

**[Report 1907] / Medical Officer of Health, Wednesbury Borough.**

**Contributors**

Wednesbury (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1907

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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1907.

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WALTER C. GARMAN, M.D., Edin.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TO WHICH IS APPENDED

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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Printed by Order of the Town Council.

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WEDNESBURY:

RYDER & SON, PRINTERS, "HERALD" OFFICE.



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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

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# REPORT

OF THE

## HEALTH OF WEDNESBURY,

FOR THE YEAR 1907,

BY

WALTER GARMAN, M.D., Edin.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE WEDNESBURY  
TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1907. The statistics, as was the case last year, are based upon an assumed population of 27,000, this being almost the precise figure suggested by the number of inhabited houses in the town.

### 1.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during 1907 was 910 (males 496, females 414), which is equal to a birth-rate of 33·7 per 1,000 of the population. The natural increase of population, by excess of births over deaths was 474.

The deaths from all causes numbered 436, which together with 6 deaths of Wednesbury persons occurring in Public Institutions outside the town, gives a total of 442. This number furnishes a death-rate of 16·3 per 1,000 of the population.



The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 192, or 43·4 per cent of the total deaths, of these 126 were under one year of age.

The following table furnishes an analysis of deaths under five years of age during the past five years :—

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907
Premature Birth... ..	13	20	17	18	21
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ... ..	41	36	35	36	53
Scarlatina ... ..	22	4	—	2	—
Measles ... ..	1	55	29	2	27
Whooping Cough ... ..	19	7	7	13	1
Diarrhoea... ..	11	42	17	47	8
Diphtheria ... ..	4	15	3	3	7
Other Causes ... ..	105	103	91	72	75
	216	282	199	193	192
Percentage of total Deaths	49·4	56	48·8	44·1	43·4

The next table gives the deaths due to Zymotic disease. These numbered 62—and are equal to a Zymotic death-rate of 2·3 per 1,000. For the purpose of comparison the corresponding figures for the preceding four years are included in this table.

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907
Erysipelas ... ..	5	—	—	1	4
Puerperal Fever... ..	1	—	—	1	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	8	8	3	4
Scarlet Fever ... ..	27	5	—	2	1
Measles ... ..	1	57	30	2	27
Diphtheria ... ..	5	19	7	3	7
Diarrhoea... ..	13	44	17	50	10
Whooping Cough ... ..	19	7	8	14	1
Influenza... ..	5	7	8	10	7
	79	147	78	86	62
Death-rate per 1,000	2·9	5·5	2·9	3·1	2·3

Following is a table giving the mortality from pulmonary disease for the past five years :—

Year.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Total.
1903	81	18	99
1904	70	27	97
1905	75	29	104
1906	88	22	110
1907	102	25	127

The next table is a statement of Vaccination performed during the year ending June 30th, 1907.

Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible.	Dead Unvaccinated.	Medical Postponements.	Certificates sent in of conscientious objection.	Removals known.	Removals unknown.	Unaccounted for.
854	676	2	85	12	53	9	16	1

The inquests held by the Coroner numbered 18, and the causes may be thus classified :—

Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	11
Accidents	...	...	...	...	5
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	18

The next table sets forth the deaths occurring during 1907 from all causes, classified according to diseases and ages for the four quarters, and of births for the same period :—



