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RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

