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THE
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1948



OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WITH THAT OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR,
FOR
The Rural District of Tamworth.

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.



TAMWORTH

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Tamworth
Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Thirteenth Annual Report of the Rural District of Tamworth, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

SECTION A.--STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 21,944.

Registrar-General's estimate of

(a) resident population, mid-1943 ; 14,930.

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of
death rates. 14,930.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate
Books. 4154.

Rateable Value £56,612.

Sum represented by a penny rate £207.

The chief industry is coal-mining. Other industries include the manufacture of terra-cotta, sanitary appliances and bricks, Dairy farming is also carried on, supplies being sent to surrounding districts and in particular to Birmingham.

Live Births.

	Total				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	145	144	142	138	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1943; 194
Illegitimate			3	6	

Stillbirths.

Legitimate	4	5	4	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 2.6
Illegitimate			0	1	

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	157	89	68

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population — 10.5

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	1	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 30.

„ „ Measles (all ages) 0.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 2.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	M.	F.	T.
Legitimate Infants	9	5	14
Illegitimate „	—	—	—

The following table gives the causes of all deaths.

	All Causes.	M.	F.	Total
1	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2	Measles	—	—	—
3	Scarlet-fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	1	1	2
5	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6	Influenza	5	4	9
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	1
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3	5
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	—	1
11	Syphilis	1	—	1
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—	—
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	21	9	30
14	Diabetes	1	1	2
15	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	4	4	8
16	Heart Disease	14	14	28
17	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3	5
19	Bronchitis	7	2	9
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	9	4	13
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
22	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
23	Diarrhoea etc. under 2 years	—	1	1
24	Appendicitis	1	1	2
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	—	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	—	2	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	—	2	2
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	3	3	6
32	Senility	—	—	—
33	Suicide	—	—	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4
35	Other Violent Causes	5	1	6
36	All other Causes	7	10	17
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).	—	—	—
	Smallpox	—	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
	Totals	89	68	157

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

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

Medical Officer of Health,
DR. W. LOWSON, M.B.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat
Inspector, Inspector under the
Milk and Dairies Order, Canal
Boats, Factories Act and
Petroleum Officer.

C. W. BERESFORD, A.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A., holds Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute and Special
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
Institute for Meat Inspection.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*

By arrangement between the Warwickshire County Council and the University of Birmingham, the medical practitioners in the district are able to utilise the laboratory at the University for all their needs.

3. *Ambulance Facilities.*

The Council has one ambulance and this together with the ambulances at the various works and collieries is adequate for the needs of the district. The ambulance facilities of the Birmingham Hospitals Scheme also operate in the district.

4. *Nursing in the Home.*

District nurses are employed by voluntary agencies with the help of the County Council, in all villages of the Authority.

5. *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

School clinics and baby clinics are held under the supervision of the Medical Officer of the County through his assistants.

6. *Hospitals.*

There are no hospitals situated in the District.

The Tamworth General Hospital is largely used by the people of the district for acute surgical illnesses.

The Poor Law Infirmary and Institution situated in Tamworth is used to the extent of one hundred beds for Warwickshire patients suffering from chronic illnesses.

The Tamworth Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases is governed by a Joint Hospital Board; the Borough and Rural District Councils are the constituent Authorities.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water Supplies.*

A considerable portion of the district is supplied by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee from a well situated at Hopwas which latter is augmented by a supply from South Staffordshire Waterworks Company as required, and the following are the pumping records and rainfall for the past three years.

		Well.				
	Gallons pumped.	Highest.		Lowest.		Rainfall.
1941	200,396,000	13'	3"	2'	10"	29·95"
1942	200,794,000	13'	8"	4'	2"	20·18"
1943	187,166,000	9'	4"	2'	11"	19·39"

Monthly analyses submitted to the County Analyst show the quality of the water to be good and suitable for a public supply, as will be seen from the following :—

The following is an analysis taken :—

Total Solid matter dried at 212°F	35·0
Free and Saline Ammonia	·0029
Albuminoid	·0022
Nitric Nitrogen	·62
Chlorine	3·0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	·005
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
PH Value	7·4
Hardness before boiling	15·68°
„ after „	6·40°
Temporary Hardness	9·28°

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

<i>Count.</i> On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37° c.	8
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20°22°c.	12

Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli)	
after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.	None

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

The clause in the Ministry 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."

The parish of Kingsbury has a piped supply from three sources, viz:—

Dumble Springs, for Kingsbury Village and Bodymoor Heath.

Baxterley, for Hurley and Whateley.

Dosthill by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks.

In many parts of the parish of Kingsbury there is a serious shortage at the present time and it is hoped to commence work to augment this very soon, now that the cost and materials have been authorized.

The parishes of Newton Regis, Austrey, Middleton and Seckington are now supplied by new mains laid down by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The supplies of Water have been regularly analysed and found satisfactory.

