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REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH
OF WEST BROMWICH,

FOR THE YEAR 1897, 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
INSPECTOR, FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR, PUBLIC ANALYST,
AND CANAL BOATS INSPECTOR.

WEST BROMWICH :
JOSEPH BATES, CAXTON PRINTING WORKS, PARADISE STREET.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

SANITARY SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Population : 1891, 58,489 ; estimated 1897, 63,000.

Acreage, 5,710.

Birth-rate 1897, 36·0 ; decennial average, 36·9.

Death-rate 1897, 19·7 ; " " 19·9.

Zymotic rate 1897, 3·4 ; " " 2·6.

Infantile Mortality : 1897, 175 per 1,000 births ; dec. average, 173·7.

 " " " 29·5 per 100 deaths ; " 29·7.

Phthisis Mortality : 1897, 0·9 per 1,000.

SANITARY WORK, 1897.

Cases notified 518 : including Scarlet Fever 345, of which 218 were removed to Hospital ; Typhoid Fever 45 ; Diphtheria 41 ; Croup 16 ; Continued Fever 2 ; Puerperal Fever 3 ; Cholera 1 ; and Erysipelas 65.

Notices served by Inspectors 933 ; by order of Committee 122.

Legal proceedings taken in two cases to abate nuisance.

Privies abolished 142 ; Water-closets provided 108 ; Slop-closets provided 47.

Workshops on the register 161 ; Bakehouses 51 ; total 212 ; Persons employed therein 946 men and boys, and 312 females ; total 1,258.

Cases under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 34.

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

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I have the honour to present you with my Eighth Annual Report upon the health of your Borough.

Introductory

I regret that I cannot bring before you any striking improvement in the Borough. A summer of exceptional brilliancy, which has been followed by a winter of exceptionally high temperatures, was attended first by a fatal wave of epidemic Diarrhoea and subsequently by a severe outbreak of Measles, which each proved fatal to a large number of children. In common with neighbouring towns you have been visited with a return of the Scarlet Fever which was prevalent during 1896.

I can, however, congratulate you upon having armed yourselves against the future; the employment of trained nurses in your Infectious Hospital, and the provision and use of a modern and efficient machine for disinfection, should assist your officers in reducing the dangers of epidemic disease.

A town like ours, healthily if loftily situated, provided with pure water, supplied with food of more than average quality (if we are to believe strangers who visit us), and properly equipped by modern sanitary science, should be a healthy town. Health is not, however, merely a question of the regular administration of an Act of Parliament, but of the gradual and thorough education of all classes, and I believe that this is going on here.

This year the Congress of the Sanitary Institute, to which it has hitherto been your pleasure to send my Inspector and myself, will be held in Birmingham, and I trust that some of our Councillors will be able to attend it and to see that it is not a mere holiday but a working congress.

The usual tables and reports are appended.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Borough has been increased during the past year by the addition of a small piece of land and a few houses formerly belonging to the neighbouring district of Smethwick. The

Population
and Area

greater portion of the additional area is occupied by Kenrick Park and a portion of the Canal Spoil-bank. By this addition the area of the Borough is now raised to 5,860 acres.

The population of the Borough at the last census was 59,489, and I now calculate it at 63,000, the number of inhabited houses being 12,804 in November last. This is based upon a calculation of a little less than five persons per house and upon a comparison with the annual rates of increase prevailing since the commencement of the century. For the purpose of permanent reference I append the census returns from the year 1801, together with the average annual increase for each period of ten years :—

Census.		Population.		Annual Increase.
1801	...	5,687		
1811	...	7,485	...	179·8
1821	...	9,905	...	242·0
1831	...	15,337	...	543·2
1841	...	26,121	...	1078·4
1851	...	34,591	...	847·0
1861	...	41,759	...	716·8
1871	...	47,908	...	614·9
1881	...	56,295	...	838·7
1891	...	59,489	...	319·4

Taking into consideration the annual increment by the excess of births over deaths, the recent opening out of new building land in the Borough, with a corresponding activity in the erection of new buildings, and the improbability that the drop in the average increase of the last decade will be maintained, I do not consider 63,000 an excessive estimate.

Births

The number of children born during the year was 2,280, being equal to a birth-rate of 36·2 per 1,000. This is a little in excess of the preceding year, but is still below the average of the preceding ten years, which continues to decrease.

Deaths

The total number of deaths occurring in the Borough in 1897 was 1,347, representing a death-rate in the gross of 21·4 per 1,000. It should, however, be remembered that we have in this town no less than four institutions which receive a large number of inmates from outside. These are the Union Workhouse, the District Hospital, the Borough Infectious Hospital, and the Wigmore Industrial Schools. Taking into consideration the deaths occurring


(A)—TABLE OF DEATHS

During the Year 1897, in the West Bromwich Urban Sanitary District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																										
	At all ages (b)	Under 1 Year (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards (h)	(i)	Smallpox 1.	Scarlatina 2.	Diphtheria 3.	Membranous Croup 4.	FEVERS						Cholera 10.	Erysipelas 11.	Measles 12.	Whooping Cough 13.	Dysentery 14.	Biliousness 15.	Typhoid 16.	Typhus 17.	Erysipelas 18.	Heart Disease 19.	Diphtheria 20.	All other Diseases 21.	TOTAL 22.			
													5.	6.	7.	8.	9.																	
NORTH EASTERN	513	169	101	23	16	100	104	Under 5		1	5	3		2						1	24	1	31				1	47			1	153	270	
								5 upwards		1	3			2														24	56	19		6	128	243
UNION WORKHOUSE	168	9	3	1	8	55	92	Under 5																									10	12
								5 upwards						1										1				24	26	15		90	156	
BOROUGH HOSPITAL	16		14	2				Under 5		12											1													14
								5 upwards		1																								2
WIGMORE SCHOOLS	1		1					Under 5																										1
								5 upwards																										
SOUTH WESTERN	595	220	107	29	20	109	110	Under 5		6	5	4									29	5	52			2	52	1			2	169	327	
								5 upwards		2	2	1		4							2		4	1	20	79	23				5	123	268	
DISTRICT HOSPITAL	54		10	9	3	28	4	Under 5																								10	10	
								5 upwards																									31	11	44
TOTALS	1347	398	236	64	47	292	310	Under 5		19	10	7		2							1	54	6	84			3	102	1		13	332	634	
								5 upwards		4	5	1		7								2		6	1	69	162	58		42	352	713		

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.	104	1	9	4	5	47	38	Under 5		2																						1	5	2	10
								5 upwards						1													14	11	8		15	45	94		



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in these institutions among those admitted from outside, the death-rate falls to 19·1 per 1,000, the average for the past ten years being 19·9 under similar calculations.

The total is thus made up :—

Deaths from outside	104 ;	equal to 1·6 per 1,000.
" " Violence	35 ;	" " 0·5 "
" " Phthisis	58 ;	" " 0·9 "
" " Heart	51 ;	" " 0·8 "
" " Lung	253 ;	" " 4·1 "
" " Zymotics	199 ;	" " 3·1 "
Balance due to other diseases	} 647 ;	" 10·4 "
Total	1347 ;	 " 21·1 "

It is again my duty to call attention to the heavy infantile mortality among the very young children of the poorer classes. In 1897, 398 children died under one year of age, a number within one of last year's return. As there is a slight increase in the birth-rate the ratio is not quite so heavy as before, being 174·5 per 1,000 children born against a decennial average of 173·7. The total number of deaths among children under five years of age was 634, which shows a slight decrease upon last year's figures. This represents nearly exactly half the total deaths belonging to the Borough proper.

Infantile
Mortality.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

I.—BIRTHS.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
N.E.	303	234	259	261	1057
S.W.	309	298	295	321	1223
Total	612	532	554	582	2280

II.—DEATHS.

N.E.	130	102	126	155	513
S.W.	157	107	144	187	595
Public Institutions	} 73	60	51	55	239
Totals						360	269	321	397	1347

III.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
Measles	—	—	9	47	56
Scarlet Fever	4	2	6	11	23
Typhoid Fever	1	1	4	3	9
Whooping Cough	3	1	3	1	8
Diphtheria	1	6	4	4	15
Diarrhœa	7	8	68	7	90
Totals	16	18	94	73	201

IV.—INQUESTS.

Deaths.	Certified.	Uncertified.	Coroner.	Violence.	Natural Causes.
1347	1240	6	101	55	46
Average of past six years.					
1336	1223	5	108	59	49

V.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1897 Cases notified—518.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Croup	Typhoid	Fever	Puerperal	Erysipelas	Cholera
1897	346	41	16	45	1	3	65	1
1896	320	27	7	85	1	2	66	—
1895	155	14	15	132	1	4	54	8

II.—SANITARY WORK.

