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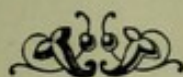
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TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

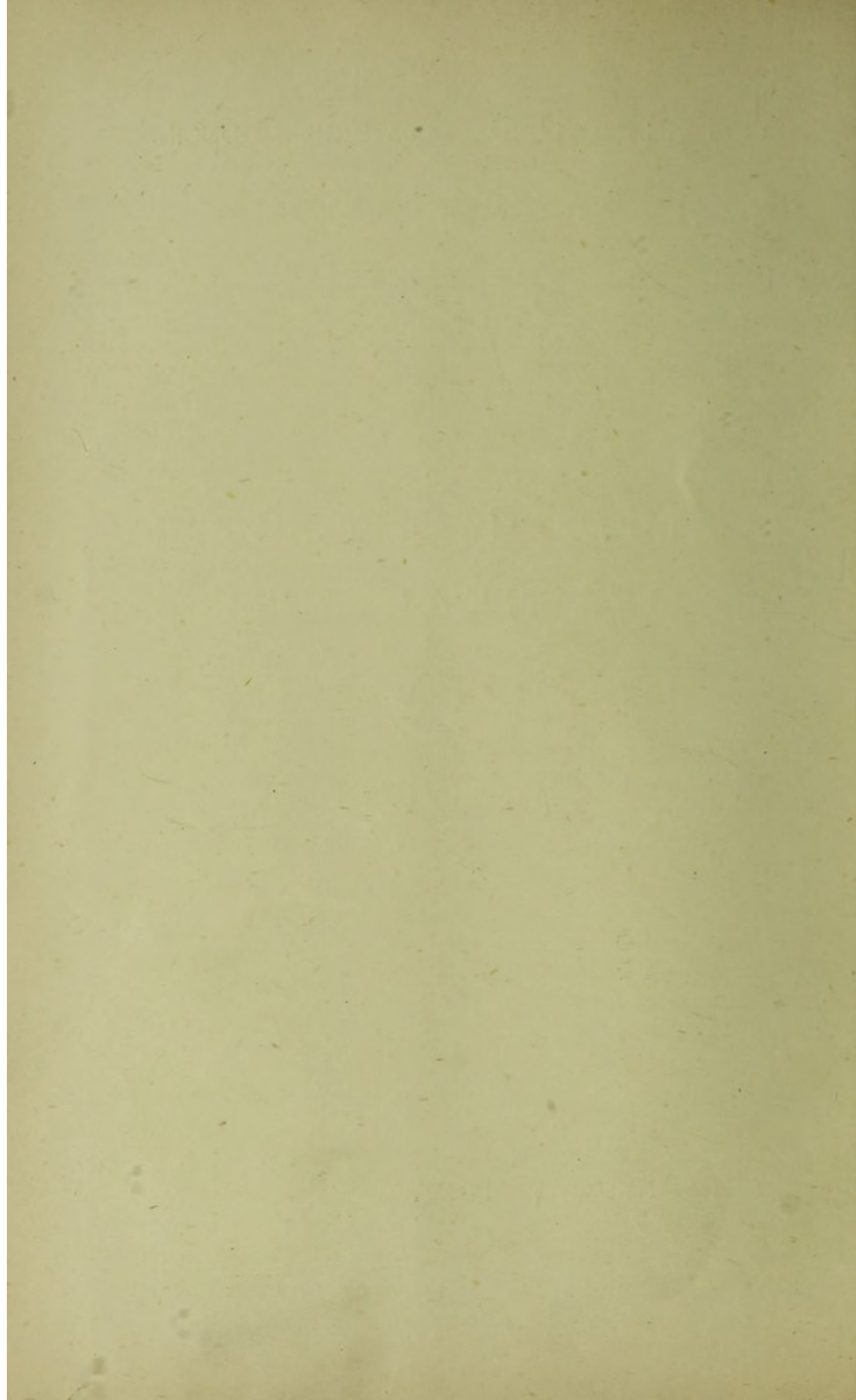


MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH'S
REPORT

— For 1919. —



37TH ANNUAL REPORT.



TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1919

37TH ANNUAL REPORT.

