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REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH,

FOR THE YEAR 1894, BY

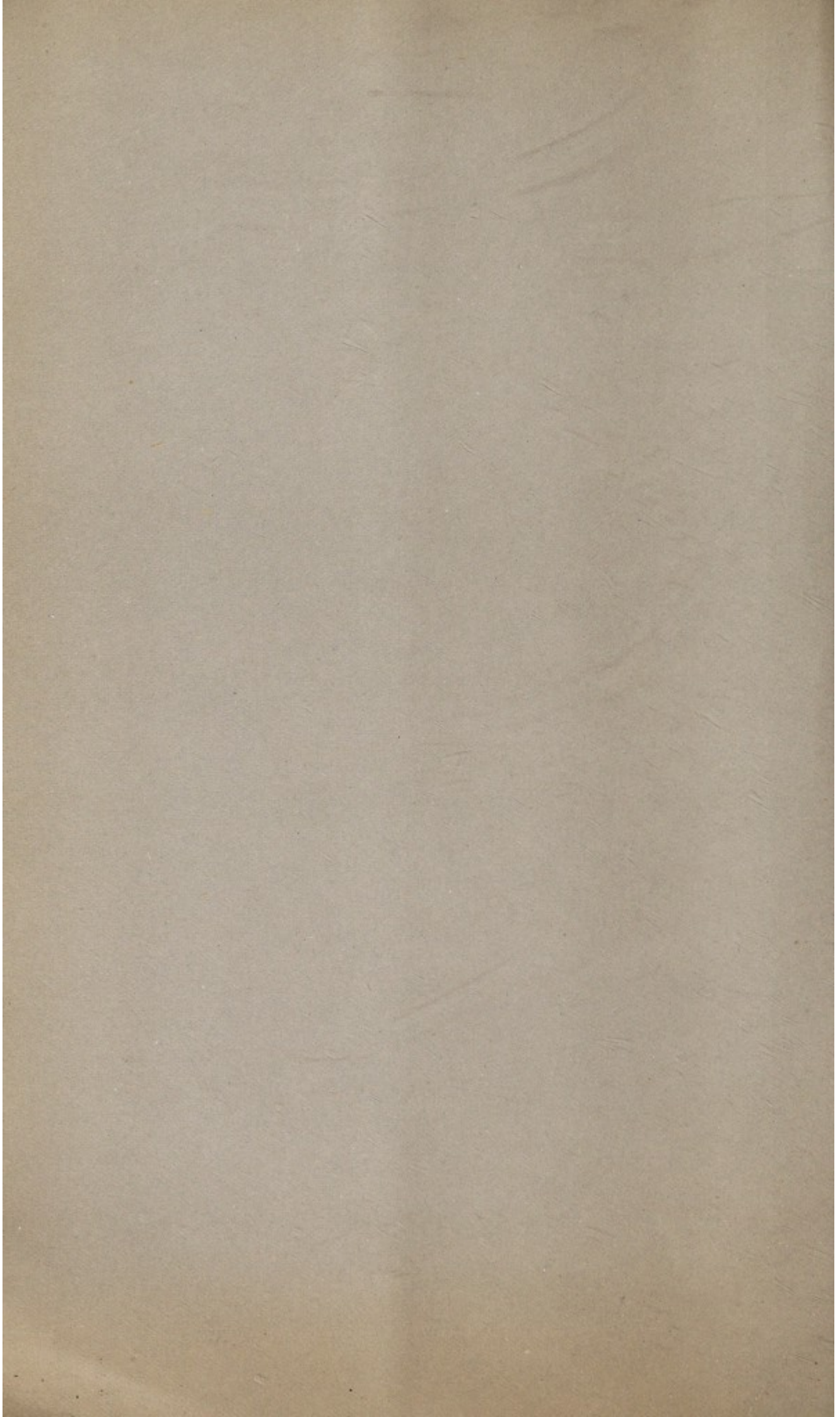
HERBERT MANLEY, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough.

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE REPORTS OF THE SANITARY
AND FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR, CANAL BOATS INSPECTOR,
AND PUBLIC ANALYSTS.

WEST BROMWICH :

J. BATES, CAXTON PRINTING WORKS, PARADISE STREET.





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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY
COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST
BROMWICH.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I present my fifth Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Borough ; in its arrangement and details I have followed my usual custom, in order to facilitate a comparison with the reports of previous years.

Intro-
ductory

From a statistical point of view the past year presents a record in several particulars, the chief being the extraordinary fall in the death-rate, the remarkable decrease in infantile mortality, and the comparative immunity from epidemic disease ; the last being the more remarkable since during the whole year we have been exposed to persistent invasion.

The policy pursued by my Inspector and myself has been uniformly one of conciliation, and it is no mean cause of congratulation that no offence under the Public Health Acts has been the subject of magisterial proceedings during the past year. I have initiated the practice of lecturing upon the common laws of public health to mixed audiences, and I propose to carry my work in this direction still further, being sure that the vast majority of those whose interests are most intimately involved in the sanitation of our town, will, when properly informed of the aims and methods of true modern sanitation, gladly co-operate with your Committee and its officers in the general improvement of the Borough.

There has again been a change in the *personnel* of the department, Mr. Horner having obtained an appointment in Yorkshire. His place has been taken by Mr. Waters, of Manchester, with Mr. John Cotterill as Assistant Inspector.

At the time of writing, the Committee are on the eve of a new experiment in the management of refuse removal, the issue of which I await with interest.

I have further to record the visit of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Sanitary Inspector, and Borough Surveyor, with myself, to Liverpool where much good work was done by the Congress under the auspices of the Sanitary Institute, and exceptional opportunities of sanitary study were afforded.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

I present as briefly as possible the comparative tables of births, sickness, and deaths for the past year.

Births

The births number 2,207, and are represented by a birth-rate of 36·8 per 1,000, being but slightly in excess of the preceding year. The details are as follows :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
N.E.	240	276	247	255	1,018
S.W.	317	296	271	305	1,189
Total	557	572	518	560	2,207

Deaths

The total number of deaths which occurred in West Bromwich in 1894, was 1,105, against 1,481 in the year 1893. Of this total 102 were those of inmates of the various public institutions whose place of residence was outside the Borough boundaries, while no less than 48 deaths were recorded from injuries and violence, thus reducing the total to 955 deaths belonging to the death record proper. The corrected death-rate thus amounts to as little as 15·9 per 1,000, and the gross death-rate to 18·4 per 1,000, figures which represent the lowest death-rates ever recorded in West Bromwich. It is however my duty to warn you that an ever-increasing diminution in the death-rate cannot be expected, and there remain a number of facts which render these figures less satisfactory than they appear. The figures were in 1893, 1,481 and 1,326, and yielded death-rates of 26·7 and 22·1, which were much too high to be satisfactory.

