

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Wednesbury Borough.

Contributors

Wednesbury (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zcn3xypq>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1944

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Dr. A. Frost, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. Hollingsworth, J.P.).

Aldermen G. W. Price, J.P., and L. Whitehouse, J.P. ; Councillors T. Berry, T. King, Dr. G. I. Lambe, and Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Dr. G. I. Lambe.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. Hollingsworth, J.P.).

Aldermen C. Collins, 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, D. C. Jackson, T. King, Mrs. E. Price, F. A. Wadsworth, D. Wallis, and Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P. ; *Co-opted Members :* The Mayoress (Mrs. T. Hollingsworth), Mesdames Berry, Collins, J.P., Greenhough, J.P., Jackson, Wadsworth, Walton and Whitehouse.

WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. Hollingsworth, J.P.).

Councillors Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P., Dr. A. Frost, J.P., D. C. Jackson, Dr. G. I. Lambe, Mrs. E. Price, and Mrs. D. M. Wesson, J.P.

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 1944 prepared on lines indicated in Circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health dated 19th March, 1945.

In brief review is recorded the more salient of the activities of the year—one in which, despite the dangers and difficulties of continued war, the health of our people suffered no noteworthy impairment.

My thanks are due to the Chairmen and members of the various Committees for ever-willing help and encouragement ; to the staff of the Department for loyal and wholehearted assistance, and to the officers of other departments for their assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Lynskey.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Wednesbury, Staffs.

September, 1945.

ia/rum

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 E. L. J. Ryan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., L.M. (Rotunda).

Consultant Obstetrician :

J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S.

Consultant Paediatrician :

Professor Leonard G. Parsons, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Veterinary Surgeon :

J. McClemont, 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., 11/3/1940).

G. O. Wright, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (appointed 1/3/1944).

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Mrs. A. E. Boffey, C.M.B.

Miss A. Davies, C.M.B.

Miss G. Reynolds, C.M.B., S.R.N., H.V.Cert. R.S.I.

Miss J. Roberts, 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., 6/1/1943), Miss A. James, Miss M. B. Elsdon, Mr. J. W. Barber (R.A.M.C., 17/10/1940), Mr. S. Matthewson (R.N., 26/11/1942), Mr. G. Amos, and Mr. R. J. Deeley.

SECTION A.

Statistics :—

					Males	Females	Total
Live Births :	Legitimate	..	..	350	..	297	.. 647
	Illegitimate	..	..	8	..	7	.. 15
Still Births :	Legitimate	..	..	8	..	9	.. 17
	Illegitimate	..	..	1	..	—	.. 1
Deaths ..	..	..	..	191	..	176	.. 367
Deaths from Puerperal Causes : Sepsis Nil ; other causes Nil ; Total Nil.							

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births..	..	..	..	46.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	43.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	200.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	61
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	..	..	..	6

Mid		Live Births.		Deaths.			
Year.	Popula- tion.	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 ..	32,080 ..	571 ..	17.8 ..	35 ..	61.0 ..	390 ..	12.2
1941 ..	32,400 ..	594 ..	18.3 ..	38 ..	64.0 ..	384 ..	11.9
1942 ..	32,230 ..	633 ..	19.6 ..	31 ..	49.0 ..	327 ..	10.1
1943 ..	32,090 ..	643 ..	20.0 ..	25 ..	38.8 ..	351 ..	10.9
1944 ..	32,460 ..	662 ..	20.3 ..	31 ..	46.8 ..	367 ..	11.3

The Provisional Rates for England and Wales for 1944 per 1,000 Mid-1939 Population are :—

Live Births : 18.0 Deaths : 11.9. Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births : 46.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1944.