Tettenhall Local Board Constituted	...	...	1883
Population Census, 1891	...	...	5145
" " 1901	...	...	5337
" " 1911	...	...	5381
Inhabited Houses, 1891	...	...	1056
" " 1901	...	...	1176
" " 1911	...	...	1225
Area in Statute Acres	...	...	1530
Adoption of Bye-Laws	...	...	1887
" " Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order	...	...	1887
" " Notification Act	...	...	1889
" " Infectious Diseases Prevention Act (the whole)	...	...	1891
Sewerage Works commenced 1890, finished	...	...	1892
Isolation Hospital Provided	...	...	1891
Public Health Acts' Amendment Act, 1890 (the whole)	...	...	1891
Public Scavenging undertaken	...	...	1897
Conversion of Sewerage Treatment	...	...	1900
Joint Small Pox Hospital Provided	...	...	1903
Special Committee to deal with Middens	...	...	1907
Extension of Sewerage Farm	...	...	1910
Adoption of Notification of Phthisis	...	...	1911
" " " Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	
" " " Poliomyelitis & Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	
Adoption of Public Health Acts' Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts)	...	...	1912
Shops' Act, 1912 (Council to act as Agents for County Council)	...	...	1912
Health Visitor appointed	...	...	1915
Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	1916
Measles and Whooping Cough	...	...	1916
Notification of Births Act	...	...	1916

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Tettenhall.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The Census for 1911 gave a population of 5,381 for your district. In 1919 the Registrar General estimates the population as 5,522 for calculating the Birth Rate and 5,301 for reckoning the Death Rate (6th March, 1920). The inference is that there are yet 221 Tettenhall men on Active Service.

The Registrar General explains in a Memorandum that the number of births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers and will differ therefore from the figures compiled locally.

The authorised figures are: 76 births, 69 deaths, and 6 deaths under 1 year, which will give a Birth Rate of 13.7, a Death Rate of 10.9, and Infant Mortality 78.9, as compared with the estimates for England and Wales—Birth Rate, 18.5; Death Rate, 13.8; Infant Mortality, 89.

Locally I have recorded 74 births, 64 deaths, and 6 deaths under 1 year.

On Table 1 are given particulars of sex, legitimacy, and cause of deaths in Tettenhall during 1919.

The physical features and general character of the district were recorded in my Report for 1905, but I will describe them afresh.

An irregular sandstone ridge running east and west divides Tettenhall into a northern plateau which is in the watershed of the Trent, and a southern valley which conveys a tributary to the Severn. The northern plain was principally grass land, but since the war a good deal has been ploughed and sown with wheat. It is watered by a few unimportant streams which flow to the Penk. The southern valley contains the Worcestershire canal, which connects Worcester with Liverpool, and the Smestow Brook. These form boundaries between us and Wolverhampton. The Smestow Brook rises in an industrial quarter of Wolverhampton, flows across the racecourse, and enters Tettenhall at Autherley. In its winding and sluggish course the stream was impeded by the mill pools at Compton and Wightwick, and in periods of storm flooded the gardens in Autherley Lane, the Lower Street, Tettenhall, and parts of the village at Compton.

In 1905 the Council purchased and filled in the pools and straightened the course of the stream. Since then there have been fewer floods, the banks and bed of the stream are freer from sludge, and the Council have saved considerable sums of money which they spent in periodical cleansings of the Brook. As the upper courses flow by gas works and manufactories, it is to the credit of Wolverhampton that the affluent is as clear as the effluent, and I have no longer to complain perennially of the pollution of the stream.

The benefits of a quicker stream and less pollution are shown by fewer fogs, less catarrhs, and a marked diminution of diarrhoea and diphtheria in these low-lying districts.

This valley was once a shallow sea with low sandstone cliffs. The sandstone is of excellent quality for moulders' castings. During the past two years record crops of oats have been grown in the Bridgnorth Road, which runs through Compton and Wightwick, in fields that were formerly pasture land.

Tettenhall is principally a residential district, and the low rates and pleasant surroundings attract the manufacturers, clerks and artisans of the neighbouring town. When the Local Board was constituted in 1883 it apparently took over a very desirable district to govern. There were large houses and villas and clusters of picturesque cottages and streets of peace and contentment, but there were no sewers, no scavenging, a doubtful water supply, and in matters of sanitation a trust in Providence which Providence would repudiate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER.—The water supply is from the Wolverhampton Waterworks, the sources being the Cosford Brook and the Artesian well at Tettenhall. There are now two large reservoirs (one completed in 1910) and a pumping station at Tettenhall. The water is good for drinking purposes but hard for washing. I have frequently found microscopic crustacea in tap water.

In my report for 1905 will be found particulars of the water supply, the cleansing of the reservoirs, and the effects of pumping from the experimental borehole on the wells of Tettenhall.