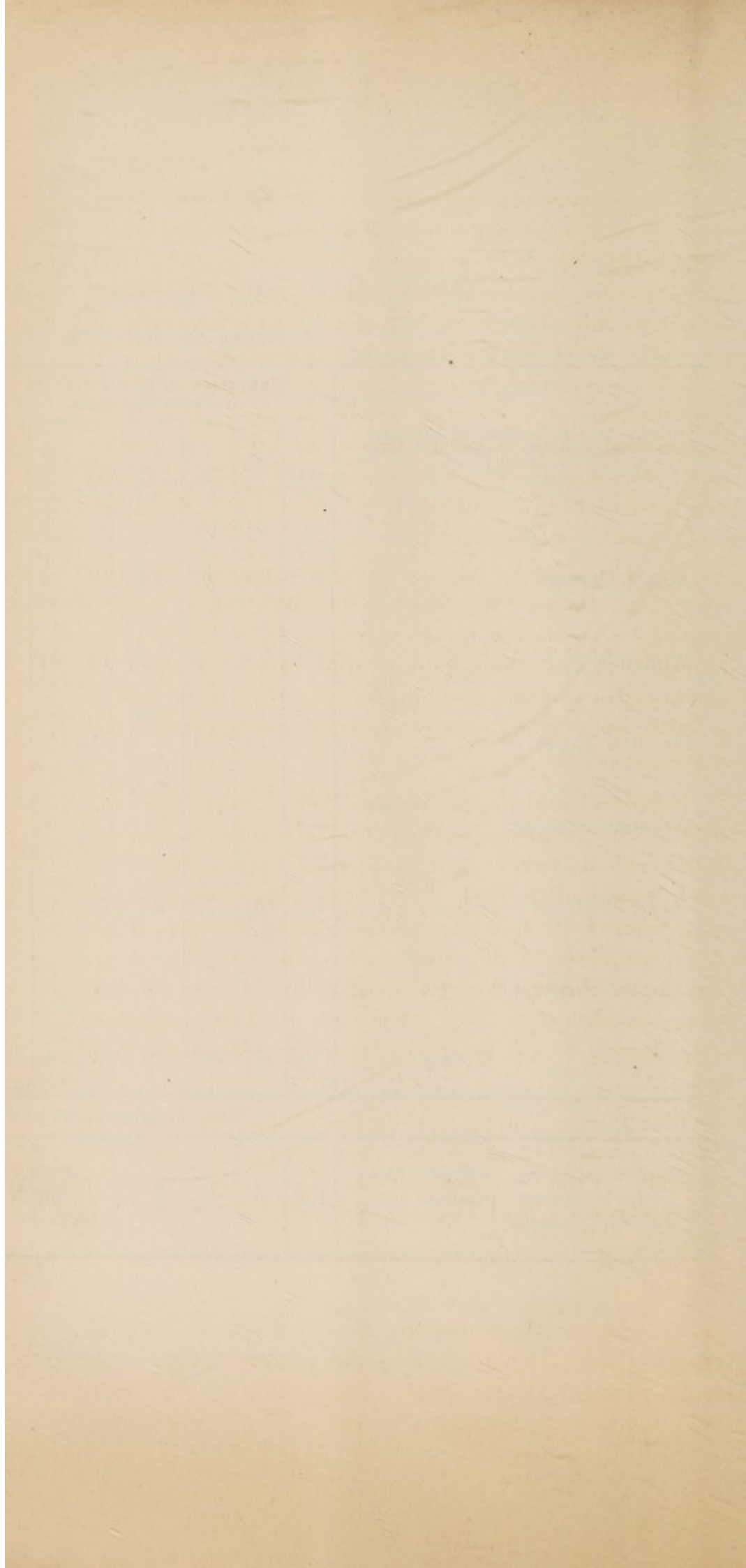
The usual tables are appended :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
N.E.	110	102	86	110	408
S.W.	111	104	110	158	483
Public Institutions }	50	55	52	57	214
Total	271	261	248	325	1,105
Under 1 Year	78	73	69	116	337
Between 1 and 5	40	28	29	49	146
" 5 " 15	13	12	13	12	50
" 15 " 25	16	17	10	11	54
" 25 " 60	60	64	66	66	256
Over 60	63	67	61	71	262

(A)—TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1894, in the Borough of West Bromwich, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

<small>NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.</small> (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																									
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	(i)	1.	2.	3.	4.	FEVERS.							10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	
													Typhus.	Euteric or Typhoid.	Con- tinued.	Re- lapsing.	Inter- mitt.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.														Measles.
(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.				
NORTH EASTERN	408	137	63	16	13	89	90	Under 5		3	3	1								3	12	16				2	41		2	117	200		
								5 upwards				1	2									1				20	33	31	9	111	208		
WORKHOUSE	165	9	5	2	10	67	72	Under 5																			2			12	14		
								5 upwards					3													17	26	18	1	86	151		
BOROUGH HOSPITAL	5	1	1		1	2		Under 5				1																			2	3	
								5 upwards	1																								
WIGMORE SCHOOLS	1			1				Under 5																								1	1
								5 upwards																									
SOUTH WESTERN	483	188	73	23	23	82	94	Under 5		1	2	2	1							5	16	27				63			2	142	261		
								5 upwards					5			1										15	48	22	18	109	222		
DISTRICT HOSPITAL	43	2	4	8	7	16	6	Under 5																								5	6
								5 upwards			1																						
								Under 5	1	4	5	4	1							8	28	43				1	1	4	20	10	37		
								5 upwards																		2	107		9	271	483		
TOTALS	1105	337	146	50	54	256	262	Under 5	1		1	1	10			1					8	28	43			53	108	75	48	319	622		
								5 upwards																									
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																																	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	102	8	6	5	7	36	40	Under 5	1			1															3		1	8	14		
								5 upwards					1														11	9	9	8	50	88	



The chief cause for congratulation in these figures is the decrease of infantile mortality which had reached an exceptional height in 1893, and which now presents an equally exceptional fall. The deaths only amount this year to 337 against 464 last year, and this coupled with a rise in the birth-rate presents a mortality of only 152 per 1,000 births, by far the lowest ratio yet recorded. It is however necessary for purposes of accurate comparison to put on record the figures of each year, as in this way alone can the truth be ascertained. Between 1 and 5 years of age 146 deaths occurred against 231 last year, giving a total mortality of 483 against 695, the relation to the total death-rate having dropped from 47 per cent. to 44 per cent.

Infantile
Mortality

The chief causes of infantile mortality during the past year were:—Lung Disease 107; Diarrhœa 43; Whooping Cough 28; the item of miscellaneous diseases accounting for no less than 271. In alluding to this subject I can do little more than repeat my remarks of last year, and record the fact that I am to the best of my ability endeavouring privately to remedy the causes of infant mortality among the poor.

In further considering the low death-rate it is extremely satisfactory to find so great a freedom from preventible disease; the number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases only reaching 102, or less than half the deaths in 1893. This is made up as follows:—Small-pox 1, Scarlet Fever 4, Measles 8, Diphtheria 6, Whooping Cough 28, Typhoid Fever 10, and Diarrhœa 45. There is a decrease in every disease excepting Whooping Cough, which has been prevalent during the whole year. The annual rate per 1,000 from these causes amounts to 1·7, by far the lowest recorded rate in West Bromwich.

Lung Diseases continue to be the most serious form of ailment and are accountable for 215 deaths evenly divided between children and adults. I am convinced that many lives could be saved if children were not so much exposed to the weather.

