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

FOR THE YEAR 1898, 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 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 1898.

Population: 1891, 58,489; estimated, 1898, 63,500.

Acreage, 5,860.

Birth-rate 1898, 35·7; decennial average, 35·5.

Death-rate 1898, 19·1; „ „ 19·8.

Zymotic rate 1898, 3·1; „ „ 2·7.

Infantile Mortality: 1898, 182 per 1,000 births; dec. average, 175·1.

„ „ „ 30·5 per 100 deaths.

SANITARY WORK, 1898.

Cases notified 580: including Scarlet Fever 353, of which 247 were removed to Hospital; Typhoid Fever 72; Diphtheria 35; Croup 10; Continued Fever 1; Puerperal Fever 4; and Erysipelas 98.

Notices served by Inspectors 990; by order of Committee 115.
No legal proceedings taken.

Privies abolished 65; Water-closets provided 81; Slop-closets provided 23.

Cases under the Housing of the Working Classes Act 9, comprising 32 houses.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit to you my Ninth Annual Report on the Sanitary statistics and Sanitary condition of your Borough. Introductory

The year has been somewhat unfortunate in the Sanitary Department. Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Waters, had for some time shown signs of an incurable disease, and early in July it was thought advisable to allow him a holiday in the hope of improvement. This hope was not realized, and his condition gradually became worse, and culminated in his death in November last. The Borough has lost a faithful servant, and his loss is regretted by all who came in contact with him.

In addition to this, Sheppard, who was assistant inspector, and who had also been absent for some months on sick leave, sent in his resignation. Under these circumstances the Committee took the opportunity of re-constructing the Sanitary Staff, and adopted the suggestion of Dr. Buchanan that an additional inspector should be engaged. It is also proposed to bring the Inspection of Canal Boats, Common Lodging Houses, Dairies, Cow Sheds, and Milk Shops, under the direct control of the chief Sanitary Inspector.

Owing to the facts above mentioned, it will readily be understood that the average of Sanitary Work has not been maintained in its full efficiency. This will especially be seen in the reduced number of conversions which have taken place.

The Annual Congress of the Sanitary Institute was this year held in Birmingham, and was largely attended, being in every way a complete success. Your officers and some members of the Committee attended the meetings, and some very good work was done.

Dr. Buchanan paid a return visit to the Borough in May last, and has since issued a supplementary report upon the condition of the Borough, in which he realizes that an effort is being made to improve the sanitary condition of the Borough. In the face of recent decisions of the High Court respecting the conversion of privy middens to the water carriage system, it is obviously

Introductory impossible to hasten this process either by a crusade or by legal proceedings, but it will be necessary more than ever to demonstrate the advantages to be gained by the change, and to induce property owners to continue to maintain their houses in a proper manner.

The usual tables and reports are appended.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population
and Area

The area of the Borough remains unchanged, and stands at 5,860 acres. The population at the last census was 59,489, and in the eight years which have elapsed since the census the natural increase of the population has amounted to 7,204. It is, however, probable from our previous experience that considerable migration is taking place which has not been counterbalanced by an incoming population, and in spite of the extensive building which appears to be going on, there is actually a decrease in the number of inhabited houses. Under these circumstances I have estimated the population at $5\frac{1}{4}$ persons per house, or in round figures, 63,600. This shows a total increase since the census of 4,000, or 500 per annum. The next census will be in two years time, and it will then be possible to see how far this forecast is accurate.

Births


The births of the year amount to 2,269 or a rate of 35·6 per 1,000, and present no special feature for comment.

Deaths

The deaths registered in 1898 numbered 1,360, and represented a gross death-rate of 21·3, which is within a decimal of the figures for the preceding year. In order, however, to arrive at a more accurate computation, it is customary to deduct the deaths of persons admitted from other districts dying in any of our institutions and deaths from violence. These deductions amount to no less than 149, or 2·3 per 1,000, leaving the nett death-rate of the Borough at exactly 19 per 1,000.

The total is thus made up :—

Outside Deaths	...	...	112 ;	last year	104
Deaths from Violence	...	36 ;	„	35	
„ Phthisis	...	51 ;	„	58	
„ Heart Disease	...	81 ;	„	51	
„ Lung Disease	...	239 ;	„	253	
„ Zymotics	...	213 ;	„	199	
Miscellaneous causes	...	628 ;	„	647	
			—	—	
Totals	...	1360		1347	



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The statistics of infantile mortality show but little change. There were 415 deaths under one year of age as against 398 in the preceding year. This means that out of every thousand children born no less than 182 died before reaching their first anniversary. In addition to this there were 222 deaths of children between one and five years of age, making a total mortality of young children of 637, or very nearly half the total of deaths for the year.