In 1919 tap water was laid on to four houses (see Inspector's Report).

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The pollution of the Smestow has been annually noticed in my Reports till recent years. In 1903 the County Council took the matter up and dealt with the pollution from Heath Town. In 1919 the Smestow is an innocuous stream. Very little trouble has been given by the stream in Regis Road which is said to be the source of the Penk. Surface water wells used to be numerous. They were usually built of open-jointed brickwork and covered with loose oak slabs, which permitted percolation from surface water and neighbouring sewage. These have been abolished on unfavourable analysis of water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—In 1890 the Board consulted Messrs. H. J. and E. D. Marten, who had carried out Sewage Works at Dudley and Tipton, and commenced a system by which the sewage of Tettenhall was conveyed to outfall works $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the boundary of the Board's district. At first the sewage was treated by lime on the "Perfect Quiescent System," and the clarified effluent run over 13 acres of land purchased by the Board. In 1900 Mr. R. H. Bicknell was sent by the Local Government Board to hold an enquiry and made recommendations noted in my Report for that year. In the same year, on the advice of the Medical Officer for the County, two quiescent tanks were converted into open septic tanks for the biological treatment of sewage.

The Census of 1881 was for the Parish of Tettenhall, which is larger than the district taken over by the Local Board, consequently authentic figures are not available

till 1891. In that year there were 1,056 houses; in 1901, 1,176; and in 1911, 1,225. In 1919 there are 1,290 houses, of which 1,081 are occupied by the working classes.

In my Report for 1890 I showed that the collective area of the 1,050 middens which then existed would be 2,100 square yards and cover nearly half an acre. The connection to the sewers, the substitution of water closets for middens, and the abolition of cesspits, has been a gradual process. In 1910 Mr. Denton reported: "We have now 1,017 water closets and 536 privies."

Mr. Mortimer reported in 1893 that cottagers find it difficult to keep their houses clean owing to the "defects" of the old system, and he enumerates "jointless pipes frequently without sockets," "imperfect gradients," "untrapped inlets," "brick layers and bell traps, the tops being broken or lost," "uncemented brick drains," "drains under house floors," "drains discharging on the surface or permeating the soil," and some running into the earth "without connection to any existing drain or water course."

Each case has been dealt with individually as it was discovered, and in 1919, if such conditions exist, they are uncommon.

In the old days cesspools from the size of a cellar, which would have done credit to Windsor Castle, to the dimensions of a large-sized bucket, were common. They were rarely puddled outside or cemented within, and usually built of inferior bricks with open joints. In 1919 there are no cesspits except to a few houses in the Wergs Road, which is beyond the bounds of the sewerage system.

There are still soft water cisterns under floors. They favour damp and are reservoirs for foul air.

Drainage and sewerage, closet accommodation, scavenging, and the sanitary inspection of the district are dealt with in the appended Report of the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

FOOD.—The quality of meat and milk in the district has met with favourable comments in my Reports till the war. The old-fashioned butcher who supplied the best English meat to his customers has been shaken by war conditions and has not yet recovered from them. Your officials have been taught that a great deal of meat which they were prone to condemn is really very wholesome and nutritious.

There are five slaughterhouses, but two butchers now obtain their supply from the public abbatoir and three have a slaughterhouse in common.

Pigs were once a valuable asset to cottagers. They are now rarely kept owing to the susceptibilities of the residential population. An extensive piggery at Finchfield has been suppressed owing to the prevailing belief that smells cause disease.

There are 14 dairies and cowsheds which are periodically inspected and reported on.

The milk supply has been somewhat dislocated owing to the war, but more milk is produced in the district than is consumed by the inhabitants, and this of course operates to the benefit of the neighbouring districts. Deliveries are irregular and only made once a day. The conservation of milk and boiling stale milk is part of the educational duties of the Health Visitor and has apparently met with success owing to the absence of epidemic diarrhoea in recent years.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.—The Health Visitor keeps a record of mothers and children who are not having sufficient milk and reports to the Committee. The Council have paid for milk during 1919 for two families in necessitous circumstances.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 127 notifications:—

Measles (43 under 5)	96
Diphtheria	2
Scarlet Fever	6
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	5
Tuberculosis	8
Whooping Cough	5
Erysipelas	2
Malaria	2

Two cases of Chicken Pox were reported.

MEASLES.

By the Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Regulations, 1915, the notification of these diseases was made compulsory. This Order was rescinded from 31st December, 1919.

