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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1948

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman L. Whitehouse, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman T. King, B.E.M., J.P.)

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

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

(to 5th July, 1948).

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. E. Price.

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman T. King, B.E.M., J.P.)

Aldermen T. Berry, D. C. Jackson, J.P., G. W. Price, J.P. and
L. Whitehouse, J.P. ; Councillors A. Bissell, L. B. Gardner, G. G.
Garman, M.C., J. T. Hallard, R. Hammond, W. G. T. Haseldine,
T. Hollingsworth, J. E. James, W. Morgan, J. F. Postins, S. Rogers,
N. L. Small, V. Steed and W. F. Taylor.

Co-opted Members : Mesdames Allen, Foster, Greenhough, J.P.,
Hammond, Morgan, Pugh, Walton and Whitehouse.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the Borough in respect of the year 1948 drawn up as directed in Circular 3/49, of the Ministry of Health, dated 17th January, 1949.

In its pages you will find reported many activities designed to secure the optimum of Public Health and the fullest use of preventive medicine.

The changes which took effect under the National Health Service Act, 1946, on the 5th July, 1948, preclude reference to certain services later than that date, when they passed to the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority under Part III of the Act.

Every assistance was rendered to make the change over as smooth as possible—this was facilitated by the fact that some members of the staff were recruited to the service of the new authority in respect of the functions transferred.

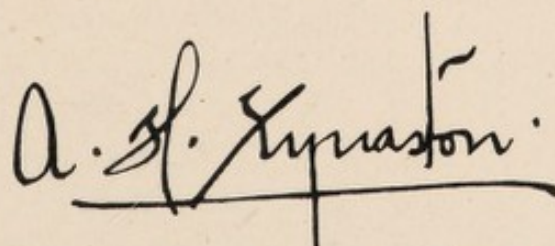
I greatly regret that my duties since October as part-time Area Medical Officer have meant a cessation of clinical work with the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Service, close personal contact during the last seventeen years with the mothers and babies and boys and girls of the Borough have engendered a great admiration and affection for this important section of our community.

On the 22nd May, the death occurred of Dr. G. E. V. Morris, Medical Officer of Health from June, 1923, to March, 1925, and Deputy on many subsequent occasions. Dr. Morris was proud to have been the Medical Officer of Health of his native town and served the Corporation and people with loyalty and devotion.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Committees my thanks are due for their help and interest in matters brought before them. I am grateful also for the loyal assistance of the staff and for help readily accorded by my colleagues in other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Wednesbury, Staffs.

8th June, 1949.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S., (Eng.) L.R.C.P., (Lond.) D.P.H.
and from 1st October, Part-time Area Medical Officer Staffordshire
County Council No. 9 Area.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County School Medical Officer :

Mrs. B. M. Leakey, M.B., B.S., (Dunelm).
15/9/48. Transferred Staffordshire County Council Health Service.

Consultant Obstetrician (to 5/7/1948) :

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

Consultant Paediatrician (to 5/7/1948) :

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

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 :

G. O. Wright, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
J. W. Barber, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (resigned 30/6/48).
F. Holman, R.S.A.S., M.S.I.A. (appointed 1/10/48).

Health Visitors (half-time School Nurses) :

Mrs. A. E. Boffey, C.M.B., Transferred County Council 5/7/48.
Miss A. Davies, C.M.B., Transferred County Council 5/7/48.
Miss G. Reynolds, C.M.B., S.R.N., H.V.Cert., R.S.I., Transferred
County Council 5/7/48.

Lay Assistants :

Mrs. R. Highfield, Transferred County Council 5/7/48.
Mrs. V. M. Ellis, Transferred County Council 5/7/48.

Chief Clerk : Mr. J. A. Jackson.

(Transferred County Council—Chief Clerk Area Medical Officer
1/11/48).

Clerks :

Miss A. James.

Miss M. B. Elsdon (Transferred County Council Area Clerical Staff
1/11/48).

Miss M. Fellows (Half-time County Council School Health Service).

