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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

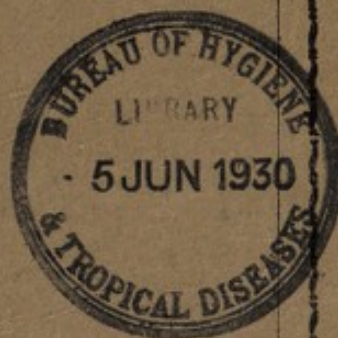
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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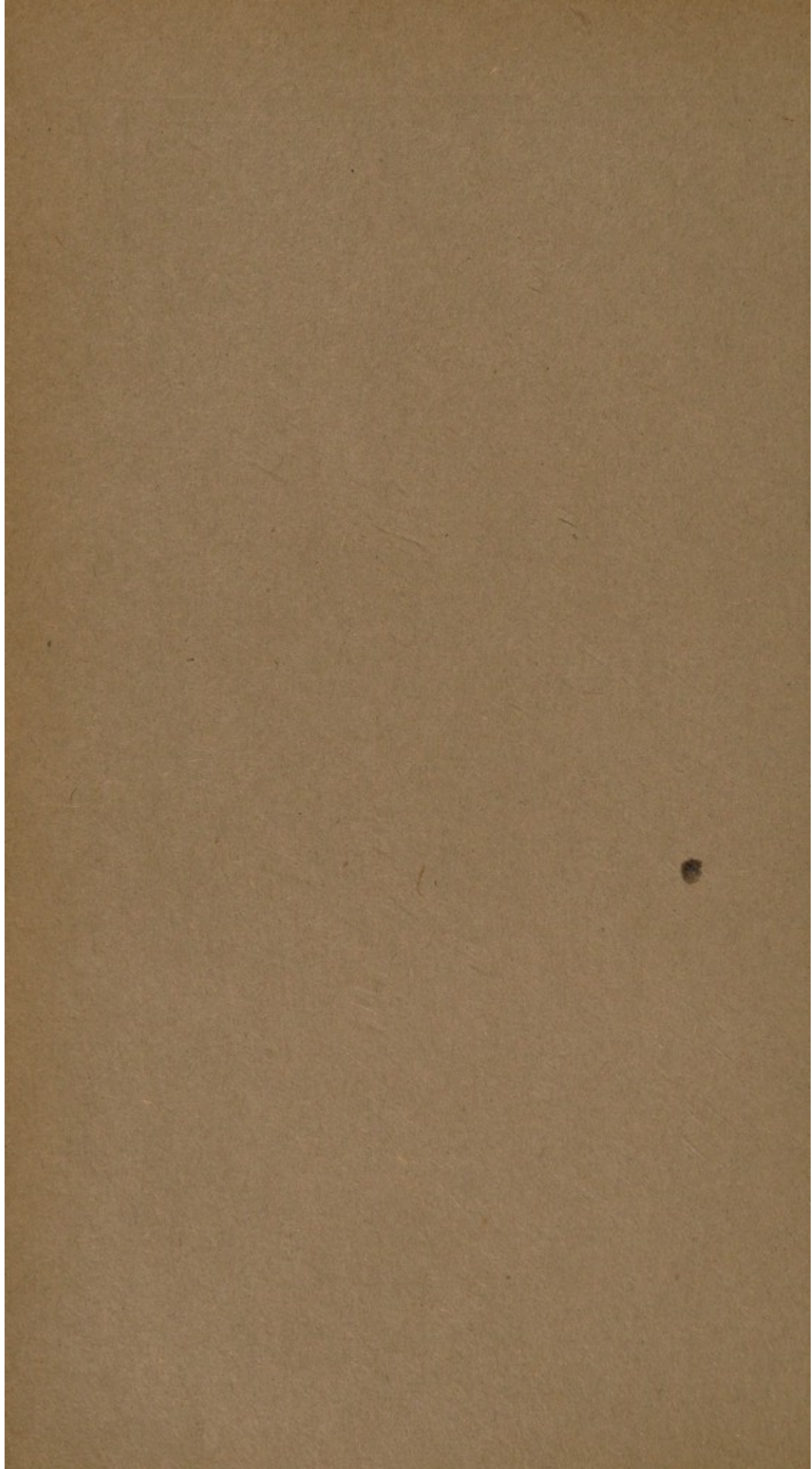
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough for the year 1929



WEST BROMWICH :
Highfields Press, 13 Sandwell Road.



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MEMBERS OF HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1929.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Samson Crump).

Chairman Councillor Davies

Deputy Chairman .. Councillor Spring

Alderman Bell Councillor Mynett

Alderman Gill Councillor Prince

Councillor James Councillor Jinks

TUBERCULOSIS SUB-COMMITTEE, 1929.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Samson Crump).

Chairman Councillor Davies

Alderman Gill Councillor Prince

Councillor James Councillor Spring

And two representatives of the Insurance Committee:—

Mr. E. A. Morris

Mr. F. T. Myring

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1929.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Samson Crump).

Chairman Alderman Gill

Deputy Chairman .. Councillor Cottrell

Alderman Bell Councillor Caldwell

Councillor Davies Councillor Mynett

Councillor Smallman Councillor Spring

Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. Green

Miss M. Withers

Nurse Lawrence

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, School Medical Officer	W. Stott, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Appointed February, 1927.
Deputy M.O.H. and Clinical Tuberculosis Officer and Asst. School Medical Officer.	H. L. Oldershaw, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Appointed April, 1927. Resigned 25th August, 1929.
Deputy M.O.H. and Clinical Tuberculosis Officer and Asst. School Medical Officer.	R. N. Curnow, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Appointed July, 1928.
Assistant M.O.H. and School Medical Officer.	A. Anderson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Appointed August, 1929.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Food and Drugs, Superintendent of Removal of Refuse.	H. H. Spears, C.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., Appointed March, 1899.
District Sanitary Inspectors ...	W. W. Foakes, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspection. Appointed January, 1919.
	G. H. Shaw, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspection. Appointed February, 1914. (Appointed Sanitary Inspector July, 1924.)
	J. E. Austin, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A. Cert. Meat Inspection. Appointed August, 1927.
	F. A. Oakes, Appointed June, 1919 (Appointed Prob. San. Insp. May, 1928).
Probationary Inspector ...	
Senior Tuberculosis Sister ...	Sister C. Collins, Cert. C.M.B. and 3 years General Hospital training. Appointed September, 1914.
Senior Health Visitor and Inspector of Midwives.	Miss C. Twist, State Registered Nurse, Cert. C.M.B., Cert. Sanitary Inspector, Cert. Health Visitor. App. 1st September, 1927.

NURSE-HEALTH VISITORS.

Name	Qualifications.	Date of Appointment
Miss S. A. Smith	State Registered Nurse. Cert. Health Visitor.	June, 1917.
Miss M. W. Pole...	3 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B.	Mar., 1918
Mrs. L. A. Bryan	3 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B.	Feb., 1925.
Miss W. K. Brazier	3 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B.	Sept., 1927.
Miss A. Clegg ...	4 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B. Cert. Health Visitor.	Sept., 1927.
Miss L. A. Powell	3 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B.	Sept., 1927.
Miss G. Williams	3 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B.	Sept., 1927. Resigned Feb., 1929.
Miss M. M. Byard	3 years' General training. Cert. C.M.B.	Jan., 1929.
Miss Wearing ...	Cert. Sanitary Inspector. Cert. C.M.B.	Mar., 1929.

CLERICAL STAFF.

HEALTH DEPT. ...	Mrs. E. M. Hardy.	Appointed October, 1918.
	Miss M. H. Garratt.	Appointed September, 1927. Resigned November, 1929.
	Miss M. Holden	Appointed July, 1928.
	Miss M. Parsons	Appointed November, 1929 (Temporary), vice Miss Garratt, resigned.
T. B. DEPT. ...	Miss L. Challis.	Appointed October, 1923.
SANITARY DEPT.	J. H. Inston.	Appointed August, 1924.
	F. C. Hall.	Appointed June, 1928.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting you with the Annual Report for the year 1929.

The year will be marked down in history for two totally different reasons; first in importance as the year preparatory to the vast changes to be made in Local Government, and secondly, as the unhealthiest year on record. From both aspects it has been a strenuous year for all officials concerned, and particularly for the health department.

The town was never free from epidemics, being attacked in rapid succession by influenza, measles, whooping cough, mumps, and lastly, scarlet fever. The first three diseases mentioned were particularly severe, and were responsible for a rapid rise in the death rate. Scarlet fever on the other hand, was of a mild character, and fortunately able to be kept under control, so that at no time did it spread to any great extent.

In August there was a change on the medical staff. Dr. Oldershaw, who was appointed in April, 1927, left us to join the medical staff of the Nottinghamshire County Council, and we were fortunate in obtaining the services of Dr. Anderson, who came to us from the Manchester City Health Services.

Before concluding I wish to place on record my appreciation of the goodwill shown to me by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and of the loyalty and invaluable assistance rendered to me by every member of the Health Department.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. STOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1930.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	7,152
Population (Census, 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	74,982
Population (estimated middle June, 1929)	...	...	...	...	...	80,840
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	15,200
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	15,265
Number of inhabited houses (end 1929)	...	...	...	...	...	17,624
New Houses built during 1929	...	...	...	...	...	529
Density of population, persons per acre 1929	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Assessable value	...	...	...	...	£303,323	0s. 0d.
Produce on 1d. Rate (consolidated)	...	...	...	...	£1,065	0s. 0d.

		Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate
BIRTHS—Legitimate	...	1,682	860	772	20.8
Illegitimate	...	50	27	23	
DEATHS	...	1,211	652	559	
					Crude Death Rate 14.9

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth	From Sepsis	4	
	Other Causes	4—	8
Number of Infant Deaths	...	...	179
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Births :			
Legitimate, 104.7	Illegitimate, 160	Total, 106.4	

Deaths from Influenza	...	...	...	...	78
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	44
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	32
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	26
Deaths from Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1

Death Rate of Respiratory Diseases (Pneumonia and Bronchitis)	...	...	...	...	3.3
Death Rate of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	0.69
(Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	0.19
Death Rate of Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.07
Death Rate of Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1.397

Notifications of Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	143
Notifications of Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	45
Notifications of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary 72)	...	...	...	...	132
(Non-Pulm. 60)	...	...	...	...
Notifications of Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Notifications of Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	262

Number of Inspections by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	...	31,055
Visits by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	20,477
Number of babies in attendance at Infant Welfare Centres	...	...	...	...	17,759

POPULATION.

The Population at Mid-June, 1929, as estimated by the Registrar-General was 80,840, an increase of some 160 persons over the previous year.

I must again repeat that this figure falls short of the estimated population as ascertained by your Medical Officer.

BIRTHS.

BIRTHS REGISTERED ...	...	1682	Legitimate ...	1,632
			Illegitimate ...	50
Birth Rate ...	...	...	...	20.7

Of the total births 887 were males and 795 females.

The following list gives the ward distribution :—

Ward	No. of Births
Sandwell ...	92
Lyndon ...	266
Tantany ...	228
Hill Top ...	256
Spon Lane ...	177
Lyng ...	193
Town Hall ...	172
Greets Green ...	270
Hamstead ...	28

The next table compares the birth rate of West Bromwich with that of the country generally for the past few years :—

Birth Rate—	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
WEST BROMWICH	24.17	23.65	22.98	22.6	20.2	21.0	20.7
107 Large towns ...	20.4	19.4	18.8	18.2	17.1	16.9	16.6
London ...	20.2	18.7	18	17.1	16.1	15.9	15.7
England and Wales ...	19.7	18.8	18.3	17.8	16.7	16.7	16.3

DEATHS.

1211 deaths of West Bromwich residents were registered during the year, giving a **death-rate of 14.9.**

The following table compares the death rate during recent years in West Bromwich and other areas :—

Death Rate	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
WEST BROMWICH	12.5	12.2	11.9	10.9	12.4	10.5	14.9
107 large towns ...	11.6	12.3	12.2	11.6	12.2	11.6	13.7
London ...	11.2	12.1	11.7	11.6	11.9	11.6	13.8
England and Wales ...	11.6	12.2	12.2	11.6	12.3	11.7	13.4

INFANT MORTALITY.

Total number of deaths under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	179
Mortality rate per 1,000 births ...	...	...	...	...	...	106.4
Number of deaths of legitimate infants	...	...	...	...	...	171
Legitimate mortality rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	104.7
Number of deaths of illegitimate infants	...	...	...	...	...	8
Illegitimate mortality rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	160

Comparative table of the infant mortality of the Borough and other areas for recent years :—

Infant Mortality—	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
WEST BROMWICH	87.8	88.6	98.8	79.2	107.1	74.7	106.4
107 large towns ...	72	80	79	73	71	70	79
London ...	60	69	67	64	59	67	70
England and Wales ...	69	75	75	70	69	65	74

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

As will be seen from the preceding figures the deaths from all causes and at all age periods show a substantial increase on previous years. Never before, save for the year 1918, have these figures been equalled. The cause was the unparalleled amount of sickness prevalent throughout the year. In March I drew the attention of the Authority to the high death-rate caused by the almost simultaneous epidemics of Influenza, Measles, and Whooping Cough. These three diseases accounted for the chief increase in the number of deaths, which were principally confined to those age periods at the two extremes of life.

The Influenza epidemic was world wide and was probably precipitated by the extreme cold, inclement weather and by the lack of rain. It is an interesting and a most noticeable fact that the wettest years are as a rule the healthiest ; in this case I mean by "healthiest," freedom from serious epidemics and a low death-rate.

It has been my custom to give a table of the chief causes of death during the year. This year I intend to follow the usual custom, but in addition to give the number of deaths from the same causes for the year 1928 for comparison, because the year 1928 was the healthiest year on record and 1929 the most unhealthy.

					1928	1929
Respiratory diseases : Pneumonia ...	—				139	269
Bronchitis ...	—					
Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	114	152
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	91	87
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	69	71
Congenital Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	65	72
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	18	78
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	0	44
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	4	32

From the above table it is quite evident that the epidemics prevalent during the first six months of the year cause death either directly or indirectly through complication of the lungs or heart, and account for almost the total increase of deaths.

The infant mortality is dealt with in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

Table IV of the Appendix gives in age groups the causes of deaths which occurred during the year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Administration.

Staff.

The whole time staff includes :—

The Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospitals.

Deputy M.O.H. and Clinical T.B. Officer and Asst. School Medical Officer.

One Assistant Medical Officer, and School Medical Officer.

One Dental Surgeon.

One Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Three District Sanitary Inspectors.

One Probationary Inspector.

One Chief Tuberculosis Sister.

One Senior Health Visitor, School Nurse, and Inspector of Midwives.

Eight District Nurses who do duty as Health Visitors, School Nurses, and Tuberculosis Nurses.

Three Female Clerks—Health Department.

Two Male Clerks in Sanitary Inspector's General Office.

One Female Clerk, Tuberculosis Department.

Two Clerks—One Male, One Female—School Medical Dept.

Isolation Hospital Staff :—

One Matron.

One Sister.

Eight Nurses.

The Part-time staff includes :—

One Ophthalmic Specialist.

One Masseuse and Remedial Exercises Mistress.

Hospital and Nursing Provision.

WEST BROMWICH AND DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation—108 Beds ; 22 Cots.

This hospital provides for both Medical and Surgical In-patients, and is under the control of a Voluntary Committee.

HALLAM HOSPITAL—Under control of West Bromwich Guardians.

Accommodation—Surgical beds	...	...	122
Medical	...	...	228
Cots	...	...	60
Maternity Beds	...	...	26
Maternity Cots	...	...	26
Isolation Ward	...	...	12
Total			474

During the year under review the total number of admissions were 4,211. This includes Medical, Surgical and Maternity Cases.

BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL, HEATH LANE.

Under the control of the West Bromwich Corporation. (For further particulars, see Report on Isolation Hospital.)

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL, FRIAR PARK.

Under the control of the West Bromwich Corporation. (See report on Smallpox Hospital.)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Sanatoria are available for the area :—

Romsley Hill Sanatorium—Halesowen—12 beds.

Holly Lane Sanatorium, Holly Lane, Smethwick—5 beds.

As an alternative scheme for the provision of Tuberculosis beds the Authority decided to build a T.B. Pavilion containing 22 beds in the grounds of the present Isolation Hospital situated in Heath Lane. This Pavilion is nearing completion.

MATERNITY HOMES.

There is no District or Municipal Maternity Home, the only accommodation being at Hallam Hospital, where there is a special Maternity Block containing 26 beds. This service extends to West Bromwich, Handsworth, Wednesbury, Perry Barr and Oldbury.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

There is no special children's hospital in the Borough, but there is ample accommodation for the treatment of children both at the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, and at the Hallam Hospital.

Special Hospitals in Birmingham are also available, and are used by people of West Bromwich, but are not subsidised by the Council, with the exception of certain Orthopaedic cases: these are sent to the Royal Cripples Hospital, Birmingham, and are paid for to a limited extent by the West Bromwich Council.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

This provision is made by the West Bromwich Guardians at the Hallam Hospital and at a new home at Great Barr. For children of school age accommodation is provided at Wigmore Schools, situated in West Bromwich, and under the joint control of the West Bromwich and Walsall Board of Guardians.

WEST BROMWICH GIRLS' WELFARE SOCIETY.

This is an excellent body of Voluntary Workers who provide shelter, help and encouragement to young girls requiring their assistance.

