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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1909. —

WALTER C. GARMAN, M.D., Edin., Medical Officer of Health


TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Printed by Order of the Town Council.

WEDNESBURY:

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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

REPORT
UPON THE
HEALTH OF WEDNESBURY,
FOR THE YEAR 1909,

BY
WALTER GARMAN, M.D., Edin.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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 1909. The statistics are calculated upon an assumed population of 27,000—the same figure as last year. Having regard to the number of inhabited houses, this figure should be very nearly correct.

1.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during 1909 was 887 (males 454, females 433), which is equal to a birth-rate of 32·8 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 413, in which are included 12 deaths occurring in Public Institutions outside the town, and the death-rate was 15·2 per 1,000 of the population.

The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 191, or 47 per cent of the total deaths. Of these 127 were under one year of age.

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

	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Premature Birth	17	18	21	18	24
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	35	36	53	31	39
Scarlatina	—	2	—	5	6
Measles	29	2	27	—	11
Whooping Cough	7	13	1	8	15
Diarrhœa	17	47	8	29	18
Diphtheria	3	3	7	4	—
Other Causes	91	72	75	84	78
	199	193	192	179	191
Percentage of total Deaths	48·8	44·1	43·4	43·4	46·2

The next table gives the deaths due to zymotic disease. These numbered 63, and represent a death-rate of 2·3 per 1,000. For the purpose of comparison the corresponding figures for the previous four years are included in this table :—

	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Erysipelas	—	1	4	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1	1	1
Enteric Fever	8	3	4	1	2
Scarlet Fever	—	2	1	6	9
Measles	30	2	27	—	12
Diphtheria	7	3	7	4	1
Diarrhœa	17	50	10	31	18
Whooping Cough	8	14	1	8	16
Influenza	8	10	7	8	4
	78	86	62	60	63
Death-rate per 1,000	2·9	3·1	2·3	2·2	2·3

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

Year.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Total.
1905	75	29	104
1906	88	22	110
1907	102	25	127
1908	78	21	99
1909	80	22	102

The next table gives the figures dealing with Vaccination in Wednesbury during the year ending June 30th, 1909 :—

Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible.	Dead Unvaccinated.	Medical Postponements.	Certificates sent of conscientious objection.	Removals known.	Removals unknown.	Unaccounted for.
889	445	4	93	7	321	8	9	2

The Inquests held by the Coroner numbered 29, and may be thus classified :—

Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	15
Accidents	...	...	...	...	11
Suicide	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	29

The next table sets forth the deaths occurring during 1909 from all causes, classified according to diseases and ages for the four quarters, and of births for the same period :—

[illegible]

Following are the deaths of persons who belonged to Wednesbury, but who died in public institutions in other towns:—

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Age. Years.
Carcinoma of Pancreas		1	26
Septic Endometritis, Puerperal Septicæmia		1	24
Pneumonia, Empyema		1	2
Appendicitis, Hypostatic Pneumonia, Heart Failure	1		47
Strangulated Umbilical Hernia		1	59
Appendicitis, Peritonitis	1		30
Accidental Injuries, Shock	1		52
Burns, Shock	1		2
Burns		1	74
Measles and Tuberculous Testicles		1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Enteric Fever	1		20
Heart Failure	1		8

URBAN DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

Causes of, and ages at, death during the year 1909 :—

CAUSES 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	13	4	8	1			
Scarlet Fever	9		6	3			
Whooping Cough	16	6	9	1			
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1			1			
Croup	1		1				
Fever { Typhus							
Enteric	3				1	1	1
Other continued							
Epidemic Influenza	4					2	2
Cholera							
Plague	*						
Diarrhoea	18	12	6				
Enteritis	5	5					
Gastritis							
Puerperal Fever... .. .	2				1	1	
Erysipelas							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	22		3		2	17	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	13	4	4	2	3		
Cancer, Malignant Disease *... ..	18					13	5
Bronchitis	39	13	4			7	15
Pneumonia	42	14	9	2	4	7	6
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism							
Cirrhosis of Liver }	5					4	1
Venereal Diseases	2	2					
Premature Birth	24	24					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition							
Heart Diseases	18			2		12	4
Accidents	14	4		1	1	5	3
Suicides	3					2	1
All other causes	141	42	14	5		32	48
All Causes	413	130	64	18	12	103	86

