

[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, West Bromwich County Borough.

Contributors

West Bromwich (England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1946

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THE HEALTH OF WEST BROMWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

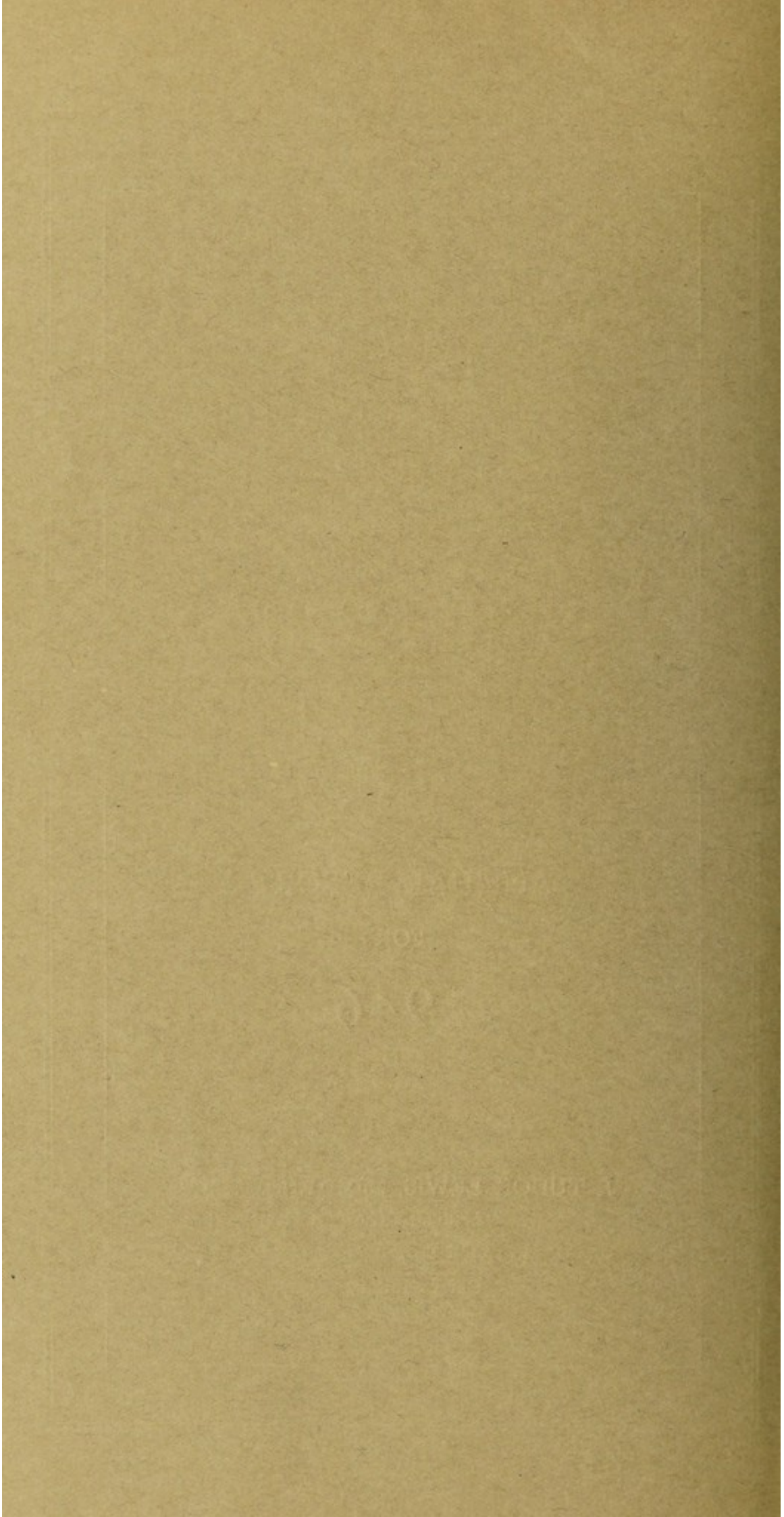
1946

J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

W. W. FOAKES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector





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*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for 1946 on the health of West Bromwich.

Dr. W. S. Walton resigned his position as Medical Officer of Health in September, 1946, and for the remainder of the year, Dr. W. N. Gibbs acted as Medical Officer of Health. Soon after the end of the year, Dr. Gibbs also resigned her appointment, so that it falls to me to present to you a report for a period during which I was not responsible for the services. I have felt it best, therefore, under these circumstances, to present to you a report mainly factual in character, without making more than a minimum of comment on the figures and statistics.

General Vital Statistics. There was an appreciable increase in the number of live births during 1946, namely 1,729 compared with 1,541 in 1945, this giving a birth rate of 20.91. The total number of deaths was slightly diminished and the death rate was accordingly reduced to 10.89 from 12.05. The principal causes of death did not show appreciable alterations from the previous year, although there were minor variations. Deaths from Cancer, Heart Disease, Intracranial Vascular Lesions and Respiratory affections accounted for the majority of the deaths.

General Health. The general health of the town again remained fairly satisfactory throughout the year, there being no outstanding epidemics or outbreaks of disease.

Infectious Diseases. There was a diminished incidence of infectious disease in 1946 as compared with the previous year, due in part to a considerable reduction in the incidence of measles, that is to say, 42 cases were notified as compared with 554 in 1945. As regards the other infectious diseases, among minor variations the most welcome was a reduction in the incidence of diphtheria from 87 in 1945 to 29 in 1946. Two patients died from this disease in 1946, this being the same figure as for 1945.

Maternity and Child Welfare. Three women died in childbirth in 1946 compared with only one in 1945, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.68 compared with 0.63. Of these three deaths, one was due to sepsis. Where the numbers dealt with are comparatively small, a maternal death which might be due to a fortuitous or unavoidable happening, greatly affects the maternal mortality rate. Although the maternal mortality rate can never be regarded as satisfactory until it is nil, it is a fact that unfortunately it is practically impossible always to prevent unavoidable deaths.