Clerks—Sanitary Department :

S. Matthewson, G. Amos, and R. J. Deeley.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	
Mid 1948	34,460
Population (Census, 1931)	31,531
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Books :—	
(i) Council Houses	3,618
(ii) Other Houses	5,433
Rateable value at 31st December, 1948	£151,308
Sum represented by a penny rate 1947/48	£599

Vital Statistics :—

	Total.	Males.	Females.	<i>Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.</i>
Live Births	696 ...	346 ...	350	
Legitimate	676 ...	339 ...	337	20.19
Illegitimate	20 ...	7 ...	13	

	Total.	Males.	Females.	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
Still births	14 ...	7 ...	7	
Legitimate	14 ...	7 ...	7	19.71
Illegitimate	— ...	— ...	—	

	Total.	Males.	Females.	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.</i>
Deaths	372 ...	228 ...	144	10.79

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths.	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
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	45.97
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	45.76
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	50.00

	No.	Rate.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	70 ...	2.03
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil ...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	4 ...	0.11
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3 ...	0.08

Year.	Mid. Year Popula- tion.	Live Births.		Deaths			
		No.	Rate.	All Ages.	Rate.	Under 1 year.	Rate.
1937	33,130	601	18.1	417	12.5	37	61.5
1938	33,370	601	18.0	406	12.1	43	71.5
1939	33,650	608	18.1	385	11.5	35	58.0
1940	32,080	571	17.8	390	12.2	35	61.0
1941	32,400	594	18.3	384	11.9	38	64.0
1942	32,230	633	19.6	327	10.1	31	49.0
1943	32,090	643	20.0	351	10.9	25	38.8
1944	32,460	662	20.3	367	11.3	31	46.8
1945	32,200	672	20.8	371	11.5	25	37.1
1946	33,140	668	20.1	335	10.1	31	46.4
1947	33,690	693	20.5	374	11.1	28	40.4
1948	34,460	696	20.19	372	10.79	32	45.97

Provisional Rates for 1948 for England and Wales :—

Births : 17.9. Deaths (all ages) : 10.8. Under one year of age per 1,000 live births : 34.

The estimated mid-year population shows an increase of 770 over 1947, the Birth Rate at 20.19 shows little change but is higher than that for England and Wales as a whole—the Death Rate 10.79 is almost similar.

The Infantile Mortality Rate 45.97 is higher than that of 1947 and in comparison with 34 the National Rate calls for renewed persistent efforts.

Social Conditions.

The population is mainly artisan, chiefly engaged in iron and steel manufacture, tube manufacture, engineering, hot drop stamping, constructional steelwork, railway carriage building, edge tool manufacture, bolts and nuts manufacture, electrical engineering, iron foundering and kindred trades.

I am indebted to Mr. W. G. Harris, Acting Manager of the Employment Exchange for the statistics for 1948, which in comparison with those recorded in my report for 1932 reflect the high level of industrial activity now existing.

Unemployed :—	31/12/48	31/12/32
Men age 21 and over	25	3738
Young men (18-20 inclusive) ...	Nil	216
Boys (15-17 inclusive)	Nil	76
Women age 21 and over	4	246
Young Women (18-20) inclusive)	Nil	76
Girls (15-17 inclusive)	Nil	28
Total wholly unemployed	20	2935
Temporarily stopped and short time workers	9	1445

Contributors to National Insurance :—

	<i>Under 18.</i>	<i>18 to 64 years.</i>	<i>Over 65 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Males	670	10,676	553	11,899
		<i>18 to 59 years.</i>	<i>Over 60 years.</i>	
Females	518	4,419	153	5,090
Totals	1,188	15,095	706	16,989

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	WARD.																			
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Total	Males	Fe-males	Town	King's Hill.	Marior	Wood Green.	Mesty Croft	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	22	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males only)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Uterus (females only)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prenature Birth	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations, etc.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	32	9	4	4	3	8	5	23	40	47	197	372	228	144	73	76	86	71	66	

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND
WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1948.

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	WARDS.				Totals	Wood Green	Mesty Croft
										Town	King's Hill.	Manor	Ward			
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Infectious Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Other Digestive Eiseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	7	2	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations, etc. ...	6	—	1	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Other Violent Causes	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	13	5	2	2	22	4	3	2	1	32	3	8	6	8	7	7

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.**

(as at 31st December, 1948).