Miss J. M. Cole, M.A., who acts as Secretary for the Society, reports that during the year 27 new cases were notified, and that she had been in touch with 32 other girls. Three were placed in shelters for a short period, two went to larger homes for a definite period of training in character and work. In other cases the girls were helped at home by the provision of new friends, fresh interests or legal advice.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

- (a) Infectious Cases, 2 Motor Ambulances provided by Council.
- (b) Non-Infectious and Accident :
 - (1) Two Motor Ambulances provided by Council.
 - (2) Two Motor Ambulances provided by Guardians.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL.

West Bromwich District Nursing Association : Voluntary.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) For children under five years of age the authority pay the sum of £30 per annum to the District Nursing Association for the home nursing of infants referred to them from the Welfare Centres and by M.O.H.

(2) Tuberculosis : The sum of £20 per annum is paid to the District Nursing Association for necessitous cases of Tuberculosis requiring home nursing.

Midwives.

The number of midwives notifying their intention to practise in the area was 46. Of these 40 hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and six are *bona fide*. There were no subsidised midwives.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Service	Situation	Days Open	Purpose	By whom provided
Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary	Health Dept., 2 Lodge Rd.	Tues. and Sat. mornings 10 to 12.30 Wed. evenings, 5.30-7.30	Consultation and Treatment.	West Bromwich Corp.
Maternity and Child Welfare	(1) Highfields (temp.), Highfields	Mon. & Wed., 2.15 to 5 p.m. Friday, 9.30 to 12 noon.	(a) Ante-Natal Clinic	Rented by Authority.
	(2) Hill Top, 158a Castle St Hill Top.	Tues. and Thurs.: 2.15 to 5 p.m.	(b) Infant Consultations	Rented by Authority
	(3) Great Bridge, 19 Gt. Bridge Street.	Mon. and Wed.: 2.15 to 5 p.m. Tues. and Thurs.: 2.15 to 5-0 alt. Sat., 10-11-30 a.m.	(c) Issuing Dried Milk.	Purchased by Authority
	(4) Boulton House, Boulton Road (5) Hamstead, Miners' Institute, Hamstead	Friday, 2.15 to 5 p.m.		Rented by Authority.
School Clinics	(1) Central Clinic, Lombard St. West.	Every Day (see School Report).	Minor Ailments, Dental, Ophthalmic, Remedial Exercises.	Education Authority.
	(2) Spon Lane School	Mon., Wed., and Friday afternoons.	Minor Ailments ...	Ditto.
	(3) Hill Top School	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
	(4) Great Bridge (part of M. and C. W. premises). 2, 3 and 4 Sub-Clinics.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
Ultra Violet Light Clinic	Health Dept., 2 Lodge Rd.	(a) Tuberculosis cases. Mon. Wed. & Friday mornings. (b) M. and C.W. and School cases. Mon., Wed., and Friday afternoons:		West Bromwich Corp.
Venereal Diseases	(1) General Hospital, Birmingham.	Males: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Frid, 5.15 to 7.15 p.m., and Wed, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Females: Mon & Thurs, 5.15 to 7.15 p.m. Tues. & Frid., 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	Out and In-patients	Subsidised.
	(2) Guest Hospital, Dudley	Males: Tues. and Fri., 7 p.m. Females: Wed., 3 p.m.	Out and In-patients ...	Voluntary.

Registration of Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Under the new Nursing Homes Registrations Act, 1927, one application for a combined nursing and maternity home was received, and after investigation and thorough inspection, was registered accordingly. No orders were made refusing or cancelling registration.

The Maternity Home registered in 1927 under the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, is still in existence.

Chemical Work.

All chemical analyses are made by the Borough Analyst, whose report is appended (see page 93).

Legislation in Force.

- 1854. West Bromwich Improvement Act.
- 1855. West Bromwich Improvement Amendment Act.
- 1865. West Bromwich Improvement Amendment Act.
- 1900. West Bromwich Corporation Act.
- 1903. West Bromwich Corporation Act.
- 1913. West Bromwich Corporation Act.
- 1918. West Bromwich Corporation Act.
- 1923. West Bromwich (Offensive Trades) Confirmation Order.
- 1924. West Bromwich (Offensive Trades) Confirmation Order.
- 1927. West Bromwich Corporation Act.

Adoptive Acts.

Date Adopted.	Act.	In Force.
9 Nov., 1899	Infectious Disease (Notification)	9 Jan., 1890
4 Mar., 1891	Infectious Diseases (Prevention)	1 May, 1891
6 May, 1891	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, parts 2, 3, 5	1 July, 1891
1 Jan., 1909	Notification of Births Act, 1907	4 Feb., 1909
6 Jan., 1909	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sec. 95	26 Feb., 1909
5 Mar., 1913	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sec. 20, 21, 22, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35, 49, 51, 52, 54—58, 62—64, 66	30 Oct., 1913
7 May, 1913	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sec. 78—81, 85 and 86	14 June, 1913
27 July, 1926	Public Health Act, 1925, Secs. 14— 19, 23—26, 28, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41—47, 50 and 53	6 Sept., 1926
2 Jan., 1929	Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 33	4 Feb., 1929

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

- 18 Sept., 1901 Common Lodging Houses.
- 20 Dec., 1904 Good Rule and Government of the Borough.
- 14 Oct., 1905 Draining of Existing Buildings.
- 14 Oct., 1905 New Streets and Buildings and Alterations of Buildings.
- 7 Oct., 1913 Good Rule and Government of the Borough.
- 10 Feb., 1914 Management of Sanitary Conveniences.
- 11 Mar., 1914 Prevention of Nuisances arising from Snow.
- 29 Jan., 1915 Prevention of Nuisances arising from filth, dust, ashes and rubbish, and the keeping of animals.
- 10 April, 1920 Provision of means of escape in case of fire in certain factories and workshops.
- 4 Sept., 1920 Employment of Children.
- 15 Dec., 1921 Humane Slaughtering of Animals.
- 3 June, 1924 Houses let in Lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.
- 23 April, 1924 Tents, Caravans and Sheds.
- 7 Aug., 1924 Offensive Trades.
- 2 July, 1926 Management, Use and Regulation of the Public Baths.
- 20 Oct., 1926 New Streets and Buildings.
- 20 June, 1927 Mortuary.
- 20 July, 1927 Slaughterhouses.
- 8 Feb., 1928 Prevention of Nuisances.

Rules and Regulations.

- 2 July, 1901 Common Lodging Houses.
- 6 July, 1921 Sheep Dipping (Sheep Scab Order, 1920).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

Water.—Practically the whole of the Borough is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company with a constant supply. No changes or additions to the supply were made during the year. In a few outlying districts there are still some surface wells in use—22 in all. The only one which requires comment is a shallow well in Forge Lane, which lies in close proximity to tributaries of the River Tame, which at times overflows and pollutes the well. This supplies three farms, which, in my opinion, makes it all the more serious, and steps ought to be taken to deal with it immediately.

River and Streams.

As mentioned in the report last year the serious pollution of the River Tame is still occurring owing to the unsatisfactory effluent from the Sewerage Farm.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no important extensions or alterations to the system of dealing with the sewerage of the Borough.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of Perry Barr and a few outlying districts impracticable to sewer the whole Borough is on the water carriage system.

The Sanitary arrangements of Perry Barr, particularly those of Hamstead Village, are anything but desirable. When inspected the most appalling conditions were found—privy middens which leaked, the ground surrounding them polluted with years of soakage of highly offensive liquid; open drains, many of which were simply self-made channels in the earth, formed as a result of the continual flow of slop water over a long period of time. It is astonishing how well and free from disease the inhabitants keep, the saving grace being the large open spaces round the houses, allowing the free passage of fresh air and the entry of plenty of sunshine; but for this there is no doubt that the village would be a hot bed of disease. In spite of the fact that the health of the villages is apparently good, the proper drainage and the abolition of the privy-middens and cesspools is a very urgent matter, and should be dealt with at the earliest possible moment.

There are approximately 440 privy-middens and 15,650 cistern flushed W.C.'s in the Borough.

The large increase in the privies is due, as already indicated, to the inclusion of Perry Barr into the Borough.

Scavenging.

Scavenging throughout the Borough is carried out under the control and supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. For full particulars, see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Smoke Abatement.

This is one of the most important matters with which Sanitary Authorities are faced. There is no doubt that the next great advance in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine will be made in obtaining a pure atmosphere, by ridding it of the smoke pollution produced by the combustion of soft coal.

The public are only just beginning to understand something of the evil effects produced on health by a polluted atmosphere, but when they do realise to the full the importance of this matter, then I think we shall see further and more stringent measures being taken by Parliament to deal with it.

Ten smoke observations were taken during the year, and where necessary cautions were given. No legal proceedings were taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

There are Bye-Laws which have been adopted to deal with :—

Slaughterhouses.
Common Lodging Houses.
Houses let in Lodgings.
Tents, Carvans, Sheds.
Offensive Trades.

There is no necessity in West Bromwich for Regulations in respect of underground sleeping rooms.

The number of premises and occupations referred to above is :—

Slaughterhouses.—13 Registered ; 14 Licensed.

Offensive Trades.—Under Section 112, Public Health Act, 1875 :—

Bone Boiler	...	...	...	...	1
Tallow Melter	...	...	...	...	1
Blood Boiler	...	...	...	...	0
Fellmonger	...	...	...	...	0
Soap Boiler	...	...	...	...	0
Tripe Boiler	...	...	...	...	0

Since May, 1924, the following are scheduled as offensive trades in West Bromwich under Section 51, Public Health Amendment Act, 1907 :—

Blood Dryer	...	...	...	...	0
Leather Dresser	...	...	...	...	1
Fat Melter	...	...	...	...	1
Fat Extractor	...	...	...	...	1
Tanner	...	...	...	...	0
Glue Maker	...	...	...	...	0
Size Maker	...	...	...	...	0
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	...	0
Rag and Bone Dealer	...	...	...	...	12
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	104

Resulting from numerous complaints received from inhabitants in the vicinity of the fat and bone works in Paradise Street, I certified that the work carried on in these premises was causing a nuisance under Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, by the emission of effluvia. The Authority took out proceedings against the owner to abate the nuisance, and after a somewhat protracted enquiry the case was adjourned *sine die* in order to give the owner the opportunity of carrying out structural alterations to his premises to rectify matters. The situation thus stands and it remains to be seen how far the owner intends to proceed with the necessary alterations before it can be stated that he has taken all practical steps to prevent further nuisance arising.

Common Lodging Houses—

Number of Houses...	2
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Houses Let in Lodgings	18
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—

(a) Dairies and Milkshops :

No. on Register	...	256
No. discontinued during the year	...	—
No. Registered during the year	...	25

(b) Cowsheds :

No. of Cowsheds	...	...	...	23
No. discontinued during the year	...	...	...	4
No. of registered keepers	...	...	...	20

Schools.

For sanitary conditions of schools, etc., see School Medical Report.

Health Education.

The education of the public in Health matters has proceeded along the same lines as previously—by public lectures, talks at Centres and Clinics, the issuing of leaflets and Health Journal.

During the year a series of conferences were held on the subject of Social Hygiene, resulting in the formation of the West Bromwich Social Hygiene Council. It is the intention of this local council to carry out a continuous campaign in the Borough by means of lectures and the sale of suitable literature. Already the work has begun, but for its success it is necessary to have the support of all religious and public bodies.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There is only one Rag Flock Works in the Borough. The premises are new and thoroughly up to date.

A complaint was received during the year that the flock was not up to standard. Enquiries were made immediately. The owner rendered all assistance and the fault was found to be due to a defective washer. This was quickly and easily remedied and no further complaints have since been received.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area and Supervision of Food.

As customary, I include the reports of both the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Borough Analyst. Both will be found immediately following the Medical Officer's report, and in them will be found full details of the Sanitary Inspections made during the year and the results of analysis of the various samples of food-stuffs taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

HOUSING.

Systematic house-to-house inspections have been carried out as usual during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors. The results of these inspections have already been placed before you in a special report drawn up by Mr. Spears, the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

All told, 2,288 houses were inspected in 4 defined districts, namely: portion of Lyng Ward; portion of Greets Green Ward; portions of Lyndon and Sandwell Wards; and part of Tantany Ward. The majority of the houses in these areas are relatively of a modern character.

The average number of persons per house was found to be 4.4
 The number of cases of two or more family occupancy was 269
 The number of cases of overcrowding (Registrar-General's method) was 124

In addition, I represented 34 houses as unfit for human habitation and 17 demolition orders were made.

On September 18th an enquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health into the petition of the Corporation for an Order confirming an improvement scheme with respect to an area known as the "Cooper Hill Street and Virgin's End Area," which I had represented to you on the 22nd October, 1927, as an unhealthy area.

The Corporation are now awaiting the making of the necessary Improvement Order.

Returning to house-to-house inspections: of the 2,288 houses, 1,991 had been inspected 6 to 9 years previously, and the conditions found then serve as a comparison with present-day findings.

As pointed out by Mr. Spears, the population in the 1,991 houses has fallen from 9,432 to 8,898, the number of cases of multiple occupancy from 298 to 254, and the number of instances of overcrowding from 133 to 118.

It therefore looks as though matters are slowly improving, at all events in some parts of the Borough.

One of the most interesting features is the comparison of the conditions found in 86 privately erected subsidy houses, nearly all owner-occupied, and 32 houses belonging to the Corporation.

In the 86 privately owned houses the population was 294 or 3.6 persons per house; in only 3 was there more than 1 family and only 1 house was overcrowded. On the other hand, in the 32 Council houses there were 239 persons or 7.5 per house; there were 12 cases of multiple tenancy and 5 were overcrowded.

This leads me to the important subject of sub-letting. According to the bye-laws sub-letting of the Corporation houses is prohibited, and yet it goes on, no attempt being made to stop it. The fact of the matter is that the bye-law is not worth the paper it is written on. There are several evil features connected with this subject. Overcrowding is being encouraged; the time spent by the Housing Manager in selecting desirable clean tenants is being wasted because anyone, whether desirable or otherwise, can become a sub-tenant; and in many cases the sub-tenant is being exploited; I know of several instances where the tenant is receiving the total rental of the house from sub-tenants. To sum up, the present Council houses are gradually becoming new slums.

It is very necessary for some policy to be formulated to remedy these evils immediately.

What can be done? What are other Authorities who are faced with similar difficulties doing? Most of the enlightened Authorities have found that sub-letting becomes more or less inevitable, and that it is worth encouraging providing it is kept under control because the rents are more certain and paid with more regularity.

I suggest, therefore, that the Housing Committee should allow sub-letting of Corporation houses under conditions.

The Committee should approve every sub-tenant, no undesirable person should become a sub-tenant; there should be no sub-letting where overcrowding would be produced; the rent of sub-tenant should be fixed by the Committee. Lastly, when sub-letting is allowed the total rental of the house should be made an economical rental.

Arising out of suggestions I made in last year's Health Report regarding tenement dwellings, a deputation, consisting of the Mayor, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, the Borough Surveyor, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health visited Liverpool in the autumn. The deputation was most cordially received by the Chairman and certain members of the Liverpool Housing Committee, and various housing sites were visited. The day proved to be an interesting and a most instructive one. In many ways the needs of the industrial quarters of the City of Liverpool are very similar to those of West Bromwich, particularly as regards the matter of re-housing the people in the slum areas. Liverpool believes in re-housing the people from cleared areas in tenements in or near the cleared sites. In this way the inhabitants are kept close to their work with no added travelling expenses; they are far happier because they are not removed into a "foreign land" away from their old associations.

Another interesting feature was the provision of baths and wash-houses in connection with each new housing site ; this is a requirement much needed in West Bromwich.

There is little doubt that if slum clearances are to be accelerated in the future in the Borough the increasing difficulty of obtaining land in the industrial portions of the district may necessitate the re-housing of the workers on similar lines to those adopted by Liverpool, for the cost of travelling to and from work from housing estates on the out-skirts of the town adds materially to the household expenses and in some cases produces hardships and deprivations from necessities of life.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A.—Control.

BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL, HEATH LANE,
WEST BROMWICH.

Staff.—Medical Superintendent: Dr. W. Stott, Medical Officer of Health.

Matron: Miss A. Davis.

Nursing Staff ... 1 Sister, 9 Nurses.

Porter ... 1

Ambulance Driver ... 1

Disinfector ... 1

Total accommodation: 50 beds and cots.

Cases in Hospital on 31st December, 1928	...	29
Admissions to Hospital, 1929	...	301
Scarlet Fever	...	138
Diphtheria	...	91
Tuberculosis	...	7
Other Cases	...	65
Cases discharged during 1929	...	285
Cases died in Hospital, 1929	...	10
Diphtheria	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	1
Other conditions	...	3

Cases remaining in Hospital on 31st December, 1929

Of the total number of cases in Hospital 223 belonged to West Bromwich as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	115
Diphtheria	...	44
Other Cases	...	64

The remainder were admitted from surrounding Boroughs.

Scarlet Fever antitoxin is still being used in the Scarlet Fever Ward with very satisfactory results.

Eleven operations were performed as follows:—

Trachiotomy	...	8	4 Deaths.
Tonsilectomy	...	3	—
Total	...	11	4 Deaths.

Extensive alterations are being made at the Hospital. A Tuberculosis Pavilion is now almost complete and will accommodate 26—30 patients. The administrative block has been extended to make additional accommodation necessary for housing the nursing staff required for the tuberculosis work, and maids' quarters are to be erected almost immediately.