I.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications

The number of notifications received during the year was 518, which is considerably in excess of the average of the seven preceding years during which the Notification Act has been in operation. The number ranged from 603 in 1890, when the Act was adopted, to 152 in 1892, the fluctuations having chiefly depended upon the number of cases of Scarlet Fever in the Borough. Details of the diseases notified are to be found in the statistical tables, and some further particulars of the incidence of zymotic disease are here given.

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet Fever has again been the disease most prevalent, no less than 345 cases having been reported, the highest number since 1890, when there were 378 cases. The chief weight of the epidemic has fallen upon the streets along the Whitehall Road, Greets Green, and certain portions of Hill Top. Many of the cases notified were of a peculiarly malignant type, and there can be no doubt from the

reports of independent observers that in some there were complications of a severe character in connection with the throat which practically amounted to Diphtheria. It is in this connection that the very high number of Diphtheria cases reported acquires an importance which I have not hitherto attached to the reports of this disease. There can be no doubt that a certain number of cases of so-called Diphtheria are reported in which the signs and results of true Diphtheria are wanting, and in which the patient is so little affected that when the house is visited he is not to be found, having returned to his work or to school. And in addition to this a careful enquiry from the Parish Medical Officers has failed to elicit any number of Diphtheria cases in their practice during several years.

The mortality from Scarlet Fever amounted to 21 cases, of which 11 died in Hospital. This gives a total case mortality of six per cent, which appears to be very near the average fatality in the kingdom at the most recent observations. The mortality among Hospital cases will be discussed under the head of Hospital.

The mortality from Diphtheria was 15 to 41 cases, or 36 per cent. ; in children under five years of age there were 16 cases with 10 deaths, or 62 per cent.

Typhoid Fever shows a marked decline with only 45 cases and 9 deaths. This is the lowest number of cases since 1892 and the lowest mortality since 1888. This so far bears out the remarks of my report to you two years ago, and I do not doubt that with the yearly and even monthly improvement in sanitary matters there will be a corresponding decrease in the cases of this disease. The epidemic of 1895 was due to the coincidence of a variety of causes, and it is exceedingly improbable that with proper provision for dealing with the disease, should it assume an epidemic form, a similar condition would arise. One of the cases of Typhoid was admitted to the Union Workhouse from Wednesbury while suffering from the disease, and a request was made that it should be removed to the Infectious Hospital. As Wednesbury has not hitherto taken the precaution of adopting the Notification Act, and as the case arose in Wednesbury, I declined to admit it, and my action was approved by the Committee.

Typhoid
Fever

One case of English Cholera was reported. Every effort was made to ascertain by what irritant the severe and rapid attack of diarrhoea, which proved fatal in a few hours, was caused, but nothing could be discovered. There can be no doubt that it was not an

imported case, nor could any improper food be traced. Every precaution was taken with regard to the funeral, the clothes, and the house. No further case of serious Diarrhœa occurred in connection with it.

Erysipelas contributed 65 cases, concerning which there is nothing to be said since nothing was done. Many of these cases are of the most trivial character, and the removal of this disease from the list of notifiable diseases might well take place.

Working of
the Notifica-
tion Act

Some misapprehension appears to exist as to the duty of the Medical Officer of Health with regard to cases notified. The personal inspection of every notified case is neither necessary nor advisable. Further, it has been distinctly laid down by the Local Government Board that, while it is the duty of the Medical Officer to acquaint himself with every fresh outbreak of infectious disease and to enquire into its origin, it is no part of his duty to visit every case notified. And it should be clearly understood that no instructions have ever been given to any person engaged in the Sanitary Department of this Borough to inspect any patient whose case has been reported under the Act.

Only once has the opinion of the medical man in attendance been questioned, and that upon the direct authority of the Sanitary Committee in 1890, in a case of alleged Cholera.

At the present time the amendment of the Notification Act is under the consideration of the Health Officers of the Kingdom, and I shall briefly draw your attention to the points which are being discussed. The chief of these are :—

(1) The universal application of the Act.

This is of great importance to West Bromwich, as there are two authorities upon our borders in which the Act is not in force, and some danger of importation from undetected cases is constantly present.

(2) The exclusion of Erysipelas from the list of diseases.

(3) The addition of Measles and Whooping Cough to the list.

At present I do not see any good end to be gained by this, and some of the Authorities who have added them have now abandoned it.

(4) The institution of a system of internotification with neighbouring districts, the reporting of all notifications to the School

Authorities, and the provision of certificates from the medical attendant for disinfection at the end of the case.

All these points are fully carried out in our Borough at present and without friction, and at little or no cost to the ratepayers. I see no difficulty in their general application.

With regard to the non-notifiable diseases which are Zymotic, the principal are Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa, and it is not possible accurately to estimate the number of cases which occur.

Measles commenced to appear in the death returns in July, no deaths from this cause being reported in the first half of the year; the third quarter was almost free, only nine being registered. In November and December there was a series of local invasions in different parts of the Borough successively. In consequence of reports received from the Officers of the School Board I visited the following schools:—Hill Top St. James' Infants, Hill Top Wesley Infants, Golds Hill, Fisher Street Wesley, Christ Church, Beeches Road, Park Village, Spon Lane, Lyng Lane, Moor Street; and Guns Village.

Measles

In all these cases I personally inspected the whole of the infants in attendance, and directed the exclusion of such as appeared to me to be suffering from incipient zymotic disease. With the assistance of two members of the Sanitary Committee I closed the Infant Departments of Christ Church and Fisher Street Wesley for a fortnight and three weeks respectively. In addition to this school inspection a house-to-house inspection was made of the districts from which the Spon Lane and Christ Church Schools draw most of their children, with the result that much of the so-called Measles was discredited.

The intercurrency of Measles with Scarlet Fever, the light way in which Measles is treated among the poor without sufficient precaution against cold and damp, the almost total absence of medical advice, and the want of good food and nursing, all contributed to a heavy mortality. There were 40 deaths in eight weeks, not confined to any special locality, but all over the Borough.

Diarrhœa prevailed during the third quarter during the months of August and September. The number of deaths recorded in ten weeks was 67, of which 62 occurred in children under five years of age. No special cause can be assigned for this outburst, which was not confined to West Bromwich, but was coincident with a general wave over the country.

Whooping Cough only caused six deaths and needs no notice in this report.

Before leaving the subject of Infectious Diseases mention should be made of one outbreak of Diphtheria of a remarkable and rapidly fatal character, in which the cause was distinct and well marked. The exceptionally heavy rainfall of August the 5th and 8th caused the old brick sewers of a large house to back up, and filled the cellar with a most offensive deposit. Within a few days of this four cases of Diphtheria appeared on the premises, two of which proved rapidly fatal. A detailed examination of the drains revealed a most extraordinary condition of affairs, which was promptly remedied.

