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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1946

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman L. Whitehouse, J.P.

Aldermen D. C. Jackson, J.P., G. W. Price ; Councillors Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P., M. Cooper, W. G. T. Haseldine, T. Hollingsworth, J.P., Mrs. E. Price and N. L. Small.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. King, J.P.) ; Aldermen T. Berry, C. Collins, D. C. Jackson, J.P., G. W. Price, J.P., L. Whitehouse, J.P. ; Councillors A. Bissell, M. Cooper, L. B. Gardner, J. T. Hallard, R. Hammond, W. G. T. Haseldine, T. Hollingsworth, J.P., W. Morgan, J. F. Postins, Mrs. E. Price, N. L. Small, V. Steed, W. F. Taylor ; *Co-opted Members* : The Mayoress (Mrs. T. King), Mesdames Cooper, Foster, Greenhough, J.P., Morgan, Pugh, Walton, Whitehouse.

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, 1946, prepared in accordance with Circular 13/47 of the Ministry of Health dated 13th March, 1947.

The year under review has been one of transition to a fuller resumption of the Public Health activities of peace time.

Until the 1st October, 1946, Drs. Lavelle and St. Johnston had assisted with our Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics, after which date Dr. Barbara M. Leakey was appointed to fill the vacancy of whole-time Assistant Medical Officer of Health, devoting five mornings a week to the School Health Service as an Assistant County School Health Officer, whilst I continue to give one day a week to the School Health Service, thus preserving continuity of observation, and care, from birth to school leaving age.

We have been unable to fill the vacancies for two Health Visitor-School Nurses, and our gratitude is due to our three Health Visitors for their endeavours to maintain our work in full efficiency.

Annual Reports with their mass of statistics and tabular statements—unavoidable if yearly comparison is to be secured—make dull reading, but if for every figure you will substitute in your mind's eye, babies—boys and girls—men and women—young or old, as may be applicable—you will have created a living panorama of the state of health and well-being of our community during the year under review.

It is incumbent upon me to express my sincere thanks to the Chairmen and Committee members for their support and encouragement, to every member of the staff for their loyal service, and to my colleagues of other departments for ready help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Lynaston.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Wednesbury, Staffs.

2nd July, 1947.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer :

Mrs. B. M. Leakey, M.B., B.S. (Dunelm).

Consultant Obstetrician :

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

Consultant Paediatrician :

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

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. (Returned duty from H.M. Forces, 18/3/46). (Resigned September, 1946).

G. O. Wright, 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 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. (Resigned 31/8/46). Two vacancies.

Hygiene Assistant : Mrs. R. Highfield.

Chief Clerk : Mr. J. A. Jackson.

Clerks :

Miss M. Troman, Miss A. James, Miss M. B. Elsdon.

Sanitary Department :

Mr. J. W. Barber, Mr. S. Matthewson, Mr. G. Amos (R.A.F., 30/4/46), Mr. R. J. Deeley (R.A.F., 19/7/46), Miss J. Lowe.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	
Mid 1946	33,140
Population (Census, 1931)	31,531
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to the Rate Books—including 3,177 Council Houses	8,530
Rateable Value	£145,374
Sum represented by a penny rate	£555

Vital Statistics :—

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Live Births	668 ...	341 ...	327	
Legitimate	643 ...	328 ...	315 ...	20.1
Illegitimate	25 ...	13 ...	12	

					Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Still Births	16 ...	10 ...	6 ...		23.3

					Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Deaths ...	335 ...	187 ...	148 ...		10.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil ...	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	Nil ...	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	46.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	57
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4

Year	Mid Year Popula- tion.		Live Births		Deaths.		All	
			No	Rate.	Under 1 year.	Rate.	Ages.	Rate.
1938 ...	33,370	...	601	...	43	...	406	...
1939 ...	33,650	...	608	...	35	...	385	...
1940 ...	32,080	...	571	...	35	...	390	...
1941 ...	32,400	...	594	...	38	...	384	...
1942 ...	32,230	...	633	...	31	...	327	...
1943 ...	32,090	...	643	...	25	...	351	...
1944 ...	32,460	...	662	...	31	...	367	...
1945 ...	32,200	...	672	...	25	...	371	...
1946 ...	33,140	...	668	...	31	...	335	...

The Provisional Rates for England and Wales for 1946 per 1,000 Mid-1939 Population are :—

Live Births : 16.1. Deaths : 11.4. Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births : 46.0.