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

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	23	4	8	6	41	15	11	15	2	4	3	6	3	8	3	6	117
	Uncertified...	3				3		1		2	1	1		1		1		10
Measles	...																1	3
Whooping Cough	...																1	6
Diarrhæa, all forms	...						2	5					1					12
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis	...						2		1					1			1	5
Premature Birth...	...	17	2	2	1	22	2											24
Congenital Defects	...	5		1		6	1											7
Injury at Birth	...	1				1												1
Want of Breast-milk, starvation	...		2	1	2	5	3	3	2		1			1	1	1	1	17
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...																	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...																	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis:	...																	
Tabes Mesenterica	...									1	1				1			3
Syphilis	...						1		1									2
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...			1		1	1		1									3
Convulsions	...								1									1
Bronchitis	...			1	2	3	2	1	3			2		1			1	13
Pneumonia	...				1	1			4	1	1				1	3		13
Suffocation, overlying	...	1				1				2	1	1		1				1
Other causes	...	2		2		4	1	1					1	1		1	1	14
		26	4	8	6	44	15	12	15	4	5	4	6	4	8	4	6	127

Following is a Table shewing vital statistics of whole district during the past ten years:—

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages, belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.			
1899	26000	900	34.6	177	196.6	480	18.4		480	18.4
1900	26000	925	35.5	161	174	526	20.2		526	20.2
1901	26544	876	33	137	156.3	387	14.5		387	14.5
1902	26700	954	35.9	148	155.1	450	16.8		450	16.8
1903	26700	900	33.7	130	144.4	437	16.3		437	16.3
1904	26700	933	34.9	162	173.6	503	18.8		503	18.8
1905	26700	871	32.6	126	144.6	407	15.2		407	15.2
1906	27000	871	32.2	133	152.7	446	16.5		446	16.5
1907	27000	910	33.7	126	138.4	442	16.5		442	16.5
1908	27000	894	33.1	128	143.1	408	15.1	4	412	15.2
Averages for years 1899-1908.		903.4	33.8	142.8	157.8	448.6	16.8	4	449	16.8
1909	27000	887	32.8	127	143.1	401	14.8	12	413	15.2

The following is a table giving the cases of Zymotic diseases notified to the Health Authority during 1909, under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act:—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.				Case Notified.						
				At all ages.	At ages					
					Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)...	...	...	...	18		3	4	7	4	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	39		3	3	4	26	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	234		74	142	10	8	
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	10			1	3	5	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	6				2	4	
Total	...	...	...	307		80	150	26	47	4

The foregoing figures will enable the Council to form an opinion as to the health of the town during the past year.

The average general death rate for the ten years 1899-1908 was 16·8 per 1000, whereas the rate in 1909 was 15·2. The zymotic rate was 2·3 per 1000, as compared with 3·1 for the decennial period. Taking the diseases of the zymotic group, it will be seen that no case of small-pox was notified during the year. This fact leads naturally to a statement respecting the year's vaccination.

Vaccination.—The record of vaccination performed during the year calls for more than passing comment. Of 796 children alive at the end of June, 1909, and born during the previous twelve months, 445 were successfully vaccinated, or 55·9 per cent. Included in the balance of unvaccinated cases—351 in number—were 321 exemptions on account of conscientious objections. This number is equal to 40 per cent. of the children who were due for vaccination. In this connection it is instructive to examine the rates since the Amended Vaccination Act came into operation on January 1st, 1899. The following are the figures :—

Year.	Number of Living Children.	Percentage of Successful Vaccinations.	Number of Exemptions.	Percentage of Exemptions.
1899	734	63·3	123	16·7
1900	816	61·6	67	8·2
1901	866	58·9	51	5·9
1902	804	84·7	41	5·9
1903	839	88·5	40	4·7
1904	810	89·2	38	4·6
1905	837	89·2	41	4·8
1906	794	87·5	68	8·5
1907	769	87·9	53	6·8
1908	860	72·6	195	22·6
1909	796	55·9	321	40·0