Hospital

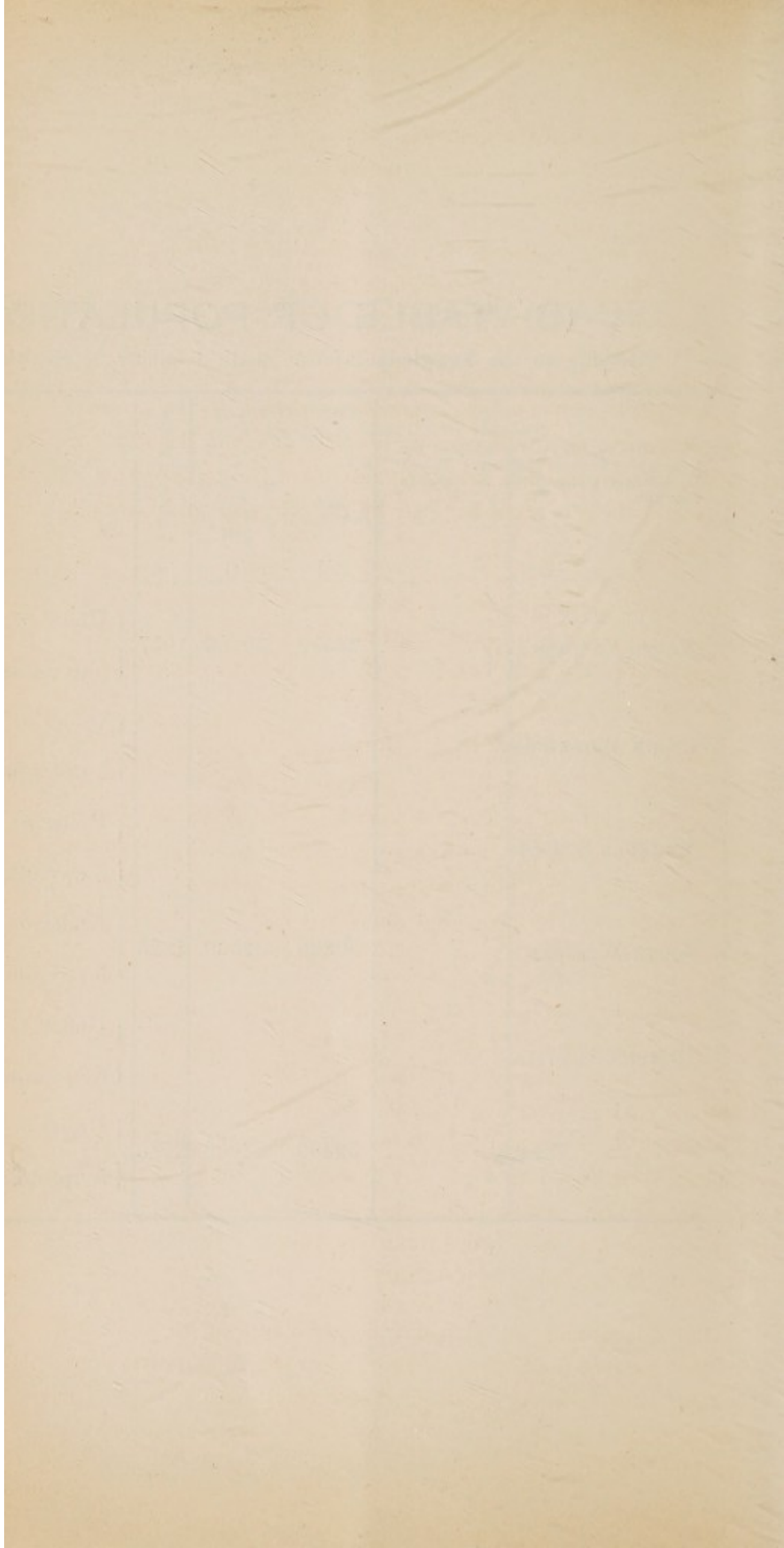
II.—BOROUGH HOSPITAL.

The past year has again been a busy one at the Hospital. No less than 349 cases of Scarlet Fever have been treated, the details being as follows :—

ADMISSIONS.							
Month.	West Bromwich.		Handsworth.		Perry Barr.		Total.
January	...	10	...	11	...	—	21
February	...	10	...	8	...	—	18
March	...	9	...	9	...	—	18
April	...	8	...	11	...	—	19
May	...	7	...	8	...	—	15
June	...	9	...	7	...	1	17
July	...	18	...	11	...	—	29
August	...	22	..	15	...	—	37
September	...	20	...	15	...	5	40
October	...	42	...	7	...	1	50
November	...	37	...	11	...	4	52
December	...	26	...	7	...	—	33
		218		120		11	349

The number of deaths amounted to 16, of which 13 were due to Scarlet Fever, one to Measles, and two to Lung Disease in children already weakened by the fever. This rate of mortality coincides almost to a fraction with the recorded rate in the fever hospitals of London and Glasgow.

The invasion of the Hospital Wards by Measles was a matter of very serious concern to your Medical Officer and the Resident Nursing Staff, but by placing the infected cases in a separate ward



the disease was gradually eliminated, with the unfortunate loss of one case. Chicken-pox was also introduced and gave considerable trouble.

Since the commencement of the year the whole of the management of the Hospital has been remodelled, and with great advantage to the inmates.

A new Porter's Lodge has been built for the accommodation of the porter and his wife, who have now no concern with the interior of the wards, but are in charge of the gate, the new disinfecting machine, and the grounds ; the porter also drives the ambulance and goes out with the cart when required by the Matron, under whose orders he acts.

The administrative block, which is about to be enlarged so as to provide additional bed rooms and a much-needed bath room, will accommodate the Matron, two Charge Nurses, and two Probationers, with the necessary maids.

Miss Ogden, late of the Homerton Hospital, a fully-trained nurse with considerable experience in infectious diseases, has been appointed Matron, and two trained nurses (Nurse Wood and Nurse Clarke) have been engaged as Charge Nurses. The extra pressure of the concluding months of the year has necessitated the employment of temporary additional probationers, but at the close of the year the staff was as stated.

Complaints have been made from time to time of the presence of vermin in the heads of children. It is well known to all hospital surgeons and nurses that in hospitals open to all classes the keeping of heads in a clean condition requires the most constant vigilance. Out of the 349 cases admitted no less than 90 were infested with vermin in their hair, some to a very disgusting extent. Indeed, as many as one-third of the local cases were in this condition. In many cases it has been necessary to shave the hair in order to remove the lice and heal the resulting sores.

The strain upon the Hospital management can be estimated from the fact that the highest number of inmates at any time from January to June was 38, while in November it rose to 79. The average number of inmates in the first half year was 26, in the second 59.

Return Cases

With regard to the vexed question of return cases, a careful record has been kept of all second and subsequent cases reported from previously infected houses. Excluding the seven cases which occurred in the District Hospital, of which six were removed to Hospital and of which I shall speak later, there were 342 cases reported. Of these 63 were secondary cases, and may be thus classified:—31 occurred in houses from which the first case had been removed, within a few days of removal; 19 were cases where the case was not removed to Hospital and where the second case occurred at varying periods within ten weeks of the first; five cases were reported from houses to which a case had been returned from Hospital not less than five weeks before, and consequently were more probably due to infected clothing or fresh infection from outside than to Hospital infection; the remainder, nine in number, were undoubtedly true return cases. How far this was due to actual personal contact, to nasal or aural discharges, to unhealed sore throat or kissing, cannot be accurately determined. Hitherto the disinfection practised at the Hospital has been far from satisfactory, but with the new Equifex Machine, which has been erected by Messrs. Defries and Co., no further question as to imperfectly disinfected clothing can be raised.

The machine in question was selected by the Committee after visiting Oldbury and London, and is so constructed that it is impossible for any operation to take place without an automatic record of the completeness and duration of the process being made.

III.—THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The administration of the Act relating to the dwellings of the poor continues to occupy the attention of the Sanitary Department. In a town containing so many old and defective houses as West Bromwich there must of necessity arise a number of cases every year in which an order to repair or close the houses becomes advisable. In addition to this the sub-division of small house property among a family frequently leaves the houses in the hands of owners who have little or no capital for permanent improvement. During the year eleven such notices have been issued, notably in the case of houses in New Street, Hill Top, and in Spon Lane, and with good results. Three houses have been closed and others put into complete repair.

A memorial was received by the Committee with regard to a block of property which had long been closed, and in which the improper use of the empty houses had given rise to a nuisance, but so far, in view of some more complete scheme for the general improvement of the place in question, the matter remains in abeyance.

It is much to be regretted that up to the present no scheme of permanent improvement has been formulated for Mayers Green, for Overend, or other localities, but I look forward to the time when it will be possible to initiate such a plan.

IV.—FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of workshops at present upon our register is 161, in which there are employed 831 males and 308 females. Every effort has been made during the year to see that the proper closet accommodation is provided for both sexes. I have been in frequent communication with Mr. Jackson, Her Majesty's Factory Inspector, and have made several inspections with him. I have received from him twelve notices mainly dealing with questions of detail in closet accommodation and with overcrowding, and satisfactory steps have been taken to satisfy his requirements. Some difficulty has arisen, not so much in West Bromwich as in other places, as to the amount of separate closet accommodation to be provided for factories and workshops, and it is expected that some standard, which will be fair alike to employers and employed, will be arrived at, and one which will be acceptable to Dr. Whitelegge, who presides over the department in London.

Fourteen workshops have been relinquished since last year and twelve added. Notice has been given to cleanse 33 and to abate overcrowding in two cases.

There are at present 51 bakehouses under inspection, in which 115 males and four females are employed.

I have no complaint to make of the ventilation in any of these places, and am of opinion that on the whole the workshops of West Bromwich are a trifle better than those I have seen elsewhere.

With regard to the sanitary conveniences the same policy has been pursued as in other houses of the town, and a gradual but steady improvement is taking place.

Attention has been specially paid to the condition of the female workers on breeze banks during the year, and care has been taken that some shelter and suitable accommodation for women should be provided.

V.—PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Two independent analyses have been made of the water supplied to the Borough as taken from a public standpipe, and both proved satisfactory. Chemically the water was of a high character, though not so pleasing to the eye as could be wished owing to the presence of flocculent matter of vegetable origin.