The infant mortality rate was 49.74 compared with 51.91 in the previous year. This rate is slightly above that for the County Boroughs, which is 46, and for the whole of England and Wales, which is 43, but for an industrial town of the nature of West Bromwich, is not an unsatisfactory figure.

References to other subjects such as Housing, are made in the body of the Report, to which I would refer members.

Although I write with only 6 months experience of the work in West Bromwich, I already am fully aware of the great help and co-operation which the Medical Officer of Health receives from all persons concerned, directly or indirectly with the health of the town. I feel it right that I should express the thanks and appreciation of the Public Health Department, to all those who have contributed to the work during 1946. On behalf of the senior members of the Health Department and the Hospitals, I should like to acknowledge the assistance and support received from all members of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

24th June, 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population.

The population figure given by the Registrar-General for calculation of birth and death rates is 82,670, although the number previously stated as being the estimated population (civilians only) at 31/12/46 was 83,920.

Births.

	1945	1946
Number of live births	1,541	1,729
Birth Rate	19.30	20.91

Deaths (Civilians only).

The total number of deaths was 900, compared with 962 in 1945.

	1945	1946
DEATH RATE	12.05	10.89
MATERNAL DEATHS:		
Sepsis	Nil.	1
Other Causes	1	2
MATERNAL DEATH RATE	0.63	1.68
INFANTILE DEATHS	80	86
INFANTILE DEATH RATE	51.91	49.74

Principal Causes of Death.

The following table indicates the principal causes of death during the year.

Heart		161
Cancer		138
Intra-cranial vascular lesions		99
Bronchitis		73
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		57
Pneumonia		40

Deaths from violent causes show an increase on last years figure, but on the whole compare favourably with recent years as is shown below.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Suicides	28	6	6	10	9	10	10
Road Accidents	16	15	12	15	7	8	7
Other Violent Causes	31	34	30	26	22	21	32
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	55	55	48	51	38	39	49
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DEATHS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS.

Causes of Death.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Yearly Average
Cancer	112	120	107	110	112	121	124	132	173	138	124.9
Heart Disease	170	182	168	167	168	170	148	138	143	161	161.5
Pneumonia	95	108	74	84	74	48	85	56	39	40	70.3
Bronchitis & other Respiratory Diseases	56	57	64	113	108	54	74	88	95	90	79.9
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	55	58	61	81	81	91	79	77	105	99	78.7
Tuberculosis:											
(a) Pulmonary	61	53	56	75	75	65	64	54	54	57	61.4
(b) Non-Pulmonary	5	10	11	12	7	11	7	11	8	9	9.1
(c) Total (all forms)	66	63	67	87	82	76	71	65	62	66	70.5

Increasing Age at Death.

The proportion of deaths which occurred in persons 65 years of age and over was 49.77% compared with 51.66% in 1945.

Infant Deaths.

The rate of 49.74 per 1,000 live births compares with 46 for the County Boroughs and 43 for the whole of England and Wales.

INFANT DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS FOR 10 YEARS, 1937—1946.

Year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total
1937	54	13	20	11	8	106
1938	53	12	11	10	4	90
1939	53	12	10	7	5	87
1940	45	26	16	5	10	102
1941	43	14	28	6	2	93
1942	37	12	11	8	4	72
1943	38	15	24	8	7	92
1944	60	20	29	4	4	117
1945	34	13	20	8	5	80
1946	38	15	17	10	6	86
10 Years' Average	45.5	15.2	18.6	7.7	5.5	92.5

INFANT DEATHS, 1946—CAUSES OF DEATH.
(Local Registration).

Cause of Death	Under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 year
Congenital Defects	26	4	2	—	—	32
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	8	5	1	2	17
Pneumonia	1	2	4	3	—	10
Premature Birth	9	—	—	—	—	9
Bronchitis	—	—	1	2	1	4
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	1	—	3
Violence	—	—	1	—	2	3
T.B. Meningitis	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Causes	1	—	—	1	—	2
Totals.....	38	15	17	10	6	86

Of these children 77 were legitimate and 9 illegitimate.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS IN 1946.

WHEN DEATH OCCURRED										Total Deaths
1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	under 1 month
16	1	6	—	4	—	1	7	2	1	38

Causes of Death.

Prematurity	9
Congenital Defects and Birth Injury	26
Pneumonia	1
Diarrhœa	1
Other Causes	1
Totals.....	38

Of these children, 36 were legitimate and 2 illegitimate. 15 were premature infants.

INFECTIOUS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

(a) **Infectious Diseases—Incidence.**

	Notifications.	
	1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	142	144
Diphtheria	87	29
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	3
Erysipelas	10	19
Measles	554	42
Whooping Cough	106	195
Pneumonia	51	31
Others	24	44
Totals	974	507

(b) Deaths from Infectious Diseases (R.G. figures).

	1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	2	—
Measles	2	1
Whooping Cough	4	4
Diphtheria	2	2
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	2
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	54	57
Non-Pulmonary	8	9
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2
Totals	74	77

(c) Deaths from Respiratory Diseases (R.G. figures).

	1945	1946
Bronchitis	79	73
Pneumonia	39	40
Other Respiratory Diseases	16	17
Totals	134	130

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The number of children immunised during 1946 was as follows:—

Under 5 years	1,044
5 to 15 years	271
Total	1,315

Report on Infectious Diseases Hospital.

This report appears on page 17 under the "Hospital Services" section.

WATER SUPPLIES

The public water supply is provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. Ltd., and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The Barr area is the part of the Borough supplied by the City of Birmingham. The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company obtain their water from a group of pumping stations situated in the Cannock Chase district and also from the district between Sutton Coldfield and Lichfield.

The number of dwellings obtaining their water supply from wells is limited to isolated houses in the rural areas, or to farms.