The deaths which have come under the notice of the Coroner are as follows:—

Inquests

Year.	Total.	Certified.	Uncertified.	Coroner.	Proportion per cent. Deaths.		
					Certified.	Uncertified.	Coroner.
1892.	1,293	1,183	4	106	91·6	0·3	8·9
1893.	1,481	1,349	11	121	91·2	0·7	8·1
1894.	1,105	983	4	118	87·6	0·4	12·0

It will be noticed that I have omitted the Chart of Weekly Mortality from this Report, my reasons for so doing being as follows: that it is of little practical utility as compared with the excessive cost of its preparation; that the comparison of one week with another is productive of no good results; and that any facts of interest can be better set out in these comments.

It is interesting to note that only five times in 1894 did the weekly mortality rise above 20, and that the chief decline in the mortality occurred in the months of June, July, and August, during which months the Borough further enjoyed comparative freedom from Zymotic Disease.

SANITARY WORK.

NUISANCES INJURIOUS TO HEALTH.

Without entering into minute details of the work done, I may fairly report that the Sanitary Department has not been idle during the past year. Less difficulty has been experienced in the carrying out of the Public Health Acts, and much good work has been effected without friction or ostentation. The improvements initiated last year in the Public Schools continue to grow, and will produce a greater development in the coming year.

I record with great satisfaction the great increase in the number of houses from which the refuse is now removed weekly, and two carts are fully employed upon this work. Any system by which house refuse is prevented from accumulating upon premises is welcome, and I trust that this increase will be steadily maintained until the centre of the town and the better class houses are all included in its operation.

It has not been necessary to take any proceedings under the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, but a number of the worst houses have become void, and an improved class of artisan dwelling is rapidly growing up.

The gradual conversion of privy middens continues, and it is interesting to note that in other towns the expenses attendant upon the change are being partially met out of the Public Funds; hitherto no contributions have been made in West Bromwich, nor do I think it likely that such will be the case.

It is once again necessary that the attention of the Committee should be called to the increasing difficulty which attends the disposal of refuse. At the present time, with the exception of those houses which possess the water carriage system (which amount to about 500, serving a population of about 3,000), the excreta and refuse of the Borough are deposited upon land on its confines. Two nuisances are thus created, the one arising from the offensive odours which form the subject of repeated complaints from property owners in the neighbourhood of Hill Top, and from travellers along the country lanes leading to Walsall and Barr; and the other, which was very noticeable during the westerly gales of this Spring, from the paper and straw which were blown over the country.

The Committee are at present entirely in the hands of the owners of the land upon which this stuff is tipped, and it is possible that the right to tip may be withdrawn upon short notice; it is therefore necessary to see what alternative means of disposal are in vogue elsewhere.

No system has yet been devised by which the contents of mixed privy-middens can be treated otherwise than by tipping, and it is therefore a *sine quâ non* that in order to employ any system the excreta must be kept separate from the dry refuse.

Various systems thus present themselves:—

1. *The Use of Water.*—This possesses the great advantage of instantaneously removing the excreta from the premises with a minimum of trouble and cost.

Its difficulties are the expenses of installation and repair, the gross ignorance of those who have to use it, and the necessity for efficient sewage treatment at the outfall.

2. *The Pail System*, which involves subsequent treatment of the pail contents either upon land or by patent processes, and which is a very unpleasant and costly system to work.

3. *The Patent Manure Process*, which can be seen at Warrington, and which has the merit of being remunerative. It produces a patent manure, which has a high agricultural value, and the process is not offensive except at close quarters.

4. Mr. Marsh is now about to attempt a process, in which the finer portions of the dry refuse are mixed with a disinfectant and dried, and are then used as an absorbent for the excreta and urine in the closet cisterns. I see no objection to this process,

which is a modification of the principle of earth closets, but I am sceptical of its utility.

5. The Company who are in operation at Lot's Wharf, Chelsea, deal with the dry refuse of the District in a very interesting manner. By a series of ingenious machines the refuse is resolved into its elements, metal, glass, coal, paper, &c., and everything is turned to account.

I strongly recommend this process to your notice.

6. The destruction of refuse by fire is by far the most common method of dealing with it. Destructors are now common in many towns, and the prejudice against their use is disappearing. I have myself seen those in use at Leeds, Liverpool, Warrington, Nottingham, and Bournemouth. There are three main forms known respectively as the Horsfall, the Manlove and Alliott, and the Beaman and Deas.

Councillor Wilson had an opportunity with me of studying the last-named, for which certain advantages are claimed. It produces a very high temperature, is free from any offensive vapours, and is no nuisance to the surrounding people.

I most strongly urge all members of the Council to take every opportunity of studying the Destructor question, and of informing themselves of the merits or demerits of the process.

Every form of Destructor can be seen in a few hours in the neighbourhood of Manchester and Liverpool, and the process now in vogue at Warrington is most important. If the Committee should decide to visit for themselves a few of these Destructors they would in a short time gain more information than any report can give them, and a personal inspection would go far to remove many of the errors and prejudices which at present exist. A circular tour could be arranged so as to demonstrate all forms of Destructor in a day's work during the Summer, and I strongly recommend the suggestion to the Committee.

THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Two hundred and eighty-nine cases of Zymotic disease have been reported under the Provisions of the Notification Act, including Smallpox 41, Scarlet Fever 83, Typhoid Fever 79, Diphtheria 13, Croup 5, Continued Fever 2, Puerperal Fever 2, and Erysipelas 64. The cost of this Notification amounts to £34 7s. 6d., or about 11s. 6d. per 1,000 of your population—a very small price to pay for the advantages gained.

It is a matter for regret that Erysipelas continues to be notified, as the information is of no value whatever, and in people who are the subjects of this disease it is not without precedent to find a man who has Erysipelas two or three times a year, indeed one such case has been reported three times in 1894. Every effort is being made to remove the disease from the operation of the Act in the event of legislation.

The 83 cases of Scarlet Fever have been of a very mild type, and have produced only four deaths; very few cases have been removed to Hospital, as an unusually large number of cases have occurred in houses of the better class where isolation has been possible. The 13 cases of Diphtheria call for little comment, but, as is usually the case, nearly 50 per cent. of them have been fatal. Our Borough, from its situation and character, is but little liable to Diphtheria outbreaks except as associated with Scarlet Fever.

The duties of your officer in respect of Smallpox have been especially onerous during the past year. I was able to report that at the close of 1893 the Borough was completely free from any trace of this disease, but at the same time owing to its continued prevalence in Birmingham, Smethwick, Handsworth, Walsall, Willenhall, and Rowley Regis, we were constantly in danger of its importation. During the year 1894 Smallpox has been imported into West Bromwich no less than twenty-four several times, not as so frequently occurs in Rural Districts by vagrants but rather owing to the employment of West Bromwich residents in the workshops and factories of neighbouring towns. Forty-one cases have been reported in twenty-four houses, but in no instance has the disease extended beyond the house in which it first appeared. Without wishing in any way to take undue credit to your officers, I may fairly point out that this is entirely owing to the rapid isolation of every case notified, and the complete and thorough disinfection of the houses in which they have occurred.