In addition to this a careful bacteriological examination has been made, which proved that no organisms of a dangerous character were present. It is desirable that similar investigations should be made from time to time, and that your Medical Officer should acquire some knowledge of the nature of the gathering grounds from which the supply is taken.

This will accordingly be done in the future as opportunity offers.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The general work of the department needs no special comment. The policy of replacing the present privy middens by a more cleanly and efficient system is steadily being carried out in all cases where the conditions are such as to be injurious to health. The public urinals receive constant attention, and are in a better condition than I have ever known them. The work of the department is carried out with little or no friction, and a large amount of work is being done which never comes under the notice of the Committee, because of the ready compliance of owners with any reasonable demand on the part of the Medical Officer or Inspector.

The provision of a new and modern Lodging House in Spon Lane is a matter for congratulation, as those at present provided, though conforming to the legal requirements in cubic space, etc., are not at all satisfactory. Dr. Buchanan was not at all satisfied with them. It does not seem to me satisfactory that the inspection of either Lodging Houses or Dairies should be in the hands of Police Inspectors. This is a matter which is now receiving attention in other places, and sooner or later both should be under the direct control of the Sanitary Committee and their own officers.

The Mortuary has not been so much in use as in previous years, only 11 bodies having been received. Five post-mortem examinations have been held in connection with it. No bodies have been taken there by order of the Sanitary officers.

I have long thought that some improvement might be made in the mortuary for viewing bodies, etc., and after seeing the new mortuary at Lambeth, I have decided to submit my views to the Committee for the coming year.

Further details of the notices served, the inspection of the food supply, in which I take a regular part, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings, and of the progress of the removal of refuse, will be found in the Inspector's Report and Analytical Tables.

With regard to the disposal of the dry refuse, I am sure the time is not far distant when a destructor will be required in West Bromwich. The steady increase in the number of dustbins, now amounting to nearly 900, combined with the large number of dry ashpits, which are over 1,000 more and also on the increase, will demand to be dealt with.

Looking at the experience of Shoreditch, of Leyton, and of Cheltenham, to say nothing of other places whose names do not now occur to me, would it not be possible to combine a dust-destructor with the production of the necessary power for Electric Lighting now under consideration ?

There are at present nearly 2,500 closets connected to our sewers, that is to say that there are at least 2,000 houses whose dry refuse is free from the contamination of excreta, and could be treated without any nuisance in a properly constructed furnace such as that recently erected at Leyton or its prototype at Warrington. I venture to hope that such a possibility will not be overlooked.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Committee for their continued support, and as I have always felt that we have all the same object in view, to wit, the benefit of the town we serve, I trust that I may long continue to enjoy their confidence.

I have the honour to remain,

Faithfully yours,

HERBERT MANLEY,

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

Fellow of the Sanitary Institute.

1st February, 1898.

SCARLET FEVER, 1897.

HILL TOP DISTRICT.

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I.D.H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Mar. 23	Pikehelve street	... no ...	
April 6	Holloway bank ...	... no ...	
„ 19	Dial lane ...	... yes ...	
May 21	Shaw street ...	... yes ...	
„ 25	Hill Top ...	... no ...	
June 18	Puddingbag street	... yes ...	
„ 28	Black Lake ...	... yes ...	
July 8	Holloway Bank	... yes ...	July 13 (2) July 30
„ 12	Bagnall street ...	... yes ...	
„ 21	Queen street ...	... yes ...	Sep. 14
„ 24	Pleasant street (2)	... yes ...	July 27
„ 27	Harvills Hawthorn	... yes ...	Nov. 16, 23
Aug. 1	Queen street ...	... yes ..	Sep. 4
„ 4	Harvills Hawthorn	... no ...	
„ 14	Hill Top ...	... yes ...	
„ 24	Hill street (2) ...	... yes ...	
„ 26	Barrack street ...	... yes ...	
„ 28	Golds green ...	... yes ...	
„ 30	Long square ...	... yes ...	Sep. 8
Sep. 8	Howard street ...	... no ...	Nov. 1
„ 11	New street ...	... yes ...	
„ 16	Hill street ...	... no ...	
„ 16	New street ...	... yes ...	
„ 20	Harvills Hawthorn	... no ..	
„ 20	New street ...	... yes ...	Nov. 22, 26
„ 24	Barncroft street	... yes ...	
„ 25	Harvills Hawthorn	... yes ...	
„ 27	Holloway bank ...	... no ...	
Oct. 7	Witton lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 8	Wallface ...	... no ...	Oct. 21
„ 8	Ditto ...	... no ...	
„ 11	Hill Top ...	... no ...	
„ 15	Holloway bank ...	... yes ...	
„ 16	Hill Top ...	... yes ...	
„ 19	Lee street ...	... yes ..	
„ 20	Pleasant street (2)	... yes ...	
„ 22	Witton lane ...	... yes ...	

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I.D.H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Oct. 25	Allerton lane (2)	... yes ...	
„ 26	Witton lane ...	... yes ...	
Nov. 1	Bagnall street ...	... yes ...	Nov. 4
„ 3	Hawkes lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 5	Dial lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 8	Queen street ...	... yes ...	
„ 8	Golds green ...	... yes ...	
„ 13	Pikehelve street	... yes ...	
„ 13	Ebenezer street ...	... yes ..	
„ 15	Bagnall street ...	... yes ...	
„ 15	Queen street ...	... no ...	Nov. 19
„ 16	Hill Top ...	... no ...	
„ 16	Ditto ...	... yes ...	
„ 18	Pikehelve street (2)	... yes ...	
„ 24	Ebenezer street ...	... no ...	
Dec. 10	Ditto ...	... no ...	
„ 23	Ditto ...	... yes ...	
„ 23	Hill Top ...	... no ...	
„ 31	New street ...	... yes ...	

BEECHES DISTRICT.

Jan. 6	Walsall street ...	... yes ...	
„ 11	Overend street ...	... no ...	
„ 13	Roebuck street ...	... yes ...	
„ 14	Herbert street ...	... no ...	
„ 20	Birmingham road	... no ...	
„ 29	Nicholl street ...	... yes ...	
Feb. 1	High street ...	... yes ...	
„ 2	Summer street ...	... yes ...	
„ 23	Bratt street ...	... yes ...	
Mar. 15	Overend street ...	... yes ...	
„ 20	Lombard street	... no ...	
Apr. 12	Bratt street ...	... yes ...	Ap. 16, 19, 23 Jn. 8
„ 12	Bratt street ...	... yes ..	May 27 Jun.30 Jul.5
May 8	New street ...	... no ...	
July 10	High street (3) ...	... yes ...	
„ 26	Ditto ...	... no ...	
„ 27	Ditto ...	... no ...	
Aug. 31	Roebuck lane ...	... yes ...	
Sep. 13	High street ...	... yes ...	

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I.D.H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Sept. 28	Loveday street ...	... yes ...	
Oct. 7	High street ...	... no ...	
„ 12	Queen street ...	... yes ...	
Nov. 4	High street ...	... yes ...	
„ 8	Thynne street ...	... yes ...	
„ 26	High street ...	... no ...	
Dec. 8	Birmingham road (2)	... no ...	

OLD CHURCH DISTRICT.

Jan. 11	Stoney lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 12	Hargate lane ...	... no ...	
„ 19	Church lane ...	... yes ...	
Feb. 18	Hargate lane ...	... yes ...	
Mar. 20	Churchfields ...	... no ...	April 7 (2)
Sep. 27	Hallam street ...	... no ...	
Oct. 5	Parsonage street	... no ...	
„ 16	Stoney lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 29	Hall End passage	... yes ...	
Nov. 15	Beale street ...	... no ...	
Dec. 14	Hargate lane ...	... yes ...	

CARTERS GREEN DISTRICT.

Jan. 5	Wood lane ...	... no ...	
„ 7	John street (S.V.)	... no ...	
„ 30	Temple street ...	... no ...	
Feb. 1	Jervoise street ...	... yes ...	
„ 2	Old Meeting street	... yes ...	
„ 2	Tantany lane ...	... yes ...	
May 10	Red Cow yard ...	... yes ...	
„ 24	Carters green ...	... yes ...	
June 3	Old Meeting street	... yes ...	
„ 4	Jervoise street ...	... no ...	
„ 28	Guns lane ...	... yes ...	
Aug. 4	Chapel street ...	... no ...	
„ 14	High street ...	... yes ...	Oct. 16, 30 (no)
„ 19	Chapel street ...	... yes ...	Sep. 3
„ 21	Tildasley street (2)	1 yes 1 no	Nov. 15
Sep. 7	Guns lane ...	... no ...	
„ 10	Jervoise street ...	... yes ...	
„ 14	Old Meeting street	... yes ...	
„ 22	Wood lane ...	... no ...	