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	Totals	WARDS.			
											King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other forms of Tuberculosis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4	2	—	—	2
Diarrhoea	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	1	6	1	—	1	4
Premature Birth	7	2	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	10	6	1	2	1
Congenital Malformations, etc. ...	5	—	—	—	5	1	2	—	1	9	2	3	1	3
Other Violent Causes	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
All Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	13	2	1	1	17	4	5	3	2	31	11	5	4	11

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and over	WARDS.				Wood Breen.
												Fe- males	King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall.	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ... Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	5	7	2	2	3	2	1	3	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	10	2	5	3	14
Syphilitic Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Oesophagus (males only)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	1	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	1	—	1
Cancer of Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	1	1	4
Cancer of all other sites ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	11	25	22	12	6	3	1
Diabetes ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	11	7	1	22
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	11	6	1	7
Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	21	12	17	18	15	31
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	11	59	40	2	1	3	3
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	4	2	1	3	11
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	7	12	8	7	3	3	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	6	4	5	4	2	2	2
Ulceration of the Stomach or	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under two years)	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	1
Appendicitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	4
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	2
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	6	1	2	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	1	3
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	1	37	23	15	10	4	16
TOTALS	31	12	2	2	4	7	7	19	33	56	194	367	95	68	55	149

SECTION B.

The General Provision of Health Services are as detailed in the Report for the 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, 1944 :—

	<i>New Cases.</i>			<i>Total Attendances.</i>		
	<i>Ses- sions.</i>	<i>Under 1 year.</i>	<i>1-5 years.</i>	<i>Under 1 year.</i>	<i>1-5 years.</i>	<i>All ages.</i>
Albert Street	.. 100	.. 166	.. 22	.. 3,490	.. 1,611	.. 5,101
King's Hill	.. 98	.. 149	.. 19	.. 2,936	.. 1,076	.. 4,012
Mesty Croft	.. 100	.. 258	.. 52	.. 4,969	.. 1,908	.. 6,877
Total Attendances (all Centres)	..	..	..	..	..	15,990

Percentage attendance notified live births 86.5

The very full use made of the Infant Welfare Centres is a matter for congratulation and a tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of their staffs.

The diminution in Infant Mortality which has taken place in recent years reflects the persistent advice in Infant Care given at the Centres.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

	<i>Sessions.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>	<i>Total Attendances.</i>
Albert Street..	.. 49	.. 222	.. 729
King's Hill ..	.. 30	.. 155	.. 481

Number of women attending during year: 441.

Percentage of women confined attending Clinics: 64.9.

At the Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich 118 cases were admitted for confinement or special treatment—the splendid service rendered to our mothers at Hallam Hospital during the difficult war years deserves the highest commendation. The Emergency Unit from the Hospital was summoned on one occasion.

Home Visits.

<i>Ante-Natal.</i>	<i>To Children Under 1 year.</i>	<i>To Children 1-5 years.</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
220 ..	2,890 ..	2,762 ..	5,872

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 31st December, 1944	6
Number of Private Midwives practising in Wednesbury at 31st December, 1944	4
Number of Confinements attended by County Midwives during the year 1944 :—	
As Midwife	379
As Maternity Nurse	85

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths associated with child-birth.

Premature Infants.

The important bearing of the care of the premature infant on neo-natal mortality to which the Minister of Health drew the attention of the Authority in Circular 20/44 of the 22nd of March has received continued consideration, and in July the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee were pleased to report the acceptance of the position of Consulting Paediatrician by Professor Leonard G. Parsons, M.D., F.R.C.P. The provision on loan of special equipment for the infant has been arranged and the service of a home help is provided whenever possible.

Space is now provided on Birth notification cards for giving information when weight at birth is less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—in order to obtain immediate accurate information as to the incidence of prematurity and to ensure that all available facilities are being used.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases notified, 2 ; in no instance did impairment of vision result.

Child Life Protection.

Three children were being received for reward at the end of the year.

In August all Health Visitors were appointed as Infant Life Protection Visitors for cases in the districts they individually supervise. It is of vital importance that all concerned in child care and adoption should give adequate notice of intention and obtain prior approval, in order that the well-being of the child shall be fully protected.

Illegitimate Children.

