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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1910.


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 1910,

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 1910. Inasmuch as the census will so shortly be available for determining the actual population of the town, I have thought it inadvisable to enter with any speculation as to the possible figures, but have based the statistics upon an assumed population of 27,000, as during the previous three years.

1.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during 1910 was 839 (males 426, females 413), which is equal to a birth-rate of 31 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 365, in which are included 16 deaths occurring in Public Institutions outside the town, and the resulting death-rate was 13·5 per 1,000 of the population.

The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 148, or 40·5 per cent of the total deaths. Of these 83 were under one year of age.

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

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Premature Birth	18	21	18	24	15
Bronchitis and Pneumonia.....	36	53	31	39	24
Scarlatina	2	—	5	6	2
Measles	2	27	—	11	26
Whooping Cough.....	13	1	8	15	10
Diarrhœa	47	8	29	18	11
Diphtheria	3	7	4	—	—
Other Causes	72	75	84	78	60
	193	192	179	191	148
Percentage of Total Deaths	44·1	43·4	43·4	46·2	40·5

The next table gives the deaths due to zymotic disease. These numbered 51, and represent a death-rate of 1·8 per 1,000. For the purpose of comparison the corresponding figures for the previous four years are included in this table :—

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Erysipelas.....	1	4	1	—	1
Puerperal Fever	1	1	1	1	2
Enteric Fever	3	4	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	2	1	6	9	2
Measles	2	27	—	12	29
Diphtheria	3	7	4	1	1
Diarrhœa	50	10	31	18	1
Whooping Cough.....	14	1	8	16	10
Influenza	10	7	8	4	5
	86	62	60	63	51
Death Rate per 1,000	3·1	2·3	2·2	2·3	1·8

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

Year.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Total.
1906	88	22	110
1907	102	25	127
1908	78	21	99
1909	80	22	102
1910	47	16	63

The next table gives the figures dealing with Vaccination in Wednesbury during the year ended June 30th, 1910 :—

Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible.	Dead Unvaccinated.	Medical Postponements.	Certificates sent of conscientious objection.	Removals known.	Removals unknown.	Unaccounted for.
865	343	5	75	4	420	6	12	—

The Inquests held by the Coroner numbered 15, and may be thus classified :—

Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	3
Accidents	...	...	...	...	9
Suicide	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	15

The next table sets forth the deaths occurring during 1910 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.
Burns, Shock	1		12
Burns, Exhaustion	1		37
Epitheliomæ of Cæcum, Septic Pneumonia	1		60
Strangulated Herniæ, Peritonitis		1	65
Burns, Shock		1	15
Sarcoma of Kidney		1	30
Concussion of Brain (Accident)	1		28
Rheumatic Endocarditis, Heart Failure ...	1		64
Acute Endocarditis		1	22
Diabetes Mellitus	1		17
Diabetes Mellitus		1	59
Tubercular Meningitis... ..		1	1
Burns, Shock	1		2
Burns, Septic Poisoning		1	25
Burns, Shock		1	7
Burns, Shock	1		56

URBAN DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

Causes of, and ages at, death during the year 1910.

Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District:—

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	29	8	18	3			
Scarlet Fever	2		2				
Whooping Cough	10	3	7				
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1			1			
Croup	1			1			
Fever { Typhus... ..							
Enteric... ..							
Other continued							
Epidemic Influenza	5					3	2
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa... ..	12	8	3			1	
Enteritis	1		1				
Gastritis							
Puerperal Fever... ..	2				1	1	
Erysipelas	1						1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	16		1	2	1	12	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	14	3	7	1		3	
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	23					14	9
Bronchitis	30	9	5			7	9
Pneumonia	17	1	9		3	1	3
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism							
Cirrhosis of Liver	3					2	1
Venereal Diseases	4	3	1				
Premature Birth	15	15					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1				1		
Heart Diseases	34		1		2	18	13
Accidents	16		2	3	2	7	2
Suicides	3				1	2	
All other causes	125	32	11	4	5	31	42
All Causes	365	82	68	15	16	102	82

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1910.