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I.D.H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Sept. 23	Brook street ...	... no ...	
„ 27	Tildasley street...	... no ...	
„ 28	Duke street . .	... yes ...	Oct. 2
Oct. 7	Old Meeting street	... no ...	
„ 20	Chapel street ...	... yes ...	
„ 21	Dudley road ...	... yes ...	
„ 30	Coppice street ...	... yes ...	
Nov. 9	Richard street ...	... no ...	
„ 22	Phoenix street ...	... no ...	
„ 25	Dudley road ...	... yes ...	
Dec. 13	Croft street (3)...	... yes ...	
„ 29	Billhay street ...	... no ...	

GREET'S GREEN AND GREAT BRIDGE DISTRICT.

Jan. 5	Grout street ...	... yes ...	Jan. 6
„ 6	Greet's Green road	... no ...	
„ 20	Elwell street ...	.. yes ...	
„ 25	Great Bridge ..	... no ...	
„ 29	Bull lane (2) ...	... no ...	
Feb. 13	Piercy street (2)	... yes ...	
„ 18	Bull lane ...	... no ...	
Mar. 17	Whitehall road...	... yes ...	
„ 18	Bull lane ...	... no ...	
April 6	Cape street ...	... yes ...	
„ 21	Great Bridge street	... yes ...	
May 6	Dunkirk street ...	... yes . .	
June 29	Whitehouse street	... yes ...	
July 1	Oldbury road ...	... yes ...	
„ 12	Whitehouse street	... no ...	
„ 12	Great Bridge street	... no ...	
„ 16	Great Bridge ...	... no ...	
„ 19	Oldbury road ...	... yes ...	
„ 19	Whitehall road...	... yes ...	
Aug. 2	Ditto ...	... yes ...	Aug. 14 Oct. 20, 25
„ 7	Whitehouse street	... no ...	
„ 9	Tasker street (2)	... yes ...	
„ 13	Great Bridge street	... yes ...	
„ 16	Oldbury road ...	... no ...	
„ 21	Tasker street ...	... yes ...	
„ 27	Old Forge ...	... yes ...	Dec. 2

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I. D. H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Sep. 7	Midland Terrace, Great Bridge (2)	... yes ...	
„ 8	Tasker street ...	... yes ...	
„ 21	Ditto ...	.. yes ...	
Oct. 2	Great Bridge street	... yes ...	
„ 6	Oldbury road ...	... yes ...	
„ 12	Sheepwash lane...	... no ...	
„ 16	Brickhouse lane	... no ...	
„ 18	Whitehall road...	... no ...	
„ 19	Greets Green road	... yes ...	
„ 19	Whitehall road (2)	... yes ...	
„ 20	Henry street ...	... yes ...	
„ 23	William street ...	... yes ...	
„ 25	Cophall street ...	... no ...	
„ 29	William street ...	... yes ...	
Nov. 1	Great Bridge ...	... no ...	
„ 6	William street ...	... yes ...	
„ 9	Cophall street ...	... yes ...	
„ 9	Cophall street ...	... yes ...	Nov. 12 (2), 23, 24
„ 9	Cophall street ...	... yes ...	
„ 12	Great Bridge street	... yes ...	
„ 15	Great Bridge street	... no ...	
„ 15	Whitehall road ...	... no ...	
„ 15	Old Forge ...	... no ...	
„ 16	Brickhouse lane	... no ...	
„ 22	Cophall street ...	... no ...	Dec. 2
„ 22	Sheepwash lane	... yes ...	
„ 23	Great Bridge street	... yes ...	
„ 26	Ditto	... yes ...	Nov. 29 (2) Dec. 1
„ 26	Fisher street ...	... yes ...	
Dec. 6	Midland Ter., Great Bridge	yes ...	
„ 7	Cophall street ...	... yes ...	
„ 10	Whitehall road...	... yes ...	Dec. 11
„ 13	Aird's Tube Works	... no ...	Dec. 29
„ 14	Wood street (2)	... yes ...	
„ 22	Swan Village ...	... yes ...	Dec. 29
„ 23	Whitehall road (2)	... no ...	Dec. 29
„ 24	Stour street ...	... no ...	
„ 29	Elwell street ...	... no ...	

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I.D.H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Dec. 29	Eight Locks, Ryders Green road	... no ...	
„ 29	Sheepwash lane	... no ...	
„ 30	Dunkirk street ...	... no ...	
„ 31	Sheepwash lane	... no ...	
LYNG DISTRICT.			
Feb. 1	District Hospital (2)	1 yes, 1 no	Feb. 9, Sept. 18, Oct. 4, Nov. 6, 19 Mar. 2
„ 18	Lodge road ...	... no ...	
Mar. 13	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
„ 18	Morris street ...	... yes ...	
„ 23	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
„ 29	Sams lane ...	... yes ...	
April 5	Bond street ...	... no ...	
„ 24	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
May 22	Lyttleton street...	... yes ...	
„ 22	Richard street south	... yes ...	
June 3	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
„ 3	Oak road ...	... yes ...	
„ 7	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
„ 21	Lyng lane ...	... yes ...	Aug. 20
„ 28	Paradise street ...	... no ...	
July 19	Lyttleton street...	... yes ...	
„ 31	Oak lane ...	... no ...	
Aug. 4	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
„ 23	Hall street ...	... yes ...	
Sept. 8	Lyng lane ...	... yes ...	Nov. 29
„ 8	Horton street ...	... yes ...	
„ 14	Oak road ...	... no ...	
„ 20	Barton street ...	... no ...	Sept. 28
„ 28	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
Oct. 2	Bond street ...	... yes ...	
„ 2	Lyttleton street...	... yes ...	Dec. 6, 8
„ 4	Chapman street...	... yes ...	
„ 11	Bromford lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 20	Bond street ...	... yes ...	
„ 20	Moor street ...	... yes ...	
„ 21	Oak road ...	... yes ...	
„ 23	Sams lane ...	... yes ...	

Date. 1897.	Case.	If removed to I.D.H.	Date of 2nd and subsequent cases.
Oct. 30	Richard street south	... yes ...	
Nov. 15	Sams lane ...	... no ...	
„ 17	Victoria street ...	... no ...	
Dec. 8	Horton street ...	... no ...	
„ 13	Bromford lane ...	... no ...	
„ 13	Morris street ...	... no ...	
„ 20	Barton street ...	... yes ...	Dec. 23 (3)
„ 29	Lyttleton street...	... yes ...	

SPON LANE DISTRICT.

Jan. 12	Glover street ...	... no ...	
„ 27	Trinity road ...	... yes ...	
Mar. 2	Arthur street ...	... yes ...	Mar. 5
„ 31	Arthur street ...	... yes ...	
„ 31	Watton street (2)	... yes ...	
Jun. 16	Francis street ...	... yes ...	Aug. 6
July 6	Boulton road ...	... yes ...	
Aug. 4	Francis street ...	... yes ...	
Aug. 12	Mary road ...	... no ...	
Oct. 1	Boulton road ...	... yes ...	
„ 2	Boulton road ...	... yes ...	
„ 4	Trinity road ...	... yes ...	
„ 11	Florence road ...	... yes ...	
Nov. 5	Sams lane ...	... yes ...	Nov. 9
„ 15	Glover street ...	... no ...	
„ 18	Thomas street ...	... no ...	
„ 29	Watton street ...	... no ...	Dec. 16, 20 (2)
Dec. 7	Green street ...	... no ...	Dec. 30
„ 21	Roebuck street ...	... yes ...	
„ 23	Spon lane ...	... yes ...	
„ 24	Roebuck street ...	... no ...	
„ 31	Arthur street (2)	... yes ...	
„ 31	Roebuck street (2)	... yes ...	

Table of the Number of Deaths and Zymotic Diseases occurring in each Street in the County Borough of West Bromwich for the year 1897.