1938 : Illegitimate live births 10 ; illegitimate still-births Nil.

1944 : Illegitimate live births 15 ; illegitimate still-births 1.

In July, in conjunction with the Staffordshire County Council, approval was given for supervision of these cases by the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, and it was agreed to accept responsibility for charges for institutional care in necessitous deserving cases. Close co-operation is maintained with Sister E. M. Ellis, C.A., their local worker, and much worthwhile assistance has been rendered.

Recovery of Charges for Institutional Treatment, etc.

In July a revised scale of assessment was instituted designed to remove anxiety and hardship.

Nutrition.

The provision of extra nourishment, vitamins, etc., for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age was as detailed in the report for 1943. Close co-operation in this work is maintained with the Food Executive Officer of the Ministry of Food.

During the five weeks ending 30th December, 1944, 540 bottles of Cod Liver Oil Compound, 3,591 bottles of Orange Juice, 1,847 tins of National Dried Milk and 89 packets of Vitamin Capsules were issued. Iron sulphate tablets have been provided for expectant mothers through the Ante-Natal Clinics—during the month of December it was ascertained that 79.8 per cent. of the mothers attending were taking the various dietary supplements available.

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 : 10 children under two years of age.

30 from two to five.

Many expressions of appreciation continue to be received of the care and training afforded children in the Nurseries. For the happy spirit which prevails, great credit is due to the Matrons and Staff.

At Christmas, the Nurseries received a handsome gift of toys from the Wednesbury W.V.S., and parties were organised at both Nurseries by the Matrons.

A course of lectures for Student Nurses has been conducted by Dr. Ryan.

A mother who brought her child for medical inspection prior to admission stated : " My husband won't let him go to granny's ; he says he is to go to the Day Nursery, where he will be brought up properly "—a tribute to the care of the child of the working mother.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water.**

The Borough of Wednesbury lies within the Statutory Area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, has forwarded me the following information:—

- (i) The water supply to this area and its several parts has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.
- (ii) The supply to the Borough of Wednesbury is derived from my Company's distribution system in this area which is supplied from thirteen Pumping Stations located to the north and north-west of the Borough. The supply from each of these Stations is examined regularly, both bacteriologically and chemically, and where treatment is installed bacteriological samples are examined both from the raw water and the water going into supply. The water supply is further sampled at monthly intervals at three points within the Borough, and during 1944 all the samples from each of two points were free from coliform bacteria. In the case of the third sample point, twelve samples were examined, of which eleven were free from coliform bacteria in 100 ml. quantities and one contained coliform bacteria in 100 ml. (probable number one per 100 ml.) and these organisms confirmed intermediates type 2.
- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action. Samples are examined at intervals for lead.
- (iv) Protection is afforded against contamination at the Pumping Station by the use of chlorine, ammonia-chlorine or ozone. This sterilisation is largely precautionary. Contamination of mains following bursts or laying of new pipes, and of service reservoirs following

emptying is safeguarded by chlorination for which special apparatus and staff are available. These mains and reservoirs are not brought into re-use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

- (v) The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Borough at December was 8,681. The number of standpipes in the Borough at the same time was seven, from which a supply was taken for twelve houses, in addition to a poultry farm and a butcher's shop.

Independent sampling of the supply taken from taps of houses has always been favourably reported on bacteriologically and chemically.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The total cessation of all building during the last five years—with consequent hold-up of slum-clearance schemes and normal growth and development—now presents a problem of great acuteness, which will require foresight, enthusiasm and strenuous endeavour for its solution. Houses are needed for :—

- (a) Families and newly-married couples who have no homes of their own.
- (b) Abatement of serious overcrowding.
- (c) Replacement of unfit houses.

