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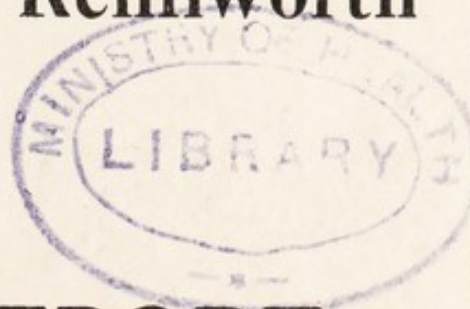
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Urban District of Kenilworth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1954,

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

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38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

January, 1956.

To the Kenilworth Urban District Council.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth annual report on the health of the borough. The population has increased by 240. There were no epidemics and the rates of births and deaths bear comparison well with those in previous years. Among the infectious diseases Tuberculosis again holds a place of importance with 15 new notifications for the year. There was, however, no death within the same period. Reference to the table on page 13 will show the recent low mortality despite the growth of population. In my opinion this is a sign of improved methods both of treatment of the sick persons and in the discovery of new cases in an early stage. Additional tuberculosis beds have been made available by the closure of the Heathcote Hospital as a fever hospital and the local health authority has strengthened its arrangements for the domiciliary treatment and visiting of tuberculosis patients.

There were 41 cases of Whooping Cough but only one known case of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). So that 1954 has been a healthy year as regards infectious diseases.

Progress has been made with the plans and documents necessary for the official enquiry into the Council's scheme for

- (a) enlargement of the sewage disposal works and ;
- (b) improving the main drainage from the southern end of the town by a relief sewer.

Events have shown that the latter scheme was urgently necessary even before much of the new private building in Kenilworth. It has also been necessary to keep in mind the steady annual increase in use of water and the effect which the growth of new housing estates will have on future consumption.

HOUSING.—Little progress has been possible in clearing unfit housing. Preparations were begun on the plans to deal with the unfit property of the Council in White's Row.

The Housing (Rents and Repairs) Act, 1954, required local authorities to survey their areas and submit within twelve months an estimate of the number of unfit houses and

of their proposals for dealing with these (a) in the first five years and (b) subsequently. For the purposes of Clearance Areas the definitions of Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, still apply but the new Act lays down (except for improvement grants) a statutory standard of unfitness which supersedes the rather higher local standard previously used. The return as approved by the Council was sent to the Ministry during 1955.

There are also new provisions whereby landlords may claim rent increases and tenants, if aggrieved, may ask the local authority to issue a Certificate of Disrepair. The issue of these certificates has occupied less time than was expected.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—At the end of July the Ministry of Food ceased to have control of the slaughtering and marketing of meat. Private slaughterhouse licences could again be granted in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as subsequently amended by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

Three applications to use premises in the district as slaughterhouses were received. Each application was dealt with on its merits and one was refused. In two cases licences were granted subject to the performance of certain specified works of repair or improvement. New regulations concerning slaughter and the prevention of cruelty came into force on 1st October, 1954.

In conclusion I have to thank the members and officers of the Council for much kindness and consideration in the past year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Kenilworth Urban District

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,967 acres
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3420
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£343
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£81,157
Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,110
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.2
" " " (Corrected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.7
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	..	...	...	...	...	...	32.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
" " " (Corrected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.3
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{	From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—
		" other causes	...	...	...	...	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—							
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	34.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Once more the population has risen ; this year by 240 persons, but the birth-rate is lower. There were nine fewer deaths with a consequent drop in the average rate. As the natural increase (*i.e.* excess of births over deaths) was only 78, the bulk of your increase in population arises from an influx of new residents.

The infantile mortality rate for the whole country was 25.5 per 1,000 related live births and the local rate was again above this. However, the average rates are not significant since only six infants died at age under one year, all within the four weeks immediately following birth.

The distribution of deaths among various causes did not differ greatly from the average. There were, however, more deaths than last year from malignant disease, particularly as affecting the stomach, lung and breast and fewer from accident or violence. There was one death due to Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis.

Statistics for England and Wales are shown at the foot of Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. *Public Health Officers*.—The Staff is as follows:—

One combined post.—Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector.

One additional Sanitary Inspector.

