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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

## 1943

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the Borough in respect of the year 1943—prepared in accordance with Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health dated 15th February, 1944.

Despite the strain and stress of unparalleled efforts called for in industry and civil defence—the vital statistics show that in this, the fourth year of war, the health of our people has been well maintained. There has been an increase in mortality of the older age groups, but a spirit of dogged determination coupled with an increased willingness to observe the laws of health and to adopt preventive measures has done much to preserve nutritional and physical fitness and to secure comparative freedom from infectious and other disease. The Infantile Mortality Rate is the lowest ever achieved.

In June Dr. L. M. Allen, who had served as Assistant Medical Officer of Health for over nine years, left to take a more senior appointment—her help in extending the Maternity and Child Welfare Services and loyal service to Civil Defence will be long remembered. In October Miss C. L. Evans, who since October, 1918, had rendered, as Health Visitor and School Nurse, devoted service to the Mothers and Children of the Borough, retired—we are grateful for all the help she gave in establishing our services. Similar appreciation must be expressed to Mrs. Timmins who resigned at the end of December, after being for twelve years in charge of the King's Hill District, and to Mrs. Gill, who for eight years as a Departmental Clerk had done much for the smooth running of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service.



To the Chairmen and Committee members I am again indebted for much support and encouragement ; from the Officers of other Departments I have received ever ready assistance, and from every member of the staff most loyal and willing help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

*A. H. Lynskey.*

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Wednesbury.

July, 1944.

ia/mom.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

Chairman : Alderman L. Whitehouse, J.P.  
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. C. Jackson, J.P.)  
Alderman G. W. Price, J.P., Councillors T. Berry, Dr. A. Frost, J.P.,  
T. King, Dr. G. I. Lambe, and Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P.

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**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.**

Chairman : Councillor Dr. G. I. Lambe.  
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. C. Jackson, J.P.)  
Aldermen C. Collins, J.P., G. W. Price, J.P., A. H. Westbury, J.P.,  
and L. Whitehouse, J.P. ; Councillors Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P., T.  
Berry, Dr. A. Frost, J.P., F. B. Gardner, T. Hollingsworth, T. King,  
Mrs. E. Price, F. A. Wadsworth, D. Wallis and Mrs. D. M. Wesson,  
J.P. ; Co-opted Members : The Mayoress (Mrs. D. C. Jackson),  
Mesdames Berry, Collins, J.P., Greenhough, J.P., Wadsworth,  
Walton, Whitehouse and Wilson.

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**WAR-TIME DAY NURSERY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

Chairman : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. C. Jackson, J.P.)  
Alderman L. Whitehouse, J.P., Councillors Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P.,  
Dr. A. Frost, J.P., Dr. G. I. Lambe, and Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P.



## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :  
 A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H.  
 Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical  
 Officer :  
 Miss L. M. Allen, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Resigned 30/6/43)  
 Miss E. L. J. Ryan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., L.M.(Rotunda)  
 (appointed 1/7/43)  
 Consultant Obstetrician : J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S.  
 Veterinary Surgeon : J. McClemon, M.R.C.V.S.  
 Chief Sanitary Inspector : F. J. Turner, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
 Additional Sanitary Inspectors : A. H. Matthews, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
 (R.A.M.C. since 11/3/40) ; W. A. Wells, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
 Health Visitors and School Nurses : Mrs. A. E. Boffey, C.M.B.,  
 Miss A. Davies, C.M.B., Miss J. Roberts, C.M.B., S.R.N., H.V.Cert.  
 R.S.I., Mrs. A. A. Timmins, C.M.B., S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.S.I.  
 Chief Clerk : Mr. J. A. Jackson.  
 Clerks : Miss M. Troman (W.A.A.F. 6/1/43), Miss K. E. E. Eccleston,  
 Miss A. James, Mr. J. W. Barber, (R.A.M.C., 17/10/40), Mr. S.  
 Matthewson (R.N. 26/11/42), Mr. G. Amos.