The immediate need is for some 700 houses ; future needs call for a much greater number—the many old dwellings still in existence must be replaced by houses of at least a standard comparable to those erected in the inter-war years.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Foods and Drugs Authority is the Staffordshire County Council, and Dr. W. D. Carruthers (the County Medical Officer of Health) has given me the following particulars of samples taken during 1944 :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

<i>Article of Food.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>
	<i>Samples.</i>			
Milk.	.. 9	.. 9	..	—
General Foods	.. 25	.. 25	..	—

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Cleanliness.</i>		<i>T.B.</i>
		<i>Satisfac-</i>	<i>Unsatis-</i>	
	<i>Samples.</i>	<i>tory.</i>	<i>factory.</i>	
T.T. (Pasteurised) ..	1	1	—	—
Pasteurised ..	6	4	2	—
Accredited ..	3	3	—	—
Non-designated ..	21	18	3	1

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 disease notified in age groups and ward distribution will be found on page 18.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria notifications were 145 (in 1943 the number was 124) ; there was a revised diagnosis in 40 instances. The disease was generally of mild or moderate severity, never epidemic in character ; notifications for the respective quarters being :— First, 52 ; second, 38 ; third, 32 ; fourth, 23.

Of the 105 confirmed cases, 79 were under fifteen years of age.

Deaths numbered 8—there were no deaths amongst those who had received protective treatment.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

During the year, 658 children received protective treatment—565 of 0 to 4 years, inclusive; 93 of 5 to 14 years, inclusive. Of children under 15 years of age at the end of the year, 73 per cent. had received protective treatment under the Authority's scheme. We must now concentrate our efforts on seeing that every child receives treatment by its first birthday, a further protective treatment on entry to school life, and that when circumstances permit post-Schick testing is undertaken.

764 throat swabs were examined at the County Laboratory, of which 72 showed morphological Diphtheria Bacilli.

Influenza.

There was no noteworthy incidence of influenza.

Measles.

Notifications numbered 85 (622 in 1943), 79 occurring in the last two months of the year.

Scarlet Fever.

Mild in type; cases notified 84, compared with 104 in the previous year.

Whooping Cough.

Notifications 93 (57 in 1943).

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

Cases requiring institutional treatment are accommodated in the various hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Board, and we are grateful to the Medical Officer and Matron for their assistance.

Tuberculosis.

The Return for the last quarter of the year showed 164 cases on the Register, compared with 157 in 1943, 165 in 1942, and 173 in 1938. New cases notified and deaths (all forms of Tuberculosis) during the last six years were :—

New Cases	..	1939 .. 43	1940 .. 31	1941 .. 44
		1942 .. 46	1943 .. 37	1944 .. 43
Deaths	..	1939 .. 25	1940 .. 20	1941 .. 31
		1942 .. 24	1943 .. 20	1944 .. 27

Earlier Sanatorium Treatment and the securing of a separate bedroom for every notified case are of paramount importance.

Reports on 264 sputum tests carried out at the County Laboratory were received during the year; 35 being positive.

Scabies.

The incidence of this contagious skin disease diminished during the year. Treatment was given at the Special Clinics and in institutions when deemed necessary. Cases and contact cases treated at the Clinics numbered 17 children, 12 adults.

Vaccination.

Dr. G. E. V. Morris, Public Vaccinator, has rendered the following return for 1944 :—

Number of Births	..	..	..	..	506
Successful Vaccinations	..	..	..	..	61
Statutory Declarations	..	..	..	..	332
Deaths, unvaccinated	..	..	..	..	13
Postponements	..	..	..	..	28
Removals	..	..	..	..	31
Cases not found	..	..	..	..	6
Cases to be accounted for	..	..	..	..	35
Total	..	..	..	..	506

“Sixty-one successful vaccinations out of 506 births (about 12 per cent.). The usual disgraceful condition of vaccination in Wednesbury.”

GEORGE E. V. MORRIS,

Public Vaccinator.

Civil Defence—Casualty Services.

The Services for which the Department was responsible were as set out in the Annual Report for 1943. On November 15th, the King's Hill and Mesty Croft First Aid Posts were closed and the personnel were accorded the Authority's thanks for their long and devoted service. The whole of the personnel very loyally agreed to place their services again at the Town's service should the need arise.