2. *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry:—

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	—	7	7
Dysentery	—	3	3
Tuberculosis	—	7	7
				—
				17
				—

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) *Water Supply*.—The water supply for the area has continued satisfactorily with the same three electrically operated boreholes, pumps at Mill End Pumping Station, giving continuous service for the town's demands. The water is not chlorinated. The pumping plant, for which the Waterworks Superintendent is responsible, is maintained in a very efficient manner, together with the booster pump at Red Lane.

In view of the continued increase in the number of properties, it is necessary to give constant attention to the system to maintain the necessary supply. Water main extensions have been laid at de Montfort Road, Dalehouse Lane, Elmdene Estate, Rounds Hill, Hob Lane, Thornby Ave.,

Amherst Road, Warwick Road, Leycester Road, Rouncil Lane, Oaks Road and Chestnut Avenue. Three new metered services have been installed and 71 new house services. Twenty-five services were repaired, and there were also three water main repairs. The service reservoirs have been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

The water pumped totalled 146,050,000 gallons, giving an average of 399,043 gallons per day, as compared with 374,830 g.p.d. for the previous year, which shows an increase of nearly 6.3 per cent. It can be anticipated that this rate of increase will be accelerated during the next few years in view of the proposed developments in the district.

Five specimens of raw water were taken for bacteriological analysis; the results were satisfactory and showed a high standard of purity. The last chemical analysis gave the following results:—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE WATER.

	Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	0.4
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 degrees F. in 4 hours	0.002
Total Solids dried at 100 degrees C.	35
Nitrite	0.0001
pH	7.8

Appearance: Bright, few small particles.

Practically the whole of the population has a piped water supply, and where no such supply existed, one sample of water was taken from a shallow well. On examination it was found to be unfit for human consumption in the raw state. The owner of the house was required to provide a proper wholesome supply to the house, and a connection was made to the Council's main.

2. *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.*—During the year 25 stoppages were removed, and sewer flushing and cleaning were carried out where necessary. Seven sewer connections were made, and two lengths of new sewer were completed. These were at Queen's Road and Waverley Road, linking up with Warwick Road.

At the Sewage Disposal Works normal maintenance work has continued, and it has been difficult to keep the works in a proper state owing to the increasing population and the ever growing amount of sludge and screenings which have to be removed. The lack of labour gives ample stress to the need of the works being mechanised as much as possible, and in the scheme now being prepared, particular attention will be given to this aspect of the works. The sludge which is discharged into the land lagoons has great difficulty in drying out under such conditions, and the disposal of this material is being done through farmers in the district.

The emptying of the road and street gullies is done quarterly by a public contractor and appears to be working satisfactorily. Cesspools are emptied by contract with this firm, as required.

3. *Rivers and Streams.*—The water courses in the area are frequently cleansed, and in view of the surcharge which is occurring in parts of the town, special attention has been given to this matter, which it is hoped will be relieved, when the new sewer system is provided.

4. *Public Cleansing.*—The collection of house refuse continues with the two existing vehicles, but has become increasingly difficult to operate owing to the labour problem. It is impossible under present conditions to maintain a satisfactory weekly service, and at times this has extended to three-weekly cycles owing to this problem. It appears that it will be essential, with the man competition in the labour market, to provide some incentive to enable the system to be satisfactorily maintained.

Refuse disposal is still by tipping at the Brickworks site, and every effort has been made to reduce the possibility of nuisance, but owing to the depth of the excavation now being filled, difficulty has arisen in controlling the tip face and keeping the area within reasonable limits.

Street scavenging is being carried out by hand. Five men are employed, all elderly, and in view of this recurring difficulty, some means of mechanisation will have to be employed to maintain anything like a satisfactory service. It must be borne in mind that the growth of the town is adding road mileage, and it is an unfortunate fact that many roads are only attended to after many complaints.

