospital Board is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital Board and such cases would be removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Moxley.

The County Council provides hospital treatment for cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia if the practitioner attending the case desires it.

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons each week.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held once a fortnight and is attended by an Assistant Medical Officer on the staff of the County Council.

A School Clinic is held each week on Thursday morning—the Medical Officer and a Nurse are in attendance.

An Eye Clinic is held about once a month for treatment of errors of refraction, etc. This is in charge of the County Ophthalmic Surgeon.

The County Council also maintains a Dental Clinic where school children and children under five years receive treatment. Expectant and nursing mothers also receive dental treatment there.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held at College Lane School-room. It is supported by voluntary contributions and by collection of fees for treatment. Crippling defects among elementary school children and children under five are treated free.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held at Lichfield once weekly, to which cases can be referred for examination by the County Tuberculosis Officer. Cases are also visited in their homes by this Officer.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

An ambulance is available for the removal of infectious diseases to the Isolation Hospital.

There is no ambulance in the Borough available for the removal of non-infectious cases, accidents, etc.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological, Chemical and Pathological examinations are made at the County Council laboratory—free use is made of these facilities.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following information has been furnished by Mr. J. C. Radford, Engineer and Manager, Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee.

1. **Source of Supply.** Well and bore hole at Hopwas Pumping Station.
2. **Gallons pumped during 1947**—218,271,000 gallons. Also received from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company—26,875,000 gallons.
3. **Well.** Highest, 9ft. 0in.; Lowest, 1ft. 5in.
4. **Treatment before distribution.** The supply is chlorinated en route to the high level reservoir at Hopwas and the bulk supply from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company is chlorinated at source.
5. All dwelling houses in the Borough have a piped supply, either direct into the house or by means of standpipes.

Approximate number of houses supplied :—

(a) Direct to houses.	Population.
3,355 ... ...	... 12,012
(b) By means of standpipes.	
92 ... ...	... 368

6. **Rainfall.** The Rainfall for the year 1947 was 24.36in.

With the assistance of the bulk supply from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, it was possible to give a continuous supply to all consumers throughout the year, at pressures ranging from 30lbs. to 80lbs.

During the year samples of water have been obtained by the Health Department from domestic supplies in various parts of the Borough and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination.

The result in each case has been satisfactory.

The following are results of samples taken during the year :—

Chemical Analysis.

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	33.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid ,,	Nil.
Nitric Nitrogen	0.45
Chlorine	3.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.001
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH Value	7.7
Hardness before boiling	15.7°
Hardness after boiling	6.5°
Temporary Hardness	9.2°

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality but must be passed bacteriologically, before being considered safe for drinking.

Bacteriological Examination.

COUNT On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°c.	3 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20-22°	5 colonies per ml.
COLI AEROGENES CONTENT (presumptive coli) after 48 hours' incubation at 37°c.	Nil per 100 ml.

REMARKS.

The Ministry of Health Report No. 71 suggests that when a public water supply contains not more than two presumptive coli per 100 ml. the sample may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory.

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. MATHIESON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.
Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

There is again an increase in the number of complaints received of insanitary conditions and structural defects affecting dwelling-houses, and great difficulty has been experienced in getting repairs carried out. The shortage of materials, labour difficulties and restrictions have all contributed to this factor, and whilst one must agree that the building of new homes is first priority, general maintenance of existing dwelling-houses is also important.

Perhaps another point that is influencing the position is that in view of the present high cost of repairs, private landlords feel they being penalised by the limitation of rents to a 40 per cent. increase on the 1914 standards.

The continued deterioration of certain classes of property will become serious and probably costly if action has to be taken under the Housing Act.

Sanitary Accommodation

The number of types of closet accommodation existing at the end of the year is as follows:—

No. of Houses	No. of Privies	No. of Pails	No. of Water Closets	Per cent. Dry	Per cent. Water Closets
3,447	6	36	3,707	1.2	98.8

The privy and pail type of closet are in the rural parts of the Borough where no sewer is available.

The conversion of trough closet accommodation to separate flush type W.C. pedestals has been carried out at 10 houses and the Council made a contribution of £6 10s. per house to owners carrying out this conversion.

There are still a number of houses served by this type of closet accommodation and every effort is being made to bring about conversion.

HOUSING—OVERCROWDING.

During the year the records compiled under the Overcrowding Survey, 1935/36, were brought up to date and this necessitated 2,103 visits for the purpose.

The standard laid down under the Housing Act, 1936, provides for the inclusion of living rooms for sleeping purposes when arriving at the permitted number of persons allowed to occupy a house. This is a very generous standard, but for office record purposes a standard on bedroom accommodation only was adopted.

The following particulars shows the comparison of the two standards.

Overcrowding.

	Overcrowded in accordance with Housing Act, 1936, standard.	Overcrowded based on bedroom accommoda- tion only.
Private Dwelling-houses ...	41	275
Council Houses ...	42	234

INSPECTIONS.