2. *Sewage Disposal.*

The greater part of the district is served by the Sewage Disposal Joint Committee.

Pumping Station. The electrically driven pumping installation at these Works continues to function according to the demand on them, and is capable of dealing with six times dry weather flow with ease.

Amington. The sewage works at Amington has maintained a fair effluent and the two pumping stations Moor Lane and Pretty Pigs have been kept in good order. The use of alumina ferric has shown a great improvement in the final effluent.

Kingsbury. A fair effluent has been maintained during the year at the sewage works at Cliff, Wood End, Hurley Village and Hurley Common, and the pumping station at Kingsbury has been kept in good order.

Dosthill and Hockley. These sewage disposal works are serving satisfactorily and a good effluent has been maintained. The use of alumina ferric has shown a great improvement in the final effluent.

Rivers. The rivers in the area are controlled by the Trent Catchment Board and their work in cleaning the Tame and improving the banks have been continued.

House Refuse. A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour in the parishes of Wilnecote, Glascote, Amington and Newton Regis, for which 4 men are regularly employed, removal being carried out by a Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.

Collection of refuse in the parish of Kingsbury, including Dosthill, Hurley, and Wood End) was commenced in September, 1941 by Contract. This necessitated removal of old accumulations before regular periodical collections were started. The work is now carried out by direct labour for which a Dennis freighter was purchased during the year.

At the present time tips are used for disposal of the refuse collected by the Council in the parishes of Kingsbury, including Dosthill, Wood End, Hurley, Amington, Glascote and Wilnecote; and by arrangement with the Lichfield Rural District Council, in Fazeley. Salvaging of various materials was continued. The method adopted is by the use of sacks attached to the rear of the refuse freighter, and the employment of two full time workmen and lorry for collection in all parishes. After sorting and baling the materials are disposed of to licensed scrap merchants and paper mills.

Experience has shown that a bonus paid to the workmen has the effect of producing a maximum amount of salvaged materials, the bonus being $33\frac{1}{2}\%$ of gross amount collected by men engaged on refuse collection, and 15 % each for the men on full time salvaging, after deducting a minimum of £25 value of materials per calender month.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK OF DISTRICT, 1942.

	Approx. No. of Inspections and Observations made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated after Notice
Water Supply ...	40	15	10
Drains ...	210	120	120
Stables and Piggeries ...	35	10	10
Fried Fish Shops... ..	15	4	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	7	3	3
Factories ...	73	5	5
Petroleum and Carbide ...	9	—	—
Bakehouses ...	12	—	—
Public Conveniences ...	75	2	2
Smoke Observations ...	5	—	—
Refuse Collection ...	320	40	40
Rats and Mice ...	15	10	8
Schools ...	5	—	—
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	130	80	70
Canal Boats ...	15	5	5
<i>Under Public Health Acts</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	115	95	60
Visits paid to the above Houses	145	—	—
<i>Housing Acts.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	65	50	45
Visits paid to the above Houses	80	—	—
<i>Overcrowding</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	15	2	2
Visits paid to the above Houses	15	—	—
<i>Verminous Premises</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	21	11	11
<i>Miscellaneous Visits</i>			
Infectious Diseases ...	32	—	—
Visits paid to the above Houses	32	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	45	—	—
Shops and Stalls ...	60	—	—
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	50	40	40
Cow Sheds ...	400	60	55
Dairies and Milkshops ...	400	20	20
TOTALS ...	2081	572	510
<hr/>			
Samples of Water taken for Analysis		10	
„ „ condemned as unfit for use		2	
„ „ regarded as of good quality		8	

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Inspections have been made at various times to the few Tents, Vans and Similar Structures in the district, which are now reduced to 9 only for the whole district. Every endeavour is made to dissuade applicants who propose to acquire or live in such dwellings from so doing.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Observations for smoke abatement have been made throughout the year and in addition to reporting any infringement of the Smoke Nuisances Section of the Public Health Act to the Managers of Works, the Sanitary Inspector interviews the stokers and this generally has the desired effect.

SCHOOLS.

It was not found necessary to close any school during the year on account of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

The Sanitary accommodation and water supplies are satisfactory and are maintained properly. As will be seen from the Report on page 11, the number of cases of infectious disease are kept down to a minimum and in order to assist as far as possible children are promptly excluded from school when infectious disease has arisen at their homes.

Disinfectants are supplied to the schools when required.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The usual Report is omitted as suggested in the Ministry's Circular as to the contents of this Annual Report, but the summary shown on page 8 shows the number of Notices served under the Public Health Acts and the Housing Act requiring repairs to houses. There is a serious shortage of houses at the present time and the Council have considered reports for post-war housing construction and have appointed delegates to attend proposed meetings to consider the standard for the County as outlined in the booklet "Rural Housing."