D. HOUSING.

	1954	1953	1952
Number of houses built by :			
(a) Local Authority	56	40	41
(b) Private Enterprise	121	46	24
Total number of completed houses owned by the Council	734	678	601
Total number of prefabricated houses owned by the Council	50	50	50
Houses converted into flats, maison- ettes, etc., into 2 houses	2	1	—
Number of demolition orders made	—	—	—
Number of unfit houses made fit :			
(a) by Official Notices	8	13	6
(b) Informally	65	14	38

HOUSING.—During 1954 the Government made known its intention to pursue a policy of slum clearance. The Council was required, under the Housing (Rents and Repairs) Act, 1954, to make a general survey of the unfit houses in the district and to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by the end of August, 1955 a return. This was to be in accordance with the scheduled requirements and set out so as to show in approximate figures :

- (a) The total number of unfit houses in the Area ;
- (b) The Council's estimate of the time needed to deal with all the unfit houses ;
- (c) The Council's proposals, by way of clearance or demolition, for action in the first five years ;
- (d) an outline of action proposed in subsequent years.

The above Act lays down for the first time a statutory standard of fitness which will supersede local standards and be the future yardstick for the purpose of dealing with unfit dwellings under the Housing Acts. It thus supersedes existing local standards of fitness for working class houses and, on examination is shown to be an absolute minimum standard falling very far short of what had previously been accepted as evidence of unfitness. The Act also confers certain additional powers on local authorities both to acquire or patch unfit

property by way of "deferred demolition" and to allow licences to reoccupy old property condemned before the operative date of the new Act.

This Act which came into force on August 30th also enables landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent. Where the condition of the house is disputed by the tenant, on receiving the notice of repairs increase from his landlord, he can apply to the local authority for a so-called "certificate of disrepair."

Contrary to expectations the number of such applications was small.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The number of Registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954, is 12, of which 2 are Dairies and 10 Distributors of Milk. No applications for Registration were received during the year.

Five Supplementary and five Dealer's Licences have been issued to sell Tuberculin Tested milk in the Urban District.

Five Supplementary and four Dealer's Licences have been issued to sell Pasteurised milk in the Urban District together with four Supplementary Licences to sell Sterilised milk. This is the first year that Sterilised milk has been introduced into the district.

The Minister of Food brought into operation on 1st April, 1954 the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954 which related to the compulsory use of special designations for retail sales of milk in the areas specified by the Order. The Urban District is included in one such area and this now permits only Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised milk to be sold in the district. Undesignated milk may not now be sold within the area specified.

(b) *Ice Cream*.—The total number of registered premises under Sec. 14 (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1938 is 42, of which 4 are for manufacture and sale, and 38 for the sale only of ice cream. No applications were received during the year for the registration of premises. In the 4 premises registered for the manufacture of this commodity, only one person has manufactured his own ice cream during the year and this has been by the "cold mix" method on a very small scale and at very infrequent intervals.

20 samples were submitted to the Public Health laboratory Service for Methylene Blue Test ; the results of which showed 17 samples coming within Grade 1, none into Grade 2, 2 into Grade 3 and 1 in Grade 4. The results obtained are most encouraging, but at the same time it is disturbing to find that a wrapped ice cream has fallen into Grade 4. The general public has come to accept that a wrapped food is not open to so much contamination as the unwrapped. Whilst this is true, it must be appreciated that contamination can occur at the source of manufacture if scrupulous cleanliness and sterility is not strictly adhered to. Such bacterial contamination is not reduced by the wrapping of goods and may be made worse by bad storage or handling prior to sale.

Faults have also occurred through bad serving procedures in local establishments so that continual sampling and education is necessary.

(c) *Meat*.—9 premises are registered under Sec. 14 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. No new applications for registration of premises were received during the year. The work of food preparation in these establishments is carried out under suitable conditions.

Considerable work was thrown upon the department by the decontrol of slaughtering on 1st July, 1954. Private slaughterhouses in the district were inspected and slaughtering was commenced at one slaughterhouse on a full time basis after work had been carried out to bring the premises up to a reasonable standard for the Interim Period. Further slaughtering on a much smaller scale has also been carried out at a second slaughterhouse. Since the commencement of this slaughtering much of your Sanitary Inspector's time has had to be devoted to the inspection of meat, which usually requires 2 visits to be paid to the premises daily and has entailed inspections at times other than in normal office hours. This work has had to be fitted in with all the other duties of the sanitary inspector which will certainly increase further as your population grows in number.