The Baths First Aid Post and the Public Gas Cleansing Station remain as active units. Since the outbreak of war on 3rd September, 1939, to the 31st December, 1944, representatives of the Department attended at the Control Centre during 363 "Alert" periods.

Civil Ambulances.

During 1944 the Civil Ambulances responded to 1,189 calls.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS
AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1944.

DISEASE.	Numbers originally notified	Final numbers after correction.											Deaths	Cases Admitted to Hospital		
		Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Totals	King's Hill			WARDS. Market Town Hall	Wood Green
Scarlet Fever :	44	1	1.	7	27	3	4	—	—	—	43	9	10	6	18	17
Males ...	—	—	4	11	15	5	—	4	—	—	39	9	6	7	17	14
Whooping Cough :	51	4	13	19	15	—	—	—	—	—	51	11	7	8	25	2
Males ...	—	9	12	10	9	2	—	—	—	—	42	4	9	2	27	2
Ac. Poliomylitis :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Polioencephalitis :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles :	40	4	11	8	14	2	—	—	—	—	39	1	11	6	21	—
Males ...	—	3	9	13	19	1	—	—	—	—	45	5	9	6	25	1
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria :	56	—	2	10	16	8	6	2	—	—	44	8	5	6	25	47
Males ...	—	—	2	7	19	16	11	4	2	—	61	13	10	10	28	70
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia :	33	1	3	3	2	1	2	7	12	2	33	9	5	6	13	1
Males ...	—	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	4	2	17	6	4	2	5	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas :	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	5	—	2	1	2	—
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	4	1	—	—	3	1
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia :	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	5	2	1	—	2	4
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum :	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	230	25	58	89	139	40	27	24	22	6	430	79	79	60	212	159

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1944.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
5—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	8	2	—	1	3	1	—	—
25—35	4	4	—	1	—	3	—	—
35—45	8	1	—	—	5	—	—	—
45—55	4	4	—	—	3	4	1	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and over...	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
<i>Total</i>	26	13	1	2	14	10	3	—

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the year 1st January to 31st December, 1944, I submit the report of the work carried out by my Department, which again must be regarded as an interim one.

In the first month, Mr. W. A. Wells, Additional Sanitary Inspector, left the Department to work in Walsall. You appointed Mr. G. O. Wright to succeed him, and Mr. Wright commenced his duties on 1st March, 1944.

The Senior Clerk, Mr. A. Higgs, transferred to the Treasurer's Department, and a new Junior, Raymond J. Deeley, commenced in the Department in February.

Although it is still necessary to keep this report as short as possible, in addition to the table of work done which follows, I feel it necessary this year to draw special attention to some items.

Puplic Health Act, 1936.

The work of dealing with complaints and getting repairs done is still considerably hampered with the obtaining of permits for materials and "Certificates of Need." It is interesting to note, however, that without enforcing by Statutory Powers, approximately three-quarters of the premises effected by complaints have had the Preliminary Notices complied with.

A considerable reduction of the treatment of verminous premises has occurred this year, especially in regard to Council houses. I must express my sincere appreciation of the co-operation of Mr. Burns and his Welfare Visitor (Miss Beebee) in this work which has led to the improved conditions.

The only Common Lodging House that was in the Borough has been closed as such, and is now an ordinary dwelling house.

Housing Act, 1936.

The visits recorded in the Table under this heading indicate a justifiable need for keeping in touch with the families unavoidably still occupying houses scheduled for Demolition. I felt great satisfaction in complying with your request for the detailed report of the conditions prevailing in the Portway Road Area, and, with you, look forward to the time when these families can be moved to new dwellings. The visits for Overcrowding dealt with applications by owners for " Permitted Numbers."

Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

The number of visits to the Slaughter-house in the Borough and the number of carcasses inspected show approximately a 50 per cent. decrease on last year. This is perhaps the most significant record affected by the war.