The following statement shows the number of visits and inspections to various classes of premises.

Visits and Inspections	Number
Inspections of drains of old property ...	80
Other inspections of old property ...	376
To work in progress ...	521
„ test drains and sanitary fittings ...	22
„ premises re Infectious diseases ...	32
„ „ „ Tuberculous cases ...	6
„ „ „ respecting disinfection ...	10
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ...	36
„ Bakehouses ...	21
„ Slaughterhouses ...	342
„ Manure steads ...	6
„ Factories ...	60
„ Outworkers' premises ...	18
„ Shops re Shops Acts ...	21
„ „ re Meat Regulations ...	52
„ Food Inspection ...	164
„ Offensive Trades ...	8
Miscellaneous visits ...	76
Housing Acts ...	8
	1,859

COMPLAINTS.

Two hundred and thirty-one complaints were received during the year. These referred to 581 nuisances, details of which are given below.

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Choked passage drain	10
„ slop-stone waste pipe	24
„ water closet	30
„ yard drain	28
Defective water-closet basin	26
„ dust bin	86
„ plaster	40
„ house roof	68
„ windows	26
„ kitchen sink	8
„ yard surface	3
„ wall	6
„ gutters	42
„ drains	4
Dampness of house	72
Accumulation of refuse	8
Dirty house	3
General insanitary conditions	6
House infested with vermin	12
Nuisance from keeping animals	6
Accumulation of manure	3
Rats infesting dwellings	12
Emission of smoke	14
Request for Inspector to call (nature of complaint not stated)	12
Miscellaneous	32
	581

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

To secure the abatement of nuisances 136 informal notices were served.

Eight Statutory Notices were served as follows:—

Four Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 24): Drainage.

Two Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 50): Overflowing or leaking cesspools.

One Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 93): Defective conditions.

One Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 103): Smoke nuisance.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The Council accepted delegated powers under the above Act on the 27th July, 1946.

An employee of the Council is trained and engaged in part-time rodent control work.

A survey of the Borough was carried out by dividing the town into six areas, each area being surveyed separately and treatment of any infested premises was carried out.

The survey revealed, with one exception, no large scale infestations, only minor cases being discovered affecting business premises and some private dwellings.

The facilities provided by the Council were made available to the respective owners or occupiers and the infestations were successfully treated in accordance with the Ministry of Food's prescribed method of pre-baiting and poisoning.

The Council's refuse disposal tip was, however, found to be an infestation of the major category and an extensive campaign was carried out with good results. Periodical treatment has been maintained with a view to control.

Sewer treatment is carried out under the direction of the Borough Surveyor.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Sixty inspections were made during the year, and four notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories regarding sanitary accommodation.

Sanitary Conveniences Section 7.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	—	4	—

Eighteen persons were returned as Outworkers under the Act, and these were engaged on wearing apparel. Visits were made and in each case the home conditions were considered suitable.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are seven bakehouses in the Borough and they are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, RETAIL PURVEYORS OF MILK.

Number of Registrations

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	10
Dairies	...	...	...	6
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	21

The precautions necessary for clean milk production are fairly well observed by cowkeepers within the Borough. On occasions it has been necessary to call attention to cleanliness of floors and walls.

A number of the retail purveyors of milk, whilst still registered, have ceased to retail milk on account of the zoning scheme which is in operation.

Inspections of dairies, vehicles and vessels have been made and attention drawn to any contravention of the regulations.

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

The cinemas and other places of entertainment have been periodically inspected with respect to the sanitary accommodation. Attention has been drawn to defects found and these have at once been remedied.

Difficulty is at times experienced by the management of the cinemas in maintaining the conveniences in a clean condition during the performances and in avoiding abuse by the visiting public.

**PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924 & 1935.
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

Tamworth is a killing centre for the Ministry of Food and serves the surrounding district.

The slaughterhouse of the Butchery Department, Tamworth Industrial Co-operative Society, is used by the Ministry of Food and during the year the following animals have been slaughtered and examined:

Bulls	...	...	49	
Bullocks	...	...	279	
Cows	...	...	764	
Heifers	...	...	625	
			<hr/>	
			1,717	
			<hr/>	
Sheep	...	...	4,892	
Pigs	...	...	83	
Calves	...	...	726	
Whole carcasses condemned				Weight in lbs.
Cattle	...	...	47	27,020
Sheep	...	...	13	728
Pigs	...	...	9	850
Calves	...	...	4	467
Part carcasses and organs				
Cattle	...	...		19,519
Sheep	...	...		213
Pigs	...	...		448
Calves	...	...		31
Other foods				1,559
Total amount condemned				50,835

Of the 47 whole carcasses condemned, 14 had been sent to the slaughterhouse as casualties and 8 referred by Veterinary Surgeons under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The mechanical stunning of all animals is now required.

I am, Lady, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BIRCHWOOD,

Sanitary Inspector.