Smallpox

Every case has been removed to Hospital, and the use of the telephone has been absolutely invaluable. Efforts have been made to trace the source of importation in every case, and as a result I am able to report that five cases were traced to Birmingham, three to Walsall, four to Smethwick, three to Handsworth, and one to Aston, leaving seven, the origin of which is too doubtful to record. I cannot sufficiently thank my medical colleagues for their co-operation and prompt notification, and also for the kindly

Smallpox

manner in which they have so often proffered their cases for inspection where doubt existed.

One outbreak calls for special notice where the father, mother, and three children were discovered to be infected in an exceptionally dirty house. No medical man had been in attendance, and the cases were discovered by your officials. All five were promptly removed, and the contents of the house were so infected with vermin that it was thought advisable to burn everything in the house. The woman died, but the remaining four recovered, and suitable compensation has been given for the destruction of their goods.

I regret to say that up to the close of the year we continue to discover isolated cases of Smallpox imported from neighbouring towns, and that there has lately been a tendency to conceal their existence. In the event of any serious smuggling of the disease, it will be necessary to enforce the provisions of the Notification Act by prosecution, not so much for the punishment of the guilty as for the protection of the Public.

I append an analysis of the cases of Smallpox as occurring in the Borough with any details that may be interesting:—

1. Ault Street, February 8th, F., traced to Birmingham.
- 2, 3, 4, 5. Union Workouse, February 24th, F., all occupants of the imbecile ward. Probably infected by a visitor from the Wolverhampton side of the Borough.
6. Colley Street, March 19th, F., imported from Birmingham.
7. Swan Village, April 12th, M., not traced.
8. Ryders Green, April 15th, F., imported from Winson Green.
- 9, 12. Hill Top, April 18th and May 3rd, M., probably imported from Birmingham into an exceptionally dirty house.
10. Workhouse, April 18th, F. Had been on leave to an infected house at Walsall.
11. Fisher Street, April 20th, F., came a few days before from Aston, then infected with Smallpox.
- 13, 17, 18. Beale Street, May 12th, May 24th, M. F., contracted probably from Willenhall, but origin not quite clear.
- 14, 15. Witton Lane, May 12th, M. F., possibly connected with Nos. 9 and 12, though no history of communication could be elicited.

16, 20, 21. Little Lane, May 19th, June 1st, June 4th, all men; the first case was imported from Birmingham. Smallpox

19. Walsall Street, May 26th, M., traced to Birmingham.

22. Cross Street, June 9th, F., doubtful case. Is said to have had Smallpox before, and has certainly a mark of it.

23. Bull Street, June 12th, M., infected at Acocks Green, where he was living in the employ of a butcher.

24. Old End, July 4th, M., infected by visiting Birmingham.

25, 28, 29. Billhay Lane, July 4th, July 16th, M. M. F., could give no account of origin.

26, 27. Horton Street, July 16th, imported from Handsworth.

30. Witton Lane, August 24th, M., could not trace this case.

31, 32, 33, 34, 35. Union Street, November 21st, M. F., 4, brought from Smethwick where a member of the family was in Hospital with Smallpox, into an exceptionally filthy house.

36. Lyndon, December 4th, M., says he caught it by attending football matches.

37. Spon Lane, December 4th, F., imported from Smethwick.

38. Great Bridge, M., December 20th.

39, 41. Braybrook Street, M. F., December 21st and December 27th.

40. Dartmouth Street, F., December 26th.

No account could be obtained of these last four cases, two of which were of long standing when discovered.

The prevalence of Typhoid Fever during the year requires detailed notice. Seventy-nine cases have been reported to me, and though less in number than in the previous year, when there were 92, they have caused considerable anxiety to your officers. Typhoid
Fever

The locality most affected by the disease is the District known as the Lyng, including Lyng Lane, Smith Street, Cross Street, Braybrook Street, Sams Lane, Chapel Street, Moor Street, and for this purpose Bowater Street, Oak Road, and Oak Lane. Of the 79 cases reported no less than 40 occurred in the streets enumerated.

The first outbreak occurred in Cross Street, and though one or two cases had been notified as early as January nothing in the nature of an epidemic had taken place until the end of March, about which time no less than 12 cases were reported from Cross

Typhoid
Fever

Street. It is curious that this outbreak seemed to be connected in some mysterious way with the presence of a vendor of ice creams, whose wife had had Typhoid Fever. No further case occurred in Cross Street, but an outbreak took place in a court in Oak Lane, whither the ice cream vendor had moved, four cases being reported. Being only a lodger he again fled upon the approach of the Sanitary Authorities, and his arrival in a court in Braybrook Street was signalized by a new outbreak in some very bad property there, no less than nine cases being reported. In the absence of any provision for isolation of Typhoid Fever, your Officers were only able to make such arrangements for cleansing and disinfection as were possible, and to insist upon certain much-needed Sanitary alteration. Several of the houses were overcrowded, but the only result of any action in this direction was to create fresh centres of disease. It was then found advisable to remove some of the worst cases to the Union Workhouse, but the Guardians strongly objected to this course being followed. The Committee then proposed to enter into an arrangement with the District Hospital for the admission of cases of Typhoid Fever, similar to that in force between the Metropolitan Asylums Board and some of the London Hospitals, but the Hospital Board declined. It now devolves upon your Committee to consider the necessity for providing suitable accommodation for these cases, which are quite as serious as either Smallpox or Scarlet Fever, and which, from the nature of the disease, destroy the most valuable lives. Ten deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, or nearly 13 per cent. of the recorded cases.

Every inquiry was made into the history of the ice cream vendor, but it could not be discovered that those who were seized had partaken of the creams. My opinion is that in all probability the man himself had suffered from a mild attack of Typhoid Fever, and the infection he transmitted was contained in his excreta, which being in every case deposited in privy-middens infected those who used them. It is, however, worthy of note that the recent investigations of Dr. Klein at Islington and Dr. Munro in Renfrewshire distinctly point to ice creams as a source of danger in transmitting diseases of this class.

I should wish further to remind you that in no case has any of our Typhoid Fever been traced to sewer gas emanations, but rather to the continued existence of large, foul, unroofed midden-privies, in which human excreta and house refuse are mixed in a sweltering

mass of wet filth for weeks at a time within a few yards of the kitchen door, and that it is not to be wondered at that milk exposed to such emanations should produce diseases of such a character as Typhoid, Diphtheria, or Erysipelas.

Typhoid
Fever

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

From various causes the year has been a busy one at the Hospital, no less than 186 cases having been under treatment.

The cases of Smallpox, 124 in number, were made up of 41 West Bromwich cases, the history of which has already been related; 5 cases from the Rural Sanitary Authority, and 78 from the District of Handsworth. Only two deaths have occurred from Smallpox, one being the case of a child only a month old, who only survived the attack for 13 days, while the other was the woman from Union Street, who was already enfeebled by excess and exposure.

Only one of the cases admitted for Scarlet Fever died, the cause being Diphtheritic Sore Throat, and the case being regarded as hopeless from the first.

It is very satisfactory to record so low a mortality in our Hospital, and also to note that in no case has a patient admitted from Scarlet Fever acquired Smallpox. It is, however, curious to record an instance of a patient, who was admitted for Smallpox and who had a great fear of Scarlet Fever, catching the latter disease apparently by aerial convection. She left the Smallpox Ward on December 13th, and returned to the Scarlet Fever Ward on December 15th, not having been exposed to infection in the meanwhile.