The position revealed by these figures is in my judgment both serious and deplorable. When in 1899 Parliament decided upon a policy of enforced vaccination, this special and reliable safeguard against small pox had almost fallen into disuse. Boards of Guardians, who frequently contained ardent Anti-Vaccinators, had ceased to prosecute defaulters, and Vaccination Officers, unsupported by their employers, were unable to pursue their duties with any show of

authority. All this, however, was greatly altered by the Amended Act of 1898—and immediately the results obtained were immensely improved. This, so far as Wednesbury is concerned, is well shown by the figures supplied. The percentage of successful vaccinations gradually rose, until in 1904 and 1905 it amounted to 89·2, and that of exemptions fell to 4·6. Curiously enough, however, the Authorities conceived the idea that the Act was an oppressive measure. Continuity of so highly successful a policy was abandoned, and the existing Act was modified in such a manner as to enable any objector to obtain an exemption without trouble or expense. The immediate effect of this uncalled for step, a step wholly retrograde in character from the health standpoint, is seen in the figures under review. Instead of 87·9 per cent. of successful vaccinations, with 6·8 per cent. of exemptions, as in 1907, we find the corresponding rates in 1908—72·6 and 22·6 respectively. While in the year 1909 those rates were—55·9 and 40.

The steady administration of the Act as it stood would very soon have rendered the country safe from small pox—*i.e.*—as safe as is possible without providing for the equally necessary re-vaccination. On the other hand the retrograde policy now in full swing, will, if persisted in, leave the country open to further outbreaks of small pox, with all the attendant expense and dangers.

Scarlet Fever.—Of this disease 234 cases were notified, as compared with 173 cases in 1908, 120 cases in 1907, and 78 cases in 1906. As would naturally be expected with an increased number of cases, the number of deaths was greater. These numbered nine, as compared with six in the previous year. It is by no means a satisfactory state of things, although no worse probably than the experience of neighbouring towns where imperfect isolation is practised. In those towns scarlet fever patients are isolated so long as beds are available; after which all surplus cases are left for treatment in their homes.

Diphtheria.—While scarlet fever during the past four years has been increasingly prevalent and fatal, diphtheria has been less so. In 1906 there were 47 cases with three deaths, in 1907, 33 cases with seven deaths, in 1908, 29 cases with four deaths, and in 1909, 18 cases with only one death. It is curious to observe how the incidence and mortality of a disease vary from year to year, and also how in those respects, diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria, which

are so apt to occur in the same patient, may to a considerable extent balance each other from one year to another—*i.e.*—one disease being more prevalent when the other is less so.

Enteric Fever.—Of this disease ten cases were notified, of which three proved fatal. I am pleased to be able to report that the disease never caused anxiety during the year, inasmuch as it never threatened to be epidemic. The cases were all sporadic, and no suspicion ever arose of any one case having arisen in connection with another. As a matter of fact the Isolation Hospital was not free from patients until March 16th, when the last case, admitted at the end of 1908, was discharged cured after a prolonged and tedious illness. The figures shewing the cost of maintenance of the cases treated in Hospital will be found in your Inspector's Report.

Puerperal Fever.—Six cases were notified, of which two proved fatal. Considering that 887 births were registered, and that a very high percentage of the women were attended solely by midwives, the record may be regarded as highly satisfactory.

Measles was accountable for 13 deaths, and was most troublesome during the third and fourth quarters of the year. The localities chiefly affected were King's Hill and Moxley. So many of the infants in those localities were affected by the end of June, that school closure was resorted to at the beginning of July in the case of King's Hill Provided School, St. Andrew's Church School, King's Hill, and Moxley Church School. Only the infant departments were closed, and in two instances for a period of three weeks; whilst in the case of the third school, two weeks sufficed to get over the difficulty.

I have previously directed attention to the occurrence of epidemic outbreaks of measles, in the above-mentioned localities, whilst other parts of the town have remained unaffected. The explanation is doubtless to be found in the fact that the social and commercial life of the King's Hill and Moxley areas is rather with Darlaston than Wednesbury, as a result of the large Old Park Works acting as a barrier on the Wednesbury side; whereas King's Hill and Moxley are directly continuous with Darlaston, which is in consequence much more accessible.

Zymotic Enteritis.—Eighteen deaths resulted from this disease as compared with 31 deaths in 1908, and all arose in children

under five years of age: while 14 occurred during the third quarter of the year. No features were associated with the cases which call for special comment.

Whooping Cough affected a large number of children, and especially during the first two quarters of the year. No fewer than sixteen deaths resulted from this disease, of which eight occurred in the first quarter, and five in the second. The affection is difficult to control, owing to its running frequently a very protracted course, and to the fact that the public for the most part regard it as a minor ailment, calling for little or no treatment.