The following is the statistical information with regard to the inspection of meat :

<i>Animal</i>	<i>No. Inspected</i>	<i>Evidence of Disease or Unfit Lesions</i>
Beasts ...	377	76
Calves ...	97	2
Sheep ...	2,359	84
Pigs ...	701	45
Totals ...	3,534	207

Of the 377 beasts inspected 23 or 5.3 per cent. were found to be affected by tuberculosis. No calves were so affected. Of the 701 pigs inspected only 12 or 1.4 per cent. were affected by tuberculosis. The low incidence found of this disease can be attributed to the highly selective manner in which animals are bought by the slaughterer and to the almost negligible number of cows which are slaughtered. Only one beast was found affected by a generalised tuberculosis.

The other conditions found in animals which rendered certain organs at least unfit for human consumption were very varied but the most prevalent condition found was the parasitical infestation of livers.

All meat found to be unfit is transported to the knacker's yard in Rouncil Lane and sterilised before disposal.

With the decentralisation of slaughtering and the activity of local slaughterhouses we have had an increased number of vehicles used for the transportation of meat. Many of these vehicles are small in capacity and care will have to be exercised to avoid any contamination of the meat in transit.

(d) *Other Trades.*—All other establishments where food is prepared or sold have been inspected as often as possible. Generally speaking the premises are reasonably satisfactory. Some newly established businesses are equipping their premises with the most modern equipment and making the premises themselves of the highest standard. It is obvious that an attractive, clean, modern shop does stimulate business, and this lesson, if learned, is bound to have an ultimate effect on the health of the community. The shop assistants, however, have yet to appreciate the important role they play in serving safe food to the public, and education in this respect is difficult due to the frequent changes in staff attached to food preparing establishments.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1947.

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1947	...	2	10	—	3	—	1
1948	...	—	19	—	2	—	—
1949	...	6	6	—	4	—	—
1950	...	2	9	1	5	—	1
1951	...	1	17	—	68	—	—
1952	...	—	10	—	10	—	—
1953	...	—	1	1	3	5	—
1954	...	—	—	—	2	—	1

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1954.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The figures were :—

		1952	1953	1954
Schoolchildren	...	8	10	21
Infants and children under 5 years	...	130	102	173
Total	...	138	112	194
Booster doses (all ages)	...	176	44	288

The above figures include all notifications, whether the immunisation was performed by the family doctor or at a clinic, infant welfare centre, etc.

The percentage protected during the first year of life is still much below the desired minimum of 75 per cent.

However, it will be seen that a welcome improvement took place in the amount of prophylactic work as this year there was no interruption of the campaign because of Anterior Poliomyelitis. Not only were more children protected against Diphtheria but many received the combined Diphtheria-Pertussis Antigen which gives a measure of protection also against Whooping Cough in infancy.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Kenilworth had between 1945 and 1953 no experience of this disease in spite of its prevalence during some of those years in neighbouring districts. However, in 1953 this good record came to an end with the notification of five confirmed cases within the urban district. None of these were fatal but this year one death has been recorded although no notification is shown in Table III. This is because the disease was notified in another district where the patient, a middle aged man, was on holiday in the late summer of 1953. He was later moved to a hospital at Oxford, where he died early in 1954 and the death, but not the notification, has been transferred to the statistical records of this Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	2	1	—	—	—	—	—

The same total of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was reached during the year. 21 persons received inoculations of B.C.G. vaccine, an increase of fifteen.

Treatment.—12 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium for treatment during the year, and 8 were discharged.

Tuberculosis.—The following table shews the cases notified, and deaths for the past 20 years :—

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases ...	10	10	10	9	10	19	14
Deaths...	5	5	4	4	4	4	8
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases ...	11	9	10	9	9	4	1
Deaths...	5	2	3	1	3	6	2
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	
Cases ...	14	3	3	13	15	15	
Deaths...	3	—	3	2	1	—	

This table can be simplified as follows :—

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total new cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1934-1940	74	34
1941-1947	66	28
1948-1954	74	11