Births.				Deaths.				Registered Births.		Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.						Mortality from subjoined causes; distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.																			
M		F		M		F				Under 1 year.		1 and under 5 years.		5 and under 15 years.		15 and under 25 years.		25 and under 65 years.		65 years and upwards.															
1st Quarter ...				130	102	72	65	232	137	38	11	5	6	41	36	Under 5 years ...		Erysipelas. 1 Measles. 1 Scarlet Fever. 1 Whooping Cough. 1 Diphtheria. 1 Croup. 1 Enteric Fever. 1 Diarrhoea. 1 Enteritis. 1 Phthisis. 1 Pyæmia. 1 Cancer. 1 Bronchitis and Pneumonia. 21 Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver. 2 Premature Birth. 2 Puerperal Fever. 10 Heart Disease. 1 Accidents. 1 Suicides. 1 Influenza. 4 Other causes. 21																	
2nd Quarter...				110	102	68	54	212	122	27	33	2	5	28	27	Under 5 years ...		Erysipelas. 22 Measles. 22 Scarlet Fever. 1 Whooping Cough. 1 Diphtheria. 1 Croup. 1 Enteric Fever. 1 Diarrhoea. 1 Enteritis. 1 Phthisis. 8 Pyæmia. 1 Cancer. 2 Bronchitis and Pneumonia. 16 Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver. 1 Premature Birth. 5 Puerperal Fever. 10 Heart Disease. 1 Accidents. 1 Suicides. 4 Influenza. 4 Other causes. 40																	
3rd Quarter ...				127	111	45	30	238	75	23	10	1	4	22	15	Under 5 years ...		Erysipelas. 3 Measles. 3 Scarlet Fever. 2 Whooping Cough. 2 Diphtheria. 2 Croup. 1 Enteric Fever. 1 Diarrhoea. 1 Enteritis. 1 Phthisis. 7 Pyæmia. 4 Cancer. 6 Bronchitis and Pneumonia. 17 Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver. 1 Premature Birth. 5 Puerperal Fever. 8 Heart Disease. 1 Accidents. 1 Suicides. 17 Influenza. 2 Other causes. 22																	
4th Quarter ...				129	99	52	50	228	102	38	12	3	23	26		Under 5 years ...		Erysipelas. 1 Measles. 6 Scarlet Fever. 6 Whooping Cough. 1 Diphtheria. 3 Croup. 3 Enteric Fever. 3 Diarrhoea. 1 Enteritis. 5 Phthisis. 3 Pyæmia. 10 Cancer. 17 Bronchitis and Pneumonia. 9 Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver. 1 Premature Birth. 7 Puerperal Fever. 1 Heart Disease. 1 Accidents. 7 Suicides. 2 Influenza. 2 Other causes. 18																	
496 414				237	199	910	436	126	66	8	18	114	204			4 27		1 1 7 2 4 10 3 25 1 15 102 4 21 1 32 5 2 7 162																	
910				436																436															

Following is a table of Deaths of Wednesbury persons occurring in public institutions in other towns.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Age.
Empyema ... ..	—	1	9
Uterine Fibroid, Premature Birth, Peritonitis...	—	1	38
Accident ... ..	1	—	40
Intestinal Obstruction ... ..	1	—	1
Phthisis ... ..	1	—	34
Accident (burns) ... ..	—	1	3



# URBAN DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

Causes of, and ages at, during 1907 :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox ... ..							
Measles ... ..	27	6	20	1			
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1			1			
Whooping Cough ... ..	1		1				
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup ... ..)	7		7				
Croup ... ..	2		2				
Fever { Typhus ... ..	4				1	3	
Enteric ... ..							
Other continued ... ..							
Epidemic influenza ... ..							
Cholera ... ..							
Plague ... ..							
Diarrhoea ... ..	10	7	1		1		1
Enteritis ... ..	3	3					
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1					1	
Erysipelas ... ..	4					1	3
Other Septic Diseases ... ..							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	25			1	3	20	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	20	8	6		2	3	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	15						
Bronchitis ... ..	64	25	10		1	9	19
Pneumonia ... ..	38	13	5	3	3	11	3
Pleurisy ... ..							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..							
Alcoholism ... ..	4					4	
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..							
Venereal Diseases ... ..	4	2	2				
Premature Birth ... ..	21	21					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ... ..							
Heart Diseases ... ..	32			1	1	22	8
Accidents ... ..	5	2				1	2
Suicides ... ..	2					1	1
All other Causes ... ..	146	39	12	1	6	38	65
All Causes ... ..	436	126	66	8	18	114	104

# INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.

## DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Ttl. under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES.	Certified	32	5	2	3	42	15	6	13	5	4	8	3	3	8	9	5	121
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	5
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	6
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	2
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	14
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Peritonitis:	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	5
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	4	1	2	2	3	1	...	...	1	25
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	13
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
		32	5	2	3	42	15	6	15	6	4	8	3	4	9	9	5	126



Following is a table giving the birth-rate, death-rate, and Zymotic-rate for the past ten years :—

Year.	Estimated Population.	No of Births.	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 living.	Birth-rate per 1,000 living.	Zymotic death-rate.
1898	26,000	939	486	18·6	36·0	3·9
1899	"	900	480	18·4	34·6	3·7
1900	"	925	526	20·2	35·5	4·4
1901	26,544	876	387	14·5	33	2·4
1902	26,700	954	450	16·8	35·9	1·9
1903	"	900	437	16·3	33·7	2·7
1904	"	933	503	18·8	34·9	5·5
1905	"	871	407	15·2	32·6	2·9
1906	27,000	871	446	16·5	32·2	3·1
1907	"	910	442	16·3	33·7	2·3