Infantile
Mortality

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Statistical
Tables

I.—BIRTHS.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
N.E.	278	249	275	273	1075
S.W.	303	300	282	309	1194
Total	581	549	557	582	2269

II.—DEATHS.

N.E.	116	104	121	123	464
S.W.	204	153	171	129	657
Public Institutions	57	67	53	62	239
Totals	377	324	345	314	1360

III.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Measles	30	10	1	—	41
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	3	11
Typhoid Fever	4	1	4	6	15
Whooping Cough	5	14	11	5	35
Diphtheria	2	1	1	2	6
Diarrhœa	5	6	64	20	95
Totals	51	34	82	36	203

IV.—NOTIFICATIONS.

Year.	S.P.	Sc.	Dph.	Cr.	Ty.	Fever	Puer.	Chol.	Erys.	Total.
1890	—	378	34	10	89	11	3	—	79	603
1891	1	208	26	5	49	3	8	—	50	350
1892	1	55	7	9	30	8	4	—	38	152
1893	26	261	19	7	92	2	6	—	84	498
1894	41	83	13	5	79	2	2	—	64	289
1895	8	155	14	14	132	1	4	—	54	382
1896	—	320	27	7	85	1	2	—	66	508
1897	—	345	41	16	45	2	3	1	65	518
1898	—	353	42	10	72	1	4	—	98	580

Statistical
Tables

V.—HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Small-pox	Sc. Fev.	Ty. Fev.	Total.	W. Brom.	H'worth.	P. Barr
1891 ...	1 ...	166 ...	— ...	167 ...	121 ...	39 ...	7
1892 ...	2 ...	104 ...	— ...	106 ...	42 ...	64 ...	—
1893 ...	62 ...	135 ...	— ...	197 ...	113 ...	82 ...	2
1894 ...	124 ...	62 ...	— ...	186 ...	48 ...	97 ...	41
1895 ...	14 ...	204 ...	— ...	218 ...	124 ...	94 ...	—
1896 ...	— ...	395 ...	5 ...	400 ...	212 ...	183 ...	5
1897 ...	— ...	349 ...	— ..	349 ...	218 ...	120 ...	11
1898 ...	— ...	320 ...	— ...	320 ...	257 ...	51 ...	12
Totals	203	1735	5	1943	1135	730	78
Average	—	—	—	243	142	— 101 —	—

II.—SANITARY WORK.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications

During the past year 580 cases of Infectious Disease have been reported to the Medical Officer of Health. This number is slightly in excess of the average since the adoption of the Act and is made up as follows :—Scarlet Fever, 353 ; Diphtheria, 42 ; Typhoid Fever, 72 ; Croup, 10 ; Continued Fever, 1 ; Puerperal Fever, 4 ; and Erysipelas, 98.

Scarlet Fever

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever is almost identical with the number reported last year and probably represents the high-water mark of this disease as the figures show a gradual increase since 1894. For the sake of comparison I have added a table of the notifications received since the adoption of the Act.

Diphtheria

Forty-two cases of Diphtheria have been reported during the year, *i.e.*, 1st Quarter, 19 ; 2nd Quarter, 5 ; 3rd Quarter, 11 ; and 4th Quarter, 7. I still regard this number with suspicion as many of the cases which I have investigated have returned to work in a few days. With a view to the more accurate notification of this disease the Sanitary Committee entered into an arrangement with the Bacteriological Department of Mason's College, Birmingham, for the verification of these cases. Since this arrangement was made (compliance with which is of course purely optional on the part of private practitioners) 18 cases have been reported ; of these, 4 were not sent for verification for various reasons ; of the remaining 14, six only were verified, and in 8 the typical bacilli were not found. It is a matter of regret to me that the medical men of the town