The inspections of shops and premises affecting other foods found conditions quite satisfactory, which is a credit to the food-handlers of the district.

The visits shown to Ice-cream premises were made in anticipation of the re-opening of the sale of this commodity when materials for the making of Ice-cream were released.

The samples of milk and water taken during the year on the request of the Medical Officer of Health proved satisfactory.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

I am sure the work done in the repression of rats in the Borough this year can rightly be claimed one of the most important events of the times. Your Additional Sanitary Inspector (Mr. G. O. Wright) on his arrival took over the control of this work and made a great success of it. The treatment of the sewers in the Borough was carried out with the assistance of two men from the Borough Surveyor's Department. From time to time Officers of the Ministry of Food visited and requested information as to the progress of the work. All through they expressed their great satisfaction as to the manner and results of the work carried out.

Irrespective of whether the Ministry of Food remains interested in rat repression, I feel that with the availability of the different poisons for this work my Department should retain the powers to do this work in the Borough for all time.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Apart from salvage, refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping. By co-operation with the Borough Surveyor, a satisfactory reclamation of derelict land is being made.

There has been a reduction this year of salvage materials sold. This is mainly due to the cessation of collecting scrap iron, tins, etc., brought about by the improved war conditions. I expect the collection of paper, rags, bones, waste food and glass to continue for a year or two after the cessation of hostilities.

Public Health Acts—Inspections, etc.

After complaints	791
Dirty conditions	8
Verminous premises.. .. .	157
Number of houses disinfested—Council houses	51
Number of houses disinfested—Other houses	44
Infectious disease—Visits and enquiries	246
Smoke abatement—Observations	2
Smoke abatement—Visits to plant	2
Piggeries inspected	62
House drainage	254

Housing Act.

Miscellaneous visits and enquiries.. .. .	734
Overcrowding	14

Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Number of visits to slaughter-houses	174
Number of carcasses inspected	4,016
Total weight of meat condemned and surrendered :—	
4 tons 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 20 lbs.	
Inspections of food other than meat	87

Total weight of other food condemned and surrendered :

2 tons 7 cwts. 1 qr. 9 lbs.

Fish-frying premises inspected	..	..	..	..	12
Butchers' shops inspected	..	..	..	..	5
Ice-cream shops inspected	..	..	..	..	11
Milk shops inspected	..	..	..	..	2
Other food shops inspected	..	..	..	..	66
Food-preparing premises inspected	..	..	..	..	37
Dairies and cowsheds inspected	..	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses inspected	..	..	..	..	11
Sampling—Milk	..	..	..	..	8
Sampling—Water	..	..	..	..	8
Offensive trades	..	..	..	..	12
Markets inspected	..	..	..	..	8

Factories Act.

Factories—with power	..	..	..	..	44
Factories—without power	..	..	..	..	8

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	186
Visits made	..	..	..	..	1,535
Sewer manholes treated	..	..	..	..	595
Visits to sewer manholes	..	..	..	..	1,396
Estimated number of rats killed in sewers	..	..	..	..	399
Estimated number of rats killed on surface	..	..	..	..	835

(*Estimate per Ministry of Food formula*).

Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.

Collection and disposal of refuse	..	..	..	..	38
Accommodation for storage of refuse	..	..	..	..	390
Salvage	..	..	..	..	58
Stables	..	..	..	..	3
Places of entertainment	..	..	..	..	6
Air Raid precautions	..	..	..	..	29
General	..	..	..	..	159

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

(1st April, 1944, to 31st March, 1945).

Total weight of refuse collected (estimated),
including 200 tons dealt with by incineration .. 7,546 tons

Total weight of materials salvaged 700 tons

During the whole year the staff has served loyally, which I appreciate. Considering this is the fifth year under war-time conditions, the work of the Department has progressed without any relaxation of the standards of which the Borough has a right to be proud. With my full appreciation 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.