The vital statistics with a birth rate higher, a death rate lower, an infantile mortality rate corresponding to that for England and Wales as a whole, and recording no maternal death, in view of the highly industrial nature of our community, give reason for thankfulness and congratulation.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1946.

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	Total	Males	Fe- males	WARDS.			
															King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall.	Wood Green.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4	8	—	—	25	20	5	—	4	2	11
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4	2	2	1	1	—	2
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males only) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	5	—	—	—	3	2
Cancer of Uterus (females only) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	12	7	5	—	—	2	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	7	7	7	1	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	6	17	32	17	15	—	6	3	15
Cancer of all other sites ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	7	21	32	16	16	—	6	4	11
Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	15	50	73	36	37	10	10	24	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6	10	8	2	1	2	4	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	12	21	16	5	4	2	9	—
Pneumonia ...	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	6	19	10	9	7	2	8	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	—
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	4	3	1	—	1	1	—
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	5	2	1	1	8
Congenital Malformations, etc.	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	7	5	1	—	—	2
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	3	1	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	9	3	2	1	—	—	—	2
Other Violent Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	14	6	8	—	4	1	4
All Other Causes ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	26	35	17	18	11	2	2	11
TOTALS	31	6	2	2	2	9	17	37	63	164	335	187	148	106	55	39	135	135

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1946.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	1	1	3	1	2	—	—	6	—	1	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	1	1	1	1
Premature Birth	4	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7	1	1	—	5
Congenital Malformations, etc. ...	6	2	—	1	9	—	1	1	1	12	2	1	1	8
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	10	6	1	2	19	6	4	1	1	31	4	5	3	19

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Tuberculosis.

The Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board have a Sub-Dispensary at Russell Street, Wednesbury. Sessions are held on Mondays from 2-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. for Men, on Wednesday from 10-30 a.m. to 12-30 a.m. for Women and Children. Institutional Treatment is available at the Sanatoria and Hospitals of the Joint Board.

Infectious Disease.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

Small Pox.

Provision for treatment of cases of small-pox is arranged by the South Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital Board.

Venereal Diseases.

The Staffordshire County Council Scheme makes provision for treatment at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and the Manor Hospital, Walsall.

Maternity.

The Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich receives cases in which home conditions are unsatisfactory or labour is likely to be complicated.

General Hospitals.

The General Hospitals—Voluntary and Local Authority—of the County Boroughs of West Bromwich and Walsall deal with the major number of patients requiring in-patient medical or surgical treatment—voluntary hospitals of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley receive a smaller number.

The facilities afforded by the various Special Hospitals of the West Midlands Area are also fully used.

Ambulance Service.

Infectious Disease patients are removed by the Joint Boards.

The Local Authority Service for accidents, treatment and acute illness cases is operated from the Depot at Myvod House, Wood Green Road—there are three ambulances, a new Austin Ambulance having been brought into commission on the 17th of August.

A staff of three drivers and one attendant maintain a twenty-four hour service.

During the year cases dealt with numbered 1,132, entailing 1,216 journeys.

Bacteriological and Chemical Service.

The County Bacteriologist and Pathologist, Dr. J. L. Edwards, and Mr. A. Houlbrooke, M.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, deal with specimens from this area at the Laboratories, at Stafford.

BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(i.e. deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births)

1897	...	...	205.7
1900	...	...	174.0
1913	...	...	152.0
1919	...	...	100.8
1930	...	...	68.4
1938	...	...	71.5
1943	...	...	38.8
1944	...	...	46.8
1945	...	...	37.1
1946	...	...	46.4

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Albert Street	...	Mondays and Thursdays	...	2-30 p.m.
King's Hill	...	Tuesdays and Fridays	...	2-30 p.m.
Mesty Croft	...	Mondays and Thursdays	...	2-30 p.m.

Attendances, 1946 :—

	<i>Ses- sions.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>		<i>Total Attendances.</i>		<i>All ages.</i>
		<i>Under 1 year.</i>	<i>1-5 years.</i>	<i>Under 1 year.</i>	<i>1-5 years.</i>	
Albert Street	... 100	... 147	... 8	... 2,657	... 1,520	... 4,177
King's Hill	... 99	... 152	... 17	... 2,721	... 999	... 3,720
Mesty Croft	... 100	... 242	... 14	... 4,277	... 1,664	... 5,941
Total Attendances (all Centres)				...	...	13,838

Percentage attendance notified live births : 80.9.