TABLE OF POPULATION

Showing the population of the United States in 1900

State	Population
Alabama	1,500,000
Arizona	200,000
Arkansas	1,200,000
California	3,000,000
Colorado	500,000
Connecticut	1,200,000
Delaware	200,000
District of Columbia	100,000
Florida	1,000,000
Georgia	1,800,000
Idaho	200,000
Illinois	4,000,000
Indiana	3,000,000
Iowa	2,000,000
Kansas	1,000,000
Kentucky	1,800,000
Louisiana	1,200,000
Maine	1,000,000
Maryland	1,000,000
Massachusetts	2,000,000
Michigan	3,000,000
Minnesota	2,000,000
Mississippi	1,000,000
Missouri	2,500,000
Montana	200,000
Nebraska	1,000,000
Nevada	200,000
New Hampshire	1,000,000
New Jersey	2,000,000
New Mexico	200,000
New York	10,000,000
North Carolina	2,500,000
North Dakota	200,000
Ohio	4,000,000
Oklahoma	200,000
Oregon	200,000
Pennsylvania	6,000,000
Rhode Island	1,000,000
South Carolina	1,000,000
South Dakota	200,000
Tennessee	2,500,000
Texas	3,000,000
Vermont	1,000,000
Virginia	2,000,000
Washington	200,000
West Virginia	200,000
Wisconsin	2,000,000
Wyoming	200,000

should, in some instances, have adopted a hostile attitude to this system and in cases where the bacilli were not found should have written angry letters to the department. The object of verification at the expense of the public is to protect genuine cases and secure proper isolation and disinfection, besides giving a valuable indication for the employment of antitoxin by those practitioners who use it.

Diphtheria

It must of course be understood by the Council that the discovery of the bacillus of Diphtheria is only a confirmatory test and does not preclude the existence of cases in which from various causes it is not found; at the same time it is most desirable that medical men should avail themselves of this arrangement even before they notify.

Of the 42 cases notified six only proved fatal which is much below the average case mortality of the disease supposing all the cases to be genuine.

Typhoid Fever occurred in 73 cases, a number slightly in excess of the preceding year but below the average of the past five years. The question of isolating cases of Typhoid Fever has again arisen in connection with pauper cases, but so far no case of Typhoid has been of such danger to the community as to require isolation.

Typhoid
Fever

The remainder of the record calls for no comment except Erysipelas, which numbers 98 cases, and at a cost of £12 appears to me to be quite a useless notification. It should be erased from the schedule of the Act, but until Parliament deals with the question both by the revision of the list of diseases and by making the Act universally compulsory protest is futile.

THE BOROUGH HOSPITAL.

During the past year no disease but Scarlet Fever has been treated in the Hospital. There have been admitted 320 cases, of which, 257 belonged to our own people, representing a proportion of admissions to cases of 72.4 per cent. Of the admitted cases seven have died, *i.e.*, 2 per cent. which compares very favourably with the statistics of the Metropolitan Hospitals for the past fifteen years, which is recorded as 8 per cent.

Hospital

Of the 96 cases which were from various reasons nursed at home, four died, and this mortality, though twice that of the Hospital cases, must be taken to include cases too severe to be removed.

Hospital

The Staff of the Hospital now consists of a Matron, two nurses, two probationer nurses and three servants, together with the porter, who has charge of the ambulance, the outside of the buildings, the garden and the steam disinfecter.

For purposes of comparison I append the returns of the Hospital and of Notifications for past years.

A careful record has been kept of all secondary cases of Scarlet Fever to ascertain how far they were due to return cases. Four such cases were observed and there were also four instances in which a second case arose in the house at the termination of the first which had not been removed to Hospital.

The Steam Disinfecter answers its purpose admirably and there is now no danger of infected clothing being sent out of the Hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water
Supply

In company with the Engineer of the South Staffordshire Water Works I visited the various pumping stations and gathering grounds of the Company, devoting the whole of one day to the inspection. The time of this visit coincided with the prolonged drought from which the country suffered and the supply in the wells and reservoirs was consequently low. As far as it was possible to judge, the grounds from which the supplies are gathered, both at Cannock Chase and Huntington, are exceptionally free from any danger of contamination.

The water has also been examined on two occasions during the year and found to be satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscel-
laneous

During the year the Mortuary has been thoroughly cleansed and the room set aside for post-mortem examinations is now properly tiled and in a more satisfactory condition than it has ever been. A screen of wood and glass has been erected across half the large room so that a view of the bodies can now be made without those whose duty it is to view them coming into close contact with them.

A new Urinal has been erected at the back road to the G.W. Railway Station, in Lyng Lane, and a serious and constantly recurring nuisance thereby removed.

It remains a matter for regret that continual damage is done to the Sanitary Convenience erected close to the Market Hall, and that so far it has been found impossible to trace the culprits.

The Statistical Reports of the Department are appended but for reasons already stated there is no report from the Inspector.