Following is a list of deaths occurring during the year in each street, the zymotic deaths being separately indicated :—

STREET.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.
Addison Street ...	4	
Albert Street ...	10	3
Alma Street ...	3	
Bilston Road ...	1	
Birmingham Street...	1	
Brookside... ..	3	1
Brunswick Park Road	6	
Bright Street ...	4	1
Brickkiln Street ...	1	
Bridge Street ...	10	2
Chapel Street ...	7	1
Chapel Street, King's Hill	1	
Crankall Lane ...	2	
Corns Street ...	2	
Camphill Lane ...	2	
Camp Street ...	7	1
Church Hill ...	5	1
Church Street ...	8	3
Cobden Street ...	7	1
Cook Street ...	7	1
Cross Street ...	4	
Corporation Street ...	2	1



Delves	...	...	...	...	2	
Dale Street	...	...	...	...	10	1
Dangerfield Lane	...	...	...	...	5	
Darlaston Road	...	...	...	...	7	2
Darlington Street	...	...	...	...	3	2
Dudley Street	...	...	...	...	12	
Ethelfleda Terrace	...	...	...	...	4	
Edward Street	...	...	...	...	5	
Farl Street	...	...	...	...	1	1
Earps Lane	...	...	...	...	2	
Elwell Street	...	...	...	...	2	
Foley Street	...	...	...	...	4	
Foster Street	...	...	...	...	1	1
Franchise Street	...	...	...	...	4	
Gordon Street	...	...	...	...	1	
Gladstone Terrace	...	...	...	...	1	1
Great Western Street	...	...	...	...	3	2
George Street	...	...	...	...	1	1
Hobbs Hole	...	...	...	...	6	1
High Bullen	...	...	...	...	1	
High Street (Upper and Lower)	...	...	...	...	5	
Holden Road	...	...	...	...	1	
Hitchens Croft	...	...	...	...	2	
Hill Street	...	...	...	...	2	1
Hydes Road	...	...	...	...	3	
Hobbins Street	...	...	...	...	3	
Holyhead Road	...	...	...	...	17	2
Hollies Drive	...	...	...	...	1	
Hall End...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Joynson Street	...	...	...	...	2	
King's Hill	...	...	...	...	18	3
King Street	...	...	...	...	4	2
Little Hill	...	...	...	...	2	
Ladbury's Lane	...	...	...	...	8	3
Lea Brook	...	...	...	...	7	2
Market Place	...	...	...	...	2	
Mill Street	...	...	...	...	3	1
Meeting Street	...	...	...	...	9	1
Moxley	...	...	...	...	13	
Moore Street	...	...	...	...	4	1

New Street	...	...	...	...	3	2
New Cross Street	...	...	...	...	5	
Oakeswell Terrace	...	...	...	...	2	
Oakeswell Street	...	...	...	...	2	1
Old Park Road	...	...	...	...	2	
Old Union Street	...	...	...	...	2	1
Oxford Street	...	...	...	...	4	
Pinfold Street	...	...	...	...	3	1
Perry Street	...	...	...	...	7	1
Paul Street	...	...	...	...	1	
Pound Road	...	...	...	...	5	1
Pritchard Street	...	...	...	...	1	
Piercy Street	...	...	...	...	4	
Potters Lane	...	...	...	...	5	
Portway Road	...	...	...	...	10	3
Queen Street	...	...	...	...	2	
Russell Street	...	...	...	...	15	1
Ridding lane	...	...	...	...	4	
School Street	...	...	...	...	1	
Spring Head	...	...	...	...	1	
Short Street	...	...	...	...	1	
S. James' Street	...	...	...	...	3	
Stafford Street	...	...	...	...	7	
Sparrows Forge Lane	...	...	...	...	4	
Terrace Street	...	...	...	...	3	
Trouse Lane	...	...	...	...	7	
Union Street	...	...	...	...	7	2
Vicarage	...	...	...	...	5	
Vicar Street	...	...	...	...	3	
Victoria Street	...	...	...	...	3	
Wood Street	...	...	...	...	2	
Wellcroft Street	...	...	...	...	5	1
Walsall Road	...	...	...	...	10	2
Walsall Road, King's Hill	...	...	...	...	7	1
Wood Green	...	...	...	...	7	

Following is a table giving the cases of zymotic disease notified to the Health Authority under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, with the deaths resulting from each disease :—



CAUSE OF DEATH.						Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	120	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	33	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	30	4
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	13	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Membraneous Croup...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	203	19

The foregoing figures are such as appear necessary in order to enable the Council to form an opinion as to the health of the town during the past year.