Smallpox Hospital.

SITUATION ... Friar Park, West Bromwich.

Consists of: (1) a brick-built administrative block, with accommodation for four to five nurses, caretaker and wife; (2) wood and corrugated iron ward block, composed of a central nurses' duty room and kitchen, with a four and six-bedded ward on either side. There is also bathing and lavatory accommodation for either sex; (3) a disinfecting station, laundry and ambulance shed.

AREA OF GROUNDS ... Two and a half acres.

WATER SUPPLY ... Town.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM ... Water Carriage.

LIGHTING ... Electric.

Immunisation against various Infectious Diseases.

Immunisation has not been undertaken against Scarlet Fever, nor have children been tested by means of the Schick Test to ascertain their susceptibility to Diphtheria. The latter test and the immunisation of children against Diphtheria are most important preventive measures, and will have to be seriously considered by the Authority in the near future owing to the large amount of Diphtheria which exists in surrounding boroughs.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee now offer to protect children under school age, notices and particulars of which are displayed in all Infant Welfare centres.

Scarlet Fever Antitoxin is still being used as a routine at the Fever Hospital, and experience shows that by its use complications are fewer, and the period of isolation is materially reduced.

Vaccination.

The following table shows figures given by the Public Vaccination Officer for the year 1929:—

	W.B. North East	W.B. South West	Ham- stead	Totals
Total number of Certificates of Successful Primary Vaccination received during the year 1929	364	274	16	654
Number of Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection received during the year 1929	555	380	10	945
Number of Re-vaccinations performed by Public Vaccinators during the year 1929 ...	8	3	—	11

Issue of Anti-Toxin.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is issued from your Health Department to general practitioners. During the year 408,000 units were thus distributed.

Disinfection.

A disinfecting station is situated in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital where an "Equifex" disinfectant is installed.

Verminous Persons.

The Authority possesses a well equipped Cleansing Station in Lombard Street West. No action was taken for the compulsory cleansing of verminous persons under Section 48 of the Public Health Act, 1925. From experience gained in the schools, by the number of infected children found, it would appear highly necessary for action to be taken under the above-mentioned Act, particularly owing to the excessive overcrowding in many of the poorer class houses and the total absence of proper washing facilities.

The sooner this Cleansing Station is open and made full use of the better.

Laboratory.

The Laboratory is situated in the new Health Department, 2 Lodge Road, and is of the utmost value in controlling Infectious Diseases, particularly Diphtheria, in which case there is no time lost through postage in the examination of swabs. Swabs are brought direct by doctors or nurses, and the results are obtained in 12 hours. The summary of the year's work is as follows :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Examination of swabs for Diphtheria	297	1,693	1,990
Sputa examinations	57	239	296
Wassermann Tests	14	51	65
Other Examinations	—	—	18
			<hr/> 2,369 <hr/>

B.—Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Serious outbreaks of infectious diseases occurred during the first four months of the year, in the form of Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough : and during the latter part of the year there was a moderate epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

On the 23rd March, 1929, I presented you with a Special Report on the health of the town during the period February 23rd to March 23rd. In this report I stated as follows :—

During the period under review the town has been visited by a wave of sickness of all types, including Influenza, Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps and chest complaints included under the headings of Pneumonia and Bronchitis. The number of sick people has been enormous, and the outbreak of sickness can only be termed a "Plague." The death-rate, normally about 11 per 1,000 persons, rose rapidly, reaching the peak on the 9th March when it was as high as 46.2; from this point it slowly fell back to normal at the end of May. This wave of sickness was prevalent throughout the whole country and many towns suffered even worse than West Bromwich; nevertheless, so far as the history of this town is concerned, it is unsurpassed with the exception of the year 1918.

The Scarlet Fever Epidemic, which broke out in the Autumn and continued for the remainder of the year, was of small proportion, consisting of 143 cases. The principal areas affected were: Cophall Street, Horton Street, Greet's Green, Farley Street, and the portion of Whitehall Road in the same vicinity, all of which are included in the Cophall Street unhealthy area; and Taylors Lane, Walsall Street, Seagar Street, and Lloyd Street, which, again, are all situated in unhealthy areas. The remaining cases were scattered throughout the town and the principal mode of spread was through the schools. The chief schools affected were: Beeches Road, Christ Church, Greet's Green, St. Peter's, Fisher Street, Guns Village, and Hill Top.

Smallpox.

Fortunately, this disease did not visit the town during the year, although it was prevalent in the surrounding districts.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 143 cases in all during the year, giving a case rate of 1.64 as compared with 3.05 for England and Wales. One hundred and fifteen cases were removed to the Borough Isolation Hospital. The cases as a whole were very mild. There was one death.

Diphtheria.

Forty-five cases only occurred during the year, of which 44 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The cases were more or less scattered throughout the Borough. In one school only, namely Black Lake, was there any attempt at an outbreak, but steps were immediately taken and the spread checked. There were three deaths.

The case rate for the Borough was 0.55, that for England and Wales being 1.59.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases occurred and both were removed to Hallam Hospital. The source of infection was untraced. One case died.

The case rate was 0.02, and that for England and Wales 0.07.

Puerperal Fever.

Six cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year, four of which were admitted to Hallam Hospital. Remarks on these cases will be found in the section dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare.

The case rate was 0.07, and that for the whole country 0.06.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Sixteen cases were notified, and ten were removed to Hospital.

This gives a case rate of 0.19, the case rate for England Wales being 0.14.

Erysipelas.

Seventy-three cases were notified and 8 cases were removed to hospital. The number of cases of Erysipelas is always very high, the incidence being twice as great as that for the whole country. The type of work done in the town is partially responsible, but at the same time the nature of the disease throws a serious reflection on the general personal cleanliness of the people.

The case rate is as high as 0.9, while that for England and Wales is 0.45.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Owing to the serious loss of life from these diseases during the year, particularly in children under 5 years of age, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee sought powers of the Minister of Health to make these diseases compulsorily notifiable when occurring in children under 5 years of age. By this means it was hoped to get into touch with cases early and, if found necessary, to provide nursing facilities and extra nourishment in severe and necessitous cases. So serious and so fatal are these diseases in young children that I hope before long the Sanitary Committee, in conjunction with the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, will make arrangements for admitting severe cases to the Borough Fever Hospital, where skilled nursing and necessary medical comforts can best be obtained. I am convinced that many lives could be saved by this means.

Both diseases became notifiable on August 1st. Since this date 7 cases of Measles and 2 cases of Whooping Cough have been notified and nursing facilities sought in 1 case.

During the whole year 956 cases of measles (all ages) came to my notice, and there were 44 deaths.

There were 258 known cases of Whooping Cough, which was responsible for the deaths of 32 children.

The following tables give in detail the number of notifications received of the various infectious and contagious diseases as they occurred in each quarter of the year, in the wards and the various age groups.

	Quarters				Total	Admitted to Hosp.	D'ths.
	1	2	3	4			
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Diphtheria	18	6	5	16	45	44	3
Scarlet Fever	10	15	22	96	143	115	1
Puerperal Fever	—	4	—	2	6	4	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3	5	3	16	10	1
Erysipelas	15	11	14	33	73	8	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	17	17	25	13	72	6	56
Tuberculosis, O.F.	18	15	16	11	60	1	15
Pneumonia, All Forms	133	39	41	49	262	19	176
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	2	1	4	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	1	—	2	—	3
Measles (under 6 years)	—	—	—	6	6	—	40
German Measles (under 5 yrs.)	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough (under 5 yrs.)	—	—	2	—	2	—	31
NON-NOTIFIABLE.							
Measles (over 5 years)	331	525	38	62	956	—	4
Whooping Cough (over 5 yrs.)	213	32	10	3	258	—	1
Chicken Pox	65	32	41	58	196	—	—
Mumps... ..	540	99	7	7	653	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WARDS.

Wards	Smallpox	Enteric Fever	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	(Tuberculosis other forms)	Pneumonia (all forms)	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles (under 5 years)	German Measles (un. 5 yrs)	Whooping Co. (under 5 years)	Totals in each Ward
Sandwell...	—	—	4	17	—	1	1	—	4	1	21	—	—	1	—	—	50
Lyndon ...	—	2	4	11	—	3	9	—	9	11	25	1	—	—	—	—	75
Tantany ...	—	—	4	27	3	1	10	—	4	10	37	—	—	—	—	2	98
Hill Top ...	—	—	6	22	—	3	12	—	10	7	26	2	—	2	—	—	90
Hamstead ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Spon Lane ...	—	—	6	5	3	3	8	—	16	7	36	—	1	1	—	—	86
Lyng ...	—	—	2	8	—	2	6	1	8	8	32	—	—	2	1	—	70
Town Hall ...	—	—	10	10	—	—	14	—	8	5	20	—	—	—	—	—	67
Greets Grn. ...	—	—	7	42	—	3	12	—	11	9	64	1	1	—	—	—	150

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE PERIODS, 1929.

Disease	0 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 & over	T'tal
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ent. Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	1	1	5	16	7	4	9	1	1	—	45
Scarlet Fever	—	4	2	13	11	88	17	3	4	1	—	—	143
Puerperal F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	6
Puer. Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	3	—	—	16
Erysipelas	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	8	17	13	18	12	73
M'gococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuber., Pul.	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	28	18	15	1	72
Tuber., O.F.	3	3	1	2	—	28	8	6	8	—	1	—	60
Pneumonia, All Forms	18	23	14	12	12	29	14	18	47	21	38	15	261
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Measles (under 5 yr.)	1	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
German M. (under 5 yr.)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whoop. C'gh (under 5 yr.)	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Venereal Diseases.

There is no Clinic for the treatment of this disease in West Bromwich, the Authority have arrangements with the Birmingham Corporation for treatment at their clinics. Patients living near to Dudley area attend the Dudley Guest Hospital for treatment, but the Authority have no agreement with Dudley as the cases are few.

Cases from West Bromwich treated at the two clinics during the year were as follows:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	17
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	18
Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total new cases	...	...	...	...	...	63
Total attendances out-patients	...	...	...	...	...	1,989
In-patient days	...	...	...	...	...	—

Blind Persons Act, 1920.

The blind persons of West Bromwich are dealt with by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind under a scheme approved by the Ministry of Health.

During the year 1929 the blind population numbered 128, 79 being males and 48 females.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the Authority under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE GENERAL.

General.

The work at the Welfare Centres during the year under review remained satisfactory; particularly can this be said of the Ante-Natal Clinics. The attendances at Hill Top Ante-Natal Clinic increased to such a degree that it was found necessary to hold a session fortnightly and it appears that it will be necessary to hold a weekly session in the near future. The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinics at Greets Green and Boulton Road are exceptionally poor, but this is in all probability due to the facts that the Greets Green Centre was unsuitably situated at Great Bridge, and the Boulton Road Centre is a new one, Ante-Natal sessions only being commenced in September.

Following the receipt of Memorandum 145/M. & C.W., the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee decided to pay all midwives 1s. for a report on the character of labour of all cases attending the Ante-Natal Clinics. Accordingly, each practising midwife has been supplied with duplicate record books containing the necessary forms, which she returns to the Health Department following the delivery of each woman who has attended one of the Clinics; in this way a complete history is obtained for each case and much valuable information will in due course be accumulated.

Much attention has been given by the Committee to the problem of the "2—5-year-olds." It is quite evident from the Clinic figures to see that far too few children continue to attend the centres after they are over the first year of life, and the results of this defect are brought to light by the number of "entrants" to the elementary schools found to require treatment; particularly treatment of conditions which should have been remedied long before reaching school age. In the latter part of the year the Minister of Health and President of the Board of Education sent out the important circulars 1054 and 1405 drawing attention to this matter. These circulars dealt with the subjects of Day Nurseries and Nursery Schools. Chiefly owing to financial difficulties the Local Authority were unable at present to consider either of these schemes; but the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee decided to amplify the visits to the homes of the "toddlers" with a view to bringing them to one or other of the Centres for a general medical survey once or twice during each year and to offer facilities for treatment of minor ailments, visual defects, especially of squints, and at a later date to extend this to dental treatment. This obviously entails some increase in Health Visiting Staff and expenditure on treatment, but it is very small and the benefits derived should be great, resulting in a saving to the Education Authority.

The Authority have as yet no Orthopaedic Scheme. I have already drawn up two such schemes, both of which have been deferred pending the advent of April next, when the new Local Government Act becomes operative. There is no doubt that with the transference of the Guardians Institutions a more or less complete Maternity and Child Welfare scheme will be formulated, but I doubt very much whether an Orthopaedic scheme could possibly be devised centring on the Hallam Hospital, or even if such would be advisable. The chief point to keep in mind is that an Orthopaedic scheme is absolutely essential, and the sooner one is commenced the better. At the present time and with our present method of dealing with cripples, the administrative difficulties are many and the problems with which the various Committees are being continually confronted, particularly with regard to payment for cases receiving treatment, render it most desirable to have a definite scheme in operation.

The Infant Mortality rate unfortunately again passed the 100 mark; this is accounted for by the almost simultaneous outbreak of epidemics of Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough, in the first half of the year. These epidemics, with the exception of the year 1918, were the most severe on record, and account for almost 50 per cent. of the deaths occurring in infants from 0—5 years of age. I reported fully on the matter to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and drew attention to the fact that many of the infants lost their lives through lack of nursing facilities. Accordingly, the Local Authority decided to make the notification of Measles and Whooping Cough occurring in infants compulsory, and to offer nursing facilities for all necessitous cases. The necessary powers were sought from the Minister of Health and the West Bromwich Order, making these diseases compulsorily notifiable, became operative on August 1st, 1929. Notices concerning this order were displayed in prominent public places, in the press, in the various clinics and centres in the Borough, and all medical men practising in the district were notified and sent copies of this Order. Specially printed cards, drawing parents' attention to their duties under the Order, were displayed in all Corporation buses.

A tabulated statement, for which I am indebted to Dr. Anderson, Assistant Medical Officer, giving details of 320 Infant Deaths which were investigated during the year, will be found under the appropriate heading in this section of the report.

ANTE-NATAL WORK.

(a) Ante-Natal Clinics.

HIGHFIELDS	...	Open Friday, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
HILL TOP	...	Open every other Thursday, 2.15—5 p.m.
BOULTON ROAD		Open every other Saturday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
GREET'S GREEN		Open 1st and 3rd Monday in each month, 2.15—5 p.m.
HAMSTEAD, Miners' Institute,		open every Friday 2—3 p.m.

It will be noticed that there are now 5 Ante-Natal Clinics in operation, as compared with 4 last year, owing to the addition of the new Centre at Boulton Road, which was opened in June. Ante-Natal sessions were commenced at this new Centre in September.

(b) **Attendance of Expectant Mothers at Ante-Natal Clinics.**

The following tables and analysis of the results of cases have been prepared by Dr. Curnow, Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

From the tables it will be observed that much useful work has been done and much suffering, if not loss of life, obviated, because it has been possible to rectify abnormal positions and to give preventive treatment early in pregnancy to those requiring it, long before the expected date of delivery. This, coupled with the facts that not a single mother of the 261 who attended the Clinics lost her life, and that only one infant was lost, is ample justification for the institution of Ante-Natal Clinics. It is to be hoped that more and still more expectant mothers will take advantage of the facilities offered to them by the Authority; it is simply a matter of time and education and the realisation that much needless suffering and loss of life can be prevented if only they will submit to a thorough medical examination early in pregnancy.

ATTENDANCES OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

			New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Highfields	...	...	174	369
Hill Top	...	...	61	139
Great Bridge	...	...	13	23
Boulton Road	...	...	4	12
Hamstead	...	...	9	14
Totals	...	...	261	557

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF 173 CASES.

Not Pregnant	...	...	...	9
Normal Labours	...	...	...	140
Instrumental Labour	...	...	...	8
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	0
Still Births	...	...	...	3
Pelvic Tumours	...	...	...	2
Haemorrhage	...	...	...	4
Abnormal Presentation	...	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
Streptococcal Vaginal Discharge	...	...	...	1
				173

1.—NORMAL LABOURS.

This includes cases of malposition corrected at the Clinic or elsewhere, and cases of hydramnios, pyelitis, albuminuria, varicose veins and chronic nephritis supervised at the Clinic or referred to hospital or general practitioner; all of whom passed through the confinement and convalescence without difficulty or complication.

2.—INSTRUMENTAL DELIVERY.

This includes 6 cases who did not attend the Clinic within two or more months of labour.

3.—MATERNAL DEATHS.

There have been no deaths among the expectant mothers attending the Clinics.

4.—STILL BIRTHS.

One case was due to a congenital abnormality of the child—hydrocephalus; the second did not attend the Clinic after the fifth month of pregnancy; the third occurred recently and the cause has not yet been determined.

5.—PELVIC TUMOURS.

Both these cases were referred to the Hallam Hospital.

6.—HAEMORRHAGE.

Two cases were referred to general practitioners, two to the Hallam Hospital; three are doing well, the fourth has had a miscarriage.

7.—ABNORMAL PRESENTATION.

Two cases were breech presentations referred to general practitioners, and two were occipito-posterior presentations.

8.—PREMATURE BIRTH.

One occurred during an attack of pneumonia; the other was due to syphilis—but, owing to the fact that the mother had been referred by the Clinic to a treatment centre, they are both alive and well—the first live child after several miscarriages.