Miscel-
laneous

In conclusion permit me to express my sincere thanks to the Committee for their continued confidence during an exceptionally trying year, and to express also a hope that with the increased and remodelled staff now at the disposal of the Sanitary Department increased efficiency may be obtained in the coming year.

I have the honour to remain,

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 for the year 1898.

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases Notified.
A				Cape street ...	10	2	3
All Saints street ...	2	—	5	Chapel street ...	5	1	2
Arthur street ...	11	2	2	Chapel street, Lyng ...	—	—	3
Ault street ...	6	1	—	Cottrell street... ..	—	—	—
Alfred street ...	5	—	2	Crookhay lane ...	2	1	1
Albert street ...	5	1	3	Castle street ...	1	—	—
Allerton lane ...	—	—	—	Coppice street ...	2	—	4
Albion road ...	—	—	—	Croft street ...	5	1	1
Albion ...	1	—	—	Church street ...	—	—	2
B				Church lane ...	6	1	7
Birmingham road ...	5	—	1	Church vale ...	5	—	12
Beeches road ...	4	1	11	Cemetery road ...	—	—	1
Bagnall street... ..	—	—	—	Cooper street ...	7	1	—
Bull street ...	2	2	2	Cooper hill street ...	1	1	—
Bull lane ...	7	—	1	Charlemont ...	1	—	—
Bratt street ...	9	2	3	Coles lane ...	—	—	—
Braybrook street ...	9	1	—	Crankhall lane ...	—	—	—
Bromford lane ...	7	1	11	Chapman street ...	—	—	—
Brook street ...	8	3	6	Cambridge street ...	1	—	—
Bond street ...	5	3	—	D			
Bowater street ...	5	1	—	Dial lane ...	15	3	1
Barton street ...	6	3	—	Dartmouth street ...	15	2	9
Black Lake ...	3	1	2	Dudley road ...	2	—	2
Bilhay street ...	5	—	1	Dagger lane ...	2	1	2
Bilhay lane ...	2	—	4	Duke street ...	6	1	1
Barrow street ...	4	—	3	Dove street ...	—	—	4
Brickhouse lane ...	4	1	4	Delves, The ...	—	—	—
Beale street ...	10	6	2	Dunkirk street ...	3	1	—
Barrack street ...	3	—	—	Dunkirk ...	2	1	—
Barncroft street ...	1	—	3	E			
Boulton road ...	4	2	—	Ebenezer street ...	3	—	2
Baker street ...	2	—	—	Edward street ...	6	1	2
Burlington road ...	1	—	1	Earl street ...	4	—	3
Bache road ...	—	—	—	Elwell street ...	4	1	—
Bell street ...	—	—	—	Exchange street ...	3	1	4
Brett street ...	2	1	—	F			
Bagnall st., Golds green ...	—	—	—	Fisher street ..	6	1	3
Bird end ...	—	—	—	Francis street ...	1	—	—
Bustleholme ...	2	1	2	Frederick street ...	2	1	—
Barr road ...	—	—	—	Farley street ...	6	—	1
Bescot ...	—	—	—	Florence road ...	4	—	2
Blades street ...	—	—	—	Friar park ...	1	—	—
C				Forge lane ...	1	—	1
Carters green ...	2	—	2	G			
Carters green passage ...	—	—	—	Great Bridge street ...	26	6	10
Claypit lane ...	5	—	2	Great Bridge ...	9	2	5
Colley street ...	6	2	2	Guns lane ...	11	1	4
Cophall street ...	6	2	9	Greets Green road ...	9	2	—
Cronchill street ...	1	—	—	Greets Green (Canal side)	2	—	—
Charles street ...	4	1	4				
Cross street ...	3	1	2				