A curious complaint of ill-treatment has been made, but on enquiry it was found that the marks on the child alleged to have been caused by a cane had been produced by himself with a finger smeared with coal-dust, and that no punishment of the kind had been inflicted.

The admissions to Hospital may be arranged as follows :—

Months.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Total.
January	10	—	10
February	18	—	18
March	15	—	15
April	19	—	19
May	15	—	15
June	7	3	10

Months.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.		Total.
	<i>Continued.</i>			
July	9	2	...	11
August	5	1	...	6
September	3	20	...	23
October	3	17	...	20
November	9	11	...	20
December	11	8	...	19
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Totals	124	62		186

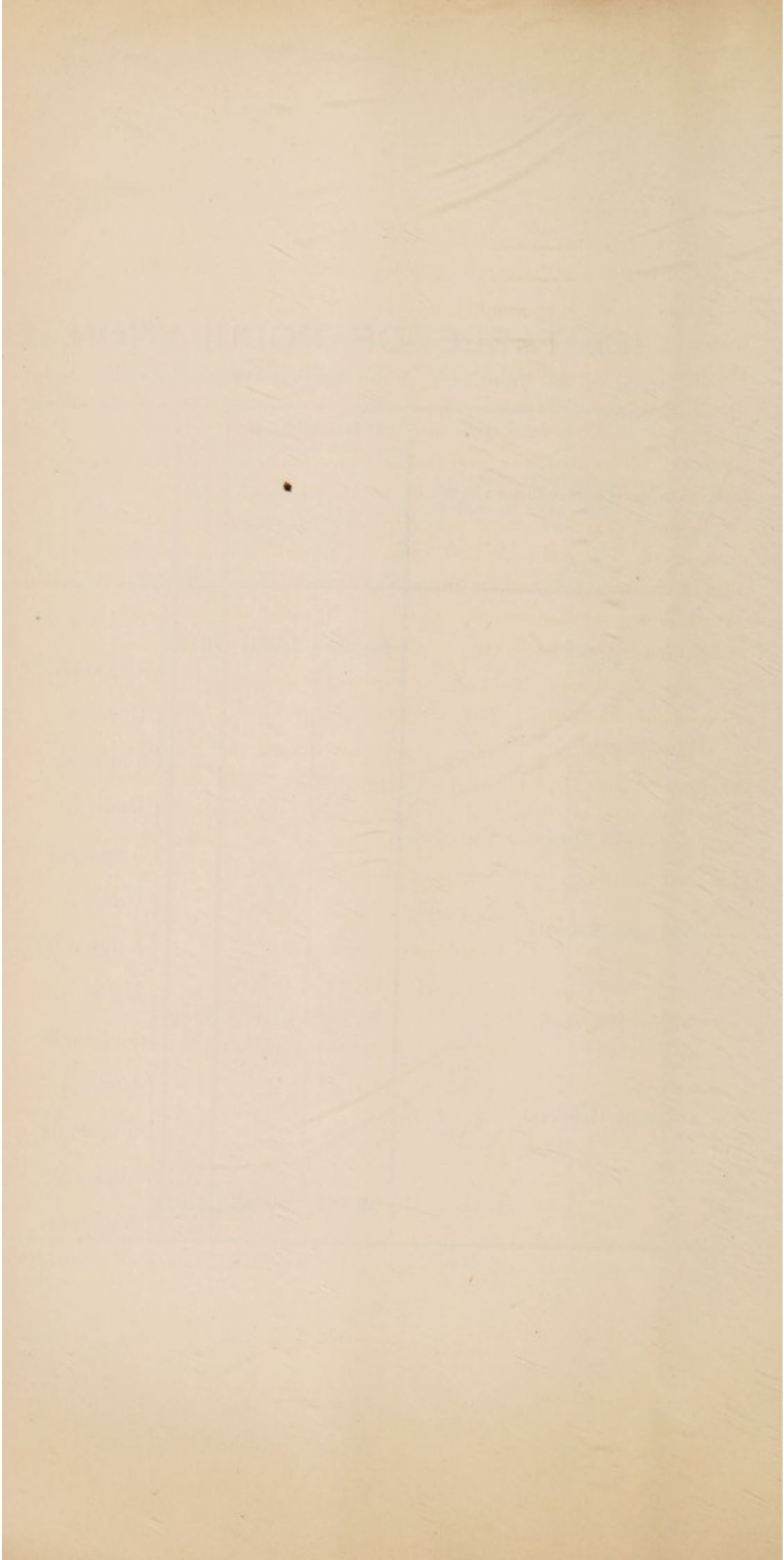
Before passing from the subject of the Hospital, I may remind you of the pressing need for some provision for the reception and treatment of cases of Typhoid Fever. My suggestion is that the present buildings be retained for Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever, and that a new pavilion be erected for the reception of Smallpox. Should the Committee favour this view, I am prepared to suggest a scheme for a small permanent block capable of extension if required in times of epidemic.

WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES.

Considerable attention has been paid during the year to the conditions of the Workshops and the health of those employed in them. Eighty Workshops have received attention, representing close upon 1,000 employees, and, unfortunately, there is considerable room for improvement. The points to which it has been chiefly necessary to call attention have been the provision of suitable closet accommodation, especially where both sexes are employed, the efficient lime-washing and cleansing of some of the rooms, and the need for more ventilation. Notices have been served upon some of the owners which have received attention, but it will be my duty to call the attention of the Committee to several cases in default.

It is interesting to note that only eleven of these Workshops are provided with w.c.'s or Slop-Water Closets, and in a perfectly satisfactory condition.

It has been necessary to call attention to privies and ashpits existing beneath Workshops and to very inadequate privy accommodation, notably where over 50 employees are provided with only two closets, and also where 110 men and 40 women have only four closets between them.



It is pleasant to record that an improvement is also being made in the Sanitary conveniences attached to Factories where the improved latrine system is replacing the old row of privy middens.

I am in constant communication with our District Factory Inspector, and no cause of complaint has yet been alleged by him. The question of female labour in connexion with infantile mortality has been brought under my notice, but I am of opinion that West Bromwich is but very little affected in this matter. I do not, however, believe that any good end would be served, so far as our own Borough is concerned by the extension of compulsory non-employment of lying-in women, because it is my experience that the class among whom the greatest infantile mortality occurs in West Bromwich does not include women employed in Factories and Workshops so much as women employed in irregular labour, either as field labourers, coal-pickers, or charwomen of the inferior type.

The Bakehouses have all been inspected during the year, and various alterations and improvements have been carried out.

In conclusion, I can but once more record the harmonious working of my Department, and express alike to the members of my Committee, my colleagues in the medical profession, and many who have the care of properties in the Borough, my sincere thanks for their assistance in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

HERBERT MANLEY,

M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Fellow of the Sanitary Institute.

Table of the Number of Deaths and Zymotic Diseases occurring in each Street, in the County Borough of West Bromwich.