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.
A				Cape street ...	6	3	4
All Saints street ...	7	3	3	Chapel street ...	7	1	6
Arthur street ..	8	3	6	Chapel street, Lyng ...	2	1	—
Ault street ...	10	3	—	Cottrell street ...	—	—	—
Alfred street ...	2	—	—	Crookhay lane ..	5	—	—
Albert street ...	5	2	1	Castle street ...	2	—	—
Allerton lane ...	—	—	2	Coppice street ..	—	—	2
Albion road ...	—	—	—	Croft street ...	1	—	3
Albion ...	2	—	1	Church street ...	3	1	—
B				Church lane ...	4	—	1
Birmingham road ...	5	—	3	Church vale ...	10	2	4
Beeches road ...	7	—	—	Cemetery road ...	—	—	—
Bagnall street...	—	—	—	Cooper street ...	12	4	—
Bull street ...	8	—	3	Cooper hill street ...	1	—	—
Bull lane ...	4	—	5	Charlemont ...	—	—	—
Bratt street ...	6	3	11	Coles lane ...	2	—	—
Braybrook street ...	1	—	—	Crankhall lane ...	—	—	—
Bromford lane ...	6	1	10	Chapman street ..	1	—	1
Brook street ...	4	2	5	D			
Bond street ...	5	1	3	Dial lane ...	14	2	2
Bowater street ...	1	—	—	Dartmouth street ...	7	2	1
Barton street ...	2	—	6	Dudley road ...	6	—	4
Black Lake ...	4	1	2	Dagger lane ...	3	—	—
Bilhay street ...	6	—	6	Duke street ...	4	—	4
Bilhay lane ...	5	1	—	Dove street ...	2	—	—
Barrows street ...	6	3	—	Delves, The ...	—	—	—
Brickhouse lane ...	4	1	2	Dunkirk street ...	5	—	2
Beale street ...	—	—	2	Dunkirk ...	—	—	—
Barrack street ...	1	—	1	E			
Barncroft street ...	4	—	2	Ebenezer street ...	9	2	4
Boulton road ...	2	1	5	Edward street ...	2	1	—
Baker street ...	1	1	—	Earl street ...	1	1	—
Burlington road ...	2	—	—	Elwell street ...	4	—	2
Bache road ...	—	—	—	Exchange street ...	—	—	—
Bell street ...	—	—	—	F			
Brett street ...	1	—	—	Fisher street ...	9	—	2
Bagnall st., Golds green	—	—	4	Francis street...	3	1	3
Bird end ...	1	—	—	Frederick street ...	3	1	—
Bustleholme ...	1	—	—	Farley street ..	4	1	2
Barr road ...	—	—	1	Florence road...	5	—	1
Bescot ...	—	—	—	Friar park ...	—	—	—
Blades street ...	—	—	2	Forge lane ..	—	—	—
C				G			
Carters green ...	6	2	4	Great Bridge street ...	19	4	19
Carters green passage ..	—	—	—	Great Bridge ...	3	1	7
Claypit lane ...	11	1	—	Guns lane ...	7	1	4
Colley street ...	3	—	—	Greets Green road ...	10	3	4
Cophall street...	9	3	11	Greets Green (Canal side)	—	—	—
Cronehill street ...	—	—	—	Gregory street ...	1	—	—
Charles street...	1	—	—				
Cross street ...	4	—	2				

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.
Griffin street ...	1	—	—	L			
Golds hill ...	7	2	—	Lyng lane ...	11	2	5
Golds green ...	4	—	3	Long square ...	6	3	2
Grice street ...	—	—	—	Lloyd street ...	11	3	2
Globe street ...	3	—	—	Lyndon ...	4	3	2
Glover street ...	10	2	3	Lyndon street... ..	—	—	—
Green street ...	10	4	2	Loveday street ...	10	—	4
George street ...	6	—	2	Lewisham street ...	4	—	—
Gads lane ...	—	—	—	Lyttleton street ...	7	3	6
Grout street ...	6	—	5	Legge street ...	5	—	—
H				Lombard street ...	3	1	1
High street ...	18	3	16	Lombard street, West ...	1	—	—
Hill Top ...	11	3	8	Lodge road ...	1	—	2
Holloway bank ...	9	2	10	Lambert street ...	1	—	—
Harvills Hawthorn ...	6	—	6	Lamberts End ...	2	—	—
Hawkes lane ...	11	3	3	Lee street ...	2	—	1
Hateley Heath ...	3	1	—	Little lane ...	—	—	—
Hawkins street ...	6	1	—	Little lane, Oldbury road	1	—	—
Hill street ...	2	—	4	M			
Hardware street ...	3	1	—	Moor street ...	20	5	3
Hargate lane ...	11	2	8	Messenger lane ...	5	1	—
Hargate street ...	3	—	—	Mayers green ...	3	1	1
Herbert street ...	5	—	1	Mount Pleasant street ...	2	—	—
Hope street ...	1	—	—	Mill street ...	—	—	—
Horton street ...	16	8	2	Millward street ...	3	—	—
Horton street, Lyng ...	3	1	4	Morris street, Little ...	6	1	—
Henry street ...	4	1	2	Morris street ...	2	1	3
Harwood street ...	1	—	—	Maria street ...	2	—	—
Hallam street ...	5	1	3	Mary road ...	1	—	1
Hollyhedge road ...	1	—	—	N			
Hollyoak street ...	1	—	—	New street, W. B. ...	7	—	3
Hall End ...	4	—	1	New street, Hill Top ...	7	2	8
Houghton street ...	—	—	—	Newhall street ...	5	1	—
Hall street ...	7	—	2	Neale street ...	7	2	1
Hall street south ...	—	—	—	Nicholls street ...	2	—	3
Hall Green ...	1	—	—	Newton street ...	—	—	1
Halfords lane ...	—	—	—	Newton road ...	1	1	—
Howard street ...	—	—	2	O			
Hospital (District) ..	54	—	7	Oldbury road ...	11	3	6
Hospital (Infectious) ..	16	13	—	Oak lane ...	6	—	2
I				Oak road ...	9	4	4
Izons road ...	1	—	—	Oak lane foredraft ...	1	—	—
Ireland Green... ..	—	—	—	Old Meeting street ...	8	—	5
J				Oakwood street ...	3	—	—
John street ...	7	2	2	Old End ...	5	1	—
John street, Swan Village	1	1	1	Overend street ...	9	1	2
Jesson street ...	3	—	1	Old Forge ...	7	1	3
Jervoise street ...	3	1	8	P			
Jervoise passage ...	—	—	—	Phoenix street... ..	9	1	1
Jowetts lane ...	—	—	—	Pleasant street ...	10	2	—
K				Pleasant street, Hill Top	2	—	5
King street ...	5	2	1				
Kenrick street ...	1	1	—				

STREETS.				STREETS.			
	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.		Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.
Pitt street ...	4	1	—	T			
Parliament street ...	3	—	—	Trinity road ...	8	—	4
Paradise street ...	4	—	1	Trinity street ...	2	1	—
Piercy street ...	4	—	2	Trinity street, Lower ...	2	—	—
Price street ...	3	—	—	Thomas street ...	4	—	1
Pikehelve street ...	13	3	5	Taylors lane ...	2	—	—
Pikehelve st. (Canal side)	—	—	—	Temple street... ..	3	1	1
Puddingbag street ...	7	3	1	Tyndal street	8	1	2
Parsonage street ...	4	1	2	Tildasley street ...	1	—	4
Park street	1	—	—	Tunnel road	4	—	—
Pumphouse	—	—	—	Tasker street	4	—	5
Pugh street	1	—	—	Treddles lane	—	—	—
Penny hill	—	—	—	Thynne street... ..	—	—	2
Peters street	1	—	—	Tantany lane	1	—	2
Q				Tame street	5	—	3
Queen street, W. B. ...	7	2	3	Tinsley street... ..	—	—	—
Queen street, Hill Top...	4	—	7	Tenscore street ...	1	—	—
R				Tame bridge	1	—	—
Roebuck lane	3	—	1	U			
Roebuck street	7	1	6	Union street	10	—	2
Richard street south ...	8	4	3	Union passage	—	—	—
Reform street... ..	4	—	1	V			
Ryders Green road ...	1	1	2	Victoria street	1	—	1
Ryder street	5	1	2	Victoria street, S.V. ...	3	1	1
Richard street	1	—	1	Vernon street... ..	7	—	2
Railway street	4	1	—	Vale street	2	—	—
Red Cow yard	3	2	1	Virgins end court ...	—	—	—
Rigby street	1	—	—	Virgins end	—	—	—
Rydding lane	1	—	—	W			
S				Whitehall road	26	4	18
Spon lane	29	5	1	Witton lane	13	—	3
Spon lane foredraft ...	4	—	—	Walsall street... ..	12	2	3
Spon lane, Railway ter. .	2	—	—	William street	10	1	7
St. Michael street ...	2	—	—	Wood lane	12	2	2
Sandwell road	8	2	1	Woodward street ...	4	—	—
Sandwell estate and park	3	—	—	Wood street	2	1	2
Sams lane	15	2	8	Watton street	5	1	6
Sheepwash lane	5	1	6	Workhouse lane	2	—	—
Swan Village & foredraft	6	—	3	Wyntor lane	—	—	—
Swan lane	1	—	—	Walsall road	—	—	—
Stony lane	1	—	2	Water street	—	—	—
Summer street	10	1	2	Winkle street... ..	2	—	1
Smith street	2	2	2	Wallface	—	—	3
Salem street	—	—	—	Wednesbury Old Fields	—	—	—
Slater street	3	1	1	Warhall End	—	—	—
Sand street	1	—	—	Wigmore Sch.(residents)	1	—	} 1
Stour street	—	—	3	„ (strangers)	—	—	
Seager street	4	1	—	Walter street	2	—	—
Scotland passage	—	—	—	Wigmore	—	—	—
Stone Cross	—	—	—	Workhouse (residents)...	90	2	} 4
Salters lane	1	—	—	„ (strangers)... ..	78	1	
Star alley	2	—	—	Whitehouse street ...	—	—	2
Sandwell colliery	1	—	—				
Shaw street	1	—	1				

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my third Annual Report upon the work done in the department under my control, including the supervision of nightsoil and dry refuse removal during the year 1897.