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases notified.
Gregory street ...	1	—	1	L			
Griffin street ...	4	—	—	Lyng lane ...	16	4	6
Golds hill ...	2	—	1	Long square ...	9	2	—
Golds green ...	2	—	—	Lloyd street ...	2	—	1
Grice street ...	1	—	—	Lyndon ...	7	—	2
Globe street ...	5	1	1	Lyndon street ...	—	—	—
Glover street ...	12	2	10	Loveday street ...	1	—	5
Green street ...	4	1	1	Lewisham street ...	1	—	—
George street ...	6	—	—	Lyttleton street ...	4	1	3
Gads lane ...	2	1	—	Legge street ...	2	—	4
Grout street ...	—	—	2	Lombard street ...	2	—	3
				Lombard street West ...	—	—	—
H				Lodge road ...	3	—	1
High street ...	19	3	10	Lambert street ...	—	—	—
Hill Top ...	11	—	4	Lamberts End... ..	1	—	3
Holloway bank ...	11	2	3	Lee street ...	3	—	—
Harvills Hawthorn ...	14	1	—	Little lane ...	—	—	—
Hawkes lane ...	5	—	1	Little lane, Oldbury road	1	1	—
Hateley Heath ...	4	1	1				
Hawkins street ...	3	1	1	M			
Hill street ...	1	1	—	Moor street ...	14	3	6
Hardware street ...	3	—	—	Messenger lane ...	5	—	—
Hargate lane ...	4	1	7	Mayers green ...	4	1	—
Hargate street ...	2	1	1	Mount Pleasant street ...	7	2	5
Herbert street... ..	5	1	4	Mill street ...	1	—	1
Hope street ...	5	—	—	Millward street ...	4	3	2
Horton street ...	9	3	5	Morris street ...	4	—	1
Horton street, Lyng ...	2	—	3	Morris street, Little ...	5	3	2
Henry street ...	4	2	1	Maria street ...	3	2	—
Harwood street ...	3	—	4	Mary road ...	2	—	1
Hallam street ...	5	1	4	Midland terrace ...	—	—	1
Hollyoak street ...	—	—	—				
Hollyhedge road ...	1	—	—	N			
Hall End ...	8	2	6	New street, W. B. ...	4	—	5
Houghton street ...	1	—	—	New street, Hill Top ...	12	1	1
Hall street ...	11	1	2	Newhall street ...	8	4	5
Hall street south ...	—	—	—	Neale street ...	8	3	5
Hall Green ...	4	—	6	Nicholls street ...	2	1	4
Halford lane ...	—	—	—	Newton street ...	2	—	2
Howard street ...	—	—	—	Newton road ...	—	—	—
Hospital (District) ...	48	1	2				
Hospital (Infectious) ...	8	4	—	O			
I				Oldbury road ...	10	2	4
Izons road ...	2	—	—	Oak lane ...	4	1	7
Ireland Green ...	1	—	—	Oak road ...	11	3	3
				Oak lane foredraft ...	1	—	—
J				Old Meeting street ...	7	3	1
John street ...	6	1	1	Oakwood street ...	—	—	3
John street, Swan Village	7	1	2	Old End ...	3	1	—
Jesson street ...	4	—	1	Overend street ...	12	1	—
Jervoise street ...	4	1	6	Old Forge ...	4	3	2
Jervoise passage ...	1	—	7	Old row, Golds hill ...	—	—	1
Jowetts lane ...	1	—	—				
				P			
K				Phoenix street ...	4	—	1
King street ...	2	—	6	Pleasant street ...	10	2	1
Kendrick street ...	7	1	—	Pleasant street, Hill Top	—	—	—