Bacteriological examinations were made of 14 samples of water, with the following results:—

	No.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
From Wells	7	5	2
From South Staffs. Water Co.	6	6	—
From City of Birmingham supply	1	1	—

The water supply for the areas was generally satisfactory during the year, both in quantity and quality.

Seven samples of water taken for bacteriological examination from the piped supply were all satisfactory.

One sample of water taken for chemical analysis was satisfactory and free from plumbo-solvent action.

Two samples of water obtained from a deep well and submitted for bacteriological examination were unsatisfactory. The well was cleansed and chlorinated, and a further sample taken proved satisfactory.

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied with water from the mains is as under:—

	Houses.	Population.	Percentage.
(a) Direct to houses	18,425	71,978	86.66%
(b) Houses sharing standpipes	1,004	3,811	4.72%
(c) Houses sharing common taps	1,811	6,881	8.52%

The majority of the houses sharing standpipes are included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

HOUSING

In the Annual Reports for 1943, 1944 and 1945, reference was made to the overcrowding and deterioration of the housing conditions in the town. This, of course, is not a state of affairs which is in any way peculiar to West Bromwich. It is, indeed, a nation-wide problem. Some progress, however, was made in 1946 in the provision of new houses, and I am indebted to the Borough Treasurer for the following information.

1st January to 31st December, 1946—New houses occupied.

Traditional type	.....	.....	46
B.S.C.	.....	.....	6
Temporary bungalows	.....	.....	130
			<hr/>
Total	.....	.....	182
			<hr/>

It will be some time before the housing programme makes any obvious impression on the very unsatisfactory conditions under which many people are living at the present time. One cannot but admire the patience and fortitude with which those people living in unsatisfactory environs put up with their lot.

TUBERCULOSIS

The arrangements in connection with the Authority's Anti-Tuberculosis Scheme were continued as in 1945.

The following tables show the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the war years and in 1946, and it will be seen that the number of notified cases again decreased slightly.

During 1946, the total attendances at the Dispensary numbered 4,627 compared with 4,364 in 1945 and 3,583 in 1944.

Overcrowding and bad housing conditions still remain the greatest obstacles in the spread of Tuberculosis. 85 of the Pulmonary cases notified in 1946 were living in a house with five or more persons, and in 42 cases, in houses with seven or more persons.

Incidence of Tuberculosis and Rate of Incidence, (Primary Notifications).

Year.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1940	96	17	113	1.22	0.22	1.44
1941	102	12	114	1.3	0.15	1.45
1942	139	14	153	1.77	0.18	1.95
1943	156	18	174	1.99	0.23	2.22
1944	160	11	171	2.04	0.14	2.18
1945	154	13	167	1.91	0.16	2.07
1946	150	11	161	1.81	0.13	1.94

Comparative Table of Deaths and Death Rate.

Year.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1940	75	10	85	0.95	0.13	1.08
1941	74	9	83	0.94	0.12	1.06
1942	66	11	77	0.84	0.14	0.98
1943	66	6	72	0.84	0.08	0.92
1944	54	12	66	0.69	0.15	0.84
1945	57	8	65	0.70	0.10	0.80
1946	57	9	66	0.69	0.11	0.80

Work of the Dispensary.

The number of cases on the Dispensary and Notification Registers during the past seven years are given in the following table.

Year	New Cases Notified	No. on Notif'n Register 31st Dec.	No. on Dispensary Register 31st Dec.	Total Attendances at Dispensary			Total Home Visits
				Exams.	Insp.	Total	
1940	113	427	293	409	1,307	1,716	795
1941	114	444	306	783	928	1,711	862
1942	153	510	376	1,039	1,084	2,123	932
1943	174	517	461	1,233	1,710	2,943	862
1944	171	597	530	1,271	2,312	3,583	1,017
1945	167	655	697	1,590	2,433	4,346	1,657
1946	161	705	856	1,785	2,842	4,627	2,008

During 1946 the number of new cases examined was 405, 8 of these were transferred from other areas and 2 were old cases returned to Public Medical Treatment. 28 cases were admitted direct to Sanatorium.

Examination of Contacts.

During the year 1946, 372 'contacts' were examined. Of these 193 were under the age of 20 years. During the year, 46 'contacts' were diagnosed as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis; their age groups were as follows.

0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	Over 45-50	50	Total
12	10	3	6	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	46

Sputum Examinations.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
General Practitioners	3	32	35
T.B. Dispensary	91	456	547
Fever Hospital	689	266	955
Totals	783	754	1,537

X-Rays.

Radiological examination was carried out in 1,393 cases.

Home Conditions.

The Dispensary Sister paid 2,008 visits (147 first visits and 1,861 re-visits) to the homes of tuberculosis patients, compared with 1,657 in the previous year.

Environmental particulars were obtained in 146 cases, as follows:—

No. who occupied separate bedroom	48
No. who occupied separate bed in room occupied by	
One other person	6
Two other persons	2
Over two other persons	—
No. who shared bed with other person	90
	146

No. of Rooms in houses visited:—

One room and two rooms	5
Three rooms	25
Four rooms	65
Five rooms	39
Six rooms	12
	146

During the year 17 patients changed houses—11 into Corporation houses and 6 into other houses.

A summary was made of the number of persons living in the house with each case of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during 1946. Particulars were obtained in 144 cases and the following table shows the result.

One person in the house	—
Two persons in the house	9
Three persons in the house	20
Four persons in the house	30
Five persons in the house	18
Six persons in the house	25
Seven or more persons in the house	42
	144

Average number in home—5.

Institutional Treatment.

The following table gives an analysis of the patients who received residential treatment in Institutions.

	M.	F.	C.	Total
In Sanatorium 1st January, 1946	13	11	11	35
Sent in during 1946:				
Pulmonary	66	41	14	121
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	6	9
Observation	—	3	5	8
Discharged during 1946:				
Pulmonary	56	35	14	105
Non-pulmonary	2	2	3	7
Observation	—	3	4	7
Died during 1946:				
Pulmonary	6	4	—	10
Non-pulmonary	—	—	—	—
In Sanatorium 31st Dec., 1946	17	12	15	44

The average duration of stay in Sanatorium was 89.2 days. The corresponding figures for 1945 and 1944 were 82.37 and 83.5 respectively.