9.—STREPTOCOCCAL VAGINAL DISCHARGE.

This woman is still having treatment in the Hallam Hospital.

(c) Home Visits to Expectant Mothers.

Appointment registers are kept at each Centre and when an expectant mother fails to attend on the appointed day a Health Visitor makes enquiries into the case. Visits are also paid to the homes to give advice on general care of the health and on the preparations necessary to be made before the arrival of the baby.

During the year a small pamphlet, "Advice to the Expectant Mother," has been drawn up, and is given to each expectant mother by practising midwives at the time of "booking" and at the various Ante-Natal Clinics.

During the year the Health Visitors made 566 visits to the homes of expectant mothers for the above purposes.

(d) Ante-Natal Work by Midwives.

Several midwives are making full use of the Ante-Natal Clinics, but many still fail to bring their cases or even to have them examined by a private doctor. This I regard as a serious matter, as a midwife is not a doctor. She may be able to deliver a woman of a child providing the case is a "normal" one, but she most certainly cannot detect disease of the heart or lungs or of any other organ; and she is quite without knowledge as to whether a case should continue to term or premature labour be induced in order to save life or difficulty. These are facts which every midwife must keep in mind if she wishes to do her best for every patient. If two or three midwives can encourage the majority of their cases to be medically examined during pregnancy, every midwife can; it is simply a matter of education, persuasion and personality.

(e) Feeding of Expectant Mothers.

In appropriate cases, dried milk, cocoa and milk, are provided at the Centres.

(f) Registration and Inspection of Maternity Homes.

There is one combined Maternity and Nursing Home on the Register. One Maternity Home was given up during the year.

Inspections are carried out periodically by the Senior Health Visitor and the Medical Officer of Health.

(a) Work of Midwives.

At Birth.

During the year 46 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough.

40 of these hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

6 are bona fide.

In accordance with Rule E.22 of the Central Midwives Board, medical assistance was summoned on 305 occasions for a variety of conditions affecting mother or child as follows :—

Form A. Medical Help : Mothers	...	248
Babies	...	57

Other notifications received under same rule were :—

Form B.	Deaths : Mothers	...	...	—
	Babies	...	...	19
Form C.	Still-births	...	...	50
Form D.	Laying out the dead	...	...	1
Form E.	Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	9
Form F.	Artificial feeding	...	...	5

Number of Midwives, 46, notified intention to practise and are allocated as follows :—

Working privately	...	...	...	...	23
Working in Hospitals and Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	10
Working in West Bromwich but residing in outside districts	...	...	...	...	13
					—
					46
No. of Visits paid (23 cases only)	...	...	...	...	110
Unsuccessful Visits	...	...	...	...	18
Bags equipped : Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	23
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	—
Case Books : Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	22
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	1
Ante-Natal records : Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	6
Not completely satisfactory	...	...	...	...	16
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	1
Cleanliness	{ Person	{ Good	...	...	23
		{ Unsatisfactory	...	...	—
	{ Home	{ Good	...	...	23
		{ Unsatisfactory	...	...	—
Number able to—(1) Read Thermometer	...	...	...	23	
(2) Read and Write	...	...	...	22	
(3) Pass Catheter	...	...	...	21	
General Efficiency : Good	...	...	...	...	22
Poor	...	...	...	...	1

Miss Twist is available every morning at the Health Department for interview with any midwife seeking her assistance or advice.

Stoving of clothes and disinfection of bags and instruments is done free of charge by the Authority for any midwife.

(b) Maternity Homes.

The remarks I made last year regarding the lack of Maternity Beds still holds good. If every woman who should be confined in Hospital or Maternity Home sought admission to one in the town large numbers would have to be turned away, owing to lack of accommodation.

On the other hand, there are cases coming to my notice each week which have no business to be confined under the sordid, overcrowded home conditions in which they go through this critical period of life ; but it is impossible in many cases to persuade them otherwise. They refuse to take advantage of the wonderful facilities offered them at Hallam Hospital. A tremendous amount of education is yet necessary to drive into people's minds the rapid advancement made of recent years in medical and surgical science, and the advantages to be gained thereby, and to drive out " Old Mother stories and prejudices."

There is one Private Maternity Home in the Borough. The Hallam Hospital, in their Maternity section, have 26 Maternity Beds and an Ante-Natal Clinic attended weekly by Mr. Connell, the visiting gynaecologist. This Ante-Natal Clinic, by mutual agreement, has during the past year acted as a central consultative clinic to which complicated cases of pregnancy and post-natal complications have been referred from the municipal Maternity Centres. This is as it should be, and is a foreshadow of the working arrangements which will come about next April under the Local Government Act, 1929.

During the year 325 confinements were conducted at the Hallam Hospital, in addition to which 163 cases were treated for various complications, both ante and post-natal.

(c) Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations and Maternal Deaths.

A complete scheme exists for dealing with cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia. Hospital accommodation is provided at the Hallam Hospital by agreement with the Local Authority ; specialised services are available for any medical man applying to the Health Department for same ; bacteriological arrangements exist for the examinations of material from these cases and Puerperal Fever anti-serum is issued gratis at the Health Department for necessitous cases.

Last year there was a serious increase both in Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia cases and Maternal deaths due to other accidents or conditions connected with pregnancy. Some part of this increase may be accounted for by the unhealthy septic conditions which prevailed throughout the year, but at the same time this knowledge demands the immediate attention of all midwives and all attending women in childbirth, not only to re-double their efforts regarding ante-natal supervision but to pay particular attention to the cleanliness of themselves, their instruments, their patient, the home and the room in which the patient is to be confined.

Sixteen cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year, 10 of which were removed to Hallam Hospital. Seven cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, 4 of whom were removed to Hallam Hospital and 4 deaths resulted.

On investigating these cases it was found that only 2 had received any ante-natal care, and one of these was directly responsible for her death through refusing to carry out the medical advice given.

There were 4 other Maternal Deaths due to accidents or diseases of pregnancy, 2 only of whom had received ante-natal care. Three of these calamities could quite possibly have been avoided if early preventive treatment could have been adopted, and which would have been the case if early medical examination had been resorted to.

Thus it is seen that 11 mothers lost their lives as a result of childbirth, as against 4 the previous year.

(d) Ophthalmia Neonatorum Regulations.

A complete scheme exists for the treatment in Hospital and at home of cases of Ophthalmia notified to the Health Department. Four cases were notified during the year. Owing to mildness of each case, all were nursed at home and attended by the family medical man. No injury to sight or eyes resulted.

(c) Still-Births.

It is satisfactory to note that there was a considerable drop in still births during the year as compared with the previous year.

Sixty-one cases were notified as against 85 in 1928.

THE INFANT AND THE YOUNG CHILD.

(a) Notification of Births.

		Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Births Registered	...	860	772	27	23	1,682

Births notified within 36 hours :—

Live Births.		Still Births.		Late Notifications	Total
Midwives	Drs.	Midwives	Drs.		
1,553	108	48	2	11	1,722

(b) Home Visits under the Notification of Births Act.

1,746 first visits and 5,963 subsequent visits, making a total of 7,709, were made to infants under 12 months of age.

12,768 visits were made to children between the ages of 1—5 years.

Thus a total of 20,477 visits were made by the Health Visitors to infants in the Maternity and Child Welfare Group.

As I have already stated in previous reports, I regard the visits to the home of the greatest importance in Health Educational Work. During the year the Committee have considered it necessary to increase the number of visits, particularly to the 1—5-year-olds, in order to encourage them to attend the clinics for general medical overhaul at least once each year, so as to detect and have remedied minor defects before entering school. There are between 7,500 to 8,000 children between the age 1—5 years in the Borough, and in order that sufficient and regular visits can be made the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have during 1929, decided to add 2 extra nurses to their staff and to offer minor ailment treatment and ophthalmic treatment, to be followed by dental treatment a little later.

(c) Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre.

The Voluntary Centre in connection with Christ Church continues to hold its weekly session in the Parish Room, Bratt Street, on Thursday afternoons. There is no doctor in attendance. Babies are weighed and general advice is given on Infant Care and Management. No food is given free, but Glaxo, Virol and Vitmar are sold.

In passing I would like to mention one important matter, particularly to voluntary centres, and it is regarding the feeding of an infant. No one has any right or business to advise a mother to give up breast feeding an infant without first obtaining a medical opinion. One is finding that many healthy mothers are giving up breast feeding their infants on the slightest pretext, and I would urge all voluntary workers to help us by dissuading mothers, so far as is within their power, from taking such a step without first obtaining medical advice, either privately or at one of the Municipal Centres.

(d) Municipal Welfare Centres.

There are 5 centres under the control of the Authority. Two new centres were completed during the year: the Boulton Road Centre and the Greets Green Centre in Whitehall Road. The latter was not opened until January of the present year.

The Authority are contemplating the erection of a new Centre in the vicinity of Stone Cross, to serve the rapidly increasing population of the Charlemont and Crankhall Lane districts.

The centre at Hamstead is also most unsuitable and it has been decided to have plans and estimates drawn up with a view to replacing the present centre by a more convenient temporary or semi-permanent building.

The attendances made by infants at the centres continues to be satisfactory but it is necessary that the 1—5-year-olds should attend at least once each year for medical examination.



already dealt with this subject earlier in the report, and it is highly satisfactory to note that the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have adopted a progressive policy, providing for the needs of this all-important group of children.

Our voluntary helpers, to whom we are all greatly indebted and to whom I express my best thanks for their valuable assistance, continue in their enthusiasm to increase their labours. This association of ladies at the latter part of the year decided to commence sewing classes in the centres in order to encourage mothers to make their own baby clothes and lying-in outfits, and already I understand that many mothers are taking full advantage of these classes. I also understand from Councillor Mrs. Smallman, the Chairman of the Association, that if the classes prove a success and the necessary help and funds are available, they will probably be extended to more pretentious things, such as simple cooking lessons and general housewifery. All this work goes to make the centres popular, and any work which is done to encourage the attendances at the centres with a view to bettering the health and lives of the little ones is more than praiseworthy.

The following table indicates the attendances, etc., made at each of the Centres during the year 1929.

ATTENDANCES MADE AT THE CENTRES.

Centres	Hamstead	Greets Green	Boulton Road	Hill Top	High-fields	Totals
<i>Infants under 1 year.</i>						
New	29	191	238	138	242	838
Old	397	2,825	2,856	1,921	2,851	10,850
Total	426	3,016	3,094	2,059	3,093	11,688
Seen by Doctor	189	531	602	402	655	2,379
<i>Children 1 to 5 years.</i>						
New	31	20	80	20	44	195
Old	465	1,540	1,179	1,077	1,615	5,876
Total	496	1,560	1,259	1,097	1,659	6,071
Seen by Doctor	178	230	234	271	242	1,155
<i>Average Attendances of Children per Session</i> ...	23	57	54	38	59	—
<i>Ante-Natal Cases.</i>						
New	9	13	4	61	174	261
Old	5	10	8	78	195	296
Total	14	23	12	139	369	557
<i>Post Natal</i>	51	164	189	130	180	714

All Ante- and Post-Natal Cases are examined by a doctor.

Number of Cases referred to Hospital from Centres 69

Number of Cases referred to District Nurses from Centres - ... 5

(e) Ultra-Violet Light.

Much good work has been done at the Light Clinic during the year for infants attending the Welfare Centres. 63 cases in all have received Light Treatment, 19 of whom have been discharged as cured. 12 of the cured cases were suffering from Rickets. Further details will be found under the report of the work of the Ultra-Violet Light Clinic.

(f) Orthopaedic Treatment.

There is no definite Orthopaedic scheme as yet. I have already dealt with this subject in my opening remarks to this section of the report.

(g) Home Nursing.

The West Bromwich District Nursing Association has undertaken the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum when requested by the Medical Officer of Health.

(h) Minor Ailments.

It is to be hoped that during the year 1930 minor ailments will be dealt with under the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme. For this purpose it is necessary for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and School Medical Committee to have working arrangements, and with this object in view I have advised the Authority to have the school minor ailment sub-clinics in the same buildings as the Infant Welfare Centres; this has been carried out in the new Centres recently erected.

As stated elsewhere, it is the intention of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to gradually extend treatment facilities to include ophthalmic and dental treatment for toddlers.

(i) Provision of Milk and Food.

Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Virol, etc., is available at all centres.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS TO WHOM FREE FOOD WAS ALLOWED
DURING 1929.**

Expectant Mothers	...	...	3
Nursing Mothers	...	...	16
Infants	...	...	86

**PURCHASES AND SALES OF MILK FOOD, ETC., FOR THE YEAR FROM
1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.**

		Total.		
		£	s.	d.
Purchases of Milk Food, etc.	...	1,097	7	7
Cost of Administration	...	137	4	4
		<hr/>		
		1,234	11	11
Less Sales	... ..	982	13	6
		<hr/>		
		£251	18	5
		<hr/>		

(j) Care of Illegitimate Infants.

Provision is made by the Guardians at the Nursery situated in the grounds of Great Barr Colony. Owing to its situation there will be some little difficulty in utilising this nursery when the Local Government Act comes into operation in April next. Some arrangements with the Authorities concerned will have to be made or new premises found.

Assistance is also rendered to many girls by the West Bromwich Girls' Welfare Society.

(k) Summary of Visits paid by Health Visitors during 1929.

To Expectant Mothers	...	...	566
To Infants under 1 year—1st visits	...	1,746	
Revisits	...	5,963	
Total Visits under 1 year	...	—	7,709
To Children 1—5	...	...	12,768
Maternal and Infant Death Enquiries	...	...	302
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Visits	...	...	19
Still-birth Enquiries	...	...	50
Re Maternity Fees	...	...	79
Miscellaneous Visits (including Infectious Diseases)			1,190
<hr/>			
Grand total	...	...	22,683
			<hr/>

(l) Infant Mortality. Rate 106.4.

Total Number of Deaths under 1 year of age	...	179
Number of Deaths under 4 weeks of age	...	62
Total Infant Deaths under 5 years	...	330

As a result of the successive and almost simultaneous outbreaks of Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough during the first 4 months of the year, the toll taken of infant lives was heavy. A total of 179 infants under one year died as against 126 the previous year. Of this total 63 deaths were directly caused by the epidemics mentioned above, whereas there were only 23 deaths from these causes the previous year.

The total number of deaths of infants coming within the domain of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act was 330, as against 173 during the year 1928.

Dr. Anderson, Assistant Medical Officer, has made an analysis from Health Visitors' reports of 320 of the total deaths, which I quote shortly below.

Cause of Death.	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total 0-5 years
	0-1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	0-1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	
Bronchitis, pneumonia, etc....	24	34	23	32	113
Measles	5	16	4	16	41
Whooping Cough	3	10	4	14	31
Gastritis, Enteritis, etc. ...	16	4	5	3	28
Congenital Malformations ...	16	—	2	—	18
Debility, Marasmus, etc. ...	12	—	8	—	20
Prematurity	20	—	11	—	31
Convulsions	2	—	—	—	2
Birth injuries and accidents...	3	3	3	1	10
Tuberculosis	4	1	1	—	6
Meningitis	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever... ..	—	—	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	2	—	—	2
Other Causes	6	6	—	4	16
Totals	111	77	61	71	320

Feeding.

The method of feeding was ascertained in 84 children under one year of age, who had died of (a) bronchitis, pneumonia, etc. ; (b) measles ; (c) whooping cough ; or (d) gastritis, enteritis, etc.

Breast	33	39.3 per cent.
Breast supplemented by other food	13	15.5 „
Artificial feeding	38	45.2 „

Housing.

The housing conditions in 215 deaths under 5 years of age who had died of (a) bronchitis, pneumonia, etc. ; (b) measles ; (c) whooping cough ; or (d) gastritis, enteritis, etc. :—

75, or 34.4 per cent. were unsatisfactory owing to dirt or overcrowding or both.

N.B.—This is a very conservative estimate.

An analysis of the Districts in which these deaths occurred has also been made, with the following results :—

Hill Top Ward ...	...	...	...	65
Lyng Ward ...	...	...	...	53
Greets Green Ward ...	...	...	...	52
Tantany Ward ...	...	...	...	50
Spon Lane Ward ...	...	...	...	31
Lyndon Ward ...	...	...	...	31
Town Hall Ward ...	...	...	...	27
Sandwell Ward ...	...	...	...	11
Hamstead ...	...	...	...	1

Thus it is seen that infant mortality is closely associated with overcrowding and slumdom.

The death-rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis still remains high; the cause is bad mother-craft and nurture, and the remedy for prevention is obvious.