Home Visits.

<i>Ante-Natal</i>		<i>To Children Under 1 year.</i>		<i>To Children 1-5 years.</i>		<i>Total Visits.</i>
239	...	2,558	...	2,383	...	5,180

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Albert Street	...	...	First and third Friday at 2-0 p.m.
King's Hill	...	...	First and third Wednesday at 2-0 p.m.
Mesty Croft	...	...	Second and fourth Wednesday at 2-0 p.m.

Attendances, 1946 :—		<i>Sessions.</i>		<i>New Cases.</i>		<i>Total Attendances.</i>
Albert Street	...	22	...	75	...	304
King's Hill	...	24	...	116	...	395
Mesty Croft	...	24	...	129	...	433
Total	...	70	...	320	...	1,132

Number of women attending Borough Ante-Natal Clinics during year : 391.

Percentage of women confined attending Borough Clinics : 57.1.

At the Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich 161 cases were admitted for confinement or special treatment. When pre-arrangement is made for confinement to take place at Hallam Hospital, ante-natal supervision is carried out at the Hospital.

Midwives.

Dr. G. Ramage, Medical Officer of Health of the Staffordshire County Council, who are the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, informs me :—

Number of County Midwives practising in Wednesbury at 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Private Midwives practising in Wednesbury at 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of confinements attended by County Midwives during 1946:						
As Midwife (includes three abortions)	...	...	...	...	...	357
As Maternity Nurse (includes two abortions)	...	...	...	...	...	85
						<hr/> 442 <hr/>

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases notified, three ; there was no impairment of vision.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths associated with child birth.

Care of Premature Infants.

Notification of Prematurity (*i.e.* a birth weight of less than 5½ lbs.) is now required on the Birth Notification Cards and the suggestions of Ministry of Health Circular 20/1944 have been implemented.

Illegitimate Children.

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

1946 : Illegitimate live births 25 ; Illegitimate still births Nil.

The supervision of these children in conjunction with Sister Ellis, C.A., of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, is of supreme importance and requires much anxious thought and constant care.

Child Life Protection.

One child was being received for reward at the end of the year.

Each Health Visitor is responsible for the cases in her own area and for adopted children during their probationary period.

Nutrition.

National Dried Milk and Accessory Food Factors (Orange Juice, and Cod Liver Oil Compound, or Vitamin A and D tablets, for the Expectant Mother, and for children under 5) are available at each Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic. The Ministry of Food returns for the four weeks ended December, 28th, 1946, show an average weekly issue and percentage of Potential as follows :—

Orange Juice	...	711 bottles	...	42%
Cod Liver Oil	...	195 bottles	...	39%
A and D Tablets		28 packets	...	44%

These vitamin adjuncts should be much more widely used.

War-time Day Nurseries.

The two War-time Day Nurseries of the Borough were on the 31st March, 1946, handed over to the Local Education Authority, the Staffordshire County Council, who have incorporated them in their Nursery School and Class system—they have been altered to some extent structurally and as regards equipment to deal only with children from two to five years of age who are admitted during school terms for the usual school hours.

The War-time Nurseries were at Walton Road, opened on the 10th November, 1942, and at Rowley View, opened on the 7th December, 1942.

They were of the pre-fabricated type approved by the Ministry of Health and were supplied by the Ministry of Works and internally equipped by the Ministry of Supply.

Accommodation was for fifteen children under two years of age and twenty-five from two to five years of age.

The Nurseries were never utilised as they should have been—certainly not by those who should have used them most.

They were managed by a special sub-committee of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee—the cost of running them was defrayed from National sources.

Devoted service was rendered by the Matrons and staff, and one was always impressed by the happiness and well-being of the children in attendance.

The running expenses per nursery were approximately £2,000 per annum, which did not include renewals of equipment, etc., supplied by the Ministry of Supply. Parents were expected to pay one shilling per day per child, the annual income per Nursery being approximately £320 per annum.

The Staff laid down, headed by a Matron—a State Registered Nurse,—was one to every five children, plus a caretaker-cleaner. The recruitment of suitably qualified staff was always a matter of intense difficulty.

