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THE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year 1946

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

with that of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

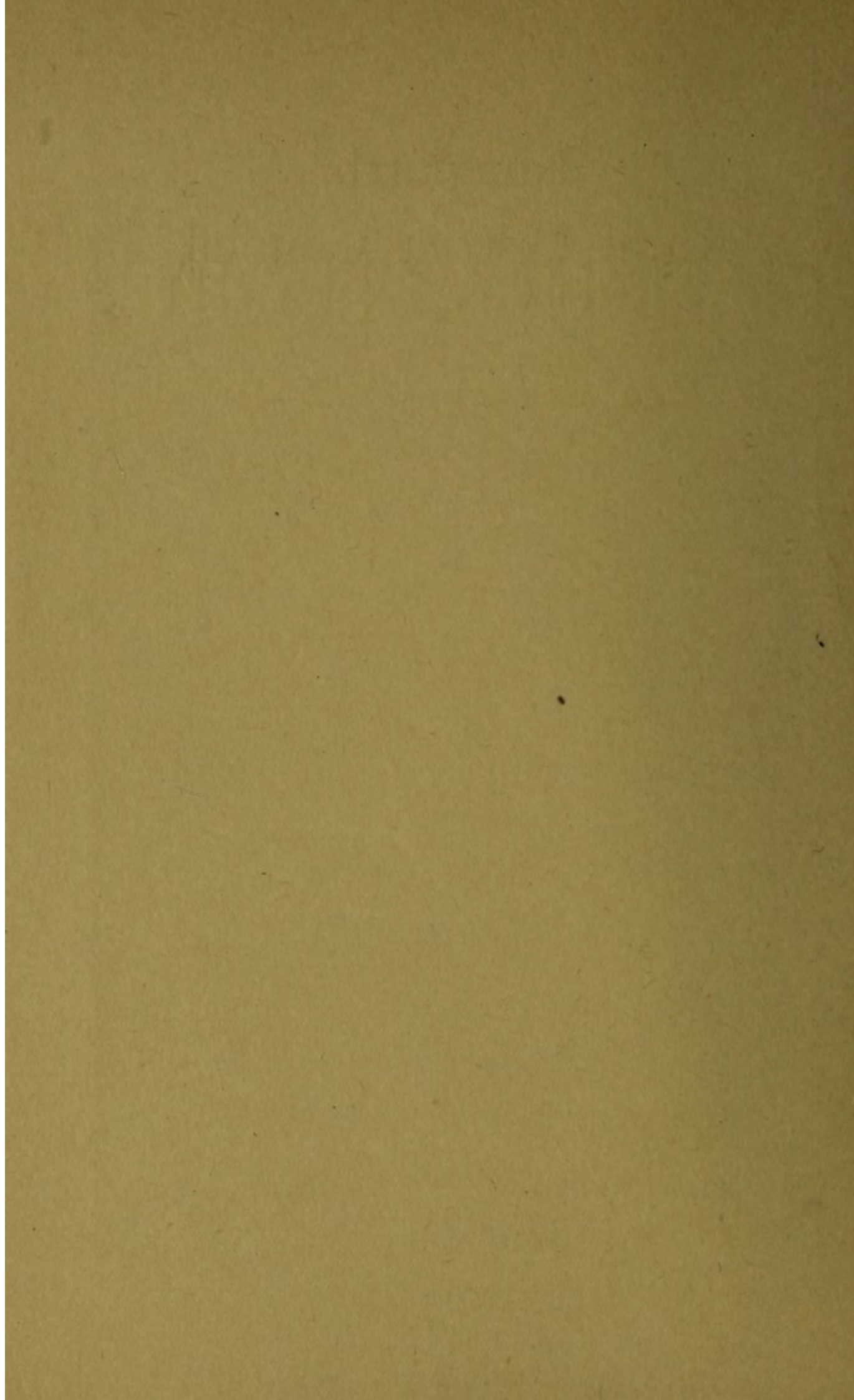
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TAMWORTH

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, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Sixteenth Annual Report of the Rural District of Tamworth, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

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

Area (in acres) 22,032.

Registrar-General's estimate of

(a) resident population, mid-1946, 15,650.

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates, 15,650.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books, 4,210.

Rateable Value £56,136.

Sum represented by a penny rate £210.

The chief industry is coal-mining. Other industries include engineering works, 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			161	154	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1946 21.2
Illegitimate	171	162	10	8	

STILLBIRTHS.

Legitimate			2	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21
Illegitimate	2	5	—	—	

	Total.				M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	149	77
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population						9.6

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	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total ...	...	...

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of age.