In spite of notification, short class closures, school closures, and the exclusion of individuals, Measles baffles preventive efforts, because its cause is not known and it is most infectious before a warning rash appears. It is most fatal to infants and its most dangerous complication is Broncho-pneumonia. Of the 96 cases notified 43 were under 5 years and we have fortunately no deaths.

In view of past experience the Council have modified their former stringent directions:—

- 1.—Cases of Measles not to attend school for 28 days.
- 2.—When there is Measles in a house children who have had Measles may attend school except infant schools, but those who have not had Measles are excluded.
- 3.—Notices to be served on the triple form. The counterfoil is kept by the Health Visitor, one form served on the family affected, and the other left at the school. On the back of the family form are directions recommended by Dr. (now Sir Arthur) Newsholme, when he was Medical Officer of Health for Brighton.
- 4.—The Health Visitor is to act in future as nurse in Measles and see that children are kept in bed till complications disappear. The child is to be isolated as far as circumstances permit. If complications arise medical advice must be sought. If this is not available the Medical Officer of Health must be communicated with.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases were notified and sent to the General Hospital.

From 1890, when the notification of infectious diseases became compulsory till 1915, there were 229 cases and 31 deaths. In 1895-6 there was an epidemic of 100 cases with 19 deaths, and in 1901-2 41 cases with 1 death. In 1902 arrangements were made with the General Hospital to take in Diphtheria, and the Council agreed to

pay for Antitoxin for poor patients. Antitoxin is in general use both for treatment and for prophylaxis. The County Council has arranged for the examinations of secretions by the Birmingham University.

SCARLET FEVER.

Six cases were notified and two removed to the Infectious Hospital. Of the four cases nursed at home three were successfully isolated and one led to further infection.

From 1890 to 1915 644 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified. There were 17 deaths. On receipt of notification the Sanitary Inspector removes the case at once to the Infectious Hospital, unless the Medical attendant wishes otherwise. Within 48 hours of removal, or on receiving a medical certificate that the patient is free from infection, the house is disinfected.

On 10th August, 1910, I submitted a Report to the Local Government Board on recent outbreaks of Infectious Disease and reviewed the incidence of these diseases since the Tettenhall Local Board was constituted in 1883. Since 1910 we have had no serious outbreak except Measles and Epidemic Influenza.

Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid, used to be endemic in Tettenhall. As there are fewer cases of the former diseases and they are of a milder type, while Enteric has disappeared, it is reasonable to attribute the improvement to better sanitary circumstances.

INFLUENZA.

The epidemic of 1919 commenced at the end of February and lingered till May. A woman died of Lobar Pneumonia after premature childbirth. The premature birth, the pneumonia, the incidence of influenza, and the fact that a defective child of 6 died in the house from "heart disease," led me to infer that this was the first death from Influenza although it was not on the certificate.

There were 11 deaths from February to May certified to be Influenza, one being a visitor to Tettenhall from Beckbury. Five were attested to be complicated with Bronchitis, one with Broncho-pneumonia, and four with Pneumonia. One died from exhaustion.

There were no deaths certified under 14. Two deaths were under 20; one under 30; one at 49; three between 50 and 60; two over 70; and two over 80. Bronchitis was the complication in the old and Pneumonia in younger.

Nine deaths occurred at Tettenhall and only two at Compton, though the epidemic was very severe in this village. The Health Visitor made 82 visits to houses, in each of which there were several Influenza cases. Many of these I saw as they could not afford a doctor, and they all had some bronchitis with crepitations at the bases of the lungs. A leaflet with the recommendations of the Local Government Board was distributed from house to house, and instructions as to gargling and nasal douching were given at the schools. This is now a regular part of the hygiene lesson.

Tonsillitis was prevalent during the winter and benefitted by painting the throat with perchloride of iron and glycerine. Nasal douching and gargling with a saline solution coloured with permanganate of potash is practised by the intelligent, and I believe it to be an easy and effectual precaution. Although the practitioners in the district have been circularised on the offer of vaccine no application has been yet made, but during the winter of 1919-20 many acute cases have been treated with a detoxicated antogenous vaccine prepared by the Bacteriologist to the Hospital, and I can bear testimony to favourable results.

PNEUMONIA.

Five cases of Pneumonia were notified; four recovered and one died. Among the recoveries were two ladies over 80, a discharged soldier who has since been notified as Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and a boy of 16 who is quite well.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Five cases are recorded. It is an instruction to frequently steam the room with a teaspoonful of cresoline or lysol in a kettle of boiling water put over the gas, both as a prophylactic and to relieve the distressing paroxysm.