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.	Ttl. deaths under 1 yr.
ALL CAUSES.	{ Certified ... Uncertified ...	17 1	2 2	4 4	1 1	23 2	13 13	6 6	10 10	5 5	4 4	3 3	5 5	5 5	5 5	2 2	5 5	81 2
Measles ...	...							1	1		1		3		1		3	
Whooping Cough ...	...							1	1		1							
Diarrhœa, all forms ...	...						2	1	1	1			1			1	1	
Enteritis, Muco - Enteritis, Gastro - Enteritis ...	...						1											
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...	...								1		1							
Premature Birth ...	...	12	1	1		14	1											
Congenital Defects ...	...	3		2		5	1	1	3	1	1							
Injury at Birth ...	...	1				1												
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ...	...														1			
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	...	2	1			3	4	2	1			1			1			
Tuberculosis, Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica															1	1		
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	...			1		1			1	1					1			
Syphilis ...	...						1											
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...																
Convulsions ...	...				1	1	1			1							1	
Bronchitis ...	...						2	1	2	1		1	1					
Pneumonia ...	...											1						
		18	2	4	1	25	13	6	10	5	4	3	5		5	2	5	83

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			
1900	26000	925	35.5	161	174	526	20.2		526	20.2
1901	26544	876	33	137	156.3	387	14.5		387	14.7
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
1909	27000	887	32.8	127	143.1	401	14.8	12	413	15.2
Averages for years 1900-1909.		902.1	33.7	137.8	152.5	440	16.4		442	16.5
1910	27000	839	31	83	99.8	349	13.5	16	365	13.5

The following is a Table giving the cases of Zymotic Diseases notified to the Health Authority during 1910, under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.						
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	11		2	8		1	
Erysipelas	40	1	5	5	4	21	4
Scarlet Fever	67		15	41	9	2	
Enteric Fever	4				1	3	
Puerperal Fever	4				4		
Totals	126	1	22	54	18	27	4

The foregoing figures will enable the Council to form an opinion as to the health of the town during the past year, and they will be seen to be, in most particulars, exceptional.

The average general death rate for the ten years 1900-1909 was 16·5 per 1000, whereas the rate in 1910 was only 13·5, which is a record in the history of Wednesbury. The zymotic rate was 1·8 per 1000, as compared with 2·9 for the decennial period. In considering the diseases of the zymotic group separately, it will be seen that no case of small-pox was notified during the year. This fact leads naturally to a statement respecting the vaccination carried out during the year.

Vaccination.—The amount of vaccination performed during the year calls for more than passing comment. Of 790 children alive at the end of June, 1910, and born during the previous twelve months, 343 were successfully vaccinated, or 43·4 per cent. Included in the balance of unvaccinated cases were 420 exemptions, on account of so-called conscientious objections on the part of parents. This number is equal to 53·1 per cent. of the children who were due for vaccination. In this connection it is instructive to examine the figures since the Amended Vaccination Act came into operation on January 1st, 1899.

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
1910	790	43·4	420	53·1

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; in 1909, 55.9 and 40; and in 1910, 43.4 and 53.1.

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 expenses and dangers.

It is specially for this reason that it behoves us to see that our hospital is ready for small-pox patients at any moment, for I entertain no doubt that sooner or later we may be called upon to deal with an outbreak of small-pox.

Scarlet Fever.—Of this disease 67 cases were notified, as compared with 234 in 1909, 173 in 1908, 120 in 1907, and 78 cases in 1906. Only two fatal cases occurred, a number which represents a death rate of 3 per cent., and which is not at all excessive. It indicates quite a mild type of poison, and certainly it was quite the exception to meet with a severe case of the disease. Although isolation of Scarlet Fever is not attempted in Wednesbury, there can be no doubt that the town's statistics compare quite favourably with those of neighbouring towns where imperfect attempts at