### SECTION A. Statistics :

Live Births : Legitimate : Total 626. Males 337. Females 289  
 Illegitimate : Total 17. Males 7. Females 10  
 Stillbirths : Legitimate : Total 22. Males 12. Females 10  
 Illegitimate : Total — Males — Females —  
 Deaths : Total 351. Males 176. Females 175.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes : 3. Sepsis Nil. Other Causes : 3.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	38.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	38.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	58.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	45
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	5
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	3

Year	Mid Year Population	Live Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under 1 year	Rate	All Ages	Rate
1938	33,370	601	18.0	43	71.5	406	12.1
1939	33,650	608	18.1	35	58.0	385	11.5
1940		571	17.8	35	61.0	390	12.2
1941		594	18.3	38	64.0	384	11.9
1942		633	19.6	31	49.0	327	10.1
1943		643	20.0	25	38.8	351	10.9

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION.  
Year 1943.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	TOTAL	WARDS				
											Kings Hill	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green	
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heart Disease ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis ...	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	-	1	-	2
Pneumonia ...	4	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	2
Diarrhoea ...	4	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	3
Premature Birth ...	4	1	-	1	6	1	1	-	-	8	2	2	-	-	4
Congenital Malformations, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Violent Causes ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
All Other Causes ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS...	9	1	1	1	12	3	6	1	3	25	6	2	1	-	16







The provisional rates for England and Wales, based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns for 1943, are :—Live Births, 16.5. Deaths, 12.1. Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births, 49.

Wednesbury may congratulate itself on rates which bear favourable comparison—in particular the Infantile Mortality Rate at 38.8 per 1,000 live births has reached an amazingly low level—for the last peace time year, 1938, the rate was 71.5, and in the bad old days of no infant welfare and very little public health services a rate of 250 per 1,000 was not unknown.

## SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services as detailed in Report for year 1938.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

#### Infant Welfare Centres :

Albert Street	...	Mondays and Thursdays	...	2.15 p.m.
King's Hill	...	Tuesdays and Fridays	...	2-15 p.m.
Mesty Croft	...	Mondays and Thursdays	...	2-15 p.m.

Attendances, 1943 :—

	Sessions	New Cases.		Total Attendances.		
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years	All ages
Albert Street	100	195	6	4549	1759	6308
King's Hill	102	139	12	2568	1124	3692
Mesty Croft	100	207	29	4540	2042	6582
Total Attendances (all Centres)	...	...	...	...	...	16,582

Percentage attendance notified live births ... 84.1

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres have been well maintained, and appreciation has been expressed that they have been able to function normally during the war years—a stable helpful element in the midst of change. These centres are for healthy babies in order that by skilled guidance and observation healthy growth may be promoted and happy childhood secured.

#### Ante-Natal Clinics :

	Sessions.	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Albert Street	49	213	664
King's Hill	24	113	350

Number of women attending during year : 381.

Percentage of women confined attending Clinics : 57.2.

Arrangements were made for confinement at the Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich for 134 women, who attended for ante-natal supervision at the Hospital.



**Home Visits :**

Ante-Natal	To Children Under 1 year.	To Children 1—5 years.	Total Visits.
341	2893	3254	6488

**Midwives :**

Dr. W. D. Carruthers, Medical Officer of Health of the Staffordshire County Council, who are the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, has given me the following particulars :—

Number of County Midwives practising in Wednesbury at 31/12/1943	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Private Midwives practising in Wednesbury at 31/12/1943	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Confinements attended by County Midwives during 1943 :—					
	As Midwife	...	...	...	389
	As Maternity Nurse	...	...	...	50

**Maternal Mortality :**

There were 3 deaths associated with child-birth. Rate 4.5 per 1,000 births. Inquiry was instituted in each instance and reports duly completed for the Ministry of Health. Almost invariably in these cases it is found that there has been neglect on the mother's part to take advantage of the very full facilities available for her care.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum :**

Two cases were notified ; in no instance did impairment of vision result.