Together with the Assistant Sanitary Inspectors I have exerted my best endeavours during the year to bring about sanitary improvements in various parts of the Borough, and I venture to think that considerable progress has been made, as may be seen from the statistics appended to this report.

The Borough is equally divided into two districts, each worked by an Assistant Inspector, thus enabling every portion to be inspected at least once a week, and when needed twice or even more. A considerable amount of work has been accomplished by this extra inspection, and many nuisances remedied without the necessity of serving notices to abate them. Both Assistants have worked satisfactorily during the year.

House-to-house inspection has been regularly carried out every Tuesday and Thursday, from March to October, during which months about 3,000 premises have been inspected and compared with the record of the survey, and any overcrowding or sanitary defects detected have received immediate attention. This systematic re-inspection will be continued from year to year until the whole of the Borough has been inspected and reported upon. By reference to the table it will be seen that many dilapidated houses have been put in repair, and much overcrowding abated.

The same rule has been carried out as in previous years of approaching owners and agents of property direct, and laying before them suggestions with reference to sanitary improvements in their properties, and in many instances my suggestions have been carried out. I have invariably met with the greatest courtesy and respect from these gentlemen, so that in this way a great amount of work has been voluntarily carried out which it is not possible to record in a statistical form.

During the year I have issued 933 preliminary notices and 122 statutory notices for the abatement of nuisances, besides which a very large number of letters and subsidiary notices have been sent

out from the office. 11 notices have been issued under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, on the written report of the Medical Officer of Health, and 34 houses have been dealt with. In the case of 3 houses a closing order was obtained in court, and they have since been demolished; the remaining notices were not taken into court, the properties being made habitable.

Four notices were served under the Factory Acts by the direction of the Medical Officer, and all were complied with.

Although it was found necessary upon eight occasions to ask the Committee for permission to take legal proceedings for non-compliance with notice, I am pleased to report that only upon one occasion was it necessary to go into court, when an order was made for the work to be done within a month, and it was carried out accordingly.

The progress of the abolition of privy middens shows a slight falling-off as compared with the previous year, owing in a great measure to the extensive calls made upon the pockets of owners and others during the year. One hundred and forty-two privies have been abolished and re-placed by 108 w.c.'s. and 47 s.w.c.'s. Many of these conversions have been made without the service of any notice. There are 1,745 w.c.'s. and 734 s.w.c.'s. in connection with the sewers.

The portable dust-bins are still rapidly on the increase, and have gone up from 690 at the end of 1896, to 886 at the present time; all are emptied weekly. During the last three months of the year it was found necessary to put on an extra day cart one day a week to cope with the work, and in a very short time a further increase will be required. I wish also to remind the Committee that it will be necessary to buy another dry ash cart, as at present we have only one really suitable for this class of work. This part of the collection has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner, few if any complaints of neglect or incivility having been received.

The public urinals, ten in number, have been cleansed daily, and during the summer months, from March to September, are cleansed on Sundays also. During the year the new public convenience in the High street has been completed and handed over to this department. I regret very much to have to report that on several occasions most wilful damage has been done to the fittings in connection with the closets by the breakage of slots, lead pipes, etc. On several occasions I have closely watched the place on Saturday and Sunday evenings, but have never been able to detect

any person doing damage. A very decided improvement has been made in all the public urinals by the provision of a perforated drip water supply, which in the winter months is turned on once a day during the cleansing, and during the summer months three times a day, and allowed to run for 10 to 15 minutes. Keys of this supply are in the possession of the Sanitary Inspector, his assistants, and the urinal cleaner. There are 22 urinals abutting on the footpath belonging to public houses to which attention was called in my last annual report, and which are at present all unprovided with a water supply, and are at times very offensive.

My duties in connection with infectious diseases have been very heavy during the year owing mainly to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever. I have visited 490 cases of infectious disease, and had 417 rooms fumigated, while 218 cases have been removed to the Hospital. In one case of Typhoid Fever the bedding and clothes were destroyed by order of the Medical Officer, and the owners compensated at a trifling outlay. Disinfectants have been freely supplied to all infected houses as well as to the occupiers of other houses in the Borough upon application; this though very necessary is a considerable expense to the Corporation.

I have inspected 22 places where application had been made for the sale of milk, and objected to two of them as not possessing suitable accommodation for that purpose, the rest were satisfactory.

The slaughter-house register now contains 50 slaughter-houses, two new licenses having been granted during the year. Six of these are now disused, and will be removed from the register, and 11 are on annual license. During the year 311 visits have been paid, and all have been found clean and in a fairly satisfactory condition, the regulations being complied with. On one occasion only was bad meat detected on the occasion of my visit; I seized $5\frac{1}{2}$ quarters of beef weighing about 250lbs. which was diseased, unsound, and unfit for human food. The meat was condemned and destroyed, but owing to a legal technicality it was not possible to take proceedings. On several occasions I have called the attention of shopkeepers to the condition of food exposed for sale, and it has at once been destroyed without the necessity for taking legal action. As much as 20lbs. of bits have been seized on one occasion. I have made periodical inspection of all the fish, meat, and fruit shops in the Borough.

Two cases have occurred in which proceedings were taken for the sale of bad rabbits; in the one case, one rabbit, and in the

other, six rabbits were exposed for sale. Both defendants were convicted and fined.

Among other foods seized and destroyed may be mentioned a quantity of fish and 4,800 eggs. In the latter case attention was called to the eggs by the owner, who had received them from a wholesale dealer. The barrows of hawkers are regularly inspected, but it has not been found necessary to seize any of the food thereon. Two notices to cleanse slaughter-houses were served and promptly complied with.

The bakehouses in the Borough number 51, being an increase of three during the year, to which I have paid 146 visits. All were in a fair condition, the bye-laws as to cleanliness being well observed in almost every case. Three notices have been served and promptly complied with.

Twenty-three samples of well water were submitted to the Medical Officer during the year, of which eight were condemned as unfit for domestic purposes. In every case the owners have discontinued the use of the wells and put in the public water supply. Two houses were found to be without any water supply. Notice was served upon the owner and a sufficient supply put in.

During the year the whole of the nightsoil removal has been carried out by contractors. It has been necessary from time to time to complain of the manner in which the work was done, and with a satisfactory result.

One thousand three hundred loads of dustbin refuse have been removed by the day cart, and 590 dry ashpits have been registered as emptied by the contractors. This amounts to about 2,500 tons of dry refuse entirely free from excreta, which could be treated in a dust destructor.

The work is now done in a more systematic manner than formerly, and comparatively few people find it necessary to register their premises for cleansing. The year closes with only 52 cases on the books requiring attention.

The usual complete tables of the work done during the year are appended.

I desire to thank the Committee for their continued confidence in me, and shall hope to deserve it by my future work.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS WATERS, A. SAN. INST.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

County Borough, West Bromwich.

February 1st, 1898.