An examination of the figures for the past ten years shows that the average general death-rate for the period was 17·1 per 1,000, while the zymotic rate was 3·2, and the birth-rate 34·2.

During 1907 those three rates were respectively 16·3, 2·3, and 33·7—figures which, as regards the death-rates, shew the past year to have been better than an average.

It is only fair to point out that the above zymotic death-rate includes the deaths occurring from influenza and zymotic enteritis. These two diseases, though well recognised as of zymotic origin, are never included in estimating the zymotic death-rate, and if we exclude them, our rate is only 1·6 per 1,000.

Taking the diseases of the zymotic group, it will be seen that no case of small pox was notified during the year. Since the adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act in the year 1900, the town has been completely free from small pox.

The practical stamping out of this disease is no doubt ascribable to the strong and persistent administration of the Vaccination Act, as is indicated by the vaccination returns. Thus, of 769 children alive at the end of June, 1907, and born during the previous twelve months, no fewer than 676 were successfully vaccinated. Included in the balance of unvaccinated cases, 93 in number, there were 53 exemptions on account of conscientious objections, and 12 of medical postponement. The percentage of successful vaccinations for the past five years was as follows :—



1903	...	...	...	...	88.5
1904	...	...	...	...	89.2
1905	...	...	...	...	89.2
1906	...	...	...	...	87.5
1907	...	...	...	...	87.9

In the remaining balance of unvaccinated children are included removals from the town to other districts. The destination of these, in many cases, is known, and so, in due course, they will be vaccinated by the vaccinators in their respective localities. The return shews that the number of exemption orders obtained were fewer than in the preceding twelve months. Such exemptions, year by year, lead to a very undesirable state of things, viz.: that by degrees there are growing up a large number of unvaccinated persons, who not only are in danger of themselves contracting small pox of a dangerous character, but who also are sources of danger to the other unvaccinated portion of the community. Apart from this serious defect the operation of the Vaccination Act has been most satisfactory, and if only the exemption clause were repealed, the population at large would be efficiently vaccinated. Once this were done, and an Act passed making re-vaccination compulsory, we should stamp out small pox as completely as in the case of the Germans and some of the other continental nations.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Of this disease 120 cases were notified, as compared with 78 in 1906. The fact that only one death resulted shows the very attenuated character of the poison; the percentage of deaths being 83, as compared with a percentage of 3 in the previous year. As I have pointed out on former occasions, the disease is now endemic rather than epidemic, and crops up sporadically here and there.

**Diphtheria,** of which disease 33 cases were notified, caused no fewer than seven deaths, as compared with three deaths from 47 cases in 1906. The markedly higher death-rate from this dangerous affection is significant. Possibly the virulence of the disease was greater than usual—or it may be that thorough use of the anti-toxin treatment was less general. In this connection I would remind the Council that in many instances, amongst the very poor, the expense of the anti-toxin cannot be met, and yet the use of the remedy is in the highest degree desirable, owing to its markedly curative action. This being so, I strongly recommend that the Medical Officer of Health



should be allowed a stock of the remedy, and empowered to supply it at discretion, where the poverty of the people is ascertained to be a bar to the employment of the remedy. In this way I think it very likely that several lives each year might be saved by the expenditure of a few pounds.

**Enteric Fever,** of which disease 13 cases were notified, was fatal in four instances. Probably in no disease is the issue so dependent upon the character of the nursing as is the case in Enteric Fever. So much so indeed, that the case for isolation is here extremely strong and the matter is one which should engage our earnest attention in the near future.

**Puerperal Fever.**—Six cases were notified, of which one was fatal. This, in a town where there are about 900 births yearly is not a matter calling for special notice. As I have previously stated a large proportion of the confinements are attended solely by midwives, who, when adequately instructed are quite equal to the management of uncomplicated cases. Under the existing *regime* the midwives are certificated and under the control of a Board. They are visited and supervised by lady medical inspectors—and the fact that only one death due to Puerperal Fever occurred during the year, suggests that midwifery practice of the town was conducted with considerable success.