	M.	F.	T.
Legitimate Infants	10	7	17
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	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6	Influenza	3	—	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	1
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	3	5
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	2	—	2
11	Syphilis	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes dorsalis	—	—	—
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	14	24
14	Diabetes	1	3	4
15	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	3	10	13
16	Heart disease	15	13	28
17	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3	4
19	Bronchitis	2	1	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	7	2	9
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4
22	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc. under 2 years	1	—	1
24	Appendicitis	—	—	—
27	Cirrhosis of the Liver	—	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	6	8
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	—	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Mal- formations, etc.	4	6	10
31a	Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
32	Senility	—	—	—
33	Suicide	—	4	4
34	Other Violent Causes	5	2	7
34a	Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
35	All other Causes	9	8	17
	Special Causes (included in No. 34 above) ...	—	—	—
	Smallpox	—	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
	Totals ...	72	77	149

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	} C. W. BERESFORD, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
Inspector, Inspector under	
the Milk and Dairies Order,	
Canal Boats, Factories Act and Petroleum Officer.	

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*

By arrangements between the Warwickshire County Council and the University of Birmingham, the medical practitioners in the district are enabled 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.

	Galls. pumped.	Well.		Rainfall.
		Highest.	Lowest.	
1944	193,400,000	10' 6"	3' 4"	20.10"
1945	184,591,000	6' 0"	1' 3"	23.20"
1946	187,068,000	7' 9"	1' 7"	31.30"

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.	36.00
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0025
Albuminoid	0.0015
Nitric Nitrogen	0.63
Chlorine	3.2.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.007.
Appearance	Clear.
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None.
P.H. Value	7.3.
Hardness before boiling	16.10.
Hardness after boiling	6.50.
Temporary Hardness	9.60.

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Count, On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37° c.	...	3
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20°22° c.		7
Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli) after 48 hours' incubation at 37° c.		Nil.

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 scoures, viz, Dumble Springs, and Kingsbury Colliery Supply for Kingsbury Village, Bodymoor Heath, Hurley and Whateley.

Dosthill by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks.

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

The supplies of water have been regularly analysed and found bacteriologically satisfactory, but many complaints were again received during the year concerning the discolouration of the water from the new supply for Kingsbury, and the Council are negotiating with the Birmingham Corporation for a supply for the whole of this Parish.

These complaints are certainly justified because of the excessive free iron in the water and this matter is receiving attention.

2. *Sewage Disposal.*

The greater part of the District, namely Glascote, Wilnecote and Twogates is served by the Sewage Disposal Joint Committee.

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.

Austrey. The sewage field for disposal of sewage from this parish is not adequate and the Council have prepared a Scheme for sewers and sewage disposal for the parish together with Newton Regis, No Mans Heath, Seckington, Alvecote and Shuttington, in which sewage disposal facilities are not sufficient. The plans have

been sent to the Warwickshire County Council in connection with the Council's application for a grant towards the cost.

Kingsbury. During the year the Health Committee's attention was again drawn to the fact that the effluents from the Sewage Works at Cliff, Wood End, Hurley Village and Hurley Common, are not satisfactory. Plans to improve these conditions have been considered and in the near future more extensive works will be installed, but for the present, the work is held up through supplies and labour difficulties.

Dosthill and Hockley. These sewage disposal works are serving satisfactorily and a good effluent has been maintained.

Middleton. The need for sewers and sewage disposal works in this parish and at Bassetts Pole was reported and plans are being prepared for submission to the County Council for a grant towards the cost.

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 regular collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour in all the Parishes in the district, for which ten men are regularly employed, removal being carried out by a Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter and a Karrier Bantam Refuse Vehicle.

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 a lorry for collection in all Parishes. After sorting and baling the materials are disposed of to licensed scrap merchants and paper mills.

Experience continues to shew that a bonus paid to the workman has the effect of producing a maximum amount of salvaged materials, the bonus being $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ 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 calendar month.

Summary of Sanitary Work of the District, 1946.

	Approx. No. of Inspections and Observations made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Water Supply	55	8	8
Drains	312	42	42
Stables and Piggeries	11	4	4
Fried Fish Shops	9	1	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	9	2	2
Factories	17	3	3
Petroleum and Carbide	7	1	1
Bakehouses	12	4	2
Public Conveniences	35	6	4
Smoke Observations	1	—	—
Refuse Collection	350	90	84
Rats and Mice	50	72	60
Schools	4	1	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	130	80	65
Canal Boats	24	3	3
<i>Under Public Health Acts.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	95	57	41
Visits paid to the above Houses	110	—	—
<i>Housing Acts.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	245	210	102
Visits paid to the above Houses	250	—	—
<i>Overcrowding.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	12	—	—
Visits paid to the above Houses	12	—	—
<i>Verminous Premises.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	16	5	5
<i>Miscellaneous Visits.</i>			
Infectious Diseases	15	—	—
Visits paid to the above Houses	15	—	—
Slaughter Houses	12	—	—
Shops and Stalls	30	3	3
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	100	18	18
Cow Sheds	350	45	40
Dairies and Milkshops	350	27	21
TOTALS	2638	682	510
Samples of Water taken for Analysis		19	
“ “ condemned as unfit for use		2	
“ “ regarded as of good quality		17	

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 nine 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 and houses 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 bought sites for housing construction and have fixed the standard for the District as outlined in the booklet "Rural Housing."