MALARIA.

Two cases of Malaria were notified by the Medical Board of the Ministry of Pensions and visited by the Health Visitor.

OPHTHALMIA.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia in 1919; but the two cases notified in 1918 have attended the Clinic. One is quite well. The other has regained some vision and is now admitted into the Sunshine Home for Blind Babies at Chorley Wood.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There are 52 cases under observation. Eight (8) were notified in 1919, two being soldiers who have received Sanatorium treatment. There were two deaths.

Fourteen (14) patients attend the Centre and one child the General Hospital where it has Tuberculin injections. Ten patients are apparently well.

The Medical Officer of Health has seen and examined 21 tubercular cases at the Clinic. There is one Shelter in the district.

In rather more than 10 cases the tubercle has been encapsuled or destroyed in the body, and they are apparently well and earning their living. Others, who are underweight and have a cough, go to work and earn their living. They are difficult of access, and though they are seen by the Health Visitor are rarely induced to attend the Centre or the Clinic.

The "Consumptives" in whom destruction of the lung has taken place and who are unable to work owing to debility are easily kept under observation. The infectious nature of cough spray and sputum is constantly explained to them and they use a jam pot with carbolic as a spit cup in the house.

The Health Visitor urges on all tuberculosis patients the importance of fresh air, abundant food, and cod liver oil.

Tuberculosis is a vaso-motor dilator and causes shortness of breath, palpitation and chills. Children who are liable to "colds" are shepherded by the Health Visitor to the Clinic and examined by the Medical Officer of Health. If he is in doubt he seeks the advice of the Tuberculosis Officer who sends his opinion in writing.

On 2nd May, in reply to an enquiry from the Clerk to the County Council, I wrote that we would willingly undertake the health visiting of tuberculosis soldiers (this

has been part of the Health Visitor's duties since her appointment in January, 1916). The Health Visitor sends monthly reports of domiciliary visits to the Tuberculosis Officer.

On 29th July the Staffordshire Insurance Committee suggested that the Health Visitor should make them a quarterly report of domiciliary visits on payment of a fee. Your Clerk and Medical Officer of Health agreed that this could be done, but the matter appears to be in abeyance.

The contribution made by the County Council towards the salary of the Health Visitor for the Tuberculosis work done by your officials is **£1 15s. 10d.**

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Registrar General records 76 births. Mr. West registered 74, and only 71 were notified. Of the 71 notified 2 were stillborn, and 27 attended by doctors and 44 by midwives.

There were 6 infant deaths. Debility was given as the cause of 5 deaths, but of these one was a triplet, one had bronchitis, and one was prematurely born. One child had Hydrocephalus and Spina Oifida.

Forty-five (45) infants under 1 attended the Clinic.

Of 23 babies born in 1918 20 were weaned, 2 breast fed, and 1 on breast and bottle. Of 22 babies born in 1919, 12 were breast fed, 4 on breast and bottle, and 6 on bottle alone.

There were three lots of twins and a batch of triplets born in 1919 and all except one triplet are living.

Sixty-four (64) infants between 1 and 5 attended on 177 occasions, making a total of 109 children under 5.

Nine expectant mothers applied for advice, and women who were nursing or recently confined attended on 124 occasions.

Fifty-six (56) school children attended on 137 occasions, and after the Clinic I examine cases of Tuberculosis or any discharged soldier who may want my advice.

I have the consent of the Council to do any unremunerated work after 12 o'clock.

The Health Visitor made the following visits in connection with the Notification of Births Act:—

To Babies	991	
To Lying-in Mothers ...	63	
To Expectant Mothers ...	197	
		1,251
To 43 children with Measles under 5		120
		1,371

As SCHOOL NURSE:—

School Children	302	
Schools	85	
		387

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

Tuberculosis	478	
Measles	120	
Influenza	85	
Diphtheria	3	
Whooping Cough	11	
Chicken Pox	3	
Scarlet Fever	5	
Erysipelas	2	
Malaria	2	
		709

Visits in 1919		2,467
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When the District Nurse is not available, as in cases of Influenza or Measles, the Health Visitor does what she can for the patients, but in future, with the consent of the Council and the permission of the Ministry, she will undertake the nursing of Measles.