**Measles,** which in 1906 only occasioned two deaths was very fatally in evidence during 1907, and was responsible for 27 deaths. In fact at one period of the year the disease was markedly epidemic, and attracted the attention of the Local Government Board, who asked for a report dealing with the outbreak. Full details of the epidemic were given in a report which I forwarded to the Board in the Autumn. The epidemic prevailed extensively in the central part of the town. On the other hand the more remote and outlying districts of King's Hill, Moxley, Newtown, and Wood Green for the most part escaped. The localities where the fatal cases occurred were situated in the poorest and most densely populated parts of the town—and I am inclined to think that the deaths were mainly due to the lack of proper care and of medical advice in the early stages of the disease. Amongst the poor, measles is regarded as an ailment of little importance; and professional advice is rarely sought until complications—notably bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia have reduced the patient to a desperate condition. These complications were the

real cause of death in no fewer than 19 of the 24 cases. I did not resort to school closure during the epidemic, regarding this measure as useless from the standpoint of prevention in the case of a thickly populated town like Wednesbury. The epidemic commenced early in April, and the last death from this disease occurred at the end of June. During this time no fewer than 24 deaths were registered.

**Zymotic Enteritis.**—This disease occasioned during the year ten deaths, and during the three months of July, August and September only one death—a very striking state of things, when we consider that the affection is usually specially prevalent during the summer. Hence the old designation of Summer Diarrhœa. The occurrence is probably explicable entirely by the remarkably wet summer—or rather the wet cold summer. Dust was for the most part absent; decaying matter was swept away by plentiful rains; and the ordinary plague of flies in the dirtier parts of the town was avoided. Consequently the food escaped contamination from these sources and diarrhœa was conspicuous by its absence. At least this would appear to be the interpretation of the facts. In foregoing years the chief mortality from this disease has occurred in the third quarter—as the following figures will shew:—

Year.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
1897	2	5	28	4
1898	3	5	49	6
1899	11	14	31	9
1900	6	11	20	9
1901	2	8	32	14
1902	6	3	7	12
1903	4	5	13	14
1904	5	5	35	12
1905	2	3	11	4
1906	2	6	36	14
1907	2	1	1	6

An examination of these figures will shew that there has been, almost every year, a more or less heavy list of deaths from Diarrhœa amongst young children. During the present year however, which has been characterised by a heavy rainfall, spread over a large part of the year, the deaths from this disease only numbered 10, of which only one occurred in the third quarter.



This state of things is most gratifying. It should not however be taken as an occurrence and as nothing more—but we ought to look further, and see how it may direct us to a policy which may have far-reaching effects upon the future health of the town. Is it possible, I would ask, to do anything to limit the mortality from Diarrhoea and Enteritis in those years when we do not receive protection from an abnormal rainfall? Personally I think it is possible, provided that we so deal with the yards and courts of the town, to maintain them more or less constantly in a sanitary condition. To effect this a bold policy should be adopted, and we should go in for impermeable paving in all those yards and courts where this is lacking. If this were done, the alternating conditions of wet muddy surfaces, and dry germ-laden surfaces covered with filthy dust would not occur. On the other hand they would be repeatedly washed, flushed and cleansed whenever there was a considerable downfall of rain. We must however look further even than this. Before such a step is taken it is imperative that all necessary conversions of privies to water closets should be made, inasmuch as it would be, obviously, much more difficult and costly to do such work, when once the yards were paved. Such a system, together with dry ashbins would be a most valuable one, and would much lessen the present cost of scavenging the town. And, further, I believe it would be helpful in lessening the mortality from Diarrhoea and Enteritis—a mortality which I regard as highly discreditable, inasmuch as I believe it to be, in a considerable measure, preventable.

During the last quarter of the year we were confronted by a striking outbreak of Mumps, which was wholly unlike anything experienced during the past five and twenty years. Although not serious in itself, so far as it involved any danger to life, the epidemic attained such proportions that some of the schools found themselves with less than half of their proper complement of scholars. This falling off in the attendance became so marked in the case of S. James' Church Schools, and the Wesley Schools on the Holyhead Road, that I took the unusual step of closing these Schools for the last two weeks of the school term, hoping that this interval together with the Christmas vacation of two weeks would suffice to enable the Schools to resume work after the holidays with their full numbers. In the main, the result seems to have been satisfactory in the Schools above named, but at the present time the disease has made its appearance in the other Schools of the town and is interfering seriously with the

attendance of the children. So much so, indeed, that closure of all the Schools in turn will very probably become necessary.