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 given me the following report :—

- (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 four points within the Borough and during 1946 all the samples from each of three points were free from coliform bacteria. In the case of the fourth sampling point, twelve samples were examined, all of which were free from faecal *Bact coli*, but three contained aerogenes bacteria in 100 ml. and a further sample contained intermediate bacteria in 50 ml.

- (iii) The waters are not available 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 sterilization 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 of Wednesbury at December, 1946, was 8,797. The number of standpipes in the Borough at the same time was ten, with a further 78 taps in outhouses, making a total of 88 taps which serve a total of 204 houses which have no other form of piped supply.

Independent samplings of the supply have always been given a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Mr. Arthur Booth, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., F.R.S.A., M.Inst.M.Cy.E., has given me the following report:—

The Council is pursuing a vigorous housing policy. Large areas of derelict land have been acquired for reclamation and use as housing sites, and development works completed on two sites. During 1946, 68 houses were completed by the Local Authority—60 traditional and 8 permanent prefabs.—and 33 by private enterprise, making a total of 101 permanent houses completed during the year.

The position at 31st December, as to sites acquired and developed, houses completed and under construction, was as follows:—

LOCAL AUTHORITY.					PRIVATE ENTERPRISE			
Permanent Housing. Sites. Houses.					Com- pleted	Total No. on licenses issued	Under con- struction	Com- pleted
Possession obtained.	Developed or under develop- ment. House erection not yet begun.	No. on tenders approved	Under con- struction					
450	84	562	352	68	133	71	33	

The Housing Manager (Mr. R. L. Highfield) informs me that at the 1st January, 1946, families awaiting re-housing under Demolition and Clearance Orders not completed at the out-break of war, numbered 111. During the year 1946, 14 of these families were re-housed, leaving a total of 97 still to be dealt with. Now that the new programme of house building is rapidly getting into its stride, it is anticipated that the coming year will see the number outstanding considerably reduced.

Applications for houses since 1939 number 2,042, comprising Single Persons 21; Childless Couples, 577; Man, Wife and one child, 772; Man, Wife and two children, 369; Man, Wife and three children, 104; Man, Wife and four children, 39; Man, Wife and five children, 24; Man, Wife and six children, 7; Man, Wife and seven children, 5 and Man, Wife and eight children 2. Bungalow applications from aged persons 66.

During the year 56 families have been re-housed on three sites within the Borough, as follows:—

Dangerfield Lane	...	...	...	8
Park Lane/Old Park Road	...	...	...	42
Dale Street	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	56

During the year nine cases of Tuberculosis were re-housed, leaving 40 cases still to be dealt with.

Many houses which in pre-war years were regarded as borderline from a sanitary and unfitness point of view are, with the passage of time, becoming ripe for demolition and will require consideration as soon as re-housing conditions permit.

The allocation of new houses was made in accordance with the "Points" system set out in The Annual Report for 1945 (page 17).

At the end of the year the Council owned 3,177 houses.

On the 21st October, 1946, the first of 420 permanent houses of traditional type was opened by the Chairman of the Housing Committee, Councillor T. King, on the Park Lane/Old Park Road site, and the first of 34 similar houses on the Dale Street Site.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dr. G. Ramage, the Medical Officer of Health of the Staffordshire County Council—the Food and Drugs Authority—has given me the following particulars:—

Samples taken in Wednesbury under the Food and Drugs Act, (1938) during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>
Milk	17	—
General Foods	10	1*

*This was a sample of Ground Ginger which contained excess of earthy matter. Repeat sample was genuine.

Particulars of Street Milk Sampling in Wednesbury during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

	<i>Cleanliness.</i>			
	<i>Total. Samples.</i>	<i>Satis- factory.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>	<i>T.B. Pos. Neg.</i>
Tuberculin Tested ...	5 *2	3 *2	2	— 3
Accredited ...	2 *1	1	1*	— 1
Tuberculin Tested Pasteur- ised ...	10 *	9 *	1*	— —
Pasteurised ...	31 *	30 *	1*	— —
Undesignated ...	24 *21	21 *18	3*	— 3

*No biological tests.

Three samples of Pasteurised milk failed the phosphatase test. In addition, 42 samples of sterilised milk were taken and examined, with satisfactory results.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A table giving the incidence of infectious disease will be found on page 20.

Diphtheria.

Confirmed notifications in civilians numbered twenty-nine, nineteen of the cases were under fifteen years of age.

There was one death.

Protective Treatment against Diphtheria.

Persistent efforts were made to secure the consent of parents for their children to receive protective treatment.

Special Clinics are held each month, as follows :—

Albert Street Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic—
First Tuesday, at 10-0 a.m.

Mesty Croft Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic—
First Wednesday, at 10-0 a.m.

King's Hill Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic—First
Friday, at 10-0 a.m.

Treatment consisted of 0.2 c.c. Alum Precipitated Toxoid given in the month before the first birthday, a second dose of 0.5 c.c. being given four weeks later—a re-inforcing dose of 0.5 c.c. is given on entry to school life at five years of age.

Since the commencement of protective treatment in September, 1936, no child who has received protective treatment has died from the disease and the few children who have subsequently been notified as having contracted the disease have only been mildly affected.

At the 31st December, of an estimated mid-year population under five years of age of 2,990 protective treatment had been given to 54.3 %, and of a population of 5,300 from five to fifteen years of age 85.2 % had received protective treatment, *i.e.* 74.1 % of the 8,290 children under fifteen years of age at risk.

Children who received protective treatment from their own doctor by private arrangement are not included.

227 throat swabs were examined at the County Laboratory of which 14 showed morphological Diphtheria Bacilli.

Influenza.

There was no noteworthy incidence of influenza.

Measles.

Was low in incidence, only 14 cases being notified as against 244 in 1945.

Scarlet Fever.

46 cases—all mild in character.

Whooping Cough.

58 cases as compared with 76 in 1945.

Small Pox.

There were no small pox cases—but a considerable number of troops on leave or awaiting demobilisation from overseas who had been in contact with cases were kept under supervision for the recommended period.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

59 patients were treated at the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

Tuberculosis.

The Return for the last Quarter of the year showed 183 cases on the Register compared with 178 in 1945.

New cases notified and deaths (all form of Tuberculosis) during the last eight years :—

New Cases	...	1939 ... 43	1940 ... 31	1941 ... 44
		1942 ... 46	1943 ... 37	1944 ... 43
		1945 ... 51	1946 ... 43	
Deaths	...	1939 ... 25	1940 ... 20	1941 ... 31
		1942 ... 24	1943 ... 20	1944 ... 27
		1945 ... 25	1946 ... 26	

249 sputums were tested at the County Laboratory, 35 being positive.

Scabies.

Eight adults, five children unde 5 years of age, and 152 school children received treatment.

Vaccination.

Dr. G. E. V. Morris, Public Vaccinator reports :—

Vaccination Return for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

Number of births	...	...	...	454
Successful Vaccinations	...	...	...	42
Statutory Declarations	...	...	...	284
Deaths—unvaccinated	...	...	...	13
Postponements	...	...	...	6
Removals	...	...	...	13
Cases to be accounted for under six months				96
Total	...	...	...	454
Cases issued to Public Vaccinator			...	127
Q Form issued to parents		...	...	135

“ Although there are far too many Statutory Declarations, I believe that the people are more ready to have their children vaccinated. The forty-two successful vaccinations are not a true figure because none of the December lot have been vaccinated, and many of the November cases also were not vaccinated within the time.”

GEORGE E. V. MORRIS,

Public Vaccinator.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1946.

DISEASE.	Numbers originally notified	Final numbers after correction.										Totals	WARDS.				Deaths	Cases Admitted to Hospital
		Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		King's Hill	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green		
Scarlet Fever:																		
Males ...	26	—	2	5	11	4	1	—	2	—	—	25	5	3	3	14	—	10
Females ...	—	21	5	3	9	3	—	—	1	—	—	21	5	2	5	9	—	10
Whooping Cough:																		
Males ...	32	—	6	6	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	7	5	4	15	—	3
Females ...	—	27	2	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	4	6	6	11	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles:																		
Males ...	4	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	4	—	—
Females ...	—	9	1	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	2	1	6	—	—
Diphtheria:																		
Males ...	15	—	1	3	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	12	3	3	2	4	—	13
Females ...	—	22	2	1	5	1	7	1	—	—	—	17	6	1	3	7	1	19
Ac. Pneumonia:																		
Males ...	26	—	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	10	4	26	6	4	2	14	10	—
Females ...	—	21	—	2	1	1	—	3	1	7	2	21	9	6	—	4	9	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas:																		
Males ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
Females ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	2
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia:																		
Females ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4	1	2	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum:																		
Males ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Females ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NON-CIVILIANS:																		
Diphtheria—Males	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	...	...	12	28	47	49	11	17	10	20	7	209	47	39	31	92	21	59

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1946.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	7	—	—	1	—	1	—
25—35	5	5	—	—	3	1	—	—
35—45	3	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
45—55	5	—	1	—	8	—	—	—
55—65	5	4	—	—	6	2	—	—
65 and over...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	21	18	1	3	20	5	1	—

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the year 1st January to 31st December, 1946, I submit the report of the work carried out by my Department.

The changes of staff during the year have been as follows :—

Miss J. Lowe commenced duties as a clerk on the 14th January, 1946.

Mr. A. H. Matthews returned from H.M. Forces and recommenced duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector on the 18th March, 1946. He secured a similar appointment at Guildford and left the Department on the 14th October.

Mr. S. Matthewson returned from H.M. Royal Navy and recommenced his duties as clerk on the 8th April.

Clerk G. Amos joined the Royal Air Force and left the Department on the 36th April.

Mr. J. W. Barber, Clerk, returned from H.M. Forces and recommenced his duties on the 1st July. Mr. Barber was granted "leave of absence" to attend a course of instruction to enable him to qualify as a Sanitary Inspector and he left the Department on the 21st September.

Clerk R. Deeley was called to the Royal Air Force and left the Department on the 19th July, 1946.

Public Health Act.

The work in dealing with Verminous Premises has required more visits than previously but the number of houses disintested shows an appreciable reduction. This I attribute to the variety of powders containing D.D.T. which have appeared in the shops and I gather from the tenants of numerous houses—used successfully. It is to be hoped that the reduction in this work will continue.

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

The standard of work has been well maintained during the year. During the summer considerable attention was given to Ice Cream Premises and a number of samples were sent for bacteriological examination. Whilst there is no standard laid down, the samples taken after the first at each of the premises showed considerable improvement, indicating attention to the cleanliness in manufacture advocated by your Inspectors.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

It is interesting to note the continued reduction in the complaints of rodent infestation. It can now be claimed with confidence that this pest can be controlled and greatly reduced if the Department obtains early information when the rats are seen.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

The disposal of refuse still proceeds by controlled tipping. The site at Holyhead Road has almost been completely filled in and the usefulness of reclaiming land in this manner is well demonstrated.

Public Health Acts—Inspections, etc.

After Complaints	...	...	...	...	1,659
Dirty conditions	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	102
Infectious Disease—Visits and Enquiries	...	...	...	...	83
Smoke Abatement—Observations	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke Abatement—Visits to Plant	...	...	...	...	25
House Drainage	...	...	...	...	285
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	5

Housing Act.

Miscellaneous visits and enquiries	...	...	...	191
Overcrowding	...	...	...	7

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

Numbered of visits to slaughter houses	...	...	318
Number of carcasses inspected	...	...	10,223

Total weight of meat condemned and surrendered :—

8 tons 6 cwts. 3 qrs. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Number of Inspections of food other than meat 55

Total weight of other food condemned and surrendered :—

1 ton 0 cwts 1 qr. 14lbs.

Fish-frying premises inspected	...	...	...	36
Butchers Shops inspected	...	...	...	17
Ice Cream Shops inspected	...	...	...	71
Milk Shops inspected	...	...	...	52
Other Food shops inspected	...	...	...	147
Food preparing premises inspected	...	...	...	55
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	17
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	19
Sampling—Milk	...	...	...	18
Sampling—Ice Cream	...	...	...	10
Sampling—Water	...	...	...	8
Markets inspected	23

Shops Acts—Inspections.

Regarding Sanitary Accommodation	6
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Factories Act.

Factories—with power	57
Factories—without power	17
Outworkers	1

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	30
Visits made	...	...	...	...	364
Estimated number of rats killed	...	...	...	...	841
(Estimate per Ministry of Food formula)					

Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	...	...	...	254
Accommodation for Storage of Refuse	...	...	...	434
Salvage	...	...	...	38
Stables	...	...	...	45
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	6
General	...	...	...	234

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

(1st April, 1946 to 31st March, 1947).

Total weight of Refuse collected (estimated)	...	7,727 tons
Total weight of Materials salvaged (actual)	...	582½ tons

I record my sincere thanks to the Council for their support at all times. The Staff has varied considerably this year, but all have given unstinted and valuable service and I record my appreciation.

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.