	Inspections and Observa- tions made.	Preliminary Notices served.	Statutory Notices served.	Notices complied with.
Defective dwelling house roofs	272	147	19	133
Dirty and dilapidated houses	186	148	16	132
Defective privies and ashpits	1296	390	97	344
Dilapidated outhouses ...	25	22	—	19
Want of efficient drainage ...	72	66	28	49
Defective drainage ...	169	147	9	138
Yards, etc., want repaving ...	71	63	18	50
Water in cellars ...	51	50	3	49
Defective soft water cisterns	4	4	—	4
Defective cellar drains ...	3	3	2	3
Defective spouting ...	49	44	4	40
Water closets defective ...	64	64	—	61
Slop water closets defective ...	65	65	—	65
Insufficient privy accommodation	13	13	4	8
Animals, etc., a nuisance ...	28	22	—	21
Offensive accumulations ...	18	18	—	18
To drain stables ...	9	9	2	9
To drain pigstyes ...	4	3	2	3
To provide urinal accommodation	13	13	10	11
Ditto ashpit ditto	14	14	4	12
Ditto manure pits ditto	8	7	1	7
To abate overcrowding ...	90	90	5	88
Defective well covering ...	9	9	—	9
Ditto bakehouses ...	3	3	—	3
Ditto slaughterhouses ...	2	2	—	2
Notices under Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890	34	—	11	10
Notices under the Factory and Workshops Acts ...	4	—	4	4
				No.
Infectious diseases—cases notified ...	...	...	...	519
Visits to infectious diseases ...	...	...	...	490
Rooms fumigated ...	...	...	...	417
Removed to hospital ...	...	...	...	218
Lots of bedding destroyed ...	...	...	...	1
Samples of water taken ...	...	...	...	23
Wells closed and tap water provided ...	...	...	...	8
Houses without water supply ...	...	...	...	2
Provided with tap water ...	...	...	...	2

	No.
Preliminary notices served...	933
Statutory notices served ...	122
Privies abolished ...	142
Water closets provided ...	108
Slop-water closets provided ...	47
Visits to slaughter-houses ...	311
Ditto bakehouses ...	146
Ditto tips ...	132
Complaints received ...	327
House-to-house inspections...	3000
Re-inspections ...	2998
Miscellaneous inspections ...	2886
Portable dust collected weekly ...	886
Seizures of unsound food ...	7
Proceedings taken ...	2
Number of nuisances dealt with ...	2576
Dead bodies removed to mortuary ...	—
Number of letters sent out ...	588
Applications for the sale of milk ...	22
Visits to schools ...	3
Reports sent to surveyor ...	12
Testing drains ...	1

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit a report of the work carried out under the Food and Drugs Acts during the year 1897.

I have obtained 140 samples under the above Acts, consisting of the following :—Milk, 45 ; skimmed milk, 2 ; butter, 39 ; coffee, 7 ; coffee and chicory, 2 ; cocoa, 1 ; lard, 2 ; pepper, 6 ; ice cream, 8 ; vinegar, 1 ; ground ginger, 1 ; sweetmeats, 3 ; spirits, 16 ; drugs, 7.

These were submitted to the Public Analyst, who certified 121 samples (86·44 per cent.) as “genuine,” 8 samples (5·71 per cent.) as “inferior,” and 11 samples (7·85 per cent.) as “adulterated.”

In the appended table I give particulars of the nature, number, and quality of the articles examined.

It will be seen from the above table that although 13 more samples were analyzed than the previous year, there is only one-third the number of adulterations, giving a percentage of 7·85, which is very satisfactory when compared with the 25·9 per cent. the previous year, and 9·2 as representing the percentage of adulterated samples throughout the country, thus showing that adulteration is largely on the decrease in your Borough.

Proceedings have been taken against the vendors of eight samples, seven of whom were convicted, the penalties amounting to £19 10s. and the costs to £10 3s. 6d., after deducting the 10s. 6d. costs given against us in the remaining case.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEO. WM. DAVIS,

Inspector.

ANALYST'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee, County Borough of West Bromwich.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to lay before you a summary of the work carried out in your Borough under the Food and Drugs Acts during the year ended December 31st, 1897.

The total number of samples examined was 140. Private individuals rarely appear to avail themselves of the power given them under the Acts to submit samples to the Analyst, and in this respect the experience of the past year was the same as the previous ones, the whole of the articles analyzed being officially purchased by Inspector Davis, or his assistants.

In the following table I have given the usual information with respect to the character and quality of the articles analyzed :—

Description of Article.	Number of Samples.	Genuine.	Inferior.	Adulterated.	Vendors prosecuted.	Vendors convicted.	Vendors cautioned.
Milk	44	32	7	5	3	3	..
Skim Milk	3	2	...	1	1	1	..
Butter	39	38	...	1	1	1	..
Coffee	9	9	...	...	...	...	..
Cocoa	1	1	...	...	...	...	..
Pepper	6	5	1	...	...	...	..
Glycerine	4	3	...	1	1	...	..
Ginger	1	1	...	...	...	...	..
Vinegar	1	1	...	...	...	...	..
Sweetmeats	3	3	...	...	...	...	..
Lard	2	2	...	...	...	...	..
Castor Oil	2	2	...	...	...	...	..
Olive Oil	1	1	...	...	...	...	..
Whiskey	9	7	..	2	1	1	1
Rum	4	3	...	1	1	1	..
Gin	3	3	...	...	...	...	..
Ice Creams	8	8	...	...	...	...	..
	140	121	8	11	8	7	1

The number of samples found to be adulterated was 11, which, calculating on the whole of the articles submitted to me by the Inspector, represents a percentage of 7·85. In the previous year 33 samples were condemned, giving a percentage of 25·9, and the very satisfactory diminution that is thus shown is in accord with the general experiences of other districts, where an energetic administration of the Acts is usually followed by an improved food supply.

The 1896 Local Government Board Report on "Food Adulteration" in England and Wales, which has just been issued, gives 9·2 as representing the percentage of adulteration for the whole of the country, and the record for West Bromwich which I have stated above, shows a rather lower and therefore better result.

Proceedings were instituted against the vendors of adulterated articles in eight of the eleven cases, and seven convictions were obtained, the penalties inflicted being often of an exemplary character. One case—that of the adulteration of glycerine with syrup of starch—was dismissed on a legal point as to the form of the certificate. Proceedings were not taken in two cases of milk adulteration owing to the conditions of sale, which were such as to preclude a successful issue to the prosecutions, and this obstacle is to be regretted, as in each instance the quality of the milk had been seriously reduced.

Milk has again provided a large proportion of the samples submitted to me for analysis, though not so great as in the previous year. In my last Annual Report I called attention to the necessity for an improvement in the quality of this general food as supplied in your Borough, for calculating on a low standard, more than 20 per cent. were adulterated, and another 15 per cent. were of inferior quality. The record for the past year is rather better; but 12·76 per cent. were still adulterated, and 14·9 per cent. were of inferior quality. A considerable reduction in these figures must take place before the supply can be considered satisfactory.

Butter samples yielded a better result, only one out of thirty-nine containing foreign fat, which compares favourably with the figures for the previous year, when four out of twenty-six were condemned.

There was also a considerable improvement shown in the spirits. In 1896, 52 per cent. were returned as adulterated, whilst in 1897, the percentage sank to 18·7.

Paraffin wax has disappeared from the sweetmeats examined, no doubt in consequence of the publicity given to this injurious form of adulteration by the prosecutions at the opening of last year.

In addition to the above work under the Food and Drugs Acts, three samples of water have been analyzed for your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. Manley. Two of these I condemned as being tainted, and therefore unsafe for domestic use. The third sample of water represented the supply of the South Staffordshire Co. to West Bromwich, and both chemically and microscopically yielded results indicating a water of high organic purity.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HARRY SILVESTER, F.I.C.,

Public Analyst.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF CANAL CABIN BOATS

FOR THE
BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH,
FOR THE YEAR 1897.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSPECTION OF CANAL CABIN BOATS.

1. The Inspector visits the Canals comprised in the Borough upon frequent days, and inspects all Boats necessary. His remuneration is £25 per annum.

2. The number of Boats inspected during the year was 166.

The result of the inspection for the past year has been very satisfactory in every way. There is a very general determination with the Boat population to strictly observe the law by carefully conforming to the Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, and to render all necessary assistance to the Inspector, and I am pleased to say there has been a still greater reduction in the number of women and children on board than on previous years, the number for the past three years reading as follows :—1895, 180 boats : Men 251, women 145, children, 212. 1896, 179 boats : Men 256, women 132, children 172. 1897, 166 boats : Men 254, women 108, children 127.

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

(a) All Boats inspected have been duly registered.

(b) No notification of the change of master.

(c) One case of absence of certificate has occurred in a Boat registered at Gloucester, and the Boat was in a dirty, dilapidated state, and the name quite illegible. Having brought these facts to the notice of the Town Clerk, I, by his instructions, wrote to the owners and to the registration authority at Gloucester, and having placed the replies in his hands, the Town Council decided that the explanations and promises were satisfactory, and deemed prosecution unnecessary.

(d) Marking not contained in the Instruction Book.

(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 satisfactory, and most of the Cabins are clean and neat in appearance.

(h) Ventilation has been properly provided for by door or slide at each end of Cabin.

(i) The painting of the Boats has been satisfactorily attended to.

(j) Every boat has been properly provided with water vessel.

(k) Care is taken not to allow the accumulation of bilge water.

(l) No case of infectious disease to report. I have taken care to have everybody in the Boats well under inspection.

(m) The Inspector has never been refused admittance, and has received every assistance from the Boat people.

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.

14th January, 1898.