At this point I will conclude my review of the figures and events of the year from a health standpoint. The figures and statistics supplied above, taken together with my remarks, will I think satisfy the Council that the general conditions prevailing in the town are not unfavourable, whether they are regarded as they stand, or are compared with those prevailing in other similar localities.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER GARMAN, M.D., Edin.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# Sanitary Inspector's Report.

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SANITARY DEPARTMENT—BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

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TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE WEDNESBURY  
TOWN COUNCIL.

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MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

## INTRODUCTION.

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Wednesbury. The statistics which follow relate to a period of seven months, viz., from the end of May, when I commenced my duties. At this time the inspection of Dairies, Cow-sheds and Canal Boats was added to my Department.

## GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

### MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Under the head of miscellaneous inspections, which number 710, are included visits made in consequence of complaints received, inspections made of yards used in common, and other inspections of premises in all parts of the Borough.

As a result of these inspections a large number of nuisances, including filthy and dilapidated houses and outbuildings, leaking roofs, defective paving and drainage, foul and dilapidated privy middens, animals kept in filthy state, or contrary to the Bye-laws, and over-crowded rooms, have been detected and dealt with. Advantage has also been taken of these visits to give instructions or advice to occupiers the advisability of providing for the admission of fresh air into houses, and the cleansing of houses, outbuildings and surface paving and drainage.



### **NOTICES SERVED.**

In consequence of these inspections 294 preliminary notices have been served on owners and occupiers to abate nuisances or to carry out sanitary improvements, and in 52 instances it was found necessary to obtain permission to serve statutory notices. In all, 469 re-inspections of premises, concerning which notices have been served, were made. 106 letters have also been written to owners calling their attention to notices overdue, and I have had frequent interviews in all parts of the town, with owners and contractors as to sanitary work required to be carried out.

### **SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.**

From the detailed schedule appended hereto it will be seen that a large number of sanitary improvements have been carried out during the past year.

### **FILTHY AND DILAPIDATED HOUSES AND OUTBUILDINGS.**

Thirty-seven houses have been cleansed and limewashed or re-papered, and in 33 instances structural repairs, often of some magnitude, have been executed inside dwelling houses. Thirty-five cases of dampness due to leaking roofs or defective eaves and downspouting have been reported upon, the number of nuisances dealt with under these heads being 4 and 31 respectively. Seven washhouses and brewhouses have also been cleansed and repaired.

### **SURFACE PAVING.**

Attention has been directed to the question of paving yards and entries. Much work, however, remains to be executed in this respect. It is hoped to deal more fully with this class of nuisance shortly, when the new Bye-laws come into force.

### **DRAINAGE.**

Eight houses previously without drainage have been properly drained and connected to the sewer. Six drains have been relaid or repaired, and three foul untrapped yard drains have been provided with gully traps. Thirty-one choked drains have been opened and cleansed after written notice, and in addition a large number of entry

gullies, which were temporarily obstructed have been opened by occupiers after verbal notice.

### **PRIVY AND WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

Foul wet privy middens have necessitated a large share of attention. Sixty-five have been abolished and 94 water closets have been substituted. In carrying out these conversions it is imperative in almost every instance either to provide new, or entirely remodel on modern lines, the existing defective drainage. I think all are agreed that the substitution of water closets for the existing conservancy system is a step in the right direction, and the improvement is much appreciated by the tenants of the dwellings, who unfortunately have to reside in close proximity to the old insanitary privies and middens. With the assistance of the Council I hope to report still further progress in this direction at the close of another year. Twenty privy middens have been filled in, covered and ventilated, or repaired. Thirteen middens have been converted into dry ashpits, 34 ashbins have been substituted for middens, and 7 dustbins have been provided for premises where the accommodation for the storage of ashes was entirely lacking or insufficient.

### **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

In seven instances legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances were authorised, but it was only necessary to take out summonses in three cases. In two cases adjournments were granted to enable notices to be complied with, and in one instance the Court made an order for the payment of work done in default, the respective owners paying the cost incurred and carrying out the requirements of the Town Council.

### **HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.**

Two Houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation, and five houses have been pulled down, after being condemned as unfit for human habitation.

### **INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES.**

The Slaughter-houses have been regularly visited, to ascertain if the regulations respecting cleanliness were being carried out. One seizure of unsound food was made, viz., about 1 cwt. of cherries, which were condemned and destroyed. In several instances the



vendors have voluntarily destroyed food when their attention has been called by me to its condition.