These figures, when considered along with the rise in population over the twenty-one years from 8,100 to 11,110, show that the incidence of Tuberculosis was little changed, but that in the last seven year period deaths were significantly reduced. Not all the credit need be given to curative medicine, however, although undoubtedly better therapy is now available to these patients. Preventive medicine has perhaps helped also by discovering many contacts in an early stage of infection which can respond more satisfactorily to treatment. If the balance of success today and yesterday has inclined towards the hospitals, tomorrow the chance of the field worker lies open ahead with the opportunities offered for the scientific application of miniature mass radiography, skin sensitivity testing and B.C.G. Vaccination. In regard to research on the B.C.G. vaccine, a report will soon be due of large scale trials carried out in several large cities. The efficacy of Mass Radiography in the detection of infected persons in the community could perhaps be much enhanced if these units could be made more genuinely mobile so that visits could be freely paid among the smaller communities which have as yet been little surveyed. Even a growing town like Kenilworth cannot find more than one point, and that not central, which is suitable for setting up a Mobile X-Ray Unit as at present organised.

The fact that it is not easy to combine operating convenience with the most suitable position for drawing in the public, may account for the rather poor response to the Unit's last visit (report below). The next visit is expected in 1956.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

July, 1954.

KENILWORTH.

<i>Miniature X-Ray Examinations</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Doctor's patients	10	10	20
Contacts	19	22	41
Medical Officer of Health	—	13	13
Public	242	340	582
	<hr/> 271	<hr/> 385	<hr/> 656
Recalled for large film examination	21	23	44
Recalled for clinical examination ...	11	12	23
<i>Analysis of clinical examinations.</i>			
1. <i>Referred to Chest Clinic.</i>			
(a) Suspected active post-primary tuberculosis	5	2	7
(b) Consolidation of unknown cause	1	—	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
2. <i>Referred to Hospital.</i>			
(a) Abnormality of bony thorax	1	—	1
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
3. <i>Referred to own doctor.</i>			
(a) Chronic bronchitis and emphysema	—	1	1
(b) Broncho-pneumonia	—	1	1
(c) Cardio-vascular lesion	—	2	2
(d) Inactive primary tuberculosis	—	1	1
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 5
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
4. <i>No further action considered necessary.</i>			
(a) Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
(b) Basal fibrosis	—	1	1
(c) Cardio-vascular lesion	1	1	2
(d) Inactive post-primary tuberculosis	—	2	2
(e) Abnormality not confirmed by clinical examination ...	1	1	2
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 9
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
Total clinicals ...	11	12	23

CENSUS, 1951.

During the year the County Report on Warwickshire was published. In view of the rapid change now occurring in the size and character of the town a brief note of certain social factors may be of interest. For example the population has risen thus :

1921, 6,758 ; 1931, 7,596 ; 1951, 10,741.

With the low density of 1.8 persons per acre, out of a total of 3,168 dwellings, the number occupied 3,096 was comprised as follows :—

Number of rooms	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total dwellings	79	66	283	776	1,316	375
Number of Rooms	7	8	9	10		
Total dwellings	95	78	—	28		

Of these 3,096 dwellings, 2,993 were separately occupied, 95 were shared by two families and 8 contained three or more households. Out of a total of 14,647 rooms in occupied dwellings only 21 were returned as then vacant. In addition 46 furnished dwellings were wholly vacant comprising 219 rooms and 26 other dwellings stood void comprising another 116 rooms. 89 households consisting of 216 persons were living in single rooms and 166 households containing 381 persons were living in two rooms. The overall totals for the district showed that 3,210 households or 10,506 persons occupied 14,601 rooms giving the average of 0.72 persons per room.

Roughly two thirds of all households were inhabited dwellings of four or five rooms whereas 70 per cent. of households in shared dwellings were limited to two or three rooms only, at an average occupation of 0.86 persons per room. The percentage of households in all dwellings as expressed by density of occupation was :—

				%
Over 3 persons per room ...	...	...	...	0.4
2-3 ditto ...	...	...	...	1.2
1½-2 ditto ...	...	...	...	3.5
1-1½ ditto ...	...	...	...	9.5
under 1 ditto ...	...	...	...	85.4

296 households shared and 196 were without piped water. 141 households shared and 25 lacked cooking stoves. Kitchen sinks were shared in 151 and were not present in 135 households. Water closets were shared in 349 households and 149 more were entirely without this facility. As many as 938 households declared themselves to be entirely without a fixed bath and 141 more shared this amenity.