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Infectious Cases notified.
Pitt street ..	3	—	6	T			
Parliament street	9	1	4	Trinity road ...	9	1	3
Paradise street	10	—	—	Trinity street ...	3	—	4
Piercy street ...	4	2	3	Trinity street, Lower ...	6	1	3
Price street ...	1	—	—	Thomas street...	2	1	5
Pikehelve street	9	1	1	Taylors lane ...	3	—	1
Pikehelve st. (Canal side)	3	1	—	Temple street ...	7	2	3
Puddingbag street	1	—	1	Tyndal street ...	3	1	2
Parsonage street	1	—	—	Tildasley street	1	—	—
Park street ...	3	—	1	Tunnel road ...	3	—	—
Pumphouse ...	—	—	—	Tasker street ...	4	—	1
Pugh street ...	—	—	—	Treddles lane ...	1	—	—
Penny hill ...	—	—	—	Thynne street...	—	—	5
Peters street ...	—	—	—	Tantany lane ...	4	—	1
Q				Tame street ...	4	—	—
Queen street, W. B. ...	2	—	6	Tinsley street ...	—	—	—
Queen street, Hill Top ..	4	—	1	Tenscore street	2	—	3
R				Tame Bridge ...	1	—	—
Roebuck lane ..	3	1	—	U			
Roebuck street	13	2	7	Union street ...	8	—	1
Richard street south	10	3	3	Union passage...	—	—	—
Reform street ...	4	2	1	V			
Ryders green road	6	2	1	Victoria street	2	—	—
Ryder street ...	7	3	2	Victoria street, S.V.	8	3	—
Richard street	2	—	3	Vernon street ...	3	—	2
Railway street	1	—	1	Vale street ...	1	—	1
Red Cow yard	1	—	—	Virgins End court	—	—	—
Rigby street ...	1	—	—	Virgins end ...	2	—	—
Rydding lane ...	—	—	—	W			
Ryders Green (Canal side)	2	—	—	Whitehall road	16	3	15
S				Witton lane ...	14	2	2
Spon lane ...	23	5	15	Walsall street ...	11	1	8
Spon lane foredraft	—	—	2	William street	6	2	7
Spon lane, Railway ter.	2	2	2	Wood lane ...	17	3	3
St. Michael street	—	—	—	Woodward street	4	—	4
Sandwell road	10	2	6	Wood street ...	1	—	—
Sandwell estate and park	7	3	1	Watton street...	3	—	—
Sams lane ...	17	4	10	Workhouse lane	3	—	6
Sheepwash lane	6	4	10	Wyntor lane ...	—	—	—
Swan Village & foredraft	9	2	5	Walsall road ...	—	—	—
Swan lane ...	—	—	1	Water street ...	1	—	—
Stoney lane ..	4	—	1	Winkle street ...	1	—	—
Summer street	5	1	1	Wallface ...	—	—	1
Smith street ...	2	—	—	Wednesbury Old Fields	—	—	—
Salem street ...	—	—	—	Warhall End ...	—	—	—
Slater street ...	2	—	1	Walter street ...	3	—	1
Sand street ...	8	3	2	Wigmore Sch. (residents)	2	—	—
Stour street ...	—	—	5	„ (strangers)	1	—	—
Seager street ...	3	—	4	Wigmore ...	1	—	—
Scotland passage	2	—	4	Workhouse (residents) ...	99	2	7
Stone Cross ...	1	—	—	„ (strangers)...	80	1	—
Salters lane ...	—	—	—	Whitehouse street	—	—	—
Star alley ...	—	—	—				
Sandwell Colliery	—	—	—				
Shaw street ...	—	—	1				

	Inspections and Observa- tions made	Preliminary Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Defective dwelling house roofs	48	40	1	28
Dirty and dilapidated houses	108	69	—	57
Defective Privies and ashpits	204	312	84	251
Dilapidated outhouses ..	29	32	9	23
Want of efficient drainage ...	16	29	22	28
Defective drainage ...	36	81	5	74
Yards, etc., want repaving ...	43	60	15	49
Water in cellars ...	14	12	—	12
Defective soft water cisterns	10	4	—	4
Ditto spouting ...	26	26	1	22
Ditto water closets ...	89	36	—	34
Ditto slop water closets ...	—	175	—	171
Insufficient privy accommodation	1	16	2	15
Animals, etc., a nuisance ...	37	33	—	29
Offensive accumulations ...	16	9	—	8
To drain stables	7	6	3	5
Ditto pigstyes	—	6	2	5
To provide urinal accommodation	—	6	3	6
Ditto ashpit ditto	15	19	3	18
Ditto manure pits ...	—	7	1	7
To abate overcrowding ...	68	90	10	86
Defective well covering ...	4	6	—	6
Ditto bakehouses ...	—	4	—	3
Ditto slaughter-houses ...	1	—	—	1
Defective entry gullies ...	56	49	—	38

ANNUAL SUMMARY.

	No.
Miscellaneous inspections	4836
Re-inspections	1198
Defective privies and ashpits	204
Ditto roofs	48
Overcrowding inspections	68
Defective yard paving	43
Entry gullies stopped	34

				No.
Dirty and dilapidated houses	...	...	..	108
Defective drainage	...	...	...	36
Ditto spouting	...	...	...	26
Samples of water obtained	...	...	...	16
Engaged with owners	...	...	...	21
Visits <i>re</i> pigs	...	...	...	10
Nuisance from manure	...	...	..	16
Water closets stopped	...	...	...	89
Nuisance from fowls	...	...	...	26
Privies and ashpits registered	...	..	...	792
Observation <i>re</i> nightsoil being tipped on land, Sams Lane				2
Waste of water	...	...	...	2
Reports to surveyor	...	...	...	16
Dangerous wells	...	...	...	4
Water in cellars	...	...	...	14
Stables without drainage	...	...	...	7
Dilapidated brewhouses	...	...	..	29
Drains stopped	...	...	...	14
No proper drainage	...	...	...	16
House to house inspections	...	...	..	1826
No ashpit accommodation	...	...	...	15
Privies under workshops	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from trade refuse	...	...	...	2
Defective sinks	...	...	...	1
Workshop inspections	...	...	...	5
Visits <i>re</i> damage done by contractors		...	...	1
Slaughter-house inspections	...	...	...	121
Defective plastering	...	...	...	3
Nuisance from smoke	...	...	...	5
No privy accommodation	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from boiling offal	...	...	...	1
Leakages	...	...	...	41
Milk applications visited	...	...	...	3
Bedding destroyed	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from stables	...	...	...	1
Defective entry gullies	...	...	...	56
Removing body to mortuary	...	...	...	1
Pigeons being kept in house	...	...	...	1
Investigation <i>re</i> nightsoil being tipped on land, Bromford Lane	...	...	...	1