A considerable amount of general sanitary work has been carried out during the year. Attention has chiefly been directed to the abatement of nuisances depending upon defective drainage and insanitary middens by the substitution of water closets and the connection of the drains with the deep sewers. Full details of these matters will be found in the report of your Sanitary Inspector which is appended.

I am pleased to say that no conditions calling for the use of the Isolation Hospital have arisen, apart from the treatment of cases which occurred at the end of 1908, and were admitted before the end of that year. This leads me to express the hope that the Mining Engineer who is advising the Council may shortly be able to declare the local subsidence as ended, so that the necessary repairs to the Hospital may be safely carried out. It is highly desirable that the Hospital should really be in a fit state for the reception of patients, inasmuch as the risk of an outbreak of small-pox is becoming daily greater in consequence of the highly imperfect system of vaccination at present in operation. To this a full reference has already been made.

I also hope that we may shortly receive the sanction of the Local Government Board for the adoption of such portions of the Public Healths Act Amendment Act (1907) as are needed to enable the Council to deal effectively with nuisances depending upon unpaved yards and courts.

I likewise feel it my duty to recommend to the Council the desirability of the provision of means for the systematic disinfection of bedding and clothing from infected premises, and in doing so I

have specially in mind the endemic prevalence of scarlet fever in the town. I am not in a position to demonstrate the degree of benefit which would result from such systematic disinfection in the direction of checking the persistence of this disease; but I am of opinion the disinfection of the houses can give only very limited protection, so long as all the bedding and clothing are allowed to remain laden with the scarlatinal poison.

In conclusion, I may say that, speaking generally and apart from all the points I have specially emphasised, a survey of the figures presented to your notice should lead the Council to form a favourable opinion of the health of the town.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER GARMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT—BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
WEDNESBURY TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my third Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Wednesbury and review of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1909. The statistics show that a large amount of work has been done, and a large number of most useful sanitary improvements effected.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Over 4,038 visits, inspections, or re-inspections have been made, including house to house inspections, the investigations of complaints, and inspections during the time work was in progress. A large number of remediable defects were discovered and dealt with.

NOTICES SERVED.

In addition to a large number of letters forwarded to owners and occupiers, requesting them to carry out sanitary improvements, 222 preliminary notices have been served, particulars of which are set out in Table II.

The premises in respect to which letters or notices have been sent were revisited from time to time. In the majority of cases these letters or notices were sufficient to bring about the abatement of the nuisance.

In many cases owners have admitted the serious character of the nuisance, but, owing to the bad state of trade, they were unable to carry out the requirements of the notice, and promised to carry out the work early in the new year.

One hundred and twelve statutory notices were served on your instructions.

HOUSE INSPECTION.

Many of the houses have fixed window frames, which should be replaced by sash windows, in order that an abundance of fresh air may be admitted to the houses.

It is to be regretted that the occupants of many of the houses, especially in the poorer parts of the town, have fastened up the doorway between the kitchen and scullery, and let the front room downstairs as a separate dwelling. This interferes with the through ventilation, and causes overcrowding, especially in the rear downstairs room.

In the majority of the houses the food pantry is in closest connection with the warmest room of the house, namely, the cooking kitchen. Without any great addition to the cost of building a suitable pantry could be provided. The Council should insist, whenever plans for new houses or alterations to existing houses are submitted to them, that adequate provision should be made for a properly placed and well-ventilated pantry.

Forty-two houses have been cleansed, limewashed, or re-papered, the internal brickwork, woodwork, and plastering receiving attention in 29 cases.

SURFACE PAVING.

Considerable thought and attention has been paid to the question of how to deal with the unpaved yards, and although no definite policy has been arrived at, the surface paving in 13 yards has been extended, relaid, or repaired upon notice.

DRAINAGE.

Nine houses, previously undrained, have been drained and connected to the sewer, and in six cases the drains were relaid or repaired. In 40 cases surface channels have been abolished and covered drains provided: 155 gullies and 178 inspection chambers

were fixed in connection with the new drains. In 33 cases choked drains have been opened and cleansed. Many entry gullies have been abolished, and the drains carried to the rear of the premises. This is a great improvement as it prevents any sewage flowing across the footpaths.

PRIVY AND WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The dilapidated, foul, wet and offensive privies and ashpits have again received considerable attention. The futility of attempting to repair these structures is becoming more and more pronounced year by year. The owners are beginning to realise that the water carriage system is the more economical method of abating the nuisances, as in addition to carrying out other permanent sanitary improvements, it removes the sources of pollution, the air and subsoil of the yard and surfaces of the street, and also removes the breeding ground of the house flies, which are carriers of infection.