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases Notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases Notified.
A				Chapel street ...	6	2	3
All Saints street ...	5	—	1	Chapel street, Lyng ...	—	—	2
Arthur street ...	7	—	2	Cottrell street ...	—	—	—
Ault street ...	5	—	1	Crookhay ...	3	1	1
Alfred street ...	1	—	1	Castle street ...	2	—	—
Albert street ...	2	—	—	Coppice street ...	2	1	—
Albion road ...	—	—	—	Croft street ...	2	1	—
Allerton lane ...	—	—	—	Church street ...	2	—	2
Albion ...	1	—	1	Church lane ...	3	—	3
B				Church vale ...	5	1	8
Birmingham road ...	3	1	1	Cemetery road ...	—	—	—
Beeches road ...	3	—	2	Cooper street ...	6	1	—
Bagnall street ...	1	—	—	Cooper hill street ...	4	—	—
Bull street ...	—	—	1	Charlemont ...	—	—	—
Bull lane ...	5	—	—	Coles lane ...	—	—	—
Bratt street ...	4	—	4	Crankhall lane ...	—	—	—
Braybrook street ...	3	2	10	D			
Bromford lane ...	4	1	2	Dial lane ...	10	3	4
Brook street ...	3	—	—	Dartmouth street ...	10	1	5
Bond street ...	3	—	1	Dudley road ...	5	—	1
Bowater street ...	—	—	2	Dagger lane ...	1	—	1
Barton street ...	5	—	5	Duke street ...	4	1	3
Black Lake ...	2	—	3	Dove street ...	1	—	—
Brett street ...	—	—	—	Delves The ...	—	—	—
Billhay street ...	4	1	6	Dunkirk ...	—	—	—
Billhay lane ...	2	—	3	Dunkirk street ..	1	1	—
Barrows street ...	3	—	2	E			
Brickhouse lane ...	5	—	4	Ebenezer street ...	10	1	1
Beale street ...	5	1	1	Edward street ...	—	—	—
Barrack street ...	—	—	—	Earl street ...	2	1	—
Barncroft street ...	4	—	—	Elwell street ...	2	—	—
Boulton road ...	1	—	—	Exchange street ...	—	—	—
Bird End ...	—	—	—	F			
Bustleholme ...	—	—	—	Fisher street ...	4	—	1
Baker street ...	—	—	—	Francis street ...	2	—	—
Barr road ...	—	—	—	Frederick street ...	1	—	—
Bescot ...	—	—	—	Farley street ...	3	—	—
Burlington road ...	1	—	—	Florence road ...	2	—	4
Bache road ...	1	—	—	Friar Park ...	—	—	—
Bell street ...	1	—	—	G			
C				Great Bridge street ...	6	—	2
Carters Green ...	5	—	2	Great Bridge ...	2	—	—
Carters Green passage ...	—	—	—	Guns lane ...	7	—	2
Claypit lane ...	3	1	—	Greets Green road ...	6	1	1
Colley street ...	—	—	1	Greets Green (Canal side) ...	—	—	—
Cophall street ...	14	2	—	Gregory street ...	1	—	—
Cronehill street ...	—	—	2	Griffin street ...	2	—	—
Charles street ...	—	—	—				
Cross street ...	1	—	18				
Cape street ...	2	1	1				

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases Notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases Notified.
Golds Hill ...	4	—	—	Kenrick street ...	3	—	—
Golds Green ...	4	2	1				
Grice street ...	1	—	—	L			
Globe street ...	3	1	1	Lyng lane ...	7	1	4
Glover street ...	7	2	4	Long square ...	1	—	—
Green street ...	2	—	1	Lloyd street ...	2	—	—
George street ...	8	1	3	Lyndon ..	8	—	1
Gads lane ...	—	—	—	Lyndon street ...	1	1	—
Grout street ...	4	1	1	Loveday street ...	4	1	—
H				Lewisham street ...	1	—	1
High street ...	20	1	4	Lyttleton street ...	11	—	1
Hill Top ...	19	1	—	Legge street ...	4	—	—
Holloway Bank ...	13	3	3	Lombard street ...	3	—	—
Harvills Hawthorn ...	2	—	1	Lombard street, West ...	1	—	—
Hawks lane ...	1	—	—	Lodge road ...	1	—	3
Hateley Heath ...	5	1	—	Lambert street ...	—	—	—
Hawkins street ...	4	—	—	Lamberts end ...	3	—	—
Hill street ...	1	—	—	Lee street ...	3	—	1
Hardware street ...	3	1	—	Little lane ...	—	—	3
Hargate lane ...	8	1	2	Little lane, Oldbury road	1	—	—
Hargate street ...	2	—	—	M			
Herbert street ...	6	—	1	Moor street ...	9	1	1
Hope street ...	3	—	—	Messenger lane ...	1	—	—
Horton street ...	9	2	—	Mayers Green ...	4	—	—
Horton street, Lyng ...	1	—	1	Mount Pleasant street ...	2	—	—
Henry street ...	4	—	1	Mill street ...	1	—	—
Harwood street ...	4	1	—	Millward street ..	—	—	—
Hallam street ...	1	1	—	Morris street, Little	—	—	—
Hollyhedge road ...	1	1	—	Morris street ...	—	—	—
Hollyoak street ...	2	—	—	Maria street ...	2	—	1
Hall End ...	4	—	—	Mary road ...	—	—	—
Houghton street ...	1	—	—	Millfield ...	1	—	—
Hall street ...	1	—	—	N			
Hall street, South ...	—	—	—	New street, W. B. ...	3	—	2
Hall Green ...	2	1	2	New street, Hill Top ...	12	2	3
Halfords lane ...	—	—	—	Newhall street ...	6	1	1
Howard street ...	—	—	—	Neale street ...	10	3	1
Hospital (District) ...	42	1	7	Nicholl street ...	1	—	1
Hospital (Infectious) ...	5	2	—	Newton street ...	1	—	3
I				Newton road ...	1	—	1
Izons road ...	2	—	—	O			
Ireland Green ...	1	—	—	Oldbury road ...	14	3	—
J				Oak lane ...	6	2	1
John street	6	—	2	Oak lane, Fordrough ...	—	—	4
John street, Swan Village	3	1	—	Oak road ...	12	3	8
Jesson street ...	1	—	—	Old Meeting street ...	8	—	2
Jervoise street ...	8	—	1	Oakwood street ...	1	—	1
Jervoise passage ...	3	2	—	Old End ...	1	1	1
K				Overend street ...	7	—	2
King street ...	3	—	2	Old Forge ...	4	—	1
				Old Forge lane ...	1	—	—