Tuberculosis.

There is an Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic at Church Street, Wednesbury, at which at the request of a Medical Practitioner any patient may be examined. If Sanatorium treatment is considered advisable this is arranged by the Tuberculosis Officer.

Infectious Disease.

Admission of these cases to hospital is arranged by the Public Health Department or in emergency on application by a Medical Practitioner direct to the Hospital.

Smallpox.

Admission to hospital is arranged through the Regional Hospital Board.

Veneral Diseases.

Special Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Maternity.

Institutional treatment on medical grounds is arranged by the patients Doctor. On social grounds, application should be made to a Health Visitor, who will refer the case to the Hospital Management Committee of the Area in which the patient resides.

General Hospitals.

Admissions are arranged by direct contact between Medical Practitioners and the Hospital Authorities.

Ambulance Services.

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Willenhall, Tel. No. Willenhall 580. There is a sub-station at Myvod House, Wednesbury, Tel No. Wed. 0072, which operates from 6-0 a.m. to 10-0 p.m. The service is controlled by the Staffordshire County Council.

Bacteriology.

Specimens for Bacteriological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health). Telephone No. : Stafford 377. Specimens may be left at the Borough Public Health Department by Medical Practitioners on weekdays (other than Saturdays and National Holidays) before 1-0 p.m. for collection that day by a van sent from Stafford by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Chemical Analysis.

The Chemical Laboratory is at the County Buildings, Stafford. Telephone No. : Stafford 578. County Analyst : A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

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
1947	...	...	40.4
1948	...	...	45.9

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Centres. (*From 5th July, 1948, transferred to the Staffordshire County Council the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946.*)

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.

Statistics to 5/7/48 :—

	<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	... 51	... 73	... 11	... 1213	... 740	... 1953
King's Hill	... 50	... 77	... 9	... 1415	... 468	... 1883
Mesty Croft	... 51	... 135	... 13	... 2548	... 958	... 3511
Total Attendances to 5/7/1948—All Centres						... 7347

Home Visits (*to 5/7/1948*).

<i>Ante- Natal.</i>	<i>To Children Under 1 year.</i>	<i>To Children 1—5 years.</i>	<i>Special Visits.</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
65	... 1210	... 962	... 215	... 2452

Ante-Natal Clinics (*Staffordshire County Council from 5/7/1948*).

Albert Street	...	First, second and third Fridays 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.

	<i>Sessions.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>	<i>Total Attendances.</i>
Albert Street	... 19	... 67	... 229
King's Hill	... 12	... 66	... 224
Mesty Croft	... 12	... 42	... 140
Total Attendances to 5/7/1948—All Clinics			... 593

In-Patient Maternity Treatment.

Up to the 5th July, 69 women were admitted to the Hallam Hospital of the County Borough of West Bromwich for confinement, ante-natal care in the majority being supervised by the hospital, two other cases received in-patient treatment at other hospitals.

Midwives and Maternity Homes.

The Staffordshire County Council are the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths associated with child birth.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified.

Premature Births.

Premature Birth (*i.e.* a birth weight of less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) was recorded in 23 births up to 5th July—special arrangements for their care were available as outlined in Ministry of Health Circular 20/1944.

Child Life Protection.

At the 5th of July, three children received for reward were being supervised.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN 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 :—

1. The water supply to this area and its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
2. 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 of a total of 38 samples taken at these three points during the year 37 were free from all forms of coliform bacteria and the remaining sample confirmed the presence of Bact. Aerogenes in 100 ml. Samples were also examined chemically and the average of the samples examined during 1948 from a sampling point within the Borough which may be regarded as typical of this supply was as follows :—

pH	7.4			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃) ...	114	parts	per	million.
Chlorides (Cl)	39.7	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N) ...	3.6	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C) ... ..	.12	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness ...	109	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness ...	76	"	"	"
Total Hardness	185	"	"	"
Iron (Fe) ... ..	.06	"	"	"
Manganèse (Mn)	Trace	"	"	"

- The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action. Samples are examined at intervals for lead and of twelve such samples taken during 1948, all were found to be free from lead.
- Protection is afforded against contamination at the Pumping Station by the use of chlorine, ammonia-chlorine or azone. 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.
- The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Borough of Wednesbury at December, 1948, was 9,274. This includes 204 houses which are supplied by 10 standpipes and 78 taps in outhouses.