In addition, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases were admitted when necessary to the Woodlands and Forelands Orthopaedic Institutions under the Orthopaedic Scheme.

Owing to staffing problems, it became increasingly difficult to obtain Sanatorium beds for patients and in this respect, Heath Lane Sanatorium did excellent work in accommodating additional patients.

The Health Committee was again able to obtain beds for children at Himley Sanatorium and Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital where educational facilities are available.

Re-fill Clinic.

The work of the Clinic, which was established at the Dispensary in 1945 for those patients having an Artificial Pneumothorax and requiring re-fills, continued to increase. During the year, 28 patients attended for this treatment and 462 re-fills were given.

The number of re-fills carried out during the last few years is as follows:—

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
12	34	96	111	245	323	462

Orthopaedic Treatment.

	M.	F.	C.
Number of patients who received In-patient treatment in Orthopaedic Hospitals during the year	1	1	12
Number of Out-patient attendances	8	3	29
Number of X-rays	2	—	5
Appliances	—	—	9
No. of attendances for Massage	3	—	—

After-Care.

The good work of the West Bromwich Tuberculosis Voluntary Care Committee was continued during 1946, and the assistance afforded was greatly appreciated by the patients and by the Tuberculosis Department. The assistance was mainly in the form of extra nourishment, clothing, 'bus fares and special grants.

Appended is a summary of the help given to the various patients during the year—

'Bus Fares	£	s.	d.
Extra Nourishment	50	2	1
Clothing	2	6	3
Special Grants	11	2	11
Christmas Gifts	25	10	0
	£90	0	9

Financial Assistance.

The number of patients to whom Allowances were granted under the provisions of Memorandum 266/T were as follows:—

Number of recipients 31/12/45	.....	.....	31
New cases during the year	.....	.....	50
Cases re-admitted	.....	.....	11
Number of recipients 31/12/46	.....	.....	45

In 47 cases the allowances ceased for the following reasons:—

Resumed work	.....	.....	.....	26
Died	.....	.....	.....	2
Admitted to Sanatorium	.....	.....	.....	4
Maximum period of allowance expired	.....	.....	.....	3
Refused Sanatorium treatment	.....	.....	.....	6
Service Pension Granted	.....	.....	.....	5
Other reasons	.....	.....	.....	1
				—
				47
				—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The following is a report by Miss K. Perryer, Superintendent Health Visitor, on the work of the Health Visitors and Midwives.

Midwives.

During the year, eight municipal midwives attended 633 confinements and paid 2,184 ante-natal and 11,509 post-natal visits. There were 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia in the district both cases being nursed at home.

Three midwives attended Hallam Hospital for the course on the administration of Gas and Air Analgesia, afterwards taking the examination of the C.M.B. and gaining their certificates.

One midwife attended the refresher course arranged by the College of Midwives at Liverpool.

Health Visitors.

The total number of visits paid during the year by the health visitors was 24,336. Owing to the shortage of staff, visits to toddlers had to be curtailed in some areas, so that supervision of the babies under one year of age and of problem families could be carried on.

One health visitor attended the refresher course held at Bedford College.

Commencing in September, two student health visitors from the Birmingham Health Visitors' Training Course attended the department for periods of 6 weeks to gain practical experience.

Adoption of Children.

There were a number of enquiries about the adoption of children, and 84 visits of supervision or investigation were paid.

15 cases for legal adoption passed through the Juvenile Court.

1 case for legal adoption passed through the County Court.

13 cases had made application for adoption and were awaiting hearing.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics were well maintained during the year. New posters and leaflets were obtained and it is hoped to develop further the educational activities of the clinics.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinics increased by 1,067 during the year—the mothers being encouraged to attend by the excellent co-operation of the health visitors and midwives.

The post-natal attendances, although increased in number are still very poor.

There were three maternal deaths during the year as against one during 1945.

The statistics will be found on pages 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14.

Care of Premature and Illegitimate Children.

Premature Babies.

The Welfare Authority brings pressure to bear for removal of premature infants to hospital. A supply of hot water bottles and feeding bottles is maintained for loan. The services of a paediatrician are available at the hospital, and the Obstetrical Officers from the hospital visit cases in the district at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

During 1946, 88 premature births were notified; 28 being born at home and 60 in hospital. Of those born at home, 19 were nursed entirely at home; 7 were stillbirths, 2 died within 24 hours of birth, and 14 still survived at the end of one month. Of the hospital births, 12 were stillbirths, 3 died during the first 24 hours, and 41 still survived at the end of one month.

Illegitimate Children.

In the case of illegitimate children, close liaison has been established with the Lichfield Diocesan Board. The out-door worker from the Diocesan Board attends at the Health Department every Tuesday and is available for consultation. The ascertainment rests with the Health Department through the birth notifications and through the midwives and health visiting services and lists are compiled and made available to the Diocesan Visitor.

Close contact is maintained through the Superintendent Health Visitor, the Mental Welfare Visitor and the Social Welfare Visitor with the Diocesan and other Authorities.

The main difficulty in the scheme is the placing of the mothers before their confinement and in some cases afterwards. It would appear that suitable existing homes are few and far between for such cases and that the matter should be dealt with at a higher and possibly at the regional health level.

Day Nursery.

During the year, Highfields Day Nursery continued its excellent work.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee again concentrated on provision for children under the age of 3 years, though, of course it was still necessary to take children up to the age of 5 years.

Nursing Homes.

There are two Maternity Homes and one general Nursing Home in the Borough, with provision for 18 maternity and 18 other cases.

Statistical Summary of Work done.