Mr. T. B. Adams, who is Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Wolverhampton General Hospital, made the wise suggestion that when a child is discharged from the Children's Ward the Sister shall send a post card to the Health Visitor who will keep the child under observation until it is well. This is especially advisable with regard to skin disease. Sister tells me of acute Eczemas that are cured in the Hospital and return in a few months. Skin diseases which recur are not cured, and the benefit of Hospital treatment should be followed up in the home.

At the Clinic we recognise that Eczema and Impetigo are often the offspring of Scabies or Seborrhoea and treat the cause before the effect, and the process is less tedious.

Since the Health Visitor was appointed children clean their teeth and wash their heads more frequently. It teeth and hair are made the subject of proper pride in childhood it becomes a useful habit in adults. The children attending the Clinic have better teeth than those in a Hospital out-patient room, but the mothers have caries and pyorrhœa which poison them and their unborn offspring, and in some cases they have been induced to consult a dentist.

It has not been recognised that ugly children are often defective and improve under thyroid treatment. Apart from marked symptoms of hypothyroidism thyroid is used experimentally.

In discharges of the ear we find it simpler to teach wiping out the ear and instilling spirit instead of syringing.

The Health Visitor supervises nose and throat drill at schools and in the home. This has been mentioned under Influenza.

I have again to thank my colleagues at the Hospital for operating on hernias, appendices, and throat and ear cases from the Clinic, and the practitioners in the district for attending to minor operations which I send to them.

Three ladies have kindly consented to act on the Committee for Child Welfare. They will attend committees and visit the Clinic and keep your officials informed on the most recent advances in National Health, from reading the literature which the Council has provided for them, but I am afraid they will find the mothers of Tettenhall obdurate in the matter of sewing parties.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TETTENHALL:—

Boys	...	...	...	190	
Girls	...	...	...	167	
Infants	...	...	...	140	
				—	497

TETTENHALL WOOD:—

Mixed	...	...	...	280	
Infants	...	...	...	157	
				—	437
					—
					934

Tettenhall Wood Infant School was closed from January 30th to March 3rd, and the Mixed Schools from February 10th to March 3rd, for Measles.

The Medical Inspection of Schools by Dr. Dorothea Baird took place on October 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.

TETTENHALL COLLEGE.—There are 106 boarders and 21 day boys. I was invited by Dr. Strange, the Medical Officer of the College, on 17th November, to see two boys with suspected Scarlet Fever. There had been an outbreak of Tonsillitis since 13th October last, and the examination of milk showed a streptococcal infection but there had been no rash till 17th November. These two boys had rashes and were apparently Scarlet Fever, but from the fact that one boy had Scarlet Fever undoubtedly two years ago, and none of the boys previously affected were peeling and I had recently seen similar cases without desquamation I declined to close the school. Dr. Strange and I agreed on measures of precaution with satisfactory results.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION is carried out by Mr. Denton, who is Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. He has an assistant and a clerk. The Health Visitor goes to the office every morning and telephones when necessary to the Medical Officer of Health. She again calls at the office at the end of her round and makes any necessary observations. The Medical Officer of Health calls at the Council Offices at least twice a week besides attending every Friday morning at the Clinic. Any inspections he wishes to make he works in with his rounds.

Scarlet Fever cases are removed to the Infectious Hospital, Green Lanes, Wolverhampton, and Diphtheria to the infectious wards of the General Hospital.

HOUSING.

POPULATION.—The Return of the Registrar General (March, 1920), estimates the population of Tettenhall at 5,522. In 1914 the pre-war population was estimated at 5,396. This would mean an increase of 126 in five years and an annual increase of 25. The next Census will probably show that this increase is over-estimated, because the average annual increase has been 5 and the birth rate has been so low that it cannot make good the loss of Tettenhall men who have made the great sacrifice.—(Annual Report 1917; heading War Conditions).

EXISTING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.—There are 1,290 dwelling houses in the district, of which 1,081 are occupied by the working classes. It is estimated that 70 houses will be required, of which 10 will be built by other than the Local Authority.

INSANITARY HOUSES.—Five houses cannot be made fit for human habitation, and 34 are seriously defective but can be made habitable. In the former class closing orders will be made as soon as sufficient new houses are erected. In the latter class defects are being remedied as quickly as the scarcity of labour and the high costs will permit.

In the scheme adopted by the Council on 17th October, 1919, 7 acres of land have been purchased on which it is intended to build 54 houses, with the subsequent addition of 12 houses at a future date if required.