The following table gives in detail the causes of death of infants under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Under 1 week,	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small-pox ...	...	...								
Chicken-pox ...	...	...								
Measles ...	...	...								1	8	9
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...								
Whooping-Cough ...	...	...							1	5	1	7
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...								
Erysipelas ...	...	...								
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...							1	1		2
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...							1			1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...							1		1	2
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...	...	...								
Convulsions ...	...	...				1	1				1	2
Laryngitis ...	...	...								
Bronchitis ...	...	...				1	1	3	2	3	3	12
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...				1	1	9	5	9	10	34
Diarrhoea ...	...	...								
Enteritis ...	...	...			1		1	6	7	4	1	19
Gastritis ...	...	...	1				1				1	2
Syphilis ...	...	...			1		1					1
Rickets ...	...	...								
Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...								
Injury at Birth ...	...	...								
Atelectasis ...	...	...	2				2					2
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	8	2	1		11	4	2	1		18
Premature Birth ...	...	...	21	4	1	2	28	2	1			31
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	...	...	7	1		1	9	7	2	2	2	22
Other Causes ...	...	...	5			1	6	4	4	1		15
Totals ...	...	...	44	7	4	7	62	35	27	27	28	179

(n) **Infantile Mortality Rates since First Recorded.**

Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1872	152	1882	158	1892	171
1873	163	1883	177	1893	211
1874	156	1884	180	1894	152
1875	160	1885	176	1895	157
1876	144	1886	169	1896	118
1877	162	1887	158	1897	175
1878	159	1888	158	1898	182
1879	167	1889	175	1899	179
1880	152	1890	170	1900	191
1881	152	1891	172	1901	163
Decennial Aver. 156.7		Decennial Aver. 169.3		Decennial Aver. 169.9	
1902	162	1912	122.5	1922	88.6
1903	164	1913	140.4	1923	87.8
1904	149	1914	104.4	1924	88.6
1905	150	1915	133.1	1925	98.8
1906	159	1916	89.8	1926	79.2
1907	151	1917	121.5	1927	107.1
1908	140	1918	113.1	1928	74.7
1909	152	1919	103.0	1929	106.4
1910	106.5	1920	109.2		
1911	139.5	1921	96.9		
Decennial Aver. 147.3		Decennial Aver. 113.3			

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 152 new cases of Tuberculosis came to the notice of this department, of which 85 were pulmonary and 67 were non-pulmonary cases. In all there were 403 known cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) in the Borough on December 31st, 1929. This is an increase of 46 cases above the figure for December 31st, 1928.

Eight cases came to our notice after death. Whilst this shows steady improvement in notifying cases, it is not entirely satisfactory.

The figures above show an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough which is a very serious matter and calls for the immediate attention of the Tuberculosis Committee. In the first place, there are one or two medical men who are still very lax in their notifications, and it is only when the patient is at the point of death that we become aware of the case. Again, a large number of cases only seek medical advice for the first time when the disease is in an advanced and infectious condition and when little or nothing beyond isolation for the safety of others can be done. Regarding the matter of late notification, I have heard it argued that it is of little value notifying the Health Department as very little can be done: the patient may be sent away to Sanatorium for three or six months, only to return to the same house to resume life under exactly the same conditions as previously, undoing in a very short time the good which has been derived from Sanatorium; this is perfectly true, and I will go further and add that when this happens the cost of the sanatorium treatment is a sheer waste of money—to the tune of 40s. to 50s. per week per patient. This argument, however, is no excuse for non-notification—if we never become aware of cases until death the little which can be done at present, particularly that of safeguarding the health of contacts, is left undone with the resulting increase of fresh cases. I would like to re-assure those medical men who believe in the above argument that the medical officers at the Health Department are fully alive to all defects which exist in the tuberculosis service, and that both they and the Committee are doing their utmost to improve the service and to rectify defects, but it calls for much patience as the cost at the outset is heavy, although much will be saved in the long run.

Particulars of new cases during the year are shown in the following tables:—

Age Period	FORM A				FORM B				Otherwise x				Total
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul- monary		Pul- monary		Non- Pul- monary		Pul- monary		Non- Pul- monary		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0— 1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6
1— 5	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7
5—10	1	—	2	4	—	1	17	5	—	1	—	—	31
10—15	1	2	3	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	1	13
15—20	—	3	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
20—25	5	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	16
25—35	10	8	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	25
35—45	11	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	23
45—55	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	13
55—65	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
65—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
	42	28	15	18	1	1	20	7	8	5	4	3	152

X SOURCE OF INFORMATION—

1. Death Returns	4 Pulmonary.	4 Non-pulmonary.
2. Post-humous Notification	— Pulmonary	1 Non-pulmonary.
8. "Inward" Transfers.	9 Pulmonary	2 Non-pulmonary.

Cases on Register, 1st January, 1929.

	M.	F.	C.	Total
Pulmonary ...	104	66	27	197
Non-Pulmonary ...	19	35	106	160

Cases added during 1929.

Pulmonary ...	47	30	8	85
Non-Pulmonary ...	6	12	49	67

Cases removed during 1929.

Pulmonary ...	37	32	8	77
Non-Pulmonary ...	5	7	17	29

Cases on Register, 31st December, 1929.

Pulmonary ...	114	64	27	205
Non-Pulmonary ...	20	40	138	198

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis death-rate for the year ending 31st December, 1929, is 0.87 per 1,000 persons (population figure, 80,840). Pulmonary death-rate is 0.69 and Non-Pulmonary death-rate is 0.19 per 1,000 persons.

The 71 deaths recorded were distributed as follows :—

Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	2	—	2	1
1—5	1	—	1	—
5—10	1	—	—	2
10—15	—	—	1	1
15—20	1	3	—	1
20—25	5	5	—	1
25—35	4	8	2	1
35—45	5	5	—	—
45—55	7	2	1	—
55—65	5	—	—	—
65—75	2	—	1	—
75—	—	—	—	—
	33	23	8	7

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Notified before death ...	52	11	63
Not notified before death ...	4	4	8
Percentage not notified ...	7.14	26.7	11.3

The occupations of persons dying as a result of Tuberculosis are as follows :—

Occupations.	No. of Deaths.	Occupations.	No. of Deaths.
Housewife ...	14	Enameller ...	1
School Children ...	4	Iron Casement Fitter ...	1
Labourers ...	6	Book Binder ...	1
Navvies ...	2	Printers' Cutter ...	1
Boot Repairers ...	2	Envelope Maker ...	1
Coal Loader ...	1	Factory Hands ...	2
Miner ...	1	Cinema Operator ...	1
Iron Roller ...	1	Laundress ...	1
Iron Flange Welder ...	1	Carpenter and Joiner ...	1
Roll Turner ...	1	Chauffeur ...	1
Iron Worker ...	1	Chemist ...	1
Steel Smelter ...	1	Publican ...	1
Driller ...	1	Carter ...	1
Tube Straightener ...	1	Domestic ...	1
Brass Worker ...	1	Clerk ...	1
Steel Cutter ...	1	Shorthand-Typist ...	1
Pattern Maker ...	1	Salesman ...	1
Spring Maker ...	1	Commission Agent ...	1
Balance Maker ...	1	No Occupation ...	9
Machinist ...	1		

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regl. 1925.

No notices were served under Article 5 of these Regulations during the year.

WORK OF THE ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Throughout the year full benefit has been derived from the well-appointed Consulting Room, Dressing Rooms and Waiting Room, and other Offices which were opened in 1927.

Sessions.—The Sessions held are as follows :—

Tuesdays ... 10 a.m. to 12.
 Wednesdays 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.
 Saturdays ... 10 a.m. to 12 (School Children).

The enormous increase in the work of the Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary noted in the last Annual Report has been maintained during the past year. During 1929 there were 173 new cases, examined, as compared with 164 during 1928 and 109 during 1927 ; of these 104 were accepted for treatment or observation, as compared with 81 during the previous year. A most important branch of the preventive work of the dispensary is represented by the 60 New Contacts and 10 Old Contacts examined during the year. Your Tuberculosis Officer paid 45 visits to patients' homes during the year under survey—as compared with 17 the previous year—an increase of over 150 per cent. These visits are dealt with in more detail under the heading of "Supervision of Home Conditions."

The work carried out is summarised as follows :—

	M.	F.	C.	Totals
New cases examined	55	40	78	173
New cases accepted for treatment ...	27	17	34	78
New cases accepted for observation ...	4	4	18	26
New cases not accepted	24	19	26	69
Number of old cases re-examined ...	108	73	34	215
New Contacts examined	13	9	38	60
No. of old Contacts re-examined ...	—	1	9	10
No. of re-attendances	607	508	961	2076
No. of re-attendances for Ultra-Violet Light Treatment	28	445	858	1331

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES ACCEPTED FOR TREATMENT ACCORDING TO AGE AND TYPE OF DISEASE.

Age Period.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	1
5—10	—	1	16	5
10—15	1	—	6	3
15—20	2	3	1	1
20—25	1	3	—	—
25—35	7	4	1	1
35—45	7	3	—	—
45—55	8	2	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—
	26	16	25	11

CONTACTS AND OBSERVATION CASES ARRANGED PER AGE AND SEX

	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Total
Observation—										
Males ...	2	8	5	1	—	1	—	1	1	19
Females ...	—	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	7
Contacts—										
Males ...	8	9	6	5	2	4	2	—	—	36
Females ...	4	7	4	3	1	3	1	1	—	24

CASES DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR 1929.

	M.	F.	C.	Totals
Discharged as "Cured" ...	2	—	—	2
Discharged as Non-Tuberculous ...	43	33	68	144
Cases removed to other Areas ...	7	4	2	13

OCCUPATIONS OF NEW CASES ACCEPTED FOR TREATMENT AND OBSERVATION.

Occupations.	No. Accepted.	Occupations.	No. Accepted.
School Children ...	54	Glass Worker ...	1
Housewives ...	11	Stoker ...	1
Factory Hands ...	4	Boatman ...	1
Laundresses ...	3	Tram Driver ...	1
Labourers ...	5	Steam Lorry Driver ...	1
Clerks ...	2	Miner ...	1
Shop Assistants ...	2	Steel Frame Fitter ...	1
Sawyers' Labourer ...	1	Navvy ...	1
Bricklayers' Labourer ...	1	Coach Painter ...	1
Colliery Labourer ...	1	Typewriter Assembler ...	1
Spring Maker ...	1	Carpenter and Joiner ...	1
Brass Pickler ...	1	Telegraph Operator ...	1
Driller ...	1	Warehouseman ...	1
Machinist ...	1	Barman ...	1
Erector ...	1	Domestic ...	1
Safe Maker ...	1	Hairdresser ...	1
Turner... ...	1	Gardener... ...	1
Fitter ...	1	Salesman ...	1
Iron Worker ...	2	Draughtsman ...	1
Crane Worker ...	1	No occupation ...	8
Bottle Maker ...	1		

Diagnosis of Tuberculosis.

The Dispensary has played its part as an aid to diagnosis in doubtful cases to an even greater degree than in 1928. It is to be regretted, however, that the majority of patients referred to the Dispensary cannot be said to be in the early stages of the disease; a happier state of affairs will not be reached until early medical advice is sought for symptoms which often herald an attack of tuberculosis—namely, lassitude, loss of appetite and persistent coughs so often mis-called "Influenza."

Special forms of investigation were again utilised whenever necessary ; 20 patients were X-rayed, and Sputum Examinations were performed in 296 cases ; both these figures will probably be greatly exceeded in 1930.

Sputum Examined.—The following specimens were examined during the year :—

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
General Practitioners	...	29	145	174
Dispensary	... ..	28	91	119
School Clinic	... ..	—	3	3
		57	239	296

X-ray Examinations.—20 patients underwent X-ray examinations.

Provision of Extra Nourishment, Medicine, etc.

Allowances of Milk, Cod Liver Oil, etc., are provided to tuberculous patients in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Health. Insured patients are referred to their own private practitioners for medicine, etc., others are helped whenever necessary at the Dispensary.

SUPERVISION OF HOME CONDITIONS.

For the last two years your Tuberculosis Officer has drawn attention to the appalling conditions found in the homes of patient when first they come to the notice of the Dispensary. This year has, unfortunately, proved to be no better. A tremendous burden of work is thrown upon the Dispensary Staff in an endeavour to ameliorate the lot of the poor consumptive and diminish the risk of infection run by those living with him. Health Visitors have paid 1,319 visits to the homes of patients suffering from Tuberculosis, compared with 1,136 the previous year ; a report has been presented to the Tuberculosis Sister after each of these visits, and she brings to the notice of the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer any case warranting special investigation. A determined effort is being made to improve these home conditions ; 45 visits last year were made to patients' homes by the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, as compared with 17 the previous year. The only solution of the difficulty in the most urgent cases is the rehousing of the entire family under better conditions. Until rehousing is possible we must expect to continue to see whole families succumb to the disease as they have done in the past.

Summary of Visits to Homes for Dispensary Purposes.

	M	F	C	Totals
Consultations by T.O.	4	1	1	6
Home visits by T.O.	23	16	6	45
First Visits by Health Visitors ...	65	41	60	166
Re-visits by Health Visitors ...	424	366	363	1153

SIZES OF HOUSES VISITED.

NUMBER OF ROOMS IN HOUSE.

Rooms ...	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over
Cases	2	5	46	53	35	14

HOME CONDITIONS OF CASES VISITED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Dirty	Fairly Clean	Clean	Moderate Light	Good Light	Damp	Close
17	11	127	23	132	20	46
Through Ventilation		Back to Back	Single Houses	Defective Windows	Windows open Day and Night	
128		14	13	2	106	
		Windows open day only	Overcrowding			
		18	32			

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS.

Separate Bedroom	Separate Bed but others in Room								Others in Bed							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33 Cases ...	4	7	9	1	-	-	-	-	76	20	3	2	-	-	-	-

x 11 Cases were notified from Asylums, etc., and it was impossible to get particulars re sleeping arrangements, etc.

Issue of Shelters.

No shelters have been lent to patients during 1929. It is difficult to find a suitable case at the right time of the year who has a good site for a shelter; this difficulty has been partly overcome by the erection of shelters in the grounds of the Fever Hospital, where several cases have been accommodated during the year.

Home Nursing.

The arrangements made with the District Nursing Association for the home nursing of necessitous cases have again proved very useful. 192 visits for home nursing were paid during 1929.

Co-ordination of Dispensary with other Health Services.

There is complete co-ordination between the School Medical, the Maternity and Child Welfare services and the Dispensary. Saturday morning session is devoted entirely to the examination of children.

Reports of children found to be suffering from Tuberculosis are furnished weekly to the appropriate departments.

Contacts amongst school children are kept continuously under supervision at the School Clinic, and are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer should any suspicious symptoms arise.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

The arrangements for providing sanatorium treatment of patients have remained the same throughout the year: 12 beds at Romsley Hill Sanatorium for early cases and 5 at Holly Lane Sanatorium for advanced cases. Fortunately, our own Tuberculosis Pavilion in the grounds of the Borough Isolation Hospital, Heath Lane, is rapidly nearing completion. It will thus be possible at an early date to arrange for the segregation and treatment of most of our advanced and highly infectious cases.

SANATORIUM BEDS RETAINED BY THE WEST BROMWICH AUTHORITY DURING THE YEAR 1929.

			M.	F.	Totals.
Romsley Hill Sanatorium	...	...	6	6	12
Holly Lane Sanatorium	...	...	3	2	5

Extra Beds taken during the year :

Royal Orthopaedic	...	...	...	1
Hayling Island Open Air School	...	...	...	1
Hallam Hospital	...	Beds taken for urgent cases as required.		

TABLE SHOWING THE EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT.

	M.	F.	C.	Totals.
In Sanatorium 1st Jan., 1929 ...	11	6	4	21
Sent during 1929—				
Pulmonary	37	16	—	53
Non-Pulmonary	—	3	1	4
Observation	3	2	3	8
Discharged during 1929—				
Pulmonary	36	13	3	52
Non-Pulmonary	1	4	—	5
Observation	3	2	3	8
Died in Sanatorium—				
Pulmonary	3	3	—	6
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—
In Sanatorium 31st Dec., 1929 ...	8	5	2	15

Average duration of stay in Sanatorium 72 days.

Average maximum stay in Sanatorium 365 days.

Orthopaedics and Treatment of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The Authority as yet has no Orthopaedic Clinic; arrangements, however, exist with the Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, the Authority paying part of whole of cost of treatment according to circumstances. No beds are retained by the Authority, but are taken as necessity arises.

Synthetic Sunlight Treatment.

There were 1,331 attendances for Ultra-Violet Light Treatment by patients suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The great value of this form of treatment may be realised by consulting the separate report on the Ultra-Violet Light Clinic, where improvement of greater or less degree is noted in almost every case.

Dental Treatment—Tuberculosis Patients.

The arrangements with the Hallam Hospital, sanctioned by the Ministry, for the Dental Treatment of necessitous cases of Tuberculosis, are still in force. They are seldom found necessary—most patients being treated under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

Tuberculosis Care Work.

There are no local arrangements.

Memo. 37/T. Table I.

**TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME OF THE WEST BROMWICH COUNTY
BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

Return showing the work of the Dispensary during the year 1929.