Visits paid by health visitors—

To expectant mothers	558
To children under 1 year	8,464
To children 1—5 years	14,049
	<hr/>
	23,071
	<hr/>

Infant Welfare Centres—

Number of children who attended.	
Under 1 year of age	1,359
Over 1 year of age	1,748
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	3,107
	<hr/>

Ante-Natal Clinics—

Number of women who attended	1,503
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Post-Natal Clinics—

Number of women who attended	415
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Infectious Diseases notified—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	39

Domiciliary Midwives employed by the Council—

Cases attended as Midwives	557
Cases attended as Maternity Nurses	76
	<hr/>
	633
	<hr/>

HOSPITAL SERVICES

HALLAM HOSPITAL—REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Throughout 1946, the hospital continued to treat patients to the maximum of its capacity and the pressure of work has remained at the same high level of intensity since 1943.

6,332 patients were admitted and 2,316 operations performed.

1,171 births took place in the Maternity Department.

The average daily bed occupation was 370, and the total number of patient-days was 124,655.

Out-patients numbered 9,247 and out-patient attendances 27,002.

Cases were admitted as follows:—

County Borough of West Bromwich	.....	3,965
Other Authorities	.....	2,197
Emergency Medical Service	.....	170
		<hr/>
Total	.....	6,332
		<hr/>

Clinical Work.

An analysis of the clinical work carried out, shows that the whole field of medicine and surgery is widely represented and the results of treatment are satisfactory, especially in those diseases which are of an acute catastrophic nature.

Service Casualties and Sick.

During the year, the Ministry of Health terminated its bed reservations under the Emergency Medical Scheme, which had been occupied during the war years, by some 2,000 patients. Service casualties and sick continued to be admitted to the wards, according to their requirements.

Medical Staff.

Dr. Walton, Medical Officer of Health, left to become Medical Officer of Health of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was succeeded by Dr. Tudor Lewis. Dr. Dyas retired from his post as Radiologist and was appointed Consulting Radiologist to the Hospital. Dr. Booth succeeded him as Radiologist. Mr. Milnes Walker resigned his appointment as Chest Surgeon, to become Professor of Surgery at the University of Bristol. Dr. Clark resumed his appointment as Visiting Anæsthetist, having served in the Army throughout the war. It is fitting, in recording these changes, that grateful tribute should be paid to those who have laboured devotedly and unceasingly in the hospital and a warm welcome is extended to those who have entered or returned to its service.

The Resident Medical Staff was augmented by the addition of a House Physician and a House Surgeon, thus completing a scheme whereby each of the three major Departments of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics is staffed by a senior resident officer and a house officer.

Pathological Department.

The decision, taken in 1943, to appoint a full-time Pathologist, was not implemented until 1946, owing to the serious shortage of pathologists during the war period. Dr. J. Cedric Ford, of University College Hospital, London and Demonstrator in Pathology to St. Bartholomew's Medical College, London, was appointed to the post. Considerable expansion of the Department followed, and will be continued as new equipment is obtained and structural alterations are carried out. The pathological service now available has extended the scope and resource of every clinical department and is of the greatest value.

Department of Psychological Medicine.

To augment the staff, Dr. J. H. Hartland was appointed as Clinical Assistant to Dr. Hammond. Apparatus for the production of electrical convulsive treatment was installed. Previously this form of treatment had only been available in certain mental hospitals and its use in the alleviation of minor psychological disturbances hardly explored. Upwards of 100 patients have been treated and the short-term results have been most gratifying and encouraging.

Chronic Sick.

Accommodation for the chronic sick is continually filled to capacity and, without the erection of new buildings, it could only be expanded at the expense of the acutely sick. 60% of the chronic sick are aged 65 years or over. Having regard to the fact that in England and Wales, people of 65 years and over, who had numbered $1\frac{3}{4}$ millions in 1900, had increased to $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions in 1937 and, it is calculated, will number $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions in 1951, the problem of accommodation for chronic sick is not only of local, but national proportions.

Whilst the needs of these patients are only too painfully obvious, the planning of accommodation appropriate to their specialised requirements is beset with many problems. It is calculated that West Bromwich and Smethwick, together with Oldbury, having a population of 207,000, will require at least 230 additional beds for chronic sick. Segregation of these patients in institutions devoted exclusively to their care is undesirable and the new beds should be sited in close relation to accommodation for the acutely sick and the general hospital service. The latter will require considerable expansion and re-building and provision for both types of sick must be conceived and planned as an integrated whole, otherwise there is a danger of piecemeal development with all its attendant disadvantages.

Catering.

Early in 1945, a sub-committee was appointed to study the question of catering, and it was decided to establish catering as a department. In 1946, an expert catering manager was appointed

to take charge of it, with responsibility for marketing, cooking and the planning of the menus. Considerable re-organisation followed, and additional kitchen staff was engaged. Despite undiminishing difficulties in rationing, it is generally agreed that there has been a great improvement in the quality and variety of the ordinary meals as well as the special diets.

Nursing Staff.

During the year, Miss Moore was appointed Matron and Miss McNaught Second Assistant Matron. Staffing problems have remained acute and were it not for the magnificent spirit of uncomplaining and devoted service of the sisters and nurses, it would be impossible to maintain a full hospital service. The value of their high professional ideal cannot be assessed in purely material terms, but its acceptance creates an obligation to ensure that the conditions under which nurses live and work are commensurate with an appreciation which is no less high.

For this reason, it was decided that permanent extensions to the Nurses' Home should be accorded the highest priority, and plans are already in an advanced stage of preparation. Eventually they will provide for an increase in staff, and an unusual degree of privacy, comfort and freedom for the sisters and trained staff.

It is not fitting that this report should be concluded without an expression of thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, for their constant help and consideration, and their untiring work in a year of progress and development.

W. E. WIMBERGER.

Medical Superintendent.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

DIPHTHERIA.—During the year, thirty-eight cases of Diphtheria were admitted, of which 3 were later proved to be tonsillitis and 6 proved to be carriers. There were 2 deaths.