	No.
Defective cistern water closets	10
Ditto house ceilings	9
Ditto closet seat walls	31
Privy cistern covers to be raised	10
Notices served on reports	990
Visits to various tips	38

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to submit a report of the work carried out under the Sale of Foods Acts during the year 1898.

I have obtained 137 samples under the above Acts, consisting of the following:—Milk, 59; skimmed milk, 1; butter, 43; lard, 2; coffee, 1; pepper, 6; oatmeal, 1; vinegar, 2; bread, 1; spirits, 18; ground ginger, 1; Gregory powder, 1; and compound liquorice powder, 1.

These were submitted to the Public Analyst, who certified 112 samples (81·75 per cent.) as “genuine,” 14 samples (10·22 per cent.) as “inferior,” and 11 samples (8·03 per cent.) as “adulterated.”

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

Nature of Food or Drug.	No. of Samples.	Genuine.	Inferior.	Adulterated.	Prose-uted.	Convicted.	Cautioned.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.	Remarks.
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Milk ...	59	38	13	8	3	3	5	2 0 0	8 3 6	Contained 4% and 5% of added water and 9%, 14% and 20% deficient.
Skimmed Milk ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Butter ...	43	42	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Lard ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coffee ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pepper ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oatmeal ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vinegar ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bread ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spirits ...	18	16	...	2	1	1	1	2 0 0	2 0 0	Contained 5.4 parts and 15.8 parts of added water.
Ground Ginger ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gregory Powder ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Comp'd. Liq. Powder	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	137	112	14	11	4	4	6	4 0 0	10 3 6	

The number of samples which were adulterated was 11, giving a percentage of 8·03 as compared with 7·85 last year.

The 1897-98 Local Government Board Report gives 9·4 as representing the percentage of adulterated samples throughout the United Kingdom.

Proceedings have been instituted against the vendors of 3 milk samples and 1 spirit (whiskey), all of whom were convicted, the penalties amounting to £4 and the costs to £10 3s. 6d.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEO. WM. DAVIS,

Inspector.

ANALYST'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

I beg to report that during the year 1898 I received for analysis under the above Acts, 137 samples of Foods, Drugs, and Drink, a slightly lower number than was purchased in 1897, when 140 articles were submitted to me for examination.

In accordance with the experience of previous years, all the samples were obtained officially by Inspector Davis, or his Assistant, no Foods or Drugs being forwarded to me by private purchasers for analysis.

Taking the population of the Borough at 60,000 the number of articles analyzed represents one for every 438 persons. The last Local Government Board report issued gives the proportion of samples to population for the whole of England and Wales as 1 to 619, but in London the ratio was lower, being 1 to 381 persons.

In the following table I give a list of the various Foods and Drugs upon which I reported, showing the quality of the Articles and the number found to be adulterated :—

Description of Article.	Total Number of Samples.	Genuine.	Inferior.	Adulter- ated.
Milk	59	38	13	8
Skim Milk	1	1	...	...
Butter	43	42	...	1
Coffee	1	1	...	...
Pepper	6	6	...	...
Ginger	1	...	1	...
Vinegar	2	2	...	...
Lard	2	2	...	...
Whisky	15	13	...	2
Gin	2	2	...	...
Oatmeal	1	1	...	...
Bread	1	1	...	...
Gregory Powder	1	1	...	...
Compound Liq. Powder	1	1	...	...
Brandy	1	1	...	...
	137	112	14	11

The number of samples returned as adulterated was 11, exactly the same figure that was recorded for the previous year, but as in

1898 it was obtained from a slightly lower number of samples, the percentage works out at 8.03, compared with 7.85 in the year 1897.

It is of interest to compare the amount of adulteration found in West Bromwich with the return for the whole of England and Wales.