The steady degeneration of the race as proved by statistics collected during the war and the evidence that bad housing was responsible for this deterioration, have compelled the Ministry to adopt a scheme so vast that it is reminiscent of an Act of Creation.

The scarcity and increased cost of labour and material and the difficulty of obtaining cheap money are obstacles in the path of Building Authorities.

Tettenhall intends to build 54 houses at an estimated cost of £54,000. It would be idle to expect the tenants to pay anything like an economic rent. A penny rate, which yields roughly £100, will not be of much assistance, so that the Local Authority will have to borrow money and rely on Imperial grants, not only to meet the cost of building but to meet the deficit in rent. Yet the Housing Scheme will be the greatest health investment against Tuberculosis and other diseases due to bad housing.

Further particulars on housing are contained in the appended Report of the Surveyor.

The MINISTRY OF HEALTH was established "to unify and co-ordinate the health policy and activities of central government," and on 1st July, 1919, took over the duties of the Local Government Board. As your Medical Officer of Health for 37 years I may record the invariable kindness of Sir Arthur Newsholme and the officials of the old Local Government Board in matters in which we asked their advice or in which they gave us instruction. It was under the old Board that the Council carried out their reforms in disposal of sewage, conversion of middens, scavenging, pure water supply, and child welfare.

Under the new Ministry, Housing is the immediate problem, and to quote Sir George Newman, it is "the Local Authority in whose hands will rest the main business of the execution of a national health policy."

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

15TH APRIL, 1920.

W. H. T. WINTER.

Tettenhall Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor, 1919.

INSPECTIONS.—During the year 1,428 inspections as to insanitary conditions were made. The defects noted amounted to 473 and are tabulated in the summary of sanitary work done in the Nuisance Inspector's department submitted herewith. Formal notices were served after reporting to the Council in 9 instances and written informal notices were served in 209 cases. In many instances a verbal notice had the desired effect. 325 nuisances have been abated and 127 defects noted were being remedied or standing over at the end of the year. Owing to the industrial conditions since the end of the war it is most difficult to get even serious nuisances remedied, and work requiring structural alteration is practically at a standstill.

HOUSING.—The survey of housing needs showed the number of houses in the district of a rental of 8/- per week and less to be 1,081; these are returned as houses of the working class type. The total number of dwelling houses in the district is 1,290. The number of houses intended for one family which were occupied by two or more families is 35. The estimated number of houses required to meet the unsatisfied demand is 52, and to replace other houses unfit for habitation 18, making a total of 70. It was estimated that 10 houses would be built by persons other than the Local Authority during the next three years, leaving 60 to be built by the Council. The Council's scheme makes provision for this number and tenders have been obtained. The prices unfortunately were considered too high, and on the instructions of the Housing Commissioner a cutting-down process is now being carried out. In the meantime prices continue to rise, so that the net result is delay, inferior houses, and probably higher costs. Four new cottages have already been built by private persons, so that the estimate of 10 in three years is likely to prove a low one. As the standard of fitness for habitation becomes higher it is probable that a good many owners of property will prefer to close small dwellings rather than incur the expense of making them fit.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—36 inspections of the 14 cowsheds have been made. Notices requiring lime-washing and cleansing were served in six instances.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are five Slaughter-houses registered in the district, but these have seldom been used since the war, owing to butchers buying principally dead meat. The conditions are now becoming more normal and more frequent inspections are made.

BAKEHOUSES.—24 inspections of the five bakehouses were made. These have been satisfactorily kept and in only one instance was it necessary to serve a notice.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are three factories and 48 workshops. The latter are of a domestic character, and include laundries, dressmakers, and locksmiths.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES.—This has been seriously delayed during the war. A circular letter dated 31st July, 1919, from the Ministry of Health, drew attention to the importance of resuming the process of conversion, but it is difficult to get building work done. During the year 9 privies were abolished, water closets being substituted. We have now in this district 1,284 water closets and 299 privies.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—2,180 loads of refuse have been removed from houses. Dry refuse is carted to the tip near Henwood Road, and the contents of privies is taken to suitable isolated places on farms. It is here turned over, and tins &c., sorted out; and spread on the land. There were no complaints of nuisance arising out of the collection and disposal of refuse.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.—Only three new connections were made to the Council's sewers. 59 nuisances arising out of choked and defective drainage which came to my notice were abated. Drains are frequently choked in the smaller properties owing to neglect on the part of the tenants. Children are allowed to play near w.c.'s and throw in rubbish which is often forced into the sewers by the person sent to remove the obstruction. This carelessness costs the Council more than the proceeds of a penny rate last June, in opening up a main sewer in Henwood Road which had become blocked, the sewer at the point being 20-ft. below the surface and constructed of iron pipes. A new 12-in. surface water drain was constructed from property in Lower Street, Tettenhall, near Tettenhall School, to a ditch leading to the Smestow Brook, with the object of preventing floods during heavy storms.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The Sewage Farm continues to give good results. Samples of effluent are taken frequently by the County Inspectors and no complaints have been received either as to the effluent or nuisance