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases Notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases Notified.
P				Star Alley ...	1	—	—
Phoenix street ...	4	—	2	T			
Pleasant street ...	8	3	—	Trinity road ...	7	—	4
Pleasant street, Hill Top	5	—	—	Trinity street ...	1	1	—
Pitt street ...	1	—	2	Trinity street, Lower	5	—	2
Parliament street ...	7	1	—	Thomas street ...	2	—	—
Paradise street ...	5	—	—	Taylor's lane ...	4	1	—
Piercy street ...	4	2	3	Temple street ...	4	—	2
Price street ...	1	1	—	Tyndal street ...	2	—	1
Pikehelve street ...	6	—	2	Tildasley street...	2	1	1
„ „ (Canal side)	—	—	—	Tunnel road ...	5	—	—
Puddingbag street ...	4	—	—	Tasker street ...	3	—	—
Parsonage street ...	—	—	1	Treddles lane ...	3	2	—
Park street ...	2	—	—	Thynne street ...	2	1	5
Pugh street ...	1	1	—	Tantany lane ...	2	—	—
Pumphouse ...	—	—	—	Tame street ...	3	1	—
Q				Tinsley street ...	—	—	1
Queen street, W. B. ...	8	—	1	Tenscore street ...	3	—	1
Queen street, Hill Top ...	6	—	1	U			
R				Union street ...	12	1	7
Roeback lane ...	—	—	—	Union passage ...	—	—	—
Roeback street ...	10	1	1	V			
Richard street, South ...	6	—	1	Victoria street ...	3	—	—
Reform street ...	5	1	3	Victoria street, S. V. ...	2	—	1
Ryders Green road ...	8	1	1	Vernon street ...	8	1	—
Ryder street ...	2	—	—	Vale street ...	1	—	—
Richard street ...	—	—	1	Virgins end ...	1	1	—
Railway street ...	—	—	—	Virgins end court ...	—	—	—
Red Cow Yard ...	1	—	—	W			
Rigby street ...	1	—	—	Whitehall road ...	16	2	1
Rydding lane ...	—	—	—	Witton lane ...	5	—	3
S				Walsall street ...	12	—	4
Spon lane ...	14	1	6	William street ...	10	—	1
Spon lane, Fordrough ...	1	—	—	Wood lane ...	13	4	—
Spon lane, Railway terrace	1	—	—	Woodward street ...	5	—	1
St. Michael street ...	2	—	2	Wood street ...	2	1	—
Sandwell road ...	4	—	3	Walton street ...	2	—	—
Sandwell Estate & Park ...	—	—	—	Workhouse lane ...	2	—	1
Sams lane ...	11	2	3	Wyntor lane ...	—	—	—
Sheepwash lane ...	2	—	1	Walsall road ...	—	—	—
Swan Village & Fordrough	11	1	3	Water street ...	—	—	—
Swan lane ...	1	—	—	Winkle street ...	6	2	—
Stoney lane ...	—	—	—	Wallface ...	—	—	—
Summer street ...	6	1	2	Wednesbury Old Fields ...	—	—	—
Smith street ...	4	1	2	Warhall end ...	—	—	—
Salem street ...	—	—	—	Wigmore Schls. (residents)	—	—	—
Slater street ...	4	1	1	„ „ (strangers)	1	—	—
Sand street ...	5	—	—	Wigmore ..	—	—	—
Stour street ...	1	—	—	Workhouse (residents) ...	86	3	} 14
Scotland Passage ...	2	—	—	„ „ (strangers) ...	79	2	
Seager street ...	3	—	—	Warstone pool ...	—	—	—
Stone Cross ...	—	—	—	Walter street ...	—	—	—
Salters lane ...	—	—	—				
Sandwell Colliery ...	2	—	—				

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit to you a report of the work done in this Department from 1st January, 1894, to the 30th November, as on that date I terminate my engagement as Sanitary Inspector to your Committee.

In March last the supervision of the emptying of the privies and ashpits in the Borough was transferred to me, and on taking over the work I found the same very much in arrears, there being a considerable number of applications on the books; and also in making inspections in various parts of the Borough I found a large number of privies and ashpits overful and at the same time were not registered for emptying. This was mostly the case in the Hill Top and Greets Green Districts. I brought the matter before your Committee, and extra teams were ordered to be put on which enabled the men to cope with the work. I am pleased to state that at the present, the books show a decrease in the number of cases, and the Borough generally is in a much better condition in this respect.

Privies and
Ashpits

There are still a large number of very wet and offensive ashpits in the Borough, and, as is shown in my statistical report, I have endeavoured as far as possible to get many of them altered, by having the ashpit filled up as far as practicable and covered over so as to keep out the rain-water, although, in my opinion, most ashpits are caused to be foul by the tenants, etc., depositing an unnecessary amount of water in them.

I am pleased to report that no proceedings have been taken during the year for the enforcement of notices for carrying out sanitary improvements, although your Committee on several occasions have passed resolutions for the same to be taken, but in every case after I have written or seen the owners of the properties, and pointed out to them the necessity of having the work done instead of taking the case into court, and in every instance this has been done.

Sanitary
Notices

During the year I have served 472 notices to abate nuisance, of which 397 were preliminary and 95 formal; a large number of

letters have also been written to property owners to arrange for personal interviews, and to point out the advisability of having the work carried out. In most cases they have promised to comply with the requirements of the notice served upon them.

**Infectious
Disease**

I have visited 190 cases of infectious diseases immediately after receipt of the notification. Disinfectants have been supplied to the occupiers of the houses, and 171 rooms have been fumigated after death, convalescence, or removal to hospital.

**Public
Urinals**

The Public Urinals in the Borough have been cleansed daily, and from March to the end of September the work was done on Sunday mornings.

**Slaughter-
houses**

I have paid 138 visits to the Slaughter-houses in the Borough and found them in a fair condition, and the meat deposited in them of a good quality.

**Unsound
Meat, &c.**

One seizure of meat was made during the year, the owner was summoned before the Stipendiary and fined £3 and costs.

While on my duty I have sometimes observed meat and fish for sale, which in my opinion was unfit to be sold, yet was not bad enough to seize. I have cautioned the occupiers of the premises and suggested to them that the same should at once be destroyed or thrown away, and this, in every case, was immediately done.

Bakehouses

The Bakehouses have been regularly inspected, and where required, lime-washing has been ordered to be done.

**Food and
Drugs**

On the death of Mr. Morris in April last, the carrying out of the Food and Drugs Act was handed over to me. Since then I have obtained 39 samples and submitted them to the Borough Analyst who reported that 36 were genuine, and 3 (1 of butter and 2 of milk) were found to be adulterated. The vendors of one of the samples of milk and the sample of butter were cautioned, the amount of adulteration not being sufficient to cause a prosecution. The vendor of the other sample of milk was summoned before the Stipendiary and fined £5 and costs for selling milk 40 per cent. deficient of its natural fat.

In terminating my office as Sanitary Inspector to this Borough, I beg to thank the Committee, Medical Officer of Health, Town Clerk, and all the officials of the Corporation and the Council generally, for their uniform kindness and courtesy shown to me

during the time I have had the honour to be engaged by your Committee as Sanitary Inspector.

Food and
Drugs

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

BENJ. R. HORNER.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Nature of Food.	Totals.	Pure.	Adulterated.	Summoned.	Convicted.	Censured.	Amount of Penalties	Amount of Costs.	Remarks.
Milk ...	23	21	2	1	1	1	£5	£1 9s.	{ Convicted 40% def. { Censured 15% „
Whiskey ..	3	3							
Rum ...	2	2							
Pepper ...	4	4							
Ground } Ginger }	3	3							
Butter ...	4	3	1			1			Contained excessive amount of water.
Totals ...	39	36	3	1	1	2			

NUISANCES REPORTED.