DIAGNOSIS	PULMONARY				NON-PULMONARY				TOTAL			
	Adults		Child'n		Adults		Child'n		Adults		Child'n	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A.—New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts) :												
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	25	15	1	1	2	2	23	9	27	17	24	10
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	15	3
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	19	15	11
B.—Contacts examined during the year :—												
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	9	16	14
C.—Cases written off the Dispensary Register as												
(a) Cured ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	33	41	27
D.—Number of Persons on Dispensary Register on December 31st, 1929 :—												
(a) Diagnosis completed ...	81	45	5	8	9	25	54	33	90	70	59	41
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	8	2
1. Number of persons on Dispensary Register on January 1st, 1929 ...	238											
2. Number of patients transferred from other areas and of "lost sight of" cases returned ...	11											
3. Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of" ...	26											
4. Died during the year ...	36											
5. Number of observation cases under A (b) and B (b) above in which period of observation exceeded 2 months ...	10											
6. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts) ...	3407											
7. Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopædic Out-stations for treatment or supervision ...	app. 188											
8. Number of attendances, at General Hospitals or other Institutions approved for the purpose, of patients for	See foot note											
(a) "Light" treatment ...												
(b) Other special forms of treatment												
9. Number of patients to whom Dental Treatment was given, at or in connection with the Dispensary	approx. 16											
10. Number of consultations with medical practitioners :—												
(a) At Homes of Applicants ...	6											
(b) Otherwise ...	153											
11. Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes ...	45											
12. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes ...	1352											
13. Number of												
(a) Specimens of sputum, etc. examined ...	148											
(b) X-ray examinations made, in connection with Dispensary work	20											
14. Number of Insured Persons on Dispensary Register on the 31st Dec	114											
15. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December ...	6											
16. Number of reports received during the year in respect of Insured Persons :—												
(a) Form G.P. 17 ...	—											
(b) Form G.P. 36 ...	18											

Of the 3,407 attendances at the Dispensary, 1,331 were attendances of Dispensary Cases at the Ultra Violet Light Clinic held at the Dispensary.

(Memo. 37-T. Table II.)

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS.**(A) AVERAGE NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS DURING THE YEAR 1929.**

	Observation	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Total
		"Sanatorium" Beds	"Hospital" Beds	Disease of Bones and Joints	Other Conditions	
Adult Males ...	—	6	3	—	—	9
Adult Females ...	—	6	2	—	—	8
Children under 15 ...	—	—	—	1	1	2
Total ...	—	12	5	1	1	19*

(B) RETURN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR 1929.

		In Institutions on Jan. 1	Admitted during the year	Discharged during the year	Died in the Institutions	In Institutions on Dec. 31
Number of Patients ...	Adults M	11	37	37	3	8
	Adults F	6	19	17	3	5
	Children M	2	—	1	—	1
	Children F	2	1	2	—	1
Number of Observation Cases ...	Adults M	—	3	3	—	—
	Adults F	—	2	2	—	—
	Children M	—	2	2	—	—
	Children F	—	1	1	—	—
Total		21	65	65	6	15

* N.B.—Seventeen beds are definitely retained by the Authority.

Memo. 37-T. Table IV.

(a) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Annual Return showing in summary form the condition of all Patients whose case records are in the possession of the Dispensary at the end of 1929, arranged according to the years in which the patients first came under Public Medical Treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis, and their classification as shown on Form A.

Condition at the time of the last record made during the year to which the Return relates.	Previous to 1926.				1926.				1927.				1928.				1929.				
	Class T.B. minus				Class T.B. plus.				Class T.B. minus				Class T.B. plus.				Class T.B. minus				
	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.	Total (Class T.B. plus).	
Disch'g'd as cured	M.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Disease arrested	M.	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Disease not arrested	M.	4	5	12	3	20	2	4	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	4	1	3	1	5	1	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Condition not ascertained during the year		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lost Sight of or otherwise removed from Register		14	4	4	1	9	—	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	
	M.	1	2	5	3	10	1	1	4	1	6	1	1	6	5	12	1	4	—	5	
DEAD	F.	1	1	7	2	10	—	—	3	4	7	—	1	8	1	10	—	—	3	2	
	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	...	38	17	33	10	60	2	5	15	7	27	11	2	22	5	29	10	11	23	10	44

N.B.—8 Pulmonary and 12 Non-pulmonary cases were discharged as "cured" during the year 1925, and 21 Non-pulmonary cases were discharged in the year 1926. These figures are not included in the above Table.

(b) NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Annual Return showing in summary form the condition of all Patients whose case records are in the possession of the Dispensary at the end of 1929, arranged according to the years in which the Patients first came under Public Medical Treatment, and their classification as shown on Form A.

Condition at the time of the last record made during the year to which the Return relates.	Previous to 1926.					1926.					1927.					1928.					1929.				
	Bones and Joints	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands	Total	Bones and Joints	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands	Total	Bones and Joints	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands	Total	Bones and Joints	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands	Total	Bones and Joints	Abdominal.	Other Organs.	Peripheral Glands	Total
Disch'g'd as cured	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dis'ase arrested	2	1	—	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dis'ase not arrested	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	—	3	4	3	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disease not arrested	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transferred to Pulmonary	1	—	2	—	3	2	—	4	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
	4	—	1	2	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Condition not ascertained during the year	1	1	3	4	9	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	19	22	1	—	2	1	2
	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lost Sight of or otherwise removed from Register	—	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	1	—	1	6	1	—	1	2	4	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	2
DEAD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	21	4	6	22	53	10	—	5	7	22	—	1	—	19	20	4	2	—	18	24	6	1	5	28	40

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC.

The Ultra-Violet Light Clinic for convenience and lack of room elsewhere is accommodated in the Anti-tuberculosis Dispensary.

Treatment.—The treatment is administered by Sister Collins, who is in charge of the Dispensary. A doctor is in attendance on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for seeing new cases and periodical survey of all cases.

Sessions.—Light sessions are held throughout the day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The sessions are divided as follows :—

TUBERCULOSIS CASES :

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

SCHOOL CHILDREN (except T.B. Conditions) :

Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 3.30 to 5 o'clock.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES :

Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 1.45 to 3 o'clock.

Records.—Records of each case are kept on special record forms. A new form specially for Rachitic Cases was instituted during the year, which should be the means of collecting much interesting data when sufficient have been obtained.

The Lamps.—Two in number of the Mercury Vapour type—are being overhauled periodically by the makers in order to keep them efficient.

The following tables indicate briefly the work done during the year :—

Report on Ultra-Violet Ray Treatment, year 1929.

Cases on Books, 1st January, 1929 ...	...	70
Cases added during the year ...	...	122
Total Cases receiving treatment ...	...	192
Cases discharged ...	...	137
Cases on Books, 31st December, 1929 ...	...	55
Total Attendances ...	...	4,072

The following table indicates the distribution of the total cases between the various Health Services :—

			M. and C.W.	Tuber- culosis.	School.	Total.
Cases	...	...	63	52	77	192
Attendances	...	...	1,151	1,331	1,590	4,072

Of the 1,331 exposures of notified Tuberculosis cases, 835 exposures were given to School Children. This number is not included in the 1,590 exposures to School Cases.

The following cases were treated and discharged during the period under review :—

Infant Welfare Centre Cases.

	Cured	Much im- proved	Im- proved	No. im- prove- ment	Un- suit- able	Left Dis- trict	Failed to attend	Treat- ment refused
Rickets	12	3	3	1	1	1	3	3
Debility	4	2	6	—	1	1	2	—
Anaemia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Catarrh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Br'chitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Knock- knee	—	—	—	—	2 referred hosp.	—	—	—
	19	5	9	1	6	2	5	4

Tuberculosis Dispensary Cases.

	Cured	Much im- proved	Im- proved	No imp' ment	Un- suit- able	Left Dis- trict	Failed to attend	Treat- ment refused	Ref. Hosp- ital
Glandular	—	10	4	—	3	1	—	—	—
T.B. Mesen- terica ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lupus ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Spine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
T.B. Knee (Sinuses)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	—	11	5	1	3	1	—	—	2

School Clinic Cases.

	Cured	Much im- proved	Im- proved	No. imp' ment	Un- suit- able	Left Dis- trict	Failed to attend	Treat- ment refused	Ref. H'sp- ital.
Glands in Neck (non-T.B.) ...	7	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Debility ...	6	2	2	—	—	—	5	—	—
Alopecia	5	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Catarrh and Otorrhoea	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Skin Irritation ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Eczema ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corneal Ulceration	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retinitis...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhinitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pre-Tuberc.	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goitre ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumat'm	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	19	5	—	2	—	9	—	—

The following cases are continuing treatment:—

M. & C.W. Cases.	Tuberculosis Cases.	School Cases.
Rickets ... 7	Glandular T.B. ... 19	Alopecia ... 4
Anaemia and Debility ... 3	Lupus ... 8	Cervical Glands (Non-T.B.) ... 2
Malnutrition ... 1	T.B. Sternum ... 1	Fragilatis Ossium ... 1
Bronchitis ... 1	T.B. Sinuses ... 1	Psoriasis ... 1
		Debility ... 2
		Anaemia ... 2
		Dermatis of Scalp ... 1
		Skin irritation ... 1
Total ... 12	Total ... 29	Total ... 14

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF EXPOSURE OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF "CURED" CASES.

	No. of Cured Cases.	Average No. of Attendances.	Average Length of Exposure. In Minutes.
Rickets ...	12	33	6
Debility ...	10	23	8
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-T.B.) ...	7	36	9
Alopecia ...	5	37	6 (local)
Catarrh and Otorrhoea ...	5	30	8
Anaemia ...	2	36	6
Skin irritation ...	2	36	7
Eczema ...	1	39 exposures	8
Retinitis ...	1	29 "	8
Corneal Ulceration ...	1	26 "	8
Rhinitis ...	1	6 "	8

The following table indicates the benefit derived by the Cured Cases of Rickets :—

Register No.	Age at Commence-ment	Ex-posures	Period	Weight			
				Commence-ment		End	
	yrs. mths.		months	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
59	1 8	74	13	18	7	32	—
105	1 10	19	3	21	—	26	3
109	1 0	20	3	22	8	23	—
144	1 5	41	7	22	8	26	2
153	1 0	34	6	19	—	22	6
154	1 1	54	5	17	—	19	12
155	3 0	33	3	24	5	25	7
175	0 9	38	6	21	14	25	12
190	1 0	31	4	15	12	20	10
217	0 8	30	5	16	13	20	8
236	0 6	20	3	18	8	20	8
238	1 7	18	4	21	8	23	12

The great discrepancy in the number of exposures and period of attendance at the Light Clinic is due to several causes as follows :

- (1) Irregular attenders.
- (2) The severity of the Rickets.
- (3) No case being discharged until there is definite X-ray evidence that Rickets has healed.

The following table indicates the exposures and period of attendance necessary, together with weights, before a "cure" could be pronounced in 7 of the cases of enlarged (non-tubercular) cervical glands undergoing "light" treatment during the year :—

Register No.	Age at Commence-ment	Ex-posures	Period	Weight			
				Commence-ment		End	
	yrs. mths.		months	st. lbs. ozs.		st. lbs. ozs.	
92	12 6	27	4	4	4 0	4	4 8
93	13 0	14	2	5	8 0	5	11 0
127	6 0	58	6½	3	2 0	3	4 0
160	5 0	60	5	2	10 8	2	12 8
206	8 0	42	6	3	1 0	3	4 0
220	7 7	25	4	3	10 0	3	13 8
242	7 0	25	4½	3	6 0	3	6 0

The following table indicates the number of exposures, period of attendance and weight at commencement and end of treatment of cured "debility" cases :—

Register No.	Age at Commencement	Exposures	Period	Weight	
				Commencement	End
	yrs. mths.		months	st. lbs. ozs.	st. lbs. ozs.
9	1 9	54	8	0 17 8	0 24 7
111	10	15	3	0 21 12	0 21 12
128	8 0	19	3	3 9 8	3 9 8
135	3 0	10	2	0 29 5	0 29 9
202	9 0	11	2	3 8 8	3 8 8
208	12 0	31	5	5 1 0	5 4 8
228	5 0	20	3	2 3 0	2 4 0
234	1 2	11	2	0 23 7	0 24 10
240	5 6	20	3	2 10 8	2 12 0
241	7 0	23	4	3 4 0	3 6 0

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS 1929 AND PREVIOUS TEN YEARS.

Year	Population R.G. estimation to middle of each year.	Nett Births		Nett Deaths belonging to the district.				Births and Deaths, Illegitimate Children		
		Number	Rate	Under 1 yr.		At all Ages.		Nett births	Nett deaths under 1 year	Death rate un- der 1 year per 1,000 Illegiti- mate Births
				Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number	Rate			
1919	72,814	1,717	23.4	177	103.0	1,052	15.0	61	15	245
1920	73,761	2,371	32.6	259	109.2	997	13.7	92	24	260
1921	75,300	2,156	28.6	209	96.9	954	12.6	76	23	302
1922	76,260	1,940	24.1	172	88.6	1,079	14.1	78	11	141
1923	77,600	1,866	24.17	164	87.8	973	12.5	56	10	178
1924	78,790	1,862	23.65	165	88.6	962	12.2	40	7	175
1925	79,490	1,821	22.9	180	98.8	950	11.9	48	10	95
1926	79,920	1,804	22.6	143	79.2	874	10.9	55	9	163
1927	81,140	1,643	20.2	176	107.	1,015	12.4	45	6	133
1928	80,680	1,686	21	126	74.7	843	10.5	34	6	176
10 years average.	77,575	1,886	24.3	177	93.3	969	12.5	58	12	186
1929	80,840	1,682	20.7	179	106.4	1,211	14.9	50	8	160.0

TABLE II.—WARD STATISTICS, 1929.

Wards.		Population Mid-June, 1929	Dwellings, Census 1921	Rooms per person, Census 1921	Persons per Acre, 1921	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Infants' deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	No. of Births	Birth Rate
NE	Sandwell ...	7,590	1,555	1.11	5.7	88	11.6	3	32.6	92	12.1
	Lyndon ...	8,000	1,036	0.90	3.3	132	16.5	24	90.2	266	33.2
	Tantany ...	11,757	2,122	0.91	35.2	184	15.6	26	114.03	228	19.4
	Hill Top ...	10,463	1,935	0.78	11.9	188	17.9	32	125.	256	24.4
	Hamstead ...	1,390	—	—	—	19	13.6	4	142.8	28	20.1
SW	Spon Lane ...	9,440	1,800	0.85	30.8	131	13.8	17	96.04	177	18.7
	Lyng ...	11,689	2,271	0.86	27.8	176	15.9	28	145.07	193	16.5
	Town Hall ...	9,616	1,943	0.98	38.5	126	13.1	12	69.7	172	17.7
Greets Green		10,895	1,996	0.76	17.2	167	15.3	33	122.2	270	24.7

TABLE III.—

Year	Pneumonia (all forms except Influenza Pneumonia)		Bronchitis & other Respira- tory Diseases (excluding Pneumonia & Tuberculosis)		Influenza		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pul. Tuberculosis		Heart Disease		Cancer		Puerperal Sepsis		Other diseases or Accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition	
	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Deaths	Death Rate
1919	95	1.3	136	1.8	114	1.5	52	.71	22	.30	62	.85	72	.98	—	—	2	1.2
1920	113	1.5	135	1.8	45	.61	57	.77	14	.18	52	.70	71	.92	2	.85	7	2.9
1921	103	1.3	95	1.2	14	.18	47	.62	13	.17	66	.87	66	.87	4	1.8	4	1.8
1922	149	1.9	157	2.0	46	.60	58	.76	14	.18	85	1.1	65	.85	7	3.4	4	1.9
1923	112	1.4	107	1.3	34	.45	48	.61	15	.19	71	.91	74	.95	—	—	5	2.6
1924	133	1.6	106	1.3	44	.55	49	.62	19	.24	76	.96	78	.99	2	1.0	2	1.0
1925	115	1.4	105	1.3	37	.46	59	.74	13	.16	58	.72	93	.92	5	5.3	3	3.1
1926	95	1.1	81	1.0	22	.27	47	.58	16	.20	89	1.1	102	1.2	2	2.1	4	4.3
1927	237	2.9	84	1.0	64	.78	46	.56	8	.09	104	1.2	79	.97	1	.6	3	1.8
1928	78	0.97	65	0.75	18	.224	61	.75	8	.099	114	1.42	91	1.13	2	.024	2	.024
1929	176	2.1	110	1.3	78	.96	56	.69	15	.19	152	1.8	87	1.07	4	.048	4	.048

TABLE IV. — CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1929.

CAUSES.	Deaths of Residents "In" or "out."										Deaths in Institutions			
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	Hallam Hospital	District Hospital	Fever Hospital	TOTAL
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	44	8	19	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	32	7	14	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Diphtheria	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Influenza	78	2	4	3	2	5	13	22	11	16	3	—	—	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	56	2	1	—	1	14	22	14	2	—	12	3	2	17
Other tuberculous diseases	15	3	1	—	4	2	3	1	1	—	6	3	1	10
Cancer, Malignant Disease	87	—	—	—	—	1	11	35	29	11	21	8	—	29
Rheumatic Fever	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diabetes	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	3	—	2	1	—	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	49	—	—	—	—	1	2	13	16	17	12	4	—	16
Heart Disease	152	—	—	—	4	7	12	42	43	44	18	1	—	19
Arterio-sclerosis	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	17	4	—	—	4
Bronchitis	93	12	3	1	—	—	3	17	28	29	11	1	—	12
Pneumonia (all forms)	176	34	35	26	6	5	15	28	15	12	91	4	—	95
Other Respiratory Diseases	17	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	4	8	1	—	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	2	1	—	—	1
Diarrhoea, etc.	32	21	5	2	—	—	1	—	2	1	11	—	—	11
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	27	—	—	—	—	1	7	11	5	3	7	1	—	8
Puerperal Sepsis	4	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	1	—	5
Congenital Debility and Malformation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	72	71	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	17
Suicide	7	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Deaths from Violence	41	—	—	5	8	4	8	8	3	5	2	18	—	20
Other defined Diseases	141	18	—	5	5	9	17	29	31	27	31	3	—	34
Causes ill-defined or unknown	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	1211	179	83	68	39	56	127	255	209	195	271	51	7	329

TABLE V.—BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1929.

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1000		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.											RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.	
	Live Births	Still- births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.		
England and Wales ...	16.3	0.68	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.15	0.08	0.74	0.55	8.1	74		
107 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	16.6	0.69	13.7	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.19	0.09	0.76	0.50	10.9	79		
157*Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000) ...	16.0	0.71	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.15	0.07	0.71	0.45	5.9	69		
London ...	15.7	0.53	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.26	0.08	0.69	0.56	10.7	70		
WEST BROMWICH ...	20.8	0.61	14.9	0.01	0.00	0.54	0.01	0.33	0.03	0.96	0.50	15.4	106		

REPORT
OF
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1929.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Thirty-First Annual Report of the Department under my charge.

No changes have occurred in the personnel of the Inspecting Staff (Messrs. W. W. Foakes, G. H. Shaw, J. E. Austin and F. A. Oakes), nor the Clerical Staff, and I have once more to acknowledge the loyal manner in which one and all have co-operated with me in the multifarious activities devolving upon a modern Sanitary Department.

Apart from the ordinary routine duties a considerable amount of additional work had to be undertaken in connection with the Inquiry held by the Ministry of Health in September last relating to the proposed Improvement Scheme for the Cooper Hill Street and Virgins End Unhealthy Area.

The total number of inspections of all classes was 33,632, a figure which must be regarded as extremely satisfactory in character

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

House-to-House Inspections.

The usual systematic Inspections required by the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations were continued.

In District 1, in addition to the houses comprised within the scope of the Improvement Scheme just mentioned, the houses lying between Sams Lane and the Great Western Railway were examined.

In District 2, the area dealt with comprised the section of Greets Green Ward bounded by Great Bridge Street, Charles Street and Henry Street, Claypit Lane and Greets Green Road.

In District 3, portions of Lyndon and Sandwell Wards south of All Saints Church and north of Dartmouth Park were examined, whilst in District 4 part of Tantany Ward immediately adjoining Dudley Street and Old Meeting Street were inspected.

A relatively small proportion only of the houses inspected were in our scheduled unhealthy areas, whilst, on the other hand, a not inconsiderable proportion were of a modern type, several subsidy dwellings erected under the Housing Act, 1923, being included.

In all 2,391 houses were examined and full particulars as to their circumstances are given in Table 2.

Of these 2,391 houses, 2,290 were working class dwellings, 101 being business premises or houses of a superior character.

One thousand, nine hundred and thirty-four houses were of the through type and 457 of the back-to-back or single varieties. One hundred and twenty houses had a single bedroom, 1,367 had two bedrooms, whilst 896 had three or more bedrooms. The ascertained population was 10,658, or an average of 4.5 per house.

One hundred and seventy-nine houses, or 7.5 per cent., had more than two inmates per room and were therefore regarded as overcrowded on the Registrar-General's basis. In addition, particulars were for the first time tabulated as to overcrowding as indicated by inadequacy of cubic space for sleeping purposes and what might be described as moral overcrowding, but this question will be discussed in a later section of the report.

In 291 cases, or 11.8 per cent., there were cases of two or more families residing in houses intended for the use of one family only.

The percentages under these heads in 1928 were: overcrowding 7.3 and two-or-more-family occupancy 14.5 per cent., which are almost identical with those reported last year.

In an interim report I presented to you last December, I gave figures concerning 1,991 houses inspected from six to nine years ago and again in 1929, and was able to show that the number of inmates resident in such houses had fallen from 9,432 to 8,898; the number of cases of multiple occupancy from 298 to 254; and the number of cases of overcrowding from 133 to 118; this being the first occasion since I have presented such comparative statistics that anything in the nature of an appreciable improvement has been indicated. I also pointed out in this report that it was in the Lyndon and Sandwell group of houses that the greatest improvement in the matter of multiple occupancy had occurred and that in the other districts both overcrowding and multiple occupancy were practically stationary.

Allusion was also made in this interim report to one or two special features in respect to overcrowding. It was pointed out that in a group of twelve small back-to-back houses situate in Henry Street, where the population was 6.2 per house, that 6 of the houses, or 50 per cent., were overcrowded; that in 3, or 25 per cent., of the houses there were instances of multiple tenancy.

A rather remarkable contrast was mentioned as regards conditions in privately erected and usually owner-occupied subsidy houses and Council houses in Claypit Lane and Phoenix Street.

In 86 privately erected houses the average population was 3.6 per house; in only 3 of the houses were there more than the single family residing and in but a single instance was there technical overcrowding. The 32 Council houses, on the other hand, had a population of 239 persons or 7.5 per house; there were 12 instances (37.5 per cent.) of multiple tenancy and 5 houses, or 15.6 per cent., were overcrowded.

Of the 2,391 houses, 179, or 7.5 per cent., were scheduled as unfit for habitation; 328, or 13.7 per cent., comprising most of the single and back-to-back houses, as falling below a reasonable standard; 360, or 15 per cent., as in a seriously defective state of repair; in 977 cases, or 40.8 per cent., cleansing and repairs of a minor character were requisite, whilst in 547 cases, or 22.9 per cent., the premises were in a fair or good condition.

Following these inspections a large number of communications were addressed to owners as to unsatisfactory conditions ascertained, and as a result considerable improvements in housing conditions were affected.

Miscellaneous Inspections.

Complaints numbering 382 have been investigated, and in addition court yards where conveniences are used in common have been periodically inspected. The total number of miscellaneous inspections made during the year was 12,603.

Notices Served and Legal Proceedings Instituted.

Two thousand, five hundred and seventeen preliminary or intimation notices relating to 6,662 houses were served, the number of re-inspections being 11,891.

In accordance with your instructions, 648 statutory notices were served, of which 611 were issued under the Public Health Acts and 37 under the Housing or local Acts.

Two summonses were issued against the joint occupiers of a house for permitting overcrowding. In the one case the summons was dismissed and in the other an Order was made for abatement and payment of costs.

Sanitary Improvements Effectuated.

The total number of nuisances abated as a result of notices served was 7,442.

The number of sanitary improvements was 7,498. Nine hundred and forty-nine houses were cleansed, whitewashed, distempered or repapered, repairs to the internal woodwork, plastering or brickwork of the interiors of 1,085 houses also being effected, and 633 roofs were made weathertight. Defective spouting was renewed or repaired in 527 instances, whilst external brickwork was repointed or covered with impervious coating in 407 cases. Seven hundred and six wash-houses or other outbuildings were lime-washed or repaired and 305 brick sinks were repaired or replaced with earthenware sinks.

Seventeen insanitary dry ashpits were abolished and galvanised ashbins substituted.

Nine hundred and forty-two ashbins were provided to replace wornout ones, of which 19 were supplied by us in default.

The foregoing summary shows that substantial results in the matter of sanitary improvements have been achieved, but, unhappily, only very slight progress can be reported as regards the abatement of overcrowding, although it is only right to state that the Housing Committee have assisted us in finding accommodation in some flagrant instances.

Realising that in the vast majority of cases service of notices in default of alternative accommodation was futile, only 29 notices to abate overcrowding were served. That such notices only represent a small proportion of the cases occurring will be realised when it is stated that no fewer than 344 cases of overcrowding came under our notice. Hitherto the standard of overcrowding adopted by the Registrar-General, viz. : more than two persons per room, has been taken into consideration, but when house-to-house inspections were made I arranged for particulars to be ascertained as regards overcrowding judged from the standpoint of inadequate separation of sexes, that is, where unmarried adults were sleeping in the room with persons of the opposite sex, which may be termed moral overcrowding, and inadequate cubic contents of bedrooms, the standard prescribed in the bye-laws relating to houses let in lodgings being the one selected.

Details based on this triple system of classification are available with respect to 321 houses.

In 200 cases houses were overcrowded according to the Registrar-General's method ; there were 200 cases of moral overcrowding and in 174 cases the cubic contents of bedrooms were inadequate. It follows, of course, that many of the houses were overcrowded from every standpoint, but analysis of the returns shows that 49 houses were overcrowded according to the Registrar-General's method and 19 from the cubic content aspect only, whilst 92 houses, although satisfactory otherwise, were morally overcrowded.

In two two-roomed houses there were 10 persons sleeping in the single bedroom ; in houses with 2 bedrooms there were 25 cases of 10 occupants per house, 22 cases of 11 occupants, 14 with 12, 6 with 13 and one each with 15, 16 and 19 occupants. It should be stated that this last-named case has been abated. In houses with 3 bedrooms there were two cases each of 12 and 13 occupants and 3 with fourteen. In these overcrowded houses there were 94 cases where two or more families were residing.

Apart from action taken as regards overcrowding, 168 intimation notices were addressed to occupiers with respect to the filthy state of sanitary conveniences, the improper keeping of animals, etc.

WORK UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

As already indicated, a considerable amount of time was devoted to the detailed examination of the houses included within Cooper Hill Street and Virgins End Unhealthy Area, and the preparation of the evidence and schedule of the sanitary circumstances of each individual dwelling for submission at the Public Inquiry.

Thirty-seven Closing Orders were made during the year, none of which were determined. Thirty Demolition Orders were made, an appeal being entered in one instance, the result of which has not at present come to hand, and fifteen houses were demolished.

At the end of the year there were in existence 168 houses the subject of Closing Orders, of which 144 were still occupied.

Twenty-two Notices relating to 38 houses were served under Section 3 of the Act requiring owners to make dwellings in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY

One thousand, nine hundred and seventy-two visits were paid to slaughterhouses, and 2,219 to butchers' shops.

The number of notifications received from cottagers of intention to slaughter was 254. In every instance the carcase was inspected.

In 80 instances (4 generalised and 76 localised) bovine carcases and in 121 instances (5 generalised and 116 localised) pigs' carcases, or 201 instances in all, tuberculosis was found to be present. In four other cases one of swine fever, one of enteritis, and two of extensive dropsy, pigs' carcases were condemned.

No seizures were necessary, the carcases affected being surrendered in every instance.

The following is a list of the foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed :—

UN SOUND OR DISEASED MEAT.

				lbs.				
Beef	5,599				
Pork	2,686				
Mutton	102				
				—	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
				8,387	3	14	3	15

FISH.

Roe	56			2	0
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TINNED FOODS.

Corned Beef	91				
Fish	21				
Milk	102				
Tomatoes	68				
				—				
				282		2	2	2

POULTRY, ETC.

Rabbit	...	...	...	4				4
Total	...				3	17	3	21

The number of Magistrates' Orders obtained for condemnation was 147.

There are at present 27 slaughterhouses on the Register, of which 14 are subject to an annual licence.

INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

The number of workshops and bakehouses on the Register at the end of the year was 200. The customary circular letters respecting the periodical limewashing of bakehouses were despatched twice during the year and re-inspections subsequently made. Apart from one or two exceptions such circular letters received prompt attention.

Five notices were received from the Home Office respecting factories or workshops. Notices were served on the firms concerned and where not already complied with at the close of the year the work was in hand.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Two applications were received for the registration of cowsheds, one of which was granted, the other being abandoned as the proposed premises were let for other purposes. Four applications were received to register premises for the sale of raw milk of which, however, only one was granted. Eight applications for purveyors of raw milk from conveyances and 9 for selling bottled (sterilized) milk were also granted.

At the end of the year there were on the register 21 cowkeepers and 235 dairies and milkshops or persons residing outside the district.

The number of licences issued for the sale of Graded Milks under the Milk (Special Designations) Order was 21, as compared with 19 in 1928. These comprised : Certified Milk (Dealers' Licences), 2 ; Grade A (Dealers' Licences), 10 and 4 Supplementary Licences ; Grade A T.T. (Supplementary Licences), 3 ; and Grade A (Pasteurised, Supplementary Licences), 2. The amount received for fees was £4.

Four samples of Certified Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, B. Coli being present in 3 instances. Of the eight samples of Grade A milk also submitted, in every instance the bacterial count was low, but in one instance only was B. Coli absent. In the case of a sample of Pasteurised Milk the bacterial count was unduly high.

A sample of milk was taken for biological examination and this was reported to contain no tubercle bacilli.

Two cases were reported under the Tuberculosis Order and the animals were slaughtered, localised tuberculosis being found in each case. The amount received by way of salvage was £8 15s.

WORK UNDER SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS AND FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT.

During the year samples were taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act and handed to the Borough Analyst.

Details as to the results of analysis will be found in the report of the Borough Analyst appended thereto.

A sample of milk taken from a retail shop having been certified as deficient in fat, a further sample was taken in course of delivery from the wholesaler to the shop and this was also found to be deficient in fat. Proceedings were taken both against wholesaler and retailer, the former being fined £5 and 25s. 6d. costs, and the retailer ordered to pay the costs, 29s. 6d.

A third prosecution had reference to a sample of milk deficient in fat and here defendant was ordered to pay the costs, amounting to 39s. 6d.

Two formal and one informal samples of Feeding Stuff were taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, but although none of them were in strict accordance with the compositions as declared on the labels, the variations were too slight to permit of action being taken.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The number of premises on the Register of Offensive Trades is now 105, the trades registered comprising Bone Boiler and Fat Melter 1, Fish Friers 104.

Eight applications were made to establish the trade of fish frying, two of which were refused, the remaining six being granted.

The proceedings with respect to alleged effluvia nuisances from a fat melting and bone boiling business were adjourned *sine die* to permit of the proprietor undertaking certain alterations.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

The licences for the two registered Common Lodging Houses were renewed and both these and the Houses let in Lodgings on the Register have been kept under constant supervision. In conjunction with the Borough Surveyor and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, action was taken to secure more adequate measures of protection against fire, and many of the owners or occupiers adopted wholly or in part the recommendations made.

Three summonses were issued against owners or occupiers of two houses let in lodgings for infringements of Bye-laws, but the necessary works having been effected the summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs.

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THEATRES, MUSIC HALLS, ETC.

The usual inspections of the local theatres and cinemas have taken place and reports submitted to the Magistrates or Watch Committee as occasion required. Defects requiring remedying were afterwards dealt with.

RENTS RESTRICTION ACTS.

Seven applications were made for Certificates under the Rents Restriction Acts, all of which were granted. In one of these cases, where the necessary works had been completed, a Certificate was subsequently granted to the owner.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Two cases of Enteric or Paratyphoid Fever have been investigated and assistance also given to the Medical Officer of Health where difficulty had occurred in securing removal of patients to Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Three hundred and thirty-three rooms were disinfected.

WORK UNDER THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT.

Owing to the extensions at Great Barr Colony it was possible to secure the removal of no fewer than twenty cases of Mental Deficiency to that Institution, whilst in addition I removed a West Bromwich male patient from Ruthin to the Barr Colony. A considerable number of visits incident to obtaining Orders in these cases and also in investigating reports of other instances of alleged Mental Deficiency were made. In eight cases I obtained Orders on parents to contribute towards maintenance of patients.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND DRY REFUSE.

At the end of the year 1929 there were approximately 15,650 water closets and 444 privies and privy pails and 66 cesspools in connection with dwelling houses, public buildings and works in the Borough.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse from Privies and Cesspools.

No additional sewers having been installed, it has been impossible to reduce the percentage of houses with privies, which remain the same as in 1928, viz. : 2.3. A limited number of occupiers of

cottages or farms emptied their privies and utilised their contents for manurial purposes. Apart from such exceptional cases, the whole of the contents of privies and cesspools were removed by the Department.

In the report for 1928 the work of removal in Barr Ward was for a period of nine months only, but during 1929 work was continuously carried on for the whole of the year, so that there was a marked increase of cleansing activities in all respects.

The number of emptyings of privy pails was 1,879 ; of middens and privy cisterns 608, and of cesspools 200. The number of loads removed from privies and cesspools was 1,784, with an estimated tonnage of 1,996.

Agricultural land was largely made use of for disposal purposes, the remaining wet refuse being tipped in the disused quarry at Hamstead.

The cost of this branch of the work was £722, the details being as follows :—

	£
Fillers' Wages	292
Transport Charges	386
Wednesbury Corporation for emptying Works	
privy	4
Rent of tip	34
Implements, repairs and incidentals	6
	<hr/>
	£722
	<hr/>

The cost in 1928 was £584.

Removal of Dry Refuse.

Thirteen thousand, two hundred and seventy-three ashbins, serving 16,787 houses, were, with few exceptions, emptied weekly, the number of dry ashpits, 292, in connection with 457 houses, with water closets being emptied at less frequent intervals.

“ Ford Tonners,” hired from the Motor Transport Department, have again been exclusively employed for the removal of this class of refuse.

The total tonnage is the highest recorded for some years, as will be seen from the following figures : 1925, 19,640 ; 1926, 23,122 ; 1927, 22,594 ; 1928, 22,584 ; 1929, 23,462.

The figures for last year are made up as follows : ashbin refuse, 21,058 tons ; ashpit refuse, 950 tons ; Hallam House and Wigmore Schools, 1,243 tons ; and trade refuse, 211 tons.

Our gross collection costs amounted to £7,399, as compared with £6,817 in the previous year, the gross cost of collection per ton being 6s. 3.3d., as compared with 6s. 0.9d. per ton in 1928, such increase being largely attributable to the increased charge for lorry hire made by the Transport Department since July last, our transport costs per ton last year being 3s. 0.8d., as compared with 2s. 10.7d. in 1928.