arising out of the works. Old osier sets grown on a portion of the land, which had become less productive, were pulled up and the land sown with mangolds. A very satisfactory crop was grown.

WATER SUPPLY.—Three samples of well water affecting three houses were submitted for analysis and certified as unsuitable for domestic purposes. Corporation water was laid on in each case. Four houses were connected to the Corporation mains during the year. At Finchfield five houses previously supplied by a single tap in a common yard were provided with sinks and taps in each house.

ALLOTMENTS.—On the 31st December, 1919, there were 184 allotments controlled by the Council. Of these 156 have been let since the war began.

HIGHWAYS.—Owing to increased traffic, high cost of materials, difficulty in obtaining same, and shortage of suitable labour, the roads have deteriorated from the high standard usually maintained in this district. Wolverhampton being a centre of the motor industry a very heavy traffic of car and lorry testing follows, and owing perhaps to our main roads leading to sparsely populated districts, we get considerably more than our share of this kind of traffic. The Compton 'Bus also continues its destructive effect on the length of Compton Road between the Borough boundary and the "Swan" Inn. There were no widenings or improvements of that character during the year. A recommendation was made to the County Council that the parapet of the bridge at Wightwick recently knocked down by a motor car should be set back a few feet, but this was not accepted, although a much needed improvement would have been effected at small cost. I look forward to the arrival of the Motor Lorry which it was decided to purchase, as this will relieve to a great extent the difficulties in the way of road maintenance and scavenging experienced especially since the war began. The high cost of provender and horses and the unsuitability of the horse for long journeys, have made it necessary to follow the lead of all the surrounding Authorities in adopting mechanical haulage.

PLANS.—Nine plans were submitted and approved. These include two cottages, one dwelling house, one bungalow, one wooden bungalow, motor garage and alterations and additions. All the buildings were erected.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

12TH APRIL, 1920.

JOHN DENTON.

TABLE I.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.**Causes of Death in 1919.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.				MALES.		FEMALES.
(Civilians only)						
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	30	...	39
Influenza	...	...	...	5	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	3	...	4
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	...	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	—	...	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2	...	—
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	...	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	1	...	—
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	3	...	3
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	10	...	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				3	...	3
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	34	...	42
Legitimate	...	...	...	33	...	38
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	...	4
POPULATION—						
For Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	5,522
For Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	5,301

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. 2.

April, 1920.

TABLE II.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department, during the year 1916, in the Urban District of Tettenhall.

	Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisance abated after Notice by	
	Inspections and Observations made.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector	Authority.
DWELLING HOUSES & SCHOOLS—						
Foul conditions	118	48	48	7	40	7
Structural defects	356	112	112	7	59	7
Overcrowding	34	13	13	0	10	—
Unfit for habitation	45	18	18	1	12	1
DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS ...	18	3	3	—	3	—
COWSHEDS	36	6	6	—	6	—
BAKEHOUSES	24	3	1	—	3	—
SLAUGHTERHOUSES ...	22	5	5	—	5	—
ASHPITS AND PRIVIES ...	256	58	58	6	46	6
DEPOSIT OF REFUGE & MANURE	23	15	15	—	15	—
WATER CLOSETS	89	42	42	6	35	6
HOUSE DRAINAGE—						
Defective traps	18	7	7	—	7	—
Other faults	198	68	68	1	52	1
WATER SUPPLY	37	11	11	9	11	9
PIGSTYES	13	10	10	—	10	—
ANIMALS IMPROPERLY KEPT ...	16	15	15	—	11	—
SMOKE NUISANCES	—	—	—	—	—	—
OTHER NUISANCES	125	39	39	—	27	—
TOTALS	1428	473	471	37	352	37
Samples of Water taken from Analysis 3						
.. condemned as unfit for use 3						

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed	...	22
Houses disinfected after Infections Disease	...	22
Schools " "	...	6