The last Report of the Local Government Board issued is for the year 1897, and the percentage of adulteration for the country for that period is 9.4, which is slightly in excess of the figure for your Borough. The Report also states that in 14 of the 59 districts in which the Act was rigorously administered, more than 2 samples per 1,000 population, the proportion of condemned samples was under 5 per cent. of those examined.

To compare the record of last year with previous years, I give a table below stating the annual result since 1895.

	Number of Samples. *1895	Number of Samples. 1896	Number of Samples. 1897	Number of Samples. 1898
Genuine	67	84	121	112
Inferior	10	10	8	14
Adulterated	8	33	11	11
	85	127	140	137
Percentage of Adulteration }	9.4	25.9	7.85	8.03
Percentage of Adulter- ation England and } Wales	12.9	9.3	9.2	9.4

*In the year 1895 samples were taken in three quarters only.

Proceedings were instituted against the vendors of adulterated articles in four cases, and penalties were inflicted in every instance. In six of the cases the adulteration was of a trivial character, which rendered it inexpedient to take the cases into Court, and cautionary letters were accordingly, by your direction, addressed to the vendors.

Milk provided most of these slight cases, and it is to be hoped that the Adulteration Act, promised by the Government during the

present Session, will contain provisions that will enable these small breaches of the law to be dealt with in a more stringent fashion. One of the chief recommendations of the Parliamentary Commission that made such an exhaustive investigation and issued such a voluminous report on the administration of the Foods and Drugs Acts, was the appointment of a comprehensive reference Board, who should be empowered to lay down standards and limits of quality for Food and Drugs. An authoritative pronouncement on a number of disputed questions, a fair milk standard is probably one of the most important, by such a Board, would greatly facilitate the working of the Acts, and the suppression of adulteration.

Milk, as usual, is represented by the largest number of samples, 60 analyses having been made. In 38 milks the total solid matter exceeded 12 per cent., and these may be regarded as representing a fair genuine quality. In 21 instances the total solids fell below 12 per cent., 8 of them being returned as adulterated, and the remaining 13 of low quality, but not necessarily adulterated.

Only one of the 43 butters contained foreign fat, an experience practically the same as that of the previous year.

Proceedings I understand could not be taken against the vendor of the margarine owing to the necessary legal formalities not having been complied with at the time of purchase.

Eighteen Samples of spirits were analyzed, viz. : 15 of whisky, 1 of brandy, and 2 of gin. Two of the samples of whisky had been reduced below the legal standard of 75 per cent. of proof spirit by the additions of 5.4 per cent. and 15.8 per cent. respectively of water. In the case of gin the legal standard is 65 per cent. of proof spirit, and with this the two samples analyzed complied.

All the other articles proved genuine and call for no special comment.

I have also analyzed 4 samples of water forwarded to me by Dr. H. Manley. One only yielded results compatible with a good drinking water, the others being condemned as unfit for domestic use on account of contamination with sewage or animal matter.

I am,

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 1898.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSPECTION OF CANAL CABIN BOATS.

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

2. The number of Boats inspected during the year was 178.

The result of the inspection for the past year has been on the whole perfectly satisfactory, and the Boat population is very fairly careful in conforming to the Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, and in rendering all necessary information to the Inspector. Two cases of slight infringement of the regulations have been met with : One, a young child of only three months old more than allowed by the certificate, but arrangements had been made to remove another child from the Boat on the following day ; and the other case was a new Boat met with without having the necessary certificate, but upon making complaint to the owners, Messrs. Fellows, Morton and Co., it was explained that the certificate had been delayed at the Registration Office, and it was afterwards exhibited to me. No prosecution was necessary in these cases. In one case the captain of the Boat and his wife refused to give me the ages of the children in the Boat, and became very insolent and threatening. I reported the facts to the Town Clerk, but no prosecution followed. Good attention has been observed in the cleanliness and general condition of the Boats.

The number of persons living in the Boats inspected during the last three years reads as follows :—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.
1896	256	132	172
1897	254	108	127
1898	265	134	200

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

(a) All Boats inspected have been duly registered.

(b) No notification of change of master.

(c) One case of absence of certificate. (*See explanation in Report.*)

(d) Marking not continued in the Instruction Book.

(e) One slight 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 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.

(m) The Inspector has never been refused admittance, and has received every assistance from the Boat people, with the one exception mentioned in Report.

4. No legal proceedings have been taken.

5. No action has been considered necessary.

6. No case met with.

7. No case requiring it.

8. Not a registration office.

9. See answer to number 8.

HENRY MOUSLEY,

Inspector of Canal Cabin Boats for the Borough of West Bromwich.

11th January, 1899.