isolation are made, and where in consequence the system breaks down. Every effort is made to keep the full complement of Scarlet Fever beds occupied, and when this has been done the surplus cases are left at home for treatment. For all practical purposes they might all quite well be left at home with equally good results so far as regards checking the outbreak, and with the additional effect of saving a large amount of public expenditure. If anything were needed to confirm us in our opinion as to the futility of isolating Scarlet Fever, especially in a partial manner, surely it may be found in the experience of West Bromwich during the past year. With an estimated population of 70,500 there were 373 cases of Scarlatina notified, of which 304 were treated in hospital. In Wednesbury, only 67 cases of the disease were notified, from an estimated population of 27,000, and isolation was not attempted. Nor can it reasonably be urged that any circumstance exists, as pertaining to either town, which renders fallacious a comparison of the experience of the two places. Both are densely populated, and have a population overwhelmingly artisan in its composition. Both are co-terminous and merge imperceptibly, the one into the other. Each has numerous residents who are employed in the neighbouring town; each has school children who are educated, in part, in the schools of its neighbour. The two towns have the same water supply, and in the main have an identical system of sewage disposal. Where, then, can any justification be found for isolating the disease? Certainly not in the death rate, for we are no worse off than our neighbours.

Diphtheria.—Only 11 cases of this disease were notified, of which one proved fatal. This is a most satisfactory record.

Enteric Fever.—Only four cases were notified, and none proved fatal. Such a result, as also that from Diphtheria is, so far as I can ascertain, without parallel in the history of the town.

Puerperal Fever.—Four cases were notified, of which two terminated fatally. Seeing that 839 births were registered, these figures are not unsatisfactory.

Measles—This disease prevailed in severe epidemic form during the first quarter of the year, and occasioned no fewer than 29 deaths, of which 26 were under five years of age. This was the extension of the outbreak which arose during the third and fourth quarter of 1909, when the cases were met with almost entirely in

the King's Hill and Moxley districts. Having at length passed the barrier presented by the Old Park Works, the central and densely populated portion of the town was attacked, the fatal cases arising in Old Union Street, Bilston Road, High Street, Cross Street, Queen Street, St. James' Street, Dudley Street, Gladstone Terrace, Dale Street, Lloyd Street, Church Street, Brickkiln Croft, and Camp Street. Later on Crankhall Lane, Elwell Street, and Windmill Street were involved. During April the disease completely subsided, and since then, so far as I am aware, no cases have occurred. So large a number of fatal cases is much to be regretted, but, given the occurrence of an epidemic, it is an almost inevitable result. This is due to the negligence of parents in respect of what they erroneously regard as an insignificant disease. When thus regarded it ceases to be so, and complications affecting the respiratory tract frequently occur with fatal result.

Zymotic Enteritis never gave much trouble at any time during the year. Two deaths occurred in the first quarter, one in the second, five in the third, and four in the fourth. The usual summer outbreak was practically non-existent, a result attributable doubtless to the persistent rains which lasted in Wednesbury until the commencement of September. The consequent flushing, almost continuous during the summer months, kept the yards, courts, and drains thoroughly and effectively cleansed, and no fly plague occurred.

Whooping Cough.—This disease, as in the year 1909, when 15 deaths resulted, operated extensively during the year, and was responsible for 10 deaths, of which nine occurred during the first two quarters. With the incoming of summer weather the disease subsided. The severe weather with a damp and cold atmosphere leads to the persistence of the poison, and also disposes to those complications affecting the respiratory tract which so frequently prove fatal. The usual difficulty was experienced in dealing with the disease in consequence of the protracted course of the affection, and also of the indifference shewn by parents as regards treatment or the adoption of precautions.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Much persistent and useful sanitary work of a general kind has been accomplished during the year, and this has been mainly

in the direction of abating nuisances depending upon defective drainage and insanitary middens by the substitution of water closets and dry ash bins, and the connecting of drainage with the deep sewers. Full details of these matters will be found in the report of your Sanitary Inspector, which is appended to this report. An examination of the figures given will indicate that each of the past few years shews an increased amount of work of this character as compared with its predecessor. Another year has gone by without our having obtained the sanction of the Local Government Board to our adopting such portions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, as are needed to enable the Council to deal effectively with nuisances depending upon unpaved yards and courts. Notwithstanding this, however, it will be seen that the time has not been wholly lost. In a number of cases of serious nuisances, due to the lack of paving, notice has been served requiring the abatement of the nuisance, and the paving of the yard has been carried out in effecting such abatement.