The fall in the number of Diphtheria cases is almost certainly due to the efficiency of the Anti-Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign in the borough over the past four years.

SCARLET FEVER.—The number of cases admitted as Scarlet Fever was 108, but revised diagnosis reduced this figure to 102. There were no deaths in the series and 36 cases developed complications, 30 being in the first six months, and 6 in the second six months of the year. The complications included 6 otorrhoea, 9 adenitis and 11 heart lesions. There were no cases of albuminuria.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Among the miscellaneous cases admitted there were 37 cases of severe impetigo, 13 gastro-enteritis, 10 morbilli, 2 chicken-pox, 6 whooping cough, 2 pemphigus and 3 of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Admissions during the year.

	Tuber- culosis	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Other Cases
West Bromwich	105	108	29	124
Other Authorities	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.—One hundred and five cases were admitted to the wards during the year. The wards functioned to full capacity throughout the year in spite of shortages of nursing and domestic staff. The waiting list fortunately never became out of hand, and cases awaiting beds at Romsley Sanatorium were able to be admitted to the ward pending vacancies at Romsley. The position at the end of the year showed 21 patients admitted in the ward, and a waiting list of 4 male patients only.

In spite of the difficulties encountered during the year from rationing, replacement of stores, etc., and more particularly shortages of nursing and domestic staff, tribute is due to the Matron and entire staff for the way in which they carried on without a complaint, and without having to refuse any patient full treatment.

SUPERANNUATION MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The undermentioned superannuation medical examinations were carried out during the year by the Medical Staff—

Number of examinations	112
Accepted	98
Deferred for re-examination	13
Rejected	1
Number of re-examinations	11
Accepted	10
Deferred for re-examination	1

VENEREAL DISEASES

The Authority has an agreement with the City of Birmingham Corporation for the treatment of West Bromwich cases at the Clinic in Birmingham. A few cases are also treated at the Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Local cases treated during the year were as follows:—

	Birmingham.	Dudley.	Total.
Syphilis	26	1	27
Soft Chancre	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	30	5	35
Conditions other than Venereal	114	9	123
Total cases	170	15	185
Total Attendances—outpatients	2,249	125	2,374

Regulation 33B.

The following notifications were received during the year under Defence (General) Regulation 33B.

	M.	F.	Total
No. of persons in respect of whom Form 1 was received	—	1	1
Primary notification	—	1	1
Secondary notification	—	—	—

Informal enquiries were made in respect of all notifications and cases were followed up unofficially under the Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS

The particulars of mental defectives in the Borough on the 31st December, 1946, were as follows:—

A. Defectives ascertained as "subject to be dealt with."

	M.	F.	Total
1. Under 'Order.'			
(a) (1) In Institutions (excluding cases on licence).			
Under 16 years of age	7	7	14
16 years of age and over	80	84	164
(2) On Licence from Institutions.			
Under 16 years of age	1	—	1
16 years of age and over	9	17	26
(b) Under Guardianship (excl. cases on licence).			
Under 16 years of age	—	—	—
16 years of age and over	2	5	7
2. In "place of safety."			
Under 16 years of age	—	—	—
16 years of age and over	—	—	—
3. Under Statutory Supervision	57	54	111
Awaiting removal to an Institution	—	—	—

B. Defectives not at present "subject to be dealt with" but for whom the Local Authority may subsequently become liable.

1. In Institutions or under Guardianship dealt with under Section 3	—	—	—
2. Reported to the Local Authority from reliable source and recognized by them as Mentally defective but as to whom no action under the Mental Deficiency Acts has been taken—			
(a) Children between the ages of 14 and 16 years	—	—	—
(b) All other cases	31	27	58
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	187	194	381
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report on the work of the department for the year 1946.

The year has again been one of great difficulty. The shortage of materials and labour, particularly in the building trades has had an adverse effect on the work of the department. These shortages are the direct result of the upheaval caused by war, and it is hoped that the supply position will be improved so as to enable greater activity to be developed both in regard to the provision of new, and the repair of old houses.

The work of meat and food inspection has again occupied much of the time of the District Inspectors.

There was an increase in salvage collected, but the work of Public Cleansing was again affected by labour and transport difficulties.

During the year, three members of the clerical staff (Messrs. Stokes, Hickinbottom and Reeves) returned from active service with H.M. Forces and resumed their duties. Later, K. Hickinbottom was transferred to the Health Department. The Inspectorial staff remained unchanged. To Messrs. Shaw, Oakes, Ball, Johnson and Perkins and the members of the clerical staff, I am indebted for loyal and continuous co-operation in dealing with the ever-increasing duties and responsibilities.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 16,035, details as under:—

Special Housing Inspections	548
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, etc.	1,243
Miscellaneous Inspections	4,731
Re-inspections	5,455
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	24
Lodging Houses and Houses let-in- Lodgings	52
Factories	139
Shops and Food Premises	1,992
Bakehouses	40
Dairies	168
Cowsheds	86
Food and Drugs Act visits	548
Slaughterhouses	779
Fumigation	230
	16,035

Notices Served.

	Informal.	Statutory.	Total	Houses in connection therewith.
Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936	1,577	441	2,018	3,600

Whilst the number of informal notices served was similar to that of last year, there was an increase of 156 Statutory notices served by order of the Health Committee above the number served the previous year.

The enforcement of the repair of houses has again been affected by the shortage of building materials, particularly roofing materials, plaster, timber, etc. It will be necessary for larger supplies of these materials to be made available if the deterioration brought about by the seven years of war is to be arrested. At the moment only the most essential repairs can be dealt with.

As the result of the service of the notices, 2,184 improvements (repairs to houses, etc.) were effected, and in addition, three privy middens were converted to water closets.

Court Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936.