Periodic independent samplings have always obtained a satisfactory bacteriological and chemical report.

Drainage and Sewage.

Mr. Arthur Booth, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., M.Inst.Mun.E., informs me :—

“ The sewage system functioned satisfactorily during the year ended 31st December, 1948, and no serious stoppages occurred.

429 new houses were connected to the public sewers (including 227 houses situate in the area of the Darlaston Urban District Council).

The treatment of sewage at the Outfall Works was performed satisfactorily. Repairs to filters at these Works were continued.”

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

The return made on Form 572 in respect of Part I and VIII of the Act is reproduced at the end of the report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Mr. Arthur Booth, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., M.Inst.Mun.E., Borough Architect/Engineer, has given me the following report :—

“ In pursuance of the Council's vigorous housing policy technical staff work has proceeded for the reclamation and layout as housing estates of two large areas of derelict land. The work of reclamation and development of one site is likely to be commenced within the next few months, and will be followed immediately by the erection thereon of 238 houses.

During the year ended 31st December, 1948, 162 traditional houses were completed by the Authority and 40 by Private Enterprise, making a total of 202 permanent houses completed during the year.”

The Housing Manager (Mr. R. L. Highfield) with whom close contact is maintained regarding the allocation of points on medical grounds has given me the following statement :—

“ At the beginning of the year families awaiting re-housing under Demolition and Clearance Orders numbered 95.

Owing to the worsening of the condition of some of the older property 16 further Demolition and Closing Orders were made

during the year. 26 families have been re-housed leaving a total of 85 properties still to be dealt with at the end of the year.

Applications still outstanding number 2,373 including 105 Bungalow applications from aged persons.

During the year 168 families have been re-housed on three sites within the Borough as follows :—

Park Lane/Old Park Road ...	146
Dale Street	8
Crew Road	14
	<hr/>
	168
	<hr/>

Of the 168 houses provided 43 were tenanted by families from privately owned overcrowded houses and a similar number of small sized families from the waiting list were placed in the vacated private houses with the landlords consent.

The houses were allocated in accordance with the Points System adopted on 6th October, 1947, as follows :—

1. Living in unfit houses according to conditions ; Very bad, 5 ; bad, 4 ; poor, 3 ; minor defects 1 or 2 as allocated by the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Maximum 5 points).
2. Overcrowded : Calculate points by multiplying the number of persons, including all children and adding 1 for an expectant mother, by 4 and dividing by the number of bedrooms subject to a maximum of 20 points.
3. Medical (Tuberculosis) : Each infectious persons 1 to 20 points. Each other person, 1 to 5 points as allocated by the Medical Officer of Health (Maximum 20 points).
4. Persons with no separate home : One person 10 points. Married couple 20 points. Five additional points for each child or other person in family (Maximum 40 points).
5. War Service in Armed Forces : 1 for each year of service or part of a year (Maximum 5 points).
6. Length of time married : 1 point for each year of marriage (Maximum 8 points).
7. Husband and wife forced to live or sleep apart due to overcrowded conditions : 2 points. No points to be allocated where this is due to domestic friction.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**Meat and Other Foods.**

Particulars of inspections and action taken will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Food Poisoning outbreaks.

No outbreaks occurred during the year.

SECTION F.

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

The first three months of the year were the mildest since 1935 and the summer months were characterised by a high rainfall and many sunless days.

A table giving the incidence of Infectious Disease will be found on page 22, giving also Ward distribution and number admitted to hospital. During the year a most useful provision was made by the Ministry of Health (Circular 115/48) that under the National Insurance Act, 1948, Sickness Benefit might be payable to contacts and carriers of Infectious Disease who were excluded from work on the certificate of a Medical Officer of Health.