During the past year 205 privies and 89 middens have been abolished and replaced with 201 water closets, as follows: 175 privies were converted into water closets; 14 closets were rebuilt, and converted into water closets; one additional water closet was provided, and nine water closets were substituted for privies in connection with factories or workshops. It is to be regretted that in one case the owner adopted the retrograde policy of substituting two waste water closets for privies. These closets are deep, and there is no means of flushing the cylinder, consequently some of the excreta is retained on the sides of the cylinder, and in the case of stoppage the defect is not noticed for a few days, and a large amount of excreta accumulates in the closet, and a large amount of labour is required to put the closet in order, whereas it is a comparatively easy matter to remove any stoppage in a fresh water closet. It should be remembered that in the case of waste water closets the water used is already greasy and dirty, consequently the closets are never over clean. Three waste water closets have been removed, and fresh water closets provided. Six pedestal wash-down water closets have been substituted for defective water closets.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

In 16 cases legal proceedings were authorised by you, but it was only necessary to take out summonses in three cases, particulars of which will be found in Table IV.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Four notices were served in respect to 21 houses. Two houses were closed, one on receipt of notice, and the other by order of the Court. 19 houses were made fit for habitation.

YARDS AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES USED IN COMMON.

The keeping of fowls and animals should be prohibited except in yards of sufficient open character, and under regulated conditions as to structure and distance from dwelling houses. This is a question upon which a large majority of the public require enlightenment. 32 notices were served in respect to filthy yards and approaches to closets, 10 with respect to improper keeping of animals, and 25 with respect to choked drains and water closets.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

The slaughter houses have been periodically visited, two formal seizures of unsound food were made, and magistrates' orders for destruction were obtained. The vendors in several instances voluntarily destroyed food when their attention was called to its unwholesome condition. There are now 16 slaughter houses on the register, five of which are subject to annual licence. Periodical visits have also been paid to the butchers', fish, game, poultry, and green-grocers' shops. The food exposed for sale was, with few exceptions, of fair quality.

INSPECTION OF COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

I am glad to report that all the cowsheds in the borough have now been thoroughly overhauled, and many permanent improvements have been carried out. Every effort is made to see that the regulations are adhered to, which is rendered difficult owing to some of the cowsheds being of old-fashioned construction. The paving in front of the cowsheds should be considerably extended, and manure pits provided further away from the sheds, and more attention should be paid to the grooming of the cows.

There are now 90 premises registered for the sale of milk. Nine applications were made for premises to be registered, all of which, after alterations and repairs to the premises had been carried out,

were granted. It is to be regretted that so many general shops are registered for the sale of milk. The shops are usually overcrowded with goods of various description, including lamp oil, &c., and no attempt is made to keep the shop free from dust.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All cases of infectious disease notified have been visited, and printed and verbal instructions have been given from time to time during the progress of the disease. 205 rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious disease. I would urge that more use of this means of prevention should be made with respect to rooms occupied by consumptive patients. I shall be glad to receive information when any consumptive patients change their residence in order that those vacated may be thoroughly disinfected before being again occupied. In two cases infected bedding was destroyed and replaced.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The hospital was in use for four months, viz., from November 19th, 1908, to March 16th, 1909, during which time seven patients suffering from typhoid fever were treated. They remained in hospital a total of 394 days, giving an average of 56 days for each patient. The total cost, including nurses' wages, horse hire, coal, gas, &c., but exclusive of medical attendance, amounted to £38 9s. 5d., which gives the following averages :

£5 9s. 9½d. per patient for whole period.

13s. 8½d. per patient per week.

1s. 11¼d. per patient per day.