There are now eighteen slaughter-houses on the register, of which six are subject to annual license.

### INSPECTION OF COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The sanitary control of dairies and cowsheds have been transferred to this department, a preliminary survey has been taken, and it is hoped that various sanitary improvements will be effected during the coming year. Seven milkshops have been registered during the year, one application being refused.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and thirty-three cases of infectious diseases have been visited and reported upon, and 57 rooms have been fumigated after recovery or death of the patient. The houses where patients were suffering from infectious disease have been re-visited from time to time to ascertain if the cases were kept isolated. In three instances the bedding was destroyed and new bedding provided.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

There are, at present, 127 workshops on the register, including 26 bakehouses. The following is a list of trades carried on in the workshops :—

Bakers	...	...	...	26	Laundry	...	...	...	1
Boots and Shoes	...	...	...	8	Millinery	...	...	...	9
Breezes	...	...	...	3	Maltster	...	...	...	1
Blacksmiths & Coachsmiths	...	...	...	8	Mason	...	...	...	1
Brush Maker	...	...	...	1	Marine Store Dealer	...	...	...	1
Carpenters and Joiners.	...	...	...	7	Nut Makers	...	...	...	4
Cabinet Maker	...	...	...	1	Organ Builder	...	...	...	1
Clothiers and Tailors	...	...	...	11	Printers	...	...	...	2
Cycles	...	...	...	2	Packing Case Maker	...	...	...	1
Cooper	...	...	...	1	Plumbers	...	...	...	2
Dressmaking	...	...	...	13	Saddlery	...	...	...	2
Files	...	...	...	5	Stamper and Socket Filers	...	...	...	2
Grease and Oil	...	...	...	1	Stocking Knitting...	...	...	...	1
Galvanising	...	...	...	2	Surgical Dressing...	...	...	...	1
Gun Locks	...	...	...	8	Sugar Boiler	...	...	...	1

The workshops have been visited from time to time to see that the regulations respecting cleanliness, ventilation, etc., have been carried out. Various sanitary improvements have been effected, 20 water closets being substituted for foul privies.

*Homework.*—Three lists have been received with regard to persons engaged in the making of wearing apparel. The premises were inspected and found in order.

*Bakehouses.*—The bakehouses have been periodically inspected, and found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

### INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The Canals within the Borough extend from Moxley to the Borough boundary at Monway (about 1,280 yards); and the canal at the east end of The Delves within the Borough (about 450 yards), the total length being about one mile.

The majority of boats pass straight through the district.

Seven boats have been inspected, and in one case no certificate of registration was produced, and on the owner being notified a certificate was obtained.

### MARKETS.

The markets have been held regularly, and have, on the whole, been fairly well conducted, and every effort has been made to avoid nuisances arising therefrom.

### REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The work of removing nightsoil from privies and middens, and dry refuse from ashpits, and the weekly removal of the contents of dust bins has been executed by the Contractor at a total cost of £1,300. There are now 60 dust bins on the list, an increase during the year of 41. 2,595 applications for the emptying of privies and ashpits were received, and 6,108 ashpits or cisterns were emptied and cleansed. The work has been smoothly carried out, and generally speaking, with greater efficiency than in previous years.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT TOPPING, Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*



TABLE I.

Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	642
Houses concerning which complaints have been made ...	68
Re-inspections ... ..	469
Visits to Slaughterhouses ... ..	194
„ Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ... ..	111
„ Shops (Butchers') ... ..	219
„ „ Fish, Game and Poultry ... ..	99
„ Workshops and Bakehouses ... ..	207
„ Common Lodging Houses ... ..	41
Number of Canal Boat Inspections ... ..	7
Cases of Infectious Diseases visited and reported upon ...	133
Number of rooms disinfected ... ..	57
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Total number of Inspections and Visits ...	2247
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Number of Preliminary Notices served ... ..	286
„ Statutory Notices served ... ..	52
„ Legal proceedings taken ... ..	3
„ Letters written to Owners <i>re</i> Nuisances ...	106
Notices served under Canal Boats Act ... ..	1
Number of Privies and Ashpits reported for emptying ...	2595
„ „ „ emptied ... ..	6108
„ Limewash Brushes lent ... ..	377
„ Bags and Bottles of Disinfectant given away ...	1225

TABLE II.

PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED AND NUMBER OF  
HOUSES IN CONNECTION WITH NOTICES.

			Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses	...	...	22	42
"          "          Outbuildings	...	...	15	49
Defective Paving and surface channels...	...	...	3	22
Defective eaves and down spouting	...	...	9	35
Insufficient drainage	...	...	15	46
Foul untrapped and defective drainage	...	...	4	10
Choked drainage	...	...	40	134
Choked water closets	...	...	10	32
Defective water closet connections	...	...	7	15
Insufficient privy accommodation	...	...	6	6
Insufficient ashpit accommodation	...	...	6	11
Foul but open and dilapidated privy middens	...	...	93	260
Fouling of sanitary conveniences used in common	...	...	4	6
Overcrowded houses or rooms	...	...	20	20
Animals improperly kept	...	...	19	19
Offensive accumulations	...	...	3	4
Water in cellars	...	...	2	2
Houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	1	4
Bakehouses	...	...	1	1
Workshops	...	...	8	8
Dairies and cowsheds	...	...	3	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	1	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	2	2
			— —	— —
Totals	...	...	294	722
			— —	— —



TABLE III.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT  
IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND  
NOTICES SERVED.

*Interior of Houses—*

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	37
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or wood- work have been carried out	...	...	33

*Exterior of Houses—*

Defective roofs made water-tight	...	...	4
Houses without eaves, spouting, or with choked or defective spouting—new spouting provided or existing spouting cleansed and repaired	...	...	31
Dangerous chimneys repaired...	...	...	2
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks			5

*Yards and Outbuildings—*

Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired			7
Surface paving in yards provided, renewed, or repaired	...		5
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable covers provided...	...	...	2

*Drainage—*

Absence of or insufficient drainage, premises drained and connected to sewer or cesspool	...	...	8
Surface channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided...	...	...	21
Defective drainage relaid or repaired	...	...	6
Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems	...	...	60
Additional gullies fixed	...	...	72
Choked drains opened and cleansed	...	...	31
Pigstyes drained	...	...	1
Foul untrapped drains, stoneware gully traps fixed	...		3

*Privies, Water-closets and Ashpits—*

Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	...	65
Middens abolished	...	...	...	...	...	49
Water-closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies	...					94
Fresh water closets substituted for waste water closets	...					1
Water closets rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dilapidated privy and ashpits repaired, covered and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	16
Percolation of faecal matter from privies — privies cemented	...	...	...	...	...	4
Galvanised dust bins provided in lieu of ashpits	...					34
Additional dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits	...					9
Defective water closet connections made good	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient supply of water to W.C.'s. Flush improved or new cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective tippers renewed and inspection chambers provided to waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	2
Absence of sufficient urinal accommodation. Urinals provided, or foul and offensive urinals reconstructed	...					2

*Overcrowding—*

Houses overcrowded—numbers reduced	...	...	...	...	...	11
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*Housing of the Working Classes—*

Houses unfit for human habitation closed or repaired	...					2
Houses unfit for human habitation pulled down...	...					5

*Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—*

Nuisances from the keeping of swine	...	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations removed from premises	...					3

*Miscellaneous—*

Manure pits provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Filthy yards and approaches to closets, etc., cleansed by occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	3

*Slaughter-houses—*

Slaughter-houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ drained, or drains repaired	...					2
„ floors re-laid...	...	...	...	...	...	1



*Dairies and Cowsheds—*

Cowsheds provided with sufficient means of drainage or drains repaired ... ..	1
Dairy accommodation provided ... ..	2

*Factories and Workshops—*

Workshop or Workrooms cleansed ... ..	6
„ „ additional ventilation provided to	1
Water-closets substituted for privies at factories or work- shops ... ..	20
Earth-closets substituted for privies at factories or work- shops ... ..	2
Sanitary conveniences cleansed and limewashed ... ..	1
Total ... ..	<u>682</u>

TABLE IV.—RESULT OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Property.	Nature of Complaint.	Act under which proceedings instituted.	Result.
42 and 43, Elwell Street	Recovery of cost of work carried out in default	Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 36	Order for payment of work, and costs.
Cottage rear of 13, 14 and 15, Darlaston Road	Pull down dangerous cottage, unfit for human habitation	Town's Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, Sec. 75	Case adjourned, and defendant having executed work and paid costs, case withdrawn.
13, 14 and 15, Darlaston road	Dirty, dilapidated state of houses, and defective spouting and paving	Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 94	Case adjourned on three occasions, defendant having executed work and paid costs, case withdrawn.