97.9 per cent. of the population lived in private households, 0.8 per cent. in hotels and only 3 persons were recorded as campers or vagrants.

Of the total population of 10,741 (expressed in approximations) 40.5 per cent. were single persons ; 53 per cent. were married ; 6.0 per cent. were widowed ; and 0.5 per cent. were divorced.

The total of males over the age of 15 years was 3,788 and the proportions per thousand in the Registrar's five social classes were as follows :

Social Class I	38
II	185
III	535
IV	153
V	89

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases were reported as requiring observation this year.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kenilworth Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my 18th Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The activities of the year show little of exceptional character, but I feel that the details in the ensuing pages will indicate the varied and essential nature of the duties required of the Department in providing an efficient service for the town.

Much new housing development is proceeding, and with the considerably higher proportion of houses of modern standards, the presence of the unfit properties will be more accentuated. The removal of unfit houses is one of the urgent aspects of this problem, as in many instances the occupants are enduring considerable hardship and drudgery and have little encouragement to use the home for purposes of relaxation.

Food hygiene and food inspection have been marked during the year by the de-control of slaughtering, which placed upon the department the responsibility for the inspection of meat slaughtering in the district for human consumption. This class of work has been very substantial during the second half of the year and a large proportion of time has had to be devoted to it.

The need for the extension of the sewerage system, and the improvement of the Sewerage Disposal Works has become more marked through the increased tempo of development. The need is even more accentuated during periods of heavy rainfall, and on these occasions there is much surcharging of the sewers.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,

Sanitary Inspector

Nuisances.

Notices were served in respect of defects and nuisances found on 119 premises, details of which are set out in Table I.

The abatement of nuisances and the carrying out of house repairs are not done so expeditiously as one would wish. This is chiefly due to the all-out drive to build new houses, leaving little labour for the repairing of houses which have had a negligible amount of maintenance for a considerable length of time. This is a serious state of affairs, as existing houses must not be allowed to decline into a state of total unfitness at a premature date.

It is unfortunate that owners of property are not making full use of the Improvement Grants available to modernise and bring up to a good standard their houses. What grants have been applied for are chiefly from the owner-occupiers, and whilst this improvement is desirable, the larger proportion of tenanted houses remain in their original sub-standard condition.

Infectious Diseases.

Details of the cases of infectious disease notified during 1954 are dealt with in the Medical Officer of Health's Report. Only one case of query poliomyelitis was investigated during the year. No cases of diphtheria or scarlet fever were notified. The decline in the incidence of much disease is encouraging, but there is no room for complacency. Disease has a habit of returning in virulence every few years, and whilst scarlet fever is low in incidence and mild in character a watch must be kept for the possibility of its return.

Tuberculosis.

The visiting of cases of tuberculosis is carried out by the County Council's Health Visitors. Disinfectant is available free of charge for use in homes where there are cases of this disease, but the use of this facility has been negligible during the year. Current disinfection is extremely valuable in reducing the risk of others to the contraction of the disease, and this free supply of disinfectant would assist those who need it most if carried out conscientiously.

Disinfection of Premises.

The number of disinfections which have been carried out is increasing, and are mainly done after the removal of tuberculous persons to sanatorium.

No other terminal disinfections were necessary during the year. Requests are, however, frequently made for disinfections to be carried out after the death of old persons. Whilst there is no evident infection in the home, the requests are mostly met. A home disinfection is cheap and quickly carried out, and it is felt that the householders do appreciate this small service which helps them to readjust their homes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Notices were served in respect of 12 defects in house drainage during the year. Considerable concern is felt at the serious overloading of the sewers and Disposal Works. Plans are being formulated for the extension of both schemes, and the work must be commenced at the earliest possible moment.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Increasing difficulty is being experienced in the maintenance of an adequate cleansing service. This is mainly due to the lack of labour. Men are not forthcoming for this type of work at wage rates which are not very attractive. The difficulty is likely to be accentuated by the steady increase in the number of dustbins to be emptied each week as new houses become occupied.

Shops.

The inspections of shops in the district have been maintained to ensure that the Regulations of the Shops Act, 1950 are implemented. Conditions in this district are generally satisfactory and being well maintained.

Smoke Abatement.