The detailed expenditure was as follows :

Nurses' Wages	...	...	...	11	19	1
Milk	...	...	...	6	14	10½
Meat	...	...	...	2	14	0
Bread	...	...	...	0	7	6
Groceries	...	...	...	1	2	0
Brandy	...	...	...	2	3	9
Soda Water	...	...	...	0	8	8½
Fish	...	...	...	0	4	5
Vegetables	...	...	...	0	3	6
Washing and Cleaning	...	...	...	2	7	0
Extra Coal and Gas	...	...	...	7	0	0
Horse Hire	...	...	...	1	0	0
Hardware and Sundries	...	...	...	2	4	7
				<hr/>		
				£38	9	5

INSPECTION OF COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are now three Common Lodging Houses in the Borough; one house has been closed, and another registered for a period of twelve months under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. They are visited periodically, and are generally found in fair order.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

There are 127 Workshops including 29 bakehouses. The following is a list of the trades carried on in the workshops:—

Bakers	29	Laundry	1
Boots and Shoes	10	Millinery	7
Breezes	3	Maltsters	1
Blacksmiths & Coachsmiths	14	Mason	1
Brushmaker	1	Marine Store Dealer	1
Carpenters and Joiners ...	5	Nut Makers	4
Cabinet Maker	1	Organ Builder	1
Clothiers and Tailors ...	9	Printers	2
Cycles	2	Packing Case Maker	1
Coopers	2	Plumbers	2
Dressmakers	11	Saddlery	2
Files	6	Stamper and Socket Filer	1
Grease and Oil	1	Stocking Knitting ...	1
Galvanising	1	Sugar Boiler	1
Gun Locks	6		

Factories.—During the year two notices were received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories. In one case the necessary work has been carried out, and the other matter is now securing attention.

Workshops.—These have been visited periodically to ascertain if the regulations respecting cleanliness and ventilation were being carried out.

Homework.—Where lists have been received containing the names and addresses of homeworkers, the premises were inspected, and with the exception of one case were found in order. In the case referred to the house was cleansed, limewashed and repapered.

Bakehouses.—These have been visited from time to time, and were found in fair order, but more attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the floors.

The following table gives particulars of nuisances occurring in factories and workshops, and the sanitary improvements effected:—

Nuisances.	Sanitary Improvements effected.
Two dirty bakehouses	cleansed and limewashed.
Dirty house (outworker)	cleansed, limewashed and re-papered.
Foul privy closets	four WC's and urinal accommodation provided.
Insufficient closet accommodation for females	water closet provided.
Two dirty workshops	cleansed and limewashed.
Dirty closet accommodation	cleansed and limewashed.
Insufficient closet accommodation	water closet provided.
Foul privy closets	three WC's and urinal accommodation provided.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

During the year six boats were inspected, and with one exception, when the certificate was not produced, were found in order. When the owner's attention was called to the omission it was at once remedied.

MARKETS.

The Markets have been held regularly and inspected during market hours. The food exposed for sale was, with few exceptions, of fair quality. Some measures should be adopted to prevent the children from picking up and eating the decomposing fruit from under the stalls, after close of the market. The eating of such fruit must have an injurious effect.

CLEANSING AND THE REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

As in previous years the lending of whitewash brushes has been taken advantage of to a great extent by the public, thus promoting cleanliness. 208 brushes were lent out, and 850 bottles and 654 bags of disinfectant have been given away.

The value of disinfection, properly carried out, is indisputable, but the wholesale distribution of bottles or bags of disinfectant is a serious matter. In most cases the disinfectant is simply thrown down and creates a feeling of false security, masking the indications of bad sanitation. Soap, water, and elbow grease should mechanically remove all dirt, and the drains should be flushed occasionally with a tub of water. If these precautions are carried out there is little need for disinfectants, the distribution of which could be restricted.

The work of the removal of nightsoil from privies, etc., and dry refuse from ashpits, and the weekly removal of the contents of dust bins has been executed by the contractor. 3021 applications were received for the emptying of privies and ashpits, and 4268 privies, cisterns or ashpits, and 20179 dust bins were emptied and cleansed. There are now 583 dust bins on the list, an increase of 249 during the year.

The provision of dust bins is far preferable to ashpits. They are more cleanly, and frequent removal of refuse is thus secured, and it is satisfactory to note that where alterations in existing sanitary accommodation takes place the owners are urged to provide dust bins.