RESULTS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Summonses were issued in 13 instances with the following results:

Situation of premises.	No. of houses.	Nature of complaint.	Acts or Byelaws under which proceedings were instituted.	Result.
9, Summer St.	1	Dilapidated house, etc.	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94.	Work completed after adjournment. Summons withdrawn on payment of costs.
11, Summer St.	1	do.	do.	do.
13, Summer St.	1	do.	do.	do.
15, Summer St.	1	do.	do.	do.
17, Summer St.	1	do.	do.	do.
9 & 11, Summer Street	2	Dilapidated outb'ldings	do.	do.
44 & 46, Whitehall Road	2	Dilapidated houses, etc.	do.	do.
35, Tenscore St.	1	Dilapidated house, etc.	do.	do.
63, Hargate Lane	1	do.	do.	do.
218, Great Bridge Street	1	do.	do.	do.
3 & 5, All Saints Street	2	Dilapidated houses, etc.	do.	do.
113, Church Vale	1	Dilapidated house, etc.	do.	do.
152, Dartmouth Street	1	do.	do.	do.

Common Lodging Houses and Houses let-in-Lodgings.

There is only one Common Lodging House registered in the Borough and this Lodging House was regularly inspected. Some difficulty was experienced with regard to the replacement of bedding, but this was overcome by the Lodging-House Keeper obtaining supplies from ex-A.R.P. Government sales.

Theatres and Cinemas.

Twenty-four inspections were made of the nine cinemas in the Borough, and improvements to sanitary accommodation were effected after notification.

Factories Act, 1937.

Thirty-seven notices were served under the above Act, details as under:—

	Found.	Remedied.
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	8	8
Defective sanitary accommodation	23	16
Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes	6	5

Eight notices were outstanding at the end of the year.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and Infestation Order 1943

The scheme for the treatment of private dwellinghouses under the Ministry of Food Circular N.S. 12 was put into operation during the year. The Borough was divided into twelve districts, each district was systematically inspected, and the infestations discovered treated by baiting. In all, a total of 40 infestations had been treated under the private dwellings scheme at the end of the year.

The sewers in the Borough were examined in the Spring and Autumn, and treated for rat infestation. In all 197 manholes were treated and prebaits were taken in 21 instances.

All the tips in the Borough and Public Parks were examined during the year for rat infestation. Slight infestations were found in five cases and these were speedily dealt with.

Disinfection.

210 disinfections were carried out at premises following Infectious Disease.

Disinfestation.

All infested furniture is disinfested with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas. The furniture is moved in the Corporation's Furniture van (specially constructed for this purpose) and fumigated with H.C.N. (Zyklon) gas before delivery to new houses. During the year, furniture from 128 houses was treated in this manner.

Infested houses are sprayed with insecticide solution containing D.D.T. A total of 35 houses was sprayed with this solution during the year.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.

Owing to the serious fuel shortage and the poor quality of fuel supplied, it was not possible to do all that could be desired with regard to smoke abatement. Nevertheless, the year was one of considerable activity and a total of 103 smoke observations were made. Advice has been given in many instances, and improvements have been effected in the firing of boilers, increasing draught to furnaces, etc., without formal action.

A serious case of smoke nuisance at a dairy was abated by the installation of an automatic stoker (underfeed), which also effected a saving in fuel. The present fuel position prevents the installation of automatic stokers as sufficient suitable fuel for these stokers does not appear to be available. One automatic stoker was installed at a fat and oil refining works, where the boiler was used for heating purposes. This stoker has successfully abated the smoke nuisance which had existed at this works for some time.

Complaints received relating to the emission of smoke from a firelighter works were investigated, and after action by this Department, the fuel was changed with satisfactory results.

A number of complaints were received with reference to two works using creosote pitch as fuel. In one case the feeder tank was cleaned out, electric immersion heaters fitted and pre-heaters fitted to the burners, whilst in the second case the emission of smoke was due to a mechanical breakdown. In the use of oil or creosote pitch, the slightest neglect by the personnel will result in dense clouds of smoke being emitted.

Investigations were also carried out with regard to atmospheric pollution, as under:—

Zinc Oxide.

Further trouble was experienced with the emission of zinc oxide from a smelting works during the year, due chiefly to the inability of the firm to obtain delivery of filtration plant on order, suitable for this process, the existing plant being unable to cope with the full load.

A second-hand filtration plant was obtained by the firm and despite many obstacles, was erected and put into commission before the end of the year. This additional filtration plant appears to have abated the nuisance.

Trouble was also experienced from the emission of zinc oxide at a foundry. Steps were taken to reduce the emission to a minimum pending the installation of plant to deal with the nuisance.

Hydrofluoric Acid Gas and Sulphur Dioxide.

A petition was received from residents adjoining a works manufacturing hydrofluoric acid. Action was taken relating to smoke emission from the boiler, and as the complaint appeared to be well-founded regarding the emission of the gases (HF and SO₂) the matter was referred to H.M. Alkali Works Inspector, the works being registerable under that Act. Prompt action was taken by the Alkali Inspector, and improvements were effected.

Methylamine.

For some time, the attention of this department was directed to occasional bursts of offensive effluvia which occurred in the Borough. This effluvia was traced to a works manufacturing methylamine. Although an acid scrubber was used, fumes escaped to the atmosphere. It was recommended that the whole of the plant should be enclosed and that the acid scrubber should be enlarged, and this had been done at the end of the year.

Housing.

At the end of the year, 197 houses upon which demolition or clearance orders were operative, were still occupied. The occupants of these houses require re-housing as soon as possible.

One hundred and nine unfit houses were demolished during the year.

The total of houses demolished under the Council's Slum Clearance programme now stands at:—

Clearance Orders .....	.....	.....	.....	1,606
Demolition Orders .....	.....	.....	.....	517
				<hr/>
			Total	2,123
				<hr/>

In addition, there were 279 houses still occupied at the end of the year, which were the subject of Compulsory Purchase Orders made by the Council and which had not been confirmed by the Ministry.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Close co-operation has existed between the department and the Ministry of Food with regard to the supervision and inspection of food.

Meat Inspection.