Sites already in the Council's ownership have been surveyed and negotiations commenced for the purchase of other sites.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk and Dairies Order.*

A large quantity of milk produced for despatch from the farms in the district to Birmingham and Tamworth requires the inspection of farms and dairies, the total number of which is shown below :—

Wholesale	109
Retail	87

51 Farmers are licensed for the production of "Accredited" Milk.

Supplementary licences to distributors whose premises are outside the district :—

Tuberculin Tested	2
Accredited	2
Pasteurised	2

Various infringements met with included lack of cleanliness, inadequate drainage, water supplies inadequate or not bacteriologically safe, floors of cowsheds and milkrooms not formed of impervious material, and other items.

Generally speaking the requirements of the Sanitary Inspector were complied with by verbal request or informal notice, but statutory notices were served where such action failed to achieve the desired result.

It is still the opinion of the Health Department that regular sampling of milk from farms, particularly those holding an "Accredited" licence produces a higher standard of cleanliness, particularly where the results of such sampling are regularly forwarded to the farmers. Since July 1943 regular fortnightly samples have been taken for "Keeping Quality," tests under arrangements with the Ministry of Agriculture administering the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

At the commencement of the War this work was curtailed by the slaughtering of animals at the Government Slaughterhouse in the Borough of Tamworth, but by arrangement with the Sanitary Inspector for this Authority inspections are carried out jointly, and this has found to work very satisfactorily.

The whole of the slaughterhouses in the district are now licensed under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of licensed slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act is 36.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No disease was prevalent during the year in epidemic form but the notification of measles and whooping cough showed a considerable number of cases at the commencement of such notification.

Steps were taken by the Authority during the year in the matter of immunisation against diphtheria.

The number of visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have been notified is 32.

In the majority of cases the patients were removed to hospital, disinfection of the rooms carried out forthwith and disinfectant supplied to the tenants.

The following table shows the number of notifiable diseases notified during the year.

	Total Cases notified.	Total deaths.
Measles	183	—
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	29	—
Whooping Cough	58	2
Diphtheria	3	—
Enteric Fever	—	—
Pneumonia	28	13
Puerperal Fever	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1
Erysipelas	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	6
(1) Pulmonary	—	5
(2) Non-pulmonary	—	1

Blindness. No action was necessary.

Below is a table showing new cases and mortality for Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	1	—	2	3	1	—

The County Tuberculosis Officer and Health Visitor visit patients in their homes when necessary. Patients may be admitted to Sanatoria at Groundslow, Prestwood, Bramcote, Hertford Hill and certain other places.

The Tamworth Rural District Council is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board and any case occurring in the district may be removed to their Hospital at Moxley.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Canal Boats (S. 249).

Periodical visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats.

The total number of boats on the Register at the 31st December, 1943, was 140.

During the year, the cabins of 15 boats have been examined which were registered for occupation by 41 persons, but were occupied by only 24 persons. This number is made up as follows :—

Male Adults	13
Female Adults	9
Children of school age	—
Children under school age	2
	—
	24
	—

The children's ages were as follows :—

1 aged 2 years.

1 „ 4 „

Contraventions were met with on 7 boats, the details being as follows :—

- 5 Registration.
- 2 Absence of Certificate.
- Certificate not identifying Owner with Boat
- 1 Marking.
- Overcrowding.
- 1 Cleanliness.
- 1 Painting.
- 1 Ventilation.
- 1 Dilapidation.
- Removal of Bilge Water.
- No proper Water Vessel.

No boat was found to be carrying offensive cargo.

No infectious disease was met with and therefore no boats detained for disinfection.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	31	6	—
Factories without mechanical power	24	3	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories Total	55	9	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) {	unsuitable or defective	3	3	—
	insufficient	2	2	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences including inadequate Fire Escapes	1	1	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	9	9	—	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no statutory offensive trades except those of Fish Frying, of which there are 16 licenced. These have been periodically inspected and the notice of the occupiers drawn to any lack of cleanliness, etc., and in all cases these received attention after informal notice.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Birth rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1943.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126C. Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm : County.
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Live Births	16.5†	18.6	19.4	15.8
Still „	0.5†	0.63	0.61	0.45
DEATHS :—				
All Causes	12.1†	14.2	12.7	15.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80
Whooping Cough	25.4	2.82	2.25	2.68
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—				
Deaths under 1 year of age	49	58	46	58
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :— (a) Notification :—				
Puerperal Fever } „ Pyrexia }	11.68	15.11	9.26	3.05 15.23†
(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales :—				
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis 0.34	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis 0.11	No. 147 Puerpreal Infections 0.39	Nos. 142-6, 148-150 Other 1.45	
Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England & Wales :—				
No. 140 with Sepsis. 25.		No. 141 without Sepsis. 8.		

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000, related births.

‡ These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

‡ Including puerperal fever.