Sites already in the Council's ownership have been surveyed in readiness for new houses and at the end of the year prefabricated and permanent houses were completed at Wood End, Glascote and Amington, and further work commenced on houses at Dosthill, Wood End, Twogates and Newton Regis.

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	...	117
Retail	...	92

Fifty-two Farmers are licensed for the production of "Accredited" Milk, and three for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Supplementary licences to distributors whose premises are outside the District :-

Tuberculin tested	Nil.
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 are served where such action fails 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 were taken for "Keeping quality" tests by 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 been 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 41.

II.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No disease was prevalent during the year in epidemic form.

Steps were taken by the Authority during the year in the matter of immunisation against diphtheria, the total number of children treated in 1946 being :- (a) age 0-4, 358 ; (b) 5 to 9, 528 ; (c) 10-14, 125 ; a percentage of 28% against the total number of children (a) 0-4, 1340 (b) 5-14, 2,210.

The number of visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have been notified is 15.

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 ...	37	—
Smallpox ...	Nil.	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—
Whooping Cough	10	—
Diphtheria ...	Nil.	—
Enteric Fever	Nil.	—
Pneumonia	20	9
Puerperal Fever	Nil.	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	Nil.	—
Erysipelas ...	4	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
Tuberculosis :-		
(1) Pulmonary	12	5
(2) Non-pulmonary	3	2
Blindness.	All necessary action was taken.	

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

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
45	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
55	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	10	2	2	1	2	3	2	—

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, 1946, was 141.

During the year, the cabins of 23 Boats have been examined which were registered for occupation by 62 persons, but were

occupied by only 54 persons. This number is made up as follows :-

Male Adults ...	25
Female Adults	19
Children of School-age	6
Children under School-age	4
	54

The children's ages were as follows :-

- 1 aged under 1 year.
- 1 aged 1 year.
- 2 aged 2 years.
- 1 aged 5 years.
- 3 aged 6 years.
- 2 aged 7 years.

Contraventions were met with on 13 Boats, the details being as follows :-

- 1 Registration.
- 1 Absence of Certificate.
- 1 Certificate not identifying Owner with Boat.
- Nil. Marking.
- Nil. Overcrowding.
- 1 Cleanliness.
- 3 Painting.
- 3 Ventilation.
- 3 Dilapidation.
- Nil. Removal of Bilge Water.
- Nil. 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	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories with mechanical power	8	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	9	—	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)....	3	2	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories			
TOTAL	20	5	—

2.—Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re-medied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
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	2	2	—	—
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences including inadequate Fire Escapes.....	—	—	—	—
(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 of the Factories Act, 1937).				
TOTAL	7	7	—	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no statutory offensive trades but Fish Frying premises receive regular attention. 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, the total number in the District being 16.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council appointed a full-time Rodent Operative from August 6th, 1946, and his duties have included treatment of sewers (30% of the cost being recoverable from the Ministry of Food, plus the cost of all materials) and treatment of tips and Council premises, also of private dwelling houses (60% of the cost of the latter being recoverable from the Ministry of Food). All reports are dealt with promptly and treatment of tips and sewers is progressing favourably on the methods set out by the Ministry of Food.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD,
Sanitary Inspector.

**Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analyses of Mortality, Maternal Mortality
and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1946.**

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County.
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	19.1†	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still Births	0.53†	0.67	0.59	0.54
Deaths—				
All Causes	11.5†	12.7	11.7	12.7
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	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	43†	46	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2
Notifications—				
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :-				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough	2.23	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still). (a) Notifications.				
Puerperal Fever	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia				††9.68
(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.				
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis.	No. 147 Puerperal Infections.	Nos. 142-6, 148-150. Other.	
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	
Abortion : Mortality per million Women aged 15-45 in England and Wales.				
No. 140 with Sepsis 11.		No. 141 without Sepsis, 5.		

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

† Per 1,000, related Births. ‡ Rates per 1,000 population.

†† Including Puerperal Fever.