**Child Life Protection :**

Under Sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936, one child was being received for reward at the end of the year.

On the 1st of June the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, came into force and appropriate action has been taken to meet its requirements.

**Illegitimate Children :**

Special care and attention has always been paid to these children by your Health Visitors and close co-operation is maintained with Sister Ellis of the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Moral Welfare Association, by whom assistance of great value to mother and child has always been freely accorded. The following are the figures of illegitimate live and still births for the last six years :—



Year	Illegitimate Live Births	Illegitimate Stillbirths
1938	10	—
1939	13	1
1940	14	—
1941	12	1
1942	10	2
1943	17	—

It will be seen that there has been no <sup>MARKED</sup> increase in these difficult cases during the war years. The recommendations of Ministry of Health Circular No. 2866, of the 1st October, 1943, are in general being exercised by the co-operation mentioned above.

### Standard of Cleanliness :

In regard to the under fives the standard has been well maintained—the paramount necessity is stressed at the Infant Welfare Centres and during Home Visits, and where infestation occurs prompt remedial measures are taken and every facility afforded parents by the provision of small tooth combs and ~~after~~ <sup>ANTI-</sup>lice preparations.

### Nutrition :

The provision of extra nourishment, vitamins, etc., for mothers and children under five continued during the year. The special allowances are :—

Expectant Mothers :

Milk : A pint a day (free if income below a certain limit) or at reduced price under National Milk Scheme.

Eggs : One shell egg at each allocation.

Two packets of dried eggs at each allocation.

Meat : An additional half ration.

Orange Juice : One 6 fluid oz. bottle every 9—12 days. Oranges : priority claim for first five days after arrival in shops.

Cod Liver Oil : Vitaminised Compound—one 6 fluid oz. bottle every six weeks or Vitamin A and D tablets—one packet of 45 every 6 weeks.

Children under five :

Milk : Seven pints weekly free or at 2d. a pint, or its equivalent in National Dried Milk—the mother of a baby under twelve months is also entitled to seven pints of liquid milk weekly at full retail price.

Eggs : Dried Eggs—two packets per allocation. Priority allowance of shell eggs at the rate of 3 eggs weekly for children from six to eighteen months.

Cod Liver Oil : One bottle of Vitaminised Compound every six weeks.



Orange Juice : Oranges priority as for expectant mothers and one six ounce bottle of concentrated orange juice every 3—4 weeks for an infant under six months. Thereafter one bottle every two weeks.

During the last month of 1943, 656 bottles of Cod Liver Oil Compound, 5,074 bottles of Orange Juice, 1,505 tins of National Dried Milk and 103 packets of Vitamin Capsules were issued to those eligible. For the last quarter of 1943 the actual issues of National Cod Liver Oil Compound, Fruit Juices, and the Vitamin A. and D. tablets when calculated as percentages of the estimated potential issues were :—

	National Cod Liver Oil Compound.	Fruit Juices.	Vitamin A. and D. Tablets.
England and Wales	26.0	49.8	40.6
Borough of Wednesbury	41.5	72.0	54.5

#### **War-time Day Nurseries :**

Rowley View—Matron : Miss D. Reynolds, S.R.N.

Walton Road—Matron : Mrs. D. D. Cowie, S.R.N.

Hours of opening : Monday to Friday—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday—7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Accommodation : 12 children under two years of age ; 28 from two to five years.

The nurseries are of the pre-fabricated type as supplied by the Ministry of Health—they are light, airy, well-equipped with trained staff and are supervised by the Authority's Medical Officers.

The devoted service of the Matrons and staff is winning for them well merited appreciation.

### **SECTION C.**

#### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

##### **Water :**

The Borough of Wednesbury lies within the Statutory Area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and water is supplied to all parts of the Borough. Mr. Fred J. Dixon, O.B.E., M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., the Company's Engineer-in-Chief, informs me that the supply is sufficient and constant and quality entirely satisfactory. The water supplied is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Turner) states that all houses in the Borough and therefore the whole population are now supplied by direct water supply.