Diphtheria.

Confirmed cases numbered 6 (11 in 1947, 29 in 1946, 38 in 1945, 105 in 1944). Five of the cases had not received protective treatment and the only death recorded occurred in this group.

Protective treatment against Diphtheria.

(This Immunisation Service from the 5th July passed to the Staffordshire County Council, the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946, and figures and particulars here given are up to that date only).

Clinics.

Albert Street ... First Tuesday in month, 10-0 a.m.
 Mesty Croft ... First Wednesday in month, 10-0 a.m.
 King's Hill ... First Friday in month, 10-0 a.m.

In addition special visits were made to Nursery Schools and Classes.

Treatment was 0.3 c.c. Alum Precipitated Toxoid followed after an interval of four weeks by 0.5 c.c. the whole treatment usually completed before attaining the first birthday.

Re-inforcing doses at 5 and 10 years of age were 1 c.c. T.A.F.

At the 5th July, of an estimated population of 3,244 under five years of age approximately 47% had received protective treatment and of 5,147 aged five to fifteen years 91%, or 76% of all children under fifteen years.

Up to the 5th July, 246 children received their first course of treatment, 212 children received a re-inforcing dose at five years of age and 182 children a re-inforcing dose at ten years.

205 swabs were examined at the Public Health Service Laboratory of which four showed morphological Diphtheria Bacilli.

Influenza.

There was no outbreak of epidemic proportion.

Measles.

211 cases notified approximately half the number notified in 1947 (440), but a higher incidence than was anticipated and the high rate has continued into the first three months of 1949.

Scarlet Fever.

Confirmed notifications 93, 73 in 1947, 46 in 1946.

Whooping Cough.

148 confirmed notifications, 92 in 1947, 58 in 1946.

Smallpox.

No cases.

Acute Poliomyelitis (commonly termed Infantile Paralysis).

One case which made a good recovery.

Tuberculosis.

The return for the last quarter of the year showed 240 cases remaining on the Register compared with 208 in 1947, 183 in 1946, and 178 in 1945.

New cases notified and deaths (all forms of tuberculosis) :—

New Cases	...	1913 ... 100	1941 ... 44	1945 ... 51
		1938 ... 31	1942 ... 46	1946 ... 43
		1939 ... 43	1943 ... 37	1947 ... 51
		1940 ... 31	1944 ... 43	1948 ... 73
Deaths	...	1913 ... 51	1941 ... 31	1945 ... 25
		1938 ... 20	1942 ... 24	1946 ... 26
		1939 ... 25	1943 ... 20	1947 ... 22
		1940 ... 20	1944 ... 27	1948 ... 33

1938 Notifications 31, Deaths 20, cases on Register end of year 173.

1948 Notifications 73, Deaths 33, cases on Register end of year 240.

The increased number on the register calls for re-newed strenuous endeavours if this scourge which John Bunyan so truly called "The Captain of the Men of Death" is to be eradicated.

The increased incidence is no doubt due in part to earlier ascertainment brought about by the use of mass radiography and the medical examination of the eighteen year old population on their 'call-up' for national service, but it has undoubtedly accelerated by the difficulty in securing early treatment and the worsening of housing conditions by the gross overcrowding now existing. To the retification of these two last causes our energies must be deployed, aided by increased propaganda on the hygienic way of living.

85 sputums were tested during the year, 15 being found to be positive.

MISCELLANEA.**Rainfall.**

The total rainfall for the year ended 31st December, amounted to 30.54 inches.

Corporation Sick Pay Scheme.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
20	...	19	...	18	...	1

Local Government and other Officer's Superannuation Act, 1937.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Approved.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
9	...	9	...	5	...	4

Distribution of Food Gifts.

The Public Health Department were again privileged to arrange two further distributions, as in previous years, from depots at the Town Hall, Mesty Croft Infant Welfare Centre, King's Hill Infant Welfare Centre and the Hall of the Albert Pritchard Infant and Nursery School. The first on June 28th, 29th, 30th and 1st July, 135 cases of food given by the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada and South Africa and the second on December 16th, 17th, 20th and 21st, 45 cases of foods from Fiji, Melbourne, Queensland and South Africa when each old age pensioner also received a new two shilling piece from the Mayor's Fund. The Department was again indebted to the voluntary helpers who assisted.