There is very little smoke problem in the district owing to its general residential character. Observations have been kept on the few industrial chimneys which do exist in an endeavour to prevent excessive pollution, and generally the conditions in the district are satisfactory.

Open Air Bathing Pool.

The open-air Swimming Pool was opened on Saturday, 22nd May, and closed on the 18th September. During this period the recorded attendances were as follows, together with previous comparisons :—

			1954.	1953.	1952.
Adults	...	...	3,826	6,275	6,543
Children	...	...	7,781	9,011	9,373
Spectators	...	...	2,293	3,140	2,759

The Baths were properly maintained during the period.

Verminous Premises.

The practice of supplying modern insecticides has continued with a view to helping in the reduction of the number of verminous premises. There are still a number of requests for assistance in the elimination of persistent infestations. Treatment was given to 105 premises, and 325 visits were made.

Food and Food Preparing Premises.

(a) Milk: the methods employed for the distribution of milk continue as before, all milk being conveyed in vehicles either petrol or electrically driven. All milk retailed in the district is contained in closed bottles, and there has been no complaint during the year of dirty bottles. There is a possibility that the adoption of a system of non-returnable containers would eliminate the complaints which have arisen previously of dirty bottles.

Three distributors of milk were registered during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, there being a total of 10 Distributors and 2 Dairies now registered under these Regulations. All the milk which is sold is Designated milk.

The following licences to sell Designated milk have been issued :—

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	5
Dealers' Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	5

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised)

Milk Regulations, 1949.

Supplementary Licences (Pasteurised)	5
Dealers' Licences (Pasteurised)	4

(b) *Ice Cream*.—No new applications have been received this year for the registration of premises to sell Ice Cream. Four premises are registered for manufacture and sale, but only one person has manufactured his own Ice Cream during the year. This has been by "cold-mix" method and has been on a small scale. 38 premises are registered for the sale only of Ice Cream under Section 14 (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The results of 20 samples taken for examination were as follows :—

Grade 1	...	...	...	17
Grade 2	...	...	...	—
Grade 3	...	...	...	2
Grade 4	...	...	...	1

The majority of Ice Cream sold in this district is pre-packed, which eliminates a lot of possible contamination through serving utensils.

(c) *Meat and Meat Products*.—The slaughtering of animals was de-controlled and private slaughterhouses in the district came into operation on the 1st July. Work was carried out at two premises to render them suitable for present use, and at the one address slaughtering is being carried on at practically a full-time basis.

A considerable amount of time has been necessary on meat inspection, and the work has had to be fitted in with other duties. The standard of slaughtering has been good, and general conditions have been satisfactory in every respect. All meat is inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse, and the disposal of offals, etc., is being satisfactorily carried out.

There have been 9 renewals of Licences to slaughter or stun animals under Section 3, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The number of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale continues to total 9. The registrations are mainly for sausage making carried out in suitable premises at butchers' shops.

(d) *Other Food Preparing Premises*.—Catering establishments have been regularly visited and are generally satisfactory, and every effort is made to encourage the staffs concerned to maintain a good standard of cleanliness.

Unfit Food.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Various foods in jars	...	...	...	2
Various foods in tins	...	...	...	207
Bacon and ham	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Corned beef	...	...	...	2½ lbs.
Luncheon meat	...	...	...	32½ lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	32 lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	7 packets
Cake	...	...	...	10½ lbs.
Jellies	...	...	...	5
Dried fruit	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	77 lbs.

The goods were all destroyed on your refuse tip.

Factories.

The number of factories on the Register is 59, 54 being power factories and 5 being non-power factories. They are composed mostly of small establishments with small numbers of employees, but the new factories established on the small industrial sites available in this area are well equipped from every point of view. There were three out-workers notified during the year. There has been no case of infectious disease at any of the homes where the work has been done.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

For the part of the year the part-time employee has been available on Rodent Control, and later it was necessary to get outside assistance. Treatment was given to 105 premises, involving 325 visits.

Your refuse tip and Sewage Disposal Works received treatment during the year, and every effort is being made to reduce the nuisance of pests in each instance. Sewers were also treated, but fortunately there was little evidence of the presence of rats in the sewers.

New Buildings.