The Isolation Hospital has been twice opened during the year, but only two cases were under treatment, and both were scarlatina patients. The first, a young girl, was admitted on July 13th, and discharged well on August 23rd. The second was a lad who entered Hospital on September 10th, and was discharged well on October 15th. Thus the average stay of each case in Hospital was 38 days. The circumstances surrounding each case were peculiar, and such as to justify the Sanitary Authority in calling the Hospital into requisition, although isolation of scarlet fever is no part of the policy favoured by them. I am still hoping that in the near future the Mining Engineer who advises the Council may report the termination of the subsidence which has disturbed the Hospital, so that the necessary repairs may safely be carried out. I regard it as highly desirable that the building should be kept in such a state of fitness as to make it available at any moment for the reception of small-pox patients. Day by day, after a long period of immunity, we are approaching the time when the Health Authority will be called upon to deal at short notice with an outbreak of small-pox. This danger is rendered all the more imminent by the daily increase of the number of unvaccinated persons—an increase altogether due to the laxity encouraged at headquarters in the administration of the law respecting vaccination.

Up to the present time nothing has been done in the direction of disinfecting systematically the infected bedding and clothing from Scarlatinal houses. This is a matter which the Sanitary Authority would do well to deal with. Without it, disinfection of rooms can only exert a modified influence; whereas, with it, we should have taken a practical step towards stamping out a disease which has become practically endemic, and which causes each year a considerable amount of sickness, apart altogether from fatal cases.

I am pleased to say that the necessity for school closure on account of illness never arose during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION.

With reference to this matter I may say that periodical inspection of meat slaughtered at the various houses is carried out, as well as of the slaughter-houses themselves. It may also be remembered that your Sanitary Inspector, in addition to the ordinary certificate, holds the special certificate qualifying him for the duties of meat inspection. During the year certain seizures of diseased meat were made, and of these details will be found in your Inspector's Report.

COWSHEDS.

The Cowsheds of the town are systematically inspected, although no veterinary inspection is made with a view to detecting specific cases of tuberculosis.

A consideration of the foregoing figures will enable the Council to form an opinion upon the state of the town's health during 1910. It will be plain that the figures constitute a record unequalled in the history of the town so far as former figures are available for comparison. At the same time it behoves one to construe the position with due caution, and to resist the inference that so favourable a result is an index of the general sanitary conditions prevailing.

In the main the very healthy period which I have reviewed resulted from atmospheric conditions of a highly exceptional and favourable character. Consequently we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a state of false security, but must be more than

ever determined to press forward upon those lines of safe and steady progress which, it may be confidently hoped, will carry us to a time, not far distant, of more uniform and increased salubrity.

Finally, I have pleasure in testifying to the assistance afforded me at all times by your Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER GARMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
WEDNESBURY TOWN COUNCIL.

INTRODUCTION.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Fourth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Wednesbury, viz., for the year ended 31st December, 1910.

Taking a general survey of the Sanitary Improvements carried out, it will be seen that the year has been one of continued progress in the effort to improve the sanitary condition of the Borough.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Over 3,150 visits, inspections, or re-inspections have been made, including house to house inspections, the investigation of complaints, and inspections during the time the work was in progress. A considerable number of 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, 210 preliminary notices affecting 597 houses were served, particulars of which are set out in Table II. One notice may embrace several defects.

The premises in respect of which letters or notices have been sent were re-visited from time to time. In the majority of cases these letters or notices were sufficient to bring about the abatement of the nuisance. The execution of the necessary work required by the notices has been much facilitated by interviews I have had with owners, agents, or builders, either at the properties concerned or at

the office, most owners manifesting a desire to comply with the requirements of the notices.

Ninety-four statutory notices were served in accordance with your instructions.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

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

WATER SUPPLY.

There are still a few houses in the Borough supplied with well water. During the year samples from four wells, supplying 30 houses with water, have been submitted for analysis. In all cases the Analyst certified that the water was unfit for drinking purposes. The wells were closed, and a supply from the South Staffordshire Water Works Company's mains was provided.

SURFACE PAVING.

This is a form of sanitary improvement which is most needed, especially in the case of yards to small properties. Many houses are damp, such dampness being frequently due to the want of impervious paving to carry away the rain water to a suitably placed drain.

DRAINAGE.