	No. of Nuisances reported.	No. of Nuisances abated.
To cleanse Bakehouses	5	5
To close Wells, and provide Tap Water ...	1	1
Slaughter Houses requiring properly draining ...	1	1
Insufficient Privy or W.C. accommodation ...	1	1
To repair Spouting	2	2
To provide Ashpit doors, and repair Privy cisterns	11	11
Foul Water Closets	2	2
Swine kept so as to be a Nuisance	8	7
To properly drain Pig Styes	3	3
Privies in improper position, and Houses without Privy accommodation	1	1
Defective Drainage, Drains choked, and Defective Sink Drainage	28	28
Insanitary Stables removed	1	1
Filthy Entries requiring cleansing	1	1
Houses requiring General Repairs, and to Repair Dwelling House Chimnies	1	1
To provide proper Manure Pits	2	2
To Repair and Pave Yards	2	2
Fowls and Pigeons kept in improper Places, and Dwelling Houses	4	4
Houses without proper Water Supply	2	2
Ashpits requiring properly covering	176	163
To Repair Wash Kitchens, and damp condition of Dwelling Houses	1	1
To provide proper Ashpits	7	7
Privies requiring converting into Water Closets	9	76
Ashpits leaking on to adjoining property ...	18	17
Filthy Houses, or with Defective Roofs ...	47	47
Accumulations of Pig Wash, Manure, and Offen- sive Matter	31	31
Want of proper drainage	30	33
Accumulation of Water in Cellars	5	4
To provide proper Urinals	5	4
To drain Stables	1	1
Dangerous Wells	1	1

ASHPIT & C. STATISTICS.

Number of Ashpits cleansed during 1894	7,882
Number of Privies cleansed during 1894	10,910
	TOTAL	18,792
Number of Loads obtained during 1894	24,316

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF CANAL CABIN BOATS

FOR THE
BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH,
FOR THE YEAR 1894.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSPECTION OF CANAL CABIN BOATS.

1. The Inspector visits the Canals comprised in the Borough upon any day he thinks fit, and inspects all Boats necessary; his remuneration is £25 per annum.

2. The number of Boats inspected during the year was 144. The inspection of the Boats is very manifest in the increased care taken to obey the Acts, both in not attempting to exceed the number of persons allowed to dwell therein, and the general cleanliness and condition of them. Many of the Cabins are very creditable specimens of neatness and comfort; the number of Women and Children dwelling in the Boats remains much the same as last year.

3. ANY INFRINGEMENTS OF THE ACTS AND REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO

- (a) All Boats inspected have been duly registered.
- (b) No notification of a change of master.
- (c) No case of the absence of the Certificate has occurred.
- (d) Marking not contained in the Instruction Book.
- (e) No case of overcrowding met with.
- (f) The separation of the sexes has been properly observed in accordance with the Regulations of the Certificates.
- (g) The general cleanliness of the Boats is very satisfactory, and many of the Cabins present a very clean appearance.
- (h) Care is taken not to allow the accumulation of bilge water.
- (i) Every Boat has been provided with suitable water vessel.
- (j) Stagnant or foul water is not allowed to accumulate.
- (k) No case of Infectious disease to report, the Inspector has been very careful in this matter, and would receive prompt information if any such case arrived in the Borough by Boat.

(l) The Inspector has never been refused admittance, and every facility rendered in his inspection.

4. No legal proceedings necessary.
5. No necessity has arisen.
6. No case met with.
7. No case requiring it.
8. Not a registration office.
9. See answer to No. 8.

HENRY MOUSLEY,

Inspector of Canal Cabin Boats for the Borough of West Bromwich.
15th January, 1895.

ANALYSTS' REPORTS.

MR. WHITE'S REPORT.

To the Sanitary Committee of the County Borough of West Bromwich.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you a synopsis of the work carried out under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, in your Borough, during the first part of the year 1894. This will only refer to the first seven months of the year, as owing to my appointment as Public Analyst to the County of Derby, I was compelled reluctantly to resign my position as your Borough Analyst, and my duties ceased at the end of the month of July.

The late Mr. J. E. Morris, whose untimely death was regretted by all his colleagues, submitted to me 38 samples during the quarter ending March 31st, and afterwards Inspector Horner submitted an additional 32 samples, making a total of 70.

The samples consisted of the following articles :—

Milk	...	45	Pepper	...	6
Skim Milk	...	2	Ground Ginger	...	5
Butter	...	6	Whiskey	...	3
Lard	...	1	Rum	...	2

The total number of samples which I found to be adulterated was 11, viz :—Milk 9, Skim-milk 1, Butter 1.

In addition to these, no less than 9 samples of Milk were of low quality, and one sample of Pepper, and one of Ground Ginger, were decidedly inferior articles.

The percentage of articles adulterated, calculated on the samples purchased, was 15·7, as compared with 16·6 for the year 1893.

Proceedings were instituted against the vendors in 7 cases, and in each instance a conviction was obtained. Following up their praiseworthy efforts to suppress fraudulent trading, to which I drew your attention in my last yearly report, the Borough Justices in one case imposed fines amounting in the aggregate with costs, to £9 9s. upon one vendor, who was convicted for selling Margarine for Butter.

The vendors of the remaining 4 samples which I certified to be adulterated, were cautioned against a repetition of the offence, by your Inspector. This course was taken because the extent of the adulteration was not sufficiently serious to justify prosecutions being undertaken.

I am glad to be able to say, that in only one of the above cases was my analysis seriously challenged. The Solicitor who appeared for the Defendant, stated at the hearing of the summons, that his client was dissatisfied with my certificate. He accordingly requested the Magistrates to send the portion of the sample retained by the Inspector to Somerset House, for analysis by the Inland Revenue Chemists. The Justices assented to this course, and the Somerset House analysis entirely confirmed my own. A conviction accordingly followed.

I have also received two samples of water, sent by direction of Dr. Herbert Manley, your Medical Officer of Health. One sample was so polluted as to be in my opinion, quite unfit for human consumption, while the other was reasonably safe for domestic use.

It now only remains for me to express my regret that this will be my last official report to your Borough ; and to renew my thanks to the members of your Committee, and my late colleagues for the uniform kindness shown to me during the short time I held the office of Borough Analyst.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WHITE, F.I.C.

MR. SILVESTER'S REPORT.

To the Mayor and Members of the Corporation of West Bromwich.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to report, that from the date of my taking office, August 18th, 1894, to December 31st, 1894, 7 samples were received under the Food and Drugs Acts, and these consisted entirely of Milk. The subjoined table gives the particulars as regards the purity or otherwise of the articles submitted for Analysis.

Description of Article.	Number of Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Proceedings taken.	Result of Proceedings.
Milk.	7.	6.	1. Deficient of at least 40 per cent. of its Natural Fat.	1.	Vendor fined £5 and £1 9s. costs.

The percentage of adulterated samples is 14·29 per cent., but very little importance is to be attached to this figure, as the number of samples from which it is obtained is too small to be of any value.

Proceedings were taken against the Vendor of the sample, which was so largely deficient in fat, and it is satisfactory to note that the fine was sufficiently heavy to act as a deterrent against this injurious form of fraud.

In addition to the above work under the Acts, two samples of Water were analyzed, one being highly polluted with Sewage, whilst the other was free from contamination. They were accordingly reported as being respectively unfit, and fit for drinking purposes.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HARRY SILVESTER.