249 Houses and Bungalows.

8 Estate layouts.

21 Additions and Extensions.

148 Garages.

2 Workshops.

7 Outbuildings.

1 New shop front.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I
KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1954.

	Inspections and observations made	Notices served and complied with			
		In-formal	In-formal abated	Formal	Formal abated
GENERAL SANITATION.	Water Supply	12	8	6	—
	Drainage	69	12	9	2
	Stables and Piggeries	10	1	—	—
	Fried Fish Shops	2	1	—	—
	Tents, Vans and Sheds	22	—	—	—
	Factories	26	7	5	—
	Outworkers	3	—	—	—
	Bakehouses	4	—	—	—
	Theatres and Places of Entertainment	1	—	—	—
	Refuse Collection	243	—	—	—
	Refuse Disposal	7	—	—	—
	Rats and Mice	106	1	1	—
	Smoke Observations	1	—	—	—
	Schools	1	—	—	—
HOUSING.	Shops Acts	7	—	—	—
	Miscellaneous	25	—	—	—
	UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :				
	No. of houses inspected	83	56	24	22
	Visits paid to above houses	250			14
	UNDER HOUSING ACTS :				
	No. of houses inspected	26	22	5	16
	Visits paid to above houses	26			7
	VERMINOUS PREMISES :				
	No. of houses inspected	7	1	1	—
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	Visits paid to above houses	15			—
	Applicants for Housing Accommodation	61			—
	Miscellaneous	8	—	—	—
	INSPECTION OF MEAT :				
	Visits to Slaughterhouses	210			
	Visits to Shops and Stalls	5			
	Visits to other Premises	1			
	VISITS TO :				
	Butchers	4	1	1	—
	Fishmongers and Poulterers	3	—	—	—
	Grocers	59	4	4	—
	Greengrocers and Fruiterers	3	—	—	—
	Dairies and Milkshops	4	1	—	—
	Ice-Cream Premises	25	2	2	—
	Food Preparing Premises	5	1	1	—
	Restaurants	3	1	1	—
	Miscellaneous	5	—	—	—
		1322	119	61	41
					23

Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food	No. 18
Seizure of Unsound Food	—
Samples of Ice-Cream taken for Examination	20
Samples of Well Water taken for Examination	1

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries into cases of Notifiable Disease	1
Visits re disinfection	10
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	—
Houses disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	3
Schools disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	—
Lots of Bedding steam disinfected or destroyed	—
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	—
Convictions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	—
Prosecutions for failure to notify existence of Notifiable Disease	—
Convictions for failure to notify existence of Notifiable Disease	—

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

NOTE.—This Table takes into no account a number of Notices served during 1953, which were complied with during 1954. The Table, however, does include Notices served during 1954, but which were not complied with at the end of the year.

TABLE II.

KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1954 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1947	9,780	211	21.6	11	52	101	10.3
1948	10,160	213	21.0	4	19	85	8.4
1949	10,230	195	19.0	9	46	107	10.5
1950	10,550	148	14.0	2	13	94	8.9
1951	10,610	170	16.0	7	41	127	12.0
1952	10,710	177	16.5	3	17	144	13.4
1953	10,870	202	18.5	8	39.6	121	11.1
1954	11,110	180	16.2	6	33.3	102	9.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1954.**(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.				Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.		
England and Wales	15.2	23.4	11.3	25.5	

TABLE III.

KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1954.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox									
Plague									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Group)									
Erysipelas									
Scarlet Fever									
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Pneumonia	2					1		1	
Malaria									
Dysentery									
Puerperal Pyrexia	1				1				
Meningococcal Infection									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)									
Whooping Cough	41	4	17	18	2				
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Measles	6		4	2					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14			2	3	4	4	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1					1			
Food Poisoning									
Totals	65	4	21	22	6	6	4	2	

TABLE IV.
KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	1	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	5
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
16 Diabetes	1	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	7	1
18 Coronary disease, angina	9	7
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	11
20 Other heart disease	4	2
21 Other circulatory disease	3	4
22 Influenza	1	—
23 Pneumonia	2	1
24 Bronchitis... ..	2	1
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	2	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	1	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4
33 Motor vehicle accidents	—	1
34 All other accidents	2	—
35 Suicide	—	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	57	45