Nine houses, previously undrained, have been drained and connected to the sewer, and in twelve cases the drains were relaid or repaired. In 59 cases surface channels have been abolished and covered drains provided: 149 gullies and 230 inspection chambers were fixed in connection with the new drains. In 33 cases choked drains have been opened and cleansed.

A drain testing machine and outfit has been purchased. The drains and sanitary fittings at several premises have been examined and tested. In all cases defects were revealed which necessitated the drains being altered or repaired.

The Sanitary Department are prepared, upon request, to apply the smoke test, free of charge, to the drains of private houses, upon the following understanding:

In order to make a complete and satisfactory test it is necessary—

- (1) That the drains to be tested be cut off from the sewer. Where a manhole or inspection chamber exists, this is a simple matter ; but where there is no such chamber, the ground must be opened, and the drain exposed and broken into. The Corporation cannot undertake this work, but it must be done by the owner, or occupier, at whose request the drains are tested.
- (2) That the pipe or shafts ventilating the drains be blocked up. This involves the use of a ladder, and must also be done by the owner or occupier.

PRIVY AND WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The evils connected with privies and ashpits are now universally admitted. A large number are deep, foul, and contain a quantity of offensive liquid, and are without proper doors and coverings. They exist in the most crowded parts of the town, and are therefore in a position to do a considerable amount of harm. It is satisfactory to record that excellent progress has been made as regards the abolition of the privies and ashpits, and the substitution of water closets and dust bins. 265 privies and 154 ashpits have been abolished and replaced with 300 water closets, as follows : 233 privies were converted into water closets ; 29 closets were rebuilt, and converted into water closets ; four additional water closets were provided ; and 34 water closets were substituted for privies in connection with factories and workshops. As will be seen from the following table, this constitutes a record :

Year.	Con- version of privies into w.c's.	Closets re- built and converted into w.c's.	Additional w.c's. provided.	W.c's. sub- stituted for privies at factories or workshops.	Totals.	Number of dust bins.
1907	74	6		20	100	60
1908	188	27	5	6	226	334
1909	177	14	1	9	201	583
1910	233	29	4	34	300	866
Totals	672	76	10	69	847	1843

A large number of privies and ashpits remain to be dealt with, but we are approaching the time when the question of a refuse destructor may be advantageously discussed.

YARDS AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES USED IN COMMON.

As will be seen from Table II summary of the preliminary notices served, the department is fully alive to the necessity of impressing on the tenants a due sense of their responsibility. Most of the notices had reference to choked entry gullies, uncleanly state of sanitary conveniences or approaches thereto, and other notices dealing with overcrowding and the improper keeping of animals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All the cases of Infectious Disease notified have been visited. Printed and verbal instructions have been given from time to time during the progress of the disease. With regard to the precautions taken for preventing the spread of Infectious Disease the houses where cases occurred have been sprayed or fumigated with formaldehyde or sulphur. In cases of enteric fever, earthenware pails containing a disinfectant solution were provided, and the contents of the pails removed and buried and the pails thoroughly cleansed each morning. In two cases, where it was impossible to isolate the patients at home, they were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Hospital was in use from the 13th July to 23rd August, and 10th September to 15th October, during which time two patients suffering from Scarlet Fever were treated. They remained in Hospital a total of 76 days, giving an average of 38 days for each patient. The total cost, including nurse's wages, food, horse hire, etc., but exclusive of establishment charges, amounted to £5 19s. 6d., which gives the following averages:—

£2 19s. 9d. per patient for whole period.

10s. 7½d. per patient per week.

1s. 6¾d. per patient per day.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

The Slaughter-houses have been periodically visited. One formal seizure of unsound meat was made, and a magistrate's order for destruction was obtained. The vendors in several instances voluntarily destroyed unsound food when their attention was called to its condition. The food included the carcasses of two pigs, one sheep,

and portions of several carcasses, which on examination appeared to be tuberculous.

There are now 16 slaughter-houses on the register, five of which are subject to annual licences.

Periodical visits were paid to the shops and other places where food is prepared or exposed for sale.

INSPECTION OF COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The Cowsheds and Milkshops were visited at various times and were generally found in fair order. One cowshed was thoroughly overhauled, and additional ventilation was provided in several other cases.

There are now 80 premises registered for the sale of milk. Ten applications were made for premises to be registered, all of which, after alterations and repairs to the premises had been carried out were granted.

INSPECTION OF COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, one of which is subject to annual registration. In two cases notices were served to provide additional ventilation to the sleeping rooms. Otherwise they were generally found in fair order.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Ninety houses were dealt with under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, as unfit for human habitation. Of these 18 were closed, 12 houses demolished, 52 houses are being put into a sanitary state, and 18 are under consideration.

The demolition of dilapidated houses that are totally unfit for human habitation is a much needed reform. Not only are they an eye sore, but in many cases they impede proper and sufficient light and ventilation to the adjoining houses. It is, however, necessary to proceed with caution, to obviate undue friction.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out:—

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACTS, 1909

No. of Inspections.	Houses dealt with.			Results.					Houses reported to Council as unfit for Human Habitation.													Demolition Orders. Section 18.				
	Occupied.	Unoccupied.	Total.	Put in Sanitary Order.	Closed.	Demolished.	No. houses where work in is hand			Being dealt with.	By arrangement with Council without notice.			Notices. Section 15.			Closing Orders. Section 17.									
							No. of Houses.	Put in Sanitary order.	Closed.		Demolished.	No. of Houses.	No. Notices.	No. put in Sanitary order.	No. of Houses.	No. of Orders.	No. of Orders that became operative.	No. Notices served on Tenants.	No. of Houses put in Sanitary order.	No. of Houses Closed.	No. of Houses Demolished.	No. of Houses.	No. of Orders.	No. of Houses Demolished.		
217	70	20	90	—	18	12	12	52	18	28	—	12	6	33	2	—	46	8	8	11	—	6	2	4	2	4

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 143 Workshops, including 37 bakehouses, of which ten are kitchen bakehouses, on the Register. A detailed list of the trades carried on in the workshops is set out in Table V.

Factories.—During the year ten notices were received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories. In all cases the necessary work has been carried out.

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 found in order.

Bakehouses.—These have been visited from time to time, and were generally found in fair order. In five cases the bakehouses were cleansed and limewashed after notice.

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

Nuisances.	Sanitary Improvements effected.
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	Sixteen W.C's. provided.
Ditto	Two W.C's. provided (one for each sex.
Ditto	One W.C. provided for females.
Foul privy closets	Five W.C's. provided.
Ditto	Two W.C's. provided.
Ditto	Eight W.C's. provided.
Insufficient ventilation to bakehouse	Additional ventilation provided.
Defective ceilings in two bakehouses	In both cases the ceilings were boarded in.
Five dirty bakehouses	Cleansed and limewashed.
Defective spouting	Spouting renewed and repaired.
Two dirty workshops	Cleansed and limewashed.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

Eleven boats were inspected during the year. The Acts and Regulations seem to have been complied with, and no serious infraction

of the Regulations was found. My questions were generally respectfully answered, and I was promptly shown any part of the boats I wished to see.

MARKETS.

The Markets have been held regularly and inspected during market hours. Some improvement was noted in the quality of the food-stuffs brought and exposed for sale in the Market.

SCHOOL SANITATION.

During the year the sanitary conveniences at three schools have been remodelled on up-to-date lines.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC URINALS AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

These were inspected at various times, and were generally found in a fair condition. Those attached to the various public houses require more attention, and in the near future will require replacing.

The new sanitary conveniences (for ladies and gentlemen) in the Shambles are much appreciated, and are a great improvement on the old iron urinal which has been abolished. This is practically the only public accommodation for ladies in the town.

The public urinals are cleansed daily.

CLEANSING AND THE REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

Every effort is made to induce the occupiers to keep their premises in a clean sanitary condition. 209 whitewash brushes have been lent out. 180 gallons of liquid disinfectant and two tons of disinfectant powder was given away. A large amount of the disinfectants supplied to the public was rendered useless, and the cost of the same wasted, owing to the manner in which the same was used. It is impossible to disinfect a drain other than by flushing it with water. Surely if a drain is defective it should be repaired and not flushed with a disinfectant. Disinfectants are sometimes made to take the place of cleanliness, and in this respect constitute a danger. The only rational use for disinfectants is in connection with infectious diseases. In these cases there is one definite object in view, viz., to kill the germ causing the disease and prevent the infection spreading.