After eight distributions the recipients have from mere acquaintance become old friends.

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1948.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 1 year ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1—4 years ...	2	2	-	1	1	1	-	1
5—14 " ...	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
15—24 " ...	7	4	-	-	3	1	-	1
25—34 " ...	7	8	-	1	1	-	1	-
35—44 " ...	10	1	-	-	7	-	1	-
45—54 " ...	9	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
55—64 " ...	10	2	-	-	4	1	-	-
65 and over... ...	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Totals</i> ...	50	20	1	2	22	3	3	3

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

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

For the year 1st January to 31st December, 1948, I submit the report of the work carried out by my Department.

There have again been changes of staff during the year. Miss J. Lowe, Junior Clerk, left the Department on the 18th May.

Mr. J. W. Barber, Additional Sanitary Inspector, secured a similar appointment at Bilston and left on the 30th June and Mr. F. Holman was appointed to the position and commenced duties on the 1st October.

Clerks G. T. Amos and R. J. Deeley were demobilised from the Royal Air Force and re-commenced duties on the 9th August and 27th September, respectively.

October of this year saw the Department working with a complete staff for the first time since early in 1940.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Statutory Notices served during the year numbered 181 affecting 166 premises and of these and the outstanding notices of last year 202 Notices have been complied with affecting 178 premises in the Borough.

There were also 323 Preliminary Notices served affecting 538 Premises of which 250 Notices were complied with affecting 451 Premises.

Following last year's report of the survey made as to the number of Waste Water Closets in the Borough, the Council in their Estimates provided money to be used as contributions towards the cost of conversion of the said Waste Water Closets

During this year Notices were served for 147 premises of which at 136 premises the conversions had been completed at the end of the year. As this work became known throughout the Borough, information as to the existence of other Waste Water Closets came into the Department and it will be necessary for a further estimate to be submitted next year so that the work of complete abolition of these obsolete types of Sanitary Accommodation can be finally carried out.

Thirty premises were treated by the Department for vermin infestation, 19 of which were for Bugs and 11 for other vermin.

Housing Act, 1936.

Under the provisions of this Act the following premises were dealt with as stated :—

Undertakings from Owners not to re-let : —

130, Darlaston Road.

74, 74a, 75 and 76, Portway Road.

Demolition Orders :—

13 and 15, Wellcroft Street.

24 and 25, King Street.

34, 35 and 36, King Street.

11 and 12, Meeting Street.

133, 134, 135, 136 and 137, Holyhead Road.

It is pleasing to record that during the year a number of families have been taken out of bad conditions and re-housed in Corporation houses. Four families affected by Closing Orders, 13 families affected by Demolition Orders, affecting a total of 80 persons re-housed. Of the Old Portway Road Area a total of 8 premises have been vacated affecting 8 families and 21 persons being re-housed.

Meat and other Foods.

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

The following table is required by the Ministry of Health and as there are no Cows, Calves, Sheep and Lambs slaughtered in the Borough, these columns have been omitted.

						<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known)	...	...	...	...	...	7,131
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	...	7,131

All diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	8
Carcasses of which some part or Organ was condemned					303
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4.36

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					394
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5.7

Further to the table of inspections, etc., shown later, eight samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological Analysis and were all satisfactory and eight samples of milk were submitted for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination these also being all satisfactory.

Our Register of Ice Cream Vendors at the end of the year shows the position to be as follows :—

One Vendor makes Ice Cream by the “ Hot Mix Process ” in proper accordance with the Heat Treatment Regulations.

Seven Vendors use the “ Cold Mix Powder.”

Twenty-one Vendors purchase Ice Cream from outside the Borough from manufacturers whose premises and methods are satisfactory to the respective Authority concerned.

Fourteen Vendors receive the Ice Cream pre-packed ready for handing to the customers.