Without any expense whatever, and with little or no trouble, householders could make their environment more sweet, render less unpleasant the refuse, and diminish the cost of its removal, were they to burn daily in the kitchen fire all the animal and vegetable waste matter, old paper, etc., of their households. Not only so, but were this simple sanitary precaution generally taken, it would do much to reduce food contamination from the swarms of filthy house flies, which may be seen at certain seasons of the year. It would also lessen to a considerable degree the nuisance arising from waste paper and light refuse blowing about the tip.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT TOPPING, Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

House to House and Miscellaneous Inspections, and houses concerning which complaints have been received ...	2788
Re-inspections	1250
Visits to Slaughter-houses	422
„ Shops, Butchers	250
„ „ Fish, Game, and Poultry	115
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	81
„ Common Lodging Houses	79
„ Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses ...	121
Canal Boats inspected	6
Cases of Infectious Disease visited and reported upon ...	318
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Total number of visits and inspections made ...	5430
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Number of preliminary notices served... ..	222
„ statutory notices served	112
„ legal proceedings taken	3
„ letters written to owners <i>re</i> nuisances ...	355
Notices served under Housing of Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1903	4
Notices served under Canal Boats Acts	1
Reports sent to Surveyor <i>re</i> dangerous buildings, etc. ...	5
„ Water Co. <i>re</i> waste of water	10
Number of rooms disinfected	205
Samples of water taken for analysis	8
Houses from which bedding was destroyed and new bedding provided	2
Houses from which bedding was removed and disinfected	3
Number of ashpits reported for emptying	3021
„ privies, cisterns, and ashpits emptied ...	4268
„ dust bins emptied	20179
„ limewash brushes lent	208
„ bottles of disinfectant given away	850
„ bags of disinfectant given away	654

TABLE II.

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

			Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses	...	...	14	22
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings	...	...	5	16
Defective paving and surface channels	...	...	1	1
Defective eaves and downspouting	...	...	3	3
Insufficient drainage	...	...	14	35
Foul, untrapped, or defective drainage	...	...	5	18
Choked drainage and water closets	...	...	25	87
Insufficient privy accommodation	...	...	2	2
Insufficient ashpit accommodation	...	...	6	12
Foul, wet, open, and dilapidated privy-middens	...	...	54	162
Defective water-closet connections	...	...	8	15
Fouling of sanitary conveniences used in common			32	32
Overcrowded houses or rooms	...	...	14	14
Animals improperly kept	...	...	10	10
Offensive accumulations	...	...	6	6
Water in cellars	...	...	3	3
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	3	7
Dairies cowsheds, and milkshops not kept in accordance with regulations	...	...	5	5
Bakehouses not kept in conformity with Act	...	...	2	2
Factories and Workshops • do. do.	...	...	5	5
Slaughter-houses	...	...	1	1
Polluted wells	...	...	1	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	3	5
			222	464

TABLE III.

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

Interior of Houses—

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	42
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork have been carried out	...	...	29
Flooded cellars drained	...	...	4

Exterior of Houses—

Defective roofs made watertight	...	...	4
Houses without eaves, spouting, or with choked or defective spouting—new spouting provided, or existing spouting cleansed and repaired	...	...	22
Dangerous chimneys repaired	...	...	3
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks...			15

Yards and Outbuildings—

Surface paving in yards provided, renewed, or repaired	...	13
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable covers provided	...	1
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired...		6

Drainage—

Absence of or insufficient drainage. Premises drained and connected to sewer	...	9
Surface channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided	...	40
Defective drainage relaid or repaired	...	6
Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems	...	178
Foul untrapped drains. Stoneware gully traps fixed	...	20
Additional gullies fixed	...	155
Choked drains opened and cleansed	...	33

Privies, Water Closets and Ashpits—

Privies abolished	205
Middens abolished	...	...	...	...	...	89
Water-closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies	...	...	...	...	...	175
Closets re-built and converted into water-closets...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Waste water-closets substituted for privies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Additional water-closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fresh water closets substituted for waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C's. fixed for insanitary water closets	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dilapidated privies and ashpits repaired, covered over and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	6
Percolations of faecal matter from privies—privies, &c., cemented	...	...	...	...	...	4
Galvanized dust bins provided in lieu of ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	131
Additional dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	20
Choked water closets opened and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective W.C. connections made good...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient supply of water to W.C's. Flush improved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Absence of sufficient urinal accommodation. Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	...	2

Water supply—

Houses without a proper supply of drinking water—water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	13
Polluted wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	2

Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—

Nuisances from the keeping of swine abated	...	...	...	...	9
Offensive accumulations removed from premises	2

Overcrowding—

Houses overcrowded—numbers reduced	12
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Miscellaneous—

Filthy approaches to privies cleansed by occupiers	10
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Housing of the Working Classes Act—

Houses unfit for human habitation closed or repaired	21
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