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. 2,796 applications were received for the emptying of privies and ashpits; 4,003 privies, cisterns or ashpits; and 34,727 dust bins were emptied and cleansed.

There have been 203 dust bins substituted for privy middens or dry ashpits, and 80 additional dust bins have been provided. There are now 866 dust bins on the list, an increase of 283 during the year. The constant change from ashpits, etc., to the portable dust bins, requires close attention to get the best results.

Dust bins are much preferable from a sanitary point of view. All fixed ashpits should be abolished, and dust bins substituted. I feel confident that if this course was universally followed it would prove a saving in the cost of removing the house refuse.

With regard to the disposal of the refuse, this is at present deposited on tips, which are as far as possible kept in a clean condition. This method is not satisfactory, and there are periods during the summer months when foul emanations arise from the organic matter deposited there. The most sanitary method of dealing with this refuse is by destruction in a properly constructed refuse destructor.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT TOPPING, Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector,

Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

TABLE I.

House to House and Miscellaneous Inspections, and houses concerning which complaints have been received ...	3150
Re-inspections	1573
Visits to Slaughter-houses	418
„ Shops, Butchers	237
„ „ Fish, Game, and Poultry	123
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	89
„ Common Lodging Houses	107
„ Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses	119
Canal Boats inspected	11
Cases of Infectious Disease visited and reported upon ...	206
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Total number of visits and inspections made ...	6033
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Number of preliminary notices served	210
„ statutory notices served	94
„ legal proceedings taken	2
„ letters written to owners <i>re</i> nuisances	419
Notices served under Housing of Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1903, and Housing, Town Planning, etc., Acts, 1909	23
Reports sent to Surveyor <i>re</i> dangerous buildings, etc. ...	15
„ Water Co. <i>re</i> waste of water	15
Number of rooms disinfected	86
Samples of water taken for analysis	4
Infected patients removed to Hospital	2
Houses from which bedding was destroyed and new bedding provided	3
Houses from which bedding was removed and disinfected ...	2
Number of ashpits reported for emptying	2796
„ privies, cisterns, and ashpits emptied	4003
„ dust bins emptied	34727
„ limewash brushes lent	209
„ gallons of liquid disinfectant given away	180
„ tons of disinfectant powder given away	2

TABLE II.

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

			Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses	...	...	12	31
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings	...	...	3	8
Defective paving and surface channels...	...	...	3	10
Defective eaves and downspouting	...	...	4	9
Insufficient drainage	...	...	17	46
Foul, untrapped, or defective drainage	...	...	8	56
Choked drainage and water closets	...	...	8	36
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	2	2
Insufficient accommodation for the storage of ashes, etc.	...	...	7	24
Foul, wet, open, and dilapidated privy-middens...	...	...	60	218
Defective water closet connections	...	...	6	14
Fouling of sanitary conveniences used in common	...	...	32	32
Overcrowded houses or rooms	...	...	11	11
Animals improperly kept	...	...	2	2
Offensive accumulations	...	...	2	2
Water in cellars	...	...	1	7
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	9	59
Dangerous wells or cisterns	...	...	3	4
Insufficient water supply	...	...	1	3
Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops not kept in accordance with regulations	...	...	3	3
Bakehouses not kept in conformity with Act	...	...	3	3
Factories and Workshops	do.	do.	3	3
Common Lodging Houses	do.	do.	3	5
Slaughter-houses	...	...	1	1
Polluted wells	...	...	3	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	3	3
			210	597

TABLE III.

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

Interior of Houses—

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	23
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork have been carried out	...	...	17
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	...	...	18
Dangerous chimneys repaired	...	...	3
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks...			10

Yards and Outbuildings—

Surface paving in yards provided, renewed, or repaired	...	6
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable covers provided	...	7
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired...		11

Drainage—

Absence of or insufficient drainage. Premises drained and connected to sewer	...	9
Surface channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided	...	59
Defective drains relaid or repaired	...	12
Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems	...	230
Foul untrapped drains. Stoneware gully traps fixed	...	21
Additional gullies fixed	...	149
Choked drains opened and cleansed	...	33

Privies, Water Closets, and Ashpits—

Privies abolished	265
Middens abolished	...	...	...	...	...	154
Water closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies	...					233
Closets rebuilt and converted into water closets...	...					29
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...		4
Fresh water closets substituted for waste water closets	...					1
Dilapidated privies and ashpits repaired, covered over and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Percolations of faecal matter from privies. Privies, etc., cemented	...	...	...	...	...	4
Galvanised dust bins provided in lieu of ashpits	...					203
Additional dust bins provided	...	...	...	...		80
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits	...					9
Choked water closets opened and cleansed	...	...	...	...		20
Defective W.C. connections made good...	...	...	...	...		10
Insufficient supply of water to W.C.'s. Flush improved...	...					2
Absence of sufficient urinal accommodation. Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	...	3

Water Supply—

Houses without a proper supply of drinking water. Water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	30
Polluted wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	4

Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—

Nuisances from the keeping of swine abated	...	...	...	...	8
Offensive accumulations removed from premises...	2

Overcrowding—

Houses overcrowded. Numbers reduced	13
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Miscellaneous—

Filthy approaches to privies cleansed by occupiers	2
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Housing of the Working Classes Act—

Houses unfit for human habitation closed	18
Houses unfit for human habitation pulled down...	...	...	...	...	12

Dairies and Cowsheds—

Cowsheds provided with sufficient means of lighting	...	2
" " " " ventilation	...	4
Cowsheds provided with sufficient means of drainage or drains repaired	... ... ... ... ...	1
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	... ... ...	3
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	... ...	5

Factories and Workshops—

Workshops or Workrooms cleansed	... ... ...	7
Insufficient closet accommodation. Water closets provided		19
Water closets substituted for privies at factories or work- shops	... ... ... ... ... ...	12
Additional ventilation or means of ventilation improved	...	2
Miscellaneous Nuisances	... ... ... ...	3
		<hr/> 1772 <hr/>

TABLE IV.
RESULT OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint.	Act under which proceedings taken.	Result.
Park Lane Houses	To close Polluted Well	Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 70.	Case adjourned <i>sine die</i> , defendant undertaking to securely cover wells, lay on proper water supply, and pay costs, 7s.
145-160, Walsall Road, King's Hill	To close Polluted Well	Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 70.	Order made to permanently close well, and payment of costs, 11s. 6d.

TABLE V.

BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1910, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1. INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		Prosecutions.
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	
Factories	119	16	
Workshop			
Workplaces			
Homeworkers' Premises	11		
Total	130	16	

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Other nuisances	2	2	2	
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	3	3		
Unsuitable or defective	3	3		
Not separate for sexes	2	2		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	5	5		
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork) see table 5 (3).				
Total	18	18	2	

TABLE V—*Continued.*

3.—HOMEWORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.						Inspection of Outworkers' Premises.	Instances	Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Sec. 18.
	Lists received from employers.			Addresses of Outworkers.					
	Twice in the year.			Received from other Councils.	Forwarded to other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.			
	Lists.	Contractors.	Outworkers. Workmen.						
Wearing Apparel— (1) Making, etc. ...	2		8	3			11		
Totals ...	2		8	3			11		

TABLE V—Continued.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.		5.—OTHER MATTERS.	
Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.	Class.	Number.
Bakers	34	Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5):	10
Boots and Shoes	14		
Breezes	3		
Blacksmiths & Coachsmiths	9		
Brushmaker	1		
Carpenters and Joiners ...	6		
Cabinet Maker	2		
Clothiers and Tailors ...	11		
Cycles	2		
Coopers	2		
Dressmakers	12	Notified by H.M. Inspector... Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	10
Files	6		
Grease and Oil	1		
Galvanising	1		
Gun Locks	7		
Laundry	1		
Millinery	8		
Maltsters	1		
Mason	1		
Marine Store Dealer ...	1		
Nut Makers	4		
Organ Builder	1		
Printers	2		
Packing Case Maker ...	1		
Plumbers	2		
Saddlery	2		
Stamper and Socket Filer ...	1		
Stocking Knitting	1		
Sugar Boiler	1		
Wheelwrights	5		
Total number of Workshops on Register	43		

1911.

(Signed),

W. C. GARMAN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