Number of slaughterhouses actively engaged on slaughtering .....	.....	.....	.....	3
Number of visits made to the above .....	.....	.....	.....	779
Number of animals notified for slaughter under Public Health (Meat) Regulations (Cottagers' Pigs) .....	.....	.....	.....	935

The following table sets out the number of carcases inspected in slaughterhouses together with particulars of carcases or parts thereof condemned. This is in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

PIGS.

Number killed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,383
<hr/>						
Number inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,383

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

Whole carcases condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	108
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.37

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Whole carcases condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	412
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.72

Other Foods.

The number of visits made to shops and food premises during the year was 1,992.

**SUMMARY OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED
AS DISEASED OR UNSOUND.**

Article	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Pork	3	5	2	14
Bacon		1	2	14
Cheese			2	16
Fish			2	22
Cereals		6	3	9
*Dried Fruit		8	1	5
Miscellaneous Foods		5	—	21
	4	8	3	17
Tinned Meats, Fruit Fish, Milk, Vegetables, and Jam	1	7	2	19
Total	5	16	2	8

* 5cwts. 3qrs. 14lbs. of Dried Fruit were used for manufacturing purposes.

Milk Supply.

Owing to the taking over of land for housing development, the number of farms producing milk in the Borough was reduced from 13 to 11. A total of 36 visits have been made to farms during the year.

The results of Bacteriological Examination of samples of milk taken are as under:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples	Appropriate Test	No. of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	11	Plate Count	10	1
Pasteurised	67	Methylene Blue & B. Coli	43	23
Sterilised	1	Methylene Blue & B. Coli	1	—
Tuberculin Tested	4	Methylene Blue & B. Coli	3	1
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	Methylene Blue & B. Coli	—	1
Accredited	28	Methylene Blue & B. Coli	16	12
Undesignated	26	Methylene Blue & B. Coli	19	7

The percentage of samples failing the tests was 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %. This is the same percentage as for last year.

Heat Treated Milk.

Ninety-seven samples of heat-treated milks were taken, of which five failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test.

Biological Examination of Milk.

Fifteen samples of milk were taken for Biological examination of which two were certified as positive. The Ministry of Agriculture was informed and the farms from which the samples were taken were visited by the Ministry's Inspectors and the animals dealt with.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

A total of 242 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. Of this number, 54 samples were of milk. One informal sample of bottled milk contained 87% of water. Subsequent samples were genuine.

	Samples Analysed		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods
1st Quarter	12	40	12	35	—	5
2nd Quarter	18	34	17	32	1	2
3rd Quarter	10	55	10	52	—	3
4th Quarter	14	59	14	51	—	8
Total	54	188	53	170	1	18

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples calculated on all samples received was 7.86%

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples compared with previous years was as follows:—

1943	1944	1945	1946
10.4%	8.7%	8.3%	7.86%

A sample of sage and onion stuffing was infested with mites, and the whole of the stock on the retailer's premises was removed and destroyed. A number of samples of medicines and drugs did not conform with the formulae on the labels. Suitable action was taken in each case.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

Nine samples of fertilizers were taken under the above Act during the year. Three of these samples proved unsatisfactory and suitable action was taken in each instance.

Ice Cream.

Twelve samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination gave colony counts ranging from 9,000 to 9,000,000 bacteria per c.c. It was found after investigation that in many instances the ice cream was left after manufacture for several hours before freezing. The necessity for freezing immediately after mixing was pointed out to the manufacturers, and this was carried out.

Public Cleansing.

In common with other industries, the work of refuse collection and disposal has been seriously affected by labour difficulties. Difficulties were experienced with transport, due to the age of the vehicles in use, and the inability of obtaining spare parts and replacements.

A "Lewin" Refuse Compressor was commissioned in April, and its achievements both in running and loading capacity were very satisfactory throughout the year.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	21,875
Total number of loads of refuse collected	19,546
Total tonnage of refuse collected	24,425
Total tonnage of nightsoil collected	298
Total tonnage collected from cesspools	1,611
Gross cost of collection	£24,845
Gross cost of disposal	£9,137
Gross cost per ton of collection	£1 0s. 4.2d.
Gross cost per ton of disposal	7s. 5.7d.
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton	£1 7s. 9.9d.
Net cost of collection and disposal per ton	£1 3s. 8.1d.
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	£361 6s. 9d.
Net cost of collection and disposal from each premises per annum	£1 6s. 5.1d.

Output of Refuse per annum (excluding cesspool contents).

Output	1944	1945	1946
Per 1,000 of population	278.35 tons	280.56 tons	285.17 tons
Per house	20.61 cwts.	20.78 cwts.	20.86 cwts.

There was a decrease in the number of loads collected, but an increase in tonnage collected compared with last year.

During the year, 2,264 new dustbins were supplied by this Department to owners and estate agents.

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials.

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and income received was as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	417	18	2	2,664	2	3
Baled Ferrous Scrap	305	17	—	516	12	7
Black Scrap	55	14	—	69	11	9
Non-Ferrous Scrap	2	6	2	65	0	9
Textiles	10	9	1	132	10	0
Bottles and Jars	9	6	—	105	13	3
Cullet	86	3	—	43	1	5
Bones	12	9	2	67	12	4
Kitchen Waste	530	2	1	795	3	5
	<u>1,430</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,459</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>

Bonuses and Allowances received:—

	£	s.	d.
Kitchen Waste	121	15	10
Waste Paper	169	12	9
Total	<u>£4,750</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>

The totals of salvage collected and income received from 1940 to 1946 were as under:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
1940	938	1	—	2,485	4	9
1941	983	13	3	3,298	13	10
1942	1,281	7	2	5,313	11	9
1943	1,733	3	2	5,616	3	10
1944	1,587	14	—	4,619	12	1
1945	1,307	2	—	3,807	2	1
1946	1,430	6	—	4,750	16	4
Total	<u>9,261</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>£29,891</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

Yours obediently,

W. W. FOAKES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector,
Superintendent Refuse
Removal and Disposal