The following are details of the dry refuse collection costs :—

	£
Wages	3,738
Lorry Hire	3,600
Implements and Repairs	41
Incidental Expenses and Sundries	20
	<hr/>
	£7,399

The cost of collection per ton of ashbin refuse was 6s. 6.3d., dry ashpit refuse 7s. 3.1d. per ton, and Hallam House and Wigmore Schools refuse 3s. 10d. per ton.

The collection of refuse from a house with an ashbin costs 8s. per annum, and that from a house using an ashpit 15s. 1.2d., the respective yields being 25.1 cwt. and 41.5 cwt.

The estimated yield of refuse from a house with a privy or cesspool was 92.2 cwt. and the cost 33s. 4.2d. per house per annum.

The sum of £83 was received for the collection of trade refuse and rent of old tipping ground.

The net cost of removal of refuse of every description was £8,038, as compared with £7,341 in 1928 ; £6,758 in 1927 ; £6,585 in 1926 ; £5,985 in 1925 ; £6,138 in 1924 ; £6,789 in 1923 ; £7,708 in 1922 ; and £10,212 in 1921.

Refuse removal in 1929 involved a rate of 7.6d. in the £. the cost per 1,000 of the population being £99 8s. 2d. ; per head of population 1s. 11d. ; per 1,000 houses (excluding Hallam House and Wigmore Schools) £451 2s. 8d. ; and per house per annum, nearly 9s.

It may be of interest to add that the cost of scavenging Barr Ward during the year is estimated to have exceeded £600.

A factor which hereafter may play some considerable part in increasing collection costs is the increased distance which ashbins have to be conveyed from the modern type of house to the lorry. Not only are the houses more widely dispersed on the new housing sites but they stand back a considerable distance from the road, which means a greater length of carry. I have had some investigations made on this point and distances have been measured in the

case of 14 typical houses situate on the Charlemont and Friar Park Housing Estate, from which I find that the distance from the place of storage of the ashbin to the street kerb varies from 60 feet to 300 feet, the average length of carry being 176 feet.

Disposal of Dry Refuse.

During the year 7,563 tons of refuse were deposited on land rented from the Estates Committee the controlled method of tipping and daily covering of refuse being adopted. Owing to a dangerous subsidence on the old Littleton Street tip it became necessary to fill in the former pit shafts, and 881 tons of refuse were disposed of in this fashion. The remaining 15,018 tons of refuse were received at the Disposal Works, the dust after screening being tipped on land adjoining.

The particulars of the working costs of disposal are as follows :—

	£
Wages	1,498
Lighting, Power and Water	116
Repairs and Maintenance	304
Tipping Dust (Horse Hire)	676
Rates, etc.	464
Oil and Sundries	38
	<hr/>
	£3,096
	<hr/>

The figures for the three preceding years were £3,154, £3,507 and £3,864, respectively.

There was again a marked falling off in our sales, caused partly by the larger proportion of refuse tipped and partly by the circumstance that there has been a marked decrease in the cinder content of ashbins.

Particulars of salvage sales are :—

	£
Washed Cinders	52
Scrap Metals	308
Bones	34
Bottles and Jars... ..	12
Glass Cullett	7
Bagging	4
	<hr/>
	£417
	<hr/>

The amount received for public weighings was only £26, making a total income of £443, the net working expenditure being £2,653, as compared with £2,620 in 1928.

The net working cost of disposal was 2s. 3.1d.

The loan charges on the former destructor were reduced to £659, thus making the total net cost of disposal £3,312, or the equivalent of a rate of 3.11d. in the £.

The combined rate for removal and disposal of all classes of refuse was 10.61d. in the £.

The average total cost of removing and disposing of refuse was about 12s. 10d. per house or roughly 3d. per week, or per head of population 2s. 10.8d., or the equivalent of two-thirds of a penny per week.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. H. SPEARS,

Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Association,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

	1929
House-to-House Inspections	2,391
Special Housing Inspections	772
Miscellaneous Inspections, including the Inspection of common yards and houses concerning which com- plaints have been received	12,603
Re-inspections	11,891
Visits to Slaughter-houses	1,972
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	401
Visits to Shops (Butchers')	2,219
Visits to Bakehouses, Factories and Workshops	114
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	129
Visits in connection with Mental Deficiency Act	138
Sundry Visits	493
Visits to Theatres, etc.	18
Visits to Offensive Trades	194
Visits under Meat Regulations "Notices to Kill"	254
Infectious Disease—Contacts	43
	<hr/> 33,632 <hr/>

	1929
Number of Preliminary Notices Served	2,517
Number of Statutory Notices Served	648
Number of Letters written to Owners re Nuisances	176
Number of Letters written to Owners re Ashbins	52
Reports sent to Housing Manager re Nuisances, etc.	16
Reports sent to Borough Surveyor, re Dangerous Build- ings, etc.	39
Reports sent to Water Company, re Wastes of Water	4
Number of Rooms Disinfected	333
Applications for Certificates under Rent Act	7
Number of Certificates Granted	7

TABLE II.
PARTICULARS OF HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

No. of District	Total House Inspections	Through	Single	Back to back	Bedrooms			Working Class	Others	Population	Overcrowding			Unit	Below Standard	Seriously Defective	Want of Minor Repairs and Cleansing.	Fair	Privy System.	Not Sewered.
					1	2	3 or more				R.G. Standard	Cubic Space	Moral							
1.—W. W. FOAKES	636	530	67	39	45	489	102	626	10	2960	58	46	79	91	95	39	204	215	83	1
2.—G. H. SHAW ...	536	358	50	128	38	301	197	530	6	2590	68	42	39	75	41	145	63	182	105	1
3.—J. E. AUSTIN	664	606	32	26	21	328	315	589	75	2798	31	43	48	68	24	43	77	301	219	1
4.—F. A. OAKES	555	440	43	72	24	249	282	545	10	2310	22	27	29	60	19	101	16	279	140	—
Totals ...	2391	1924	192	265	128	1367	896	2210	101	10658	179	158	195	294	179	328	360	977	547	3
																				2

TABLE III.

Preliminary Notices Served and Number of Houses in connection therewith.

			Notices Served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
To make Houses fit for Habitation	...	...	467	1,355
Dirty and Dilapidated Houses	...	...	557	1,364
Dirty and Dilapidated Out-buildings	...	...	186	495
Defective Paving and Surface Channels	...	...	17	54
Defective Eaves and Down Spouting	...	...	69	160
Choked Drainage and W.C.'s	...	...	187	565
Insufficient Ashbin Accommodation	...	...	460	1,382
Defective W.C. Connections	...	...	186	564
Dirty State of Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	78	93
Overcrowded Rooms	...	...	18	18
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	8	8
Dirty Yards and Offensive Accumulations	...	...	120	138
Water in Cellars	...	...	7	9
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	119	388
Filthy Bakehouses	...	...	—	—
Slaughter-houses not in accordance with the Regula- tions	...	...	2	2
Dangerous Wells and Cisterns	...	...	9	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	22	35
Workshops with Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	...	...	5	5
Totals			2,517	6,662

TABLE IV.

Sanitary Improvements carried out in District in Pursuance of Inspections made and Notices Served.

INTERIORS OF HOUSES—

Filthy Houses Cleansed and Whitewashed	...	...	949
Houses in which Repairs to Plastering, Brickwork or Woodwork have been carried out	...	...	1,085
Flooded Cellars Drained or Filled in	...	...	16
Houses without sufficient means of Ventilation, Window Openings, or other means provided	...	...	134

EXTERIORS OF HOUSES—

Defective Roofs made Watertight	...	...	...	633
Houses without Eaves Spouting, or with Choked or Defective Spouting—New Spouting provided or existing Spouting Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	527
Damp External Walls, Brickwork Repaired or Covered with Impervious Material	...	...	...	407
Dangerous Chimneys Repaired or Repointed	...	...	...	147

YARDS AND OUTBUILDINGS—

Surface Paving in Yards provided, Renewed or Repaired	...	...	...	40
Dangerous Wells or Cisterns filled in or suitable Covers provided	...	...	...	55
New Earthenware Sinks provided in lieu of old Brick Sinks or Old Sinks Repaired	...	...	...	305
Dirty and Dilapidated Outbuildings Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	706
Dangerous Boundary Walls Repaired	...	...	...	21

DRAINAGE—

Surface Channels abolished and Stoneware Pipe Drains provided	...	...	...	8
Defective Drainage Re-laid or Repaired	...	...	...	73
Number of Manhole Inspection Chambers provided to Drainage Systems	...	...	...	8
Additional Gullies Fixed	...	...	...	17
Choked Drainage Opened and Cleansed	...	...	...	196
Covers provided to Inspection Chambers	...	...	...	25

PRIVIES, WATER CLOSETS, AND ASHPITS—

Privies Abolished	...	...	...	11
Middens Abolished	...	...	...	4
Dry Ashpits Abolished and Dustbins Substituted	...	...	...	17
Water Closets with Flush Cisterns Substituted for Privies	...	...	...	7
Fresh Water Closets Substituted for Waste Water Closets or other Accommodation	...	...	...	3
Additional Ashbins Provided	...	...	...	942
Choked Water Closets Opened and Cleansed	...	...	...	143
Defective W.C. Connections made good	...	...	...	319
Insufficient Supply of Water to W.C.'s, Flush Improved	...	...	...	281
Offensive Urinal Repaired	...	...	...	2
Offensive Urinal abolished	...	...	...	1

KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS—

Nuisances from the keeping of Swine abated	...	...	7
Offensive Accumulations	23

OVERCROWDING—

Houses overcrowded—Numbers reduced	29
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MISCELLANEOUS—

Manure Pits Provided or Repaired	4
Miscellaneous Nuisances Abated	11
Dirty Approaches to Privies and Conveniences Cleansed by Occupiers	...	...	138
Vans removed from District	...	...	12

WATER SUPPLY—

Houses without a proper supply of Drinking Water, Water Laid on	136
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FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT—

Dirty and Dilapidated Bakehouses or Workshops Cleansed or Repaired	4
Additional Closet Accommodation Provided or Existing Accommodation Improved	2

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

Floors Repaired. etc	5
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HOUSING ACT—

Houses Unfit for Habitation—Closed	32
Houses Unfit for Habitation—Demolished	13
Total	...	...	7498

TABLE V.
RESULTS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint.	Act under which proceedings instituted.	Result.
290 High Street	Failure to comply with Bye-laws relating to repairs etc.	Bye-laws, Houses let in Lodgings.	Case adjourned, works executed and summons adjourned on payment of costs 25s. 6d.
Burlington Road	Milk deficient in natural fat.	Food and Drugs Act, 1928, Section 27.	Vendor-retailer ordered to pay costs 29s. 6d.
Burlington Road	Milk deficient in natural fat.	Ditto.	Wholesaler fined £5 and ordered to pay costs 25s. 6d.
21 Red Cow Yard	Failure to relinquish possession of a dwelling house.	Housing Act, 1925 Section 13.	Order made for possession.
28 Rydding Square	For permitting overcrowding.	Public Health Act, 1875 Section 95.	Two summonses issued on joint occupiers. Summons dismissed in one case and in other, order made for abatement.
98 Hill Top	Failure to comply with Bye-laws as to repairs.	Bye-laws, Houses let in Lodgings.	Case adjourned, works executed and summons withdrawn on payment of costs 4s.
98 Hill Top	For permitting overcrowding.	Ditto.	Overcrowding abated. Summons withdrawn on payment of costs 4s.
Dudley Road	Milk deficient in natural fat.	Food and Drugs Act, 1928, Section 27.	Vendors ordered to pay costs £1 19s. 6d.
3 Albion Road	Failure to relinquish possession of a dwelling house.	Housing Act, 1925 Section 13.	Order made for possession
Ebenezer Wharf Cottage	Failure to relinquish possession of a dwelling house.	Ditto.	Order made for possession.

TABLE VI.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(A) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	529
(B) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...						379

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,975
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,391
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...							1,665

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	310
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—							
(A) By Owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
(B) By Local Authority in default of Owners							—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1,024
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—	
(A) By Owners	740
(B) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 14 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders... ..	37
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	37
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	33
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7

TABLE VII.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	8	3	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	106	2	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	114	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation (insufficient	2	2	—	—
(unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
(not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total	5	5	—	—

There was no "Outwork" carried on in Unwholesome Premises during the year

BOROUGH ANALYST'S REPORT.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1928.

I beg to report that during the year 1929, 141 samples of foods and drugs were received from Mr. Spears for analysis under the above Act.

The practice of purchasing a portion of the samples in an informal manner was followed as in previous years, but with one exception no adulteration was brought to light by this method during the past year.

In the appended table a complete list of the foods and drugs analysed is given, and as heretofore they are divided into three classes :—

- (1) Genuine and of good quality.
- (2) Genuine, complying with the necessarily low standards, but of poor quality.
- (3) Adulterated.

Description of Articles.	Total Number of Samples	Official Samples	Unofficial Samples	Genuine		Inferior		Adulterated.		Remarks.
				Official	Unofficial	Official	Unofficial	Official	Unofficial	
Milk ...	93	85	8	67	6	13	—	5	2	Preservatives abs. Boron preservatives absent. Sulphur dioxide in 4 samples. Boron preservatives absent.
Butter ...	5	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	
Cream ...	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Sausage ...	10	3	7	1	5	—	—	2	2	
Seidlitz Powder	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	Boron compounds absent.
Margarine ...	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Camp'ed Oil	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Cod Liver Oil	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Castor Oil ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	Preservatives abs.
Coffee ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Cocoa ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Self-Raising Fl.	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Malt Vinegar	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	Preservatives abs.
Compound Liq- uorice Powder	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Glycerine ...	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Epsom Salts...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Sponge Cake...	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	Preservatives abs.
Borax ...	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Cream of Tartar	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Sweet Spirits of Nitre	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Pepper ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	Preservatives abs.
Salmon and Shrimp Paste	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Flowers of Sulphur...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
	141	89	52	69	48	13	—	7	4	

The table given above shows that 11 samples—seven official and four unofficial—compared with seven in the previous year, were condemned. Included in this number are two unofficial milk samples yielded by single cows in the investigation of a milk distributor's supply, and were not retailed alone, but only after mixing with the whole herd milk, which showed the milk fat contents to be well above the Board of Agriculture figure of 3 per cent.

The next table gives a list of the adulterated foods and drugs with particulars of the adulteration, and the action taken against the vendors.

Description of Article.	Nature and extent of Adulteration.	Remarks.
Milk (formal) 4106	Deficient of 4% of its natural fat	Vendor cautioned
Milk (formal) 4143	Deficient of 8% of its natural fat	Vendor cautioned
Milk (formal) 4145	Deficient of 8% of its natural fat	Vendor cautioned
Milk (formal) 4151	Deficient of 14% of its natural fat	Vendor prosecuted, Paid costs £1 19s. 6d.
Milk (informal) 4158	Deficient of 14% of its non-fatty solids	Single cow of herd, giving fat deficiency. See sample 4151
Milk (informal) 4160	Deficient of 8% of its non-fatty solids	Single cow of herd, giving fat deficiency. See sample 4151.
Unpreserved sausage (formal) 4163	Contained 208 parts by weight of sulphur dioxide per million of sausage	Vendor cautioned
Unpreserved sausage (informal) 4200	Contained 230 parts by weight of sulphur dioxide.	
Unpreserved sausage (formal) 4202	Contained 283 parts by weight of sulphur dioxide	Same vendor as 4200. Reported to Staffordshire, where sausage was made.
Milk (formal) 4204	Deficient of 3% of non-fatty solids	Vendor cautioned
Unpreserved sausage (informal) 4223	Contained 294 parts by weight of sulphur dioxide	A formal sample taken from same vendor later was genuine.

Milk as usual provided the bulk of the samples, nearly two thirds representing that very general food.

Five formal samples taken in the course of delivery failed to comply with the Milk Regulations of the Board of Agriculture, though the departure from the limits was generally slight, being probably due to a lack of systematic stirring when serving the milk, rather than deliberate adulteration. In only one instance was it thought desirable to prosecute, the vendor paying costs.

The two informal milks which fell below the standard were obtained in an investigation of the quality yielded by a herd of cows, which it was claimed gave an inferior supply as regards fat. The composition of the mixed milk of the whole herd showed a rich

milk containing 4.63 per cent of fat, and no single cow showed a fat deficiency. Two cows however yielded milks deficient in non-fatty solids.

In addition to the adulterated samples, thirteen milks, though complying with the Regulations, were of poor quality. Preservatives were not detected in the supply throughout the year.

Sausage was responsible for the other condemned samples. Under the "Preservatives in Food Regulations" it is forbidden to sell sausage containing sulphur dioxide without a declaration as to its presence, the quantity also being limited to 450 parts by weight of the preservative per million of sausage.

Two informal and two formal samples were sold without the necessary declaration, but in every case the quantity of sulphur dioxide was well below the limit of the Regulations.

In one instance (formal sample 4161) the vendor was cautioned, whilst the presence of the preservative in samples 4200 and 4202 was reported to the Staffordshire County Authority, in whose district the sausage was prepared.

A formal sample taken from the vendor of sample 4223 complied with the Regulations, there being a declaration as to the presence of the preservative, which was well within the prescribed limits.

The butters and margarines were genuine, and also the other foods enumerated in the table.

The various drugs complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopæia, and were therefore reported to be satisfactory.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

HARRY SILVESTER,

Public Analyst.

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