Bacteriological and chemical tests have shown a maintenance of the customary high standard.



**SECTION D.****HOUSING.**

An acute shortage of houses exists—the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Turner) informs me that 78 houses are still required to re-house families living in houses awaiting demolition in the Portway Road Clearance Area and a further 10 for those still residing in the Dale Street Area, and there are in addition approximately 55 Individual Demolition cases to re-house.

The Housing Manager (Mr. T. W. Burns, F.I.Hsg.) reports that of the 3,080 Council Houses in the Borough approximately 430 house more than one family.

The first post-war year calls for the provision of some 700 houses—the provision for newly married persons, industrial needs and future slum clearance will necessitate much greater provision later.

Mr. Arthur Booth, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., Borough Engineer, Architect and Surveyor, has prepared a draft Town Plan in which Industrial, Residential, Commercial Shopping, Administrative, Recreation and open space areas have been allocated, with provision for companion buildings, e.g., Churches, Schools, Clinics, Branch Libraries, Estate Shops, etc.

A schedule of sites for post-war housing has been drawn up and lay-outs for the residential areas are being prepared.

**SECTION E.****INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

The Food and Drugs Authority is the Staffordshire County Council, and Dr. W. D. Carruthers—the County Medical Officer of Health—reports as follows in regard to sampling during 1943 :—

**Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

Particulars of samples of food taken during 1943.

Article of Food	No. of Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk ... ..	10	10	—
General Foods	23	22	1

An informal sample of Powdered Gelatine was reported against by the County Analyst as unsuitable for food, owing to the presence of 57 parts per million of zinc. Owing to the small quantity in the shop an official sample could not be taken so the matter was left pending further deliveries but none was available.

**Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.**

Designation.	Total Samples.	Cleanliness.		T.B.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	
Pasteurised ...	4	1	3	—
Accredited ...	1	—	1	—
Non-designated ...	15	6	9	—

All the Pasteurised samples passed the Phosphatase Test for Pasteurisation.



**SECTION F.****PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

A table giving the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in their age groups and ward distribution will be found on page 12.

Diphtheria cases notified 124 (34 in 1942). It will be noted that the incidence amongst the older age groups, to which I drew attention in the Annual Report for 1942, continues. Those cases occurring in industrial establishments are apt to give rise to a certain amount of anxiety amongst employees, and in one establishment this was of such a degree as to be likely to cause dislocation of important work. In addition to routine preventive measures, and with the helpful co-operation of Dr. J. L. Edwards, the County Bacteriologist, the works were visited, the personnel addressed, and some 315 nose and throat swabs were taken in one and three-quarter hours. A report by Dr. Edwards was published in the July number of the Monthly Bulletin of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service. The procedures adopted had the desired reassuring effect.

Of the cases under 15 years of age, 29 had received protective treatment. It was particularly noted that these cases were of a very mild type—constitutional disturbance usually being slight. No death occurred amongst children who had received protective treatment.

747 Throat Swabs were sent to the County Laboratory, in addition to those sent in connection with Special Factory Investigation.

126 showed Morphological Diphtheria Bacilli.

621 showed no Diphtheria Bacilli.

Notifications of Measles numbered 622, compared with 38 in 1942 ; Scarlet Fever 104, compared with 177 ; Whooping Cough 57, compared with 134.

**Immunisation against Diphtheria:**

In 1943, a total of 1,163 children received protective treatment against diphtheria, 706 of 0—4 years inclusive, 457 of 5—14 years inclusive. Since September, 1936, when protective treatment commenced, 5,622 children have received treatment, 2,460 under five years of age, and 3,162 under 15 years of age ; it is estimated that 67% of the children under 15 years of age are immunised.

There is an increasing awareness of the value of this treatment ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> the persuasive powers of your staff have ~~not~~ had to be intensely and persistently exercised.





## TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1943.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-1 ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
1-5 ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
5-15 ...	4	1	1	1	-	-	1	-
15-25 ...	4	4	-	1	1	4	-	-
25-35 ...	4	5	-	-	1	2	-	-
35-45 ...	3	-	-	-	3	2	-	-
45-55 ...	3	2	1	-	3	-	-	-
55-65 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	19	14	2	2	9	8	3	-

Ratio of Non-Notified Tuberculosis Deaths to Total Tuberculosis Deaths: 1 in 10.



### **Hospital Accommodation for Cases of Infectious Disease.**

We are again indebted to the Medical Officer and Nursing Staff of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board for help and co-operation.

### **Influenza :**

Influenza was prevalent in November and December, with consequent increase in respiratory disease such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

### **Tuberculosis :**

The Quarterly Return made at the end of the year showed 157 cases on the Register, as compared with 165 at the end of 1942. The numbers have shown no marked alteration during the War Years.

224 Sputum Tests were carried out at the County Laboratory, 20 being positive, 204 negative.

### **Vaccination.**

Dr. G. E. V. Morris, Public Vaccinator, has rendered the following return for 1943 :—

Number of Births	...	...	475
Successful Vaccinations	...	98	
Statutory Declarations	...	306	
Deaths	...	11	
Postponements	...	35	
Removals	...	25	
		—	475
Percentage of Births Vaccinated	...		20.7

“As you are now aware, Wednesbury always has a very bad record for Vaccination, and this year is no exception. Out of 475 births there were only 98 successful vaccinations, and this with the knowledge that there were many cases of smallpox in this country.

GEORGE E. V. MORRIS,  
Public Vaccinator.”

### **Scabies :**

The incidence of this contagious skin disease was much less marked. Treatment by Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion of cases and contacts continued to be given at the clinics, 108 children, and 15 adults being dealt with.

### **MISCELLANEOUS.**

#### **Civil Ambulances :**

During 1943 the civil ambulances responded to 1,142 calls.





**Housing Act :**

Miscellaneous visits and enquiries	...	...	...	...	336
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**Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Regulations :**

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	324
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of carcasses inspected	...	...	...	...	8310
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Total weight of meat condemned and surrendered—					
---	--	--	--	--	--

4 tons, 19 cwts. 2 qrs. 5½ lbs.					
---------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Inspections of food other than meat	...	...	...	...	144
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Total weight of other food condemned and surrendered—					
---	--	--	--	--	--

2 tons, 7 cwts. 1 qr. 1¼ lbs.					
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Food preparing premises inspected	...	...	...	...	16
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Fish frying premises inspected	...	...	...	...	9
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Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	13
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Milk shops inspected	...	...	...	...	12
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Food shops inspected	...	...	...	...	101
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Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	2
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Sampling	...	...	...	...	30
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Markets inspected	...	...	...	...	25
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**Shops Act—Inspections.**

Re sanitary accommodations	...	...	...	...	6
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**Factories Act :**

Factories with power—inspected	...	...	...	...	47
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Workplaces including offices inspected	...	...	...	...	6
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**Rats and Mice Destruction Act :**

Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	113
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**Miscellaneous Inspections, etc. :**

Accommodation for storage of refuse	...	...	...	...	144
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Salvage	...	...	...	...	285
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Stables	...	...	...	...	2
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Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	5
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Air Raid Precautions	...	...	...	...	105
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General	...	...	...	...	423
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**Collection and Disposal of Refuse****(1st April, 1943 to 31st March, 1944)**

Total weight of refuse collected (estimated) including					
--	--	--	--	--	--

200 tons dealt with by incineration	...	...	...	6,755 tons
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Total weight of materials salvaged	...	...	...	926 tons
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During the whole year the staff has served loyally which I appreciate. The progress and work of the Department has been maintained. My thanks are due to the Council for their co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. J. TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,  
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Department,  
Wednesbury.