Under the Heat Treatment Regulations, 49 samples were submitted for Bacteriological Examination. Returns show that 17 samples were grade 1 ; 5 samples grade 2 ; 4 samples grade 3 and 23 samples grade 4.

Whilst from present knowledge it is reasonable to remark that from these reports “ there is no cause for alarm ” it is certainly indicated that much work will be required to be done next year in an effort to bring all the 23 grade 4 reports into grade 1 category.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

The table required for the report of Food Poisoning Outbreaks has not been printed as fortunately there have been no outbreaks and no matter to report.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

(The period under review for this section is from 1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1949.)

The Hydes Road site set aside for Playing Fields is still the point of Disposal of Refuse by Controlled Tipping. Good progress has been maintained.

In May a new horse was obtained to replace the aged one previously disposed of. This horse has proved equal to the tasks required of him.

I feel that here I must express a satisfaction in the command over the work afforded by the acquisition of the new vehicles within the last two years. It is also pleasing to note that compared with the maintenance costs of the vehicles this new fleet has replaced, the costs have been reduced by two-thirds.

In January, 1949, a new Lorry was delivered and has proved a boon for the collection of Kitchen Waste.

With regard to Salvage, the actual tonnage disposed of shows a decrease on the previous year of 13 tons but the income for the financial year under review shows an increase of £46. This can be explained by the fact that whereas less glass and metals have been sold, owing to the campaign carried out in December, 1947, the saving of waste paper shows an increase over this same period of 84 tons. I feel that this shows a commendable co-operation by the public of Wednesbury to the methods followed by the Department.

Public Health Acts—Inspections, etc.

After Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	2,075
Dirty Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	8
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	42
Infectious Disease—Visits and Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	93
Infectious Disease—Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	115
Smoke Abatement—Observations	...	...	...	...	...	39
Smoke Abatement—Visits to Plant	...	...	...	...	...	117
House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	823
Piggeries Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	142
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of houses disinfested—Council	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of houses disinfested—Others	...	...	...	...	...	12

Housing Act.

Miscellaneous Visits and Enquiries	136
Overcrowding	14

Food and Drugs and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Number of visits to Slaughter-houses... ..	207
Number of Carcases inspected	7,131
Total weight of Meat condemned and surrendered	
	5 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs.
Number of Inspections of Food other than Meat ...	77
Total weight of other food condemned and surrendered	
	2 tons, 5 cwts. 3 qrs.
Fish Frying premises inspected	26
Butcher's Shops inspected	25
Ice Cream Shops inspected	153
Other Food Shops inspected	60
Food Preparing premises inspected	133
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	1
Bakehouses inspected	11
Sampling—Milk	11
Sampling—Ice Cream	68
Sampling—Water	20
Markets inspected	25

Shops Acts—Inspections.

Regarding Sanitary Accommodation	1
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Factories Act.

Factories—with Power	103
Factories—without Power	6

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Complaints received	62
Visits made	243
Estimated number of rats killed	624

(Estimate per Ministry of Food Formula)

Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.

Collection and disposal of Refuse	...	...	...	34
Accommodation for Storage of Refuse	...	...	...	449
Salvage	...	...	...	39
Stables	...	...	...	8
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	22
General	...	...	...	121

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

(1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1949).

Total weight of Refuse collected (estimated)	8,377 tons
Total weight of Materials Salvaged (actual) ...	561 tons

To the Council for the helpful suggestions and goodwill at all times shown towards the work of the Department and to my Staff for their continued loyalty and support, I have pleasure in recording my sincere thanks.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FREDK. J. TURNER,

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

Sanitary Department,
37, Holyhead Road,
Wednesbury.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. ANNUAL REPORT, 1948.
 PART I.

1.—Inspections.

PREMISES. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	23	6	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	140	103	5	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. * (excluding out- workers' premises) ...	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL ...	—	163	109	5	Nil	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted. (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9	4	2	—	4	—	9
(a) Insufficient	10	10	1	—	10	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outwork)		—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	60	14	3	—	14	—	60

* Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1). Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Buildings Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

PART VIII.

SECTIONS 110 AND 111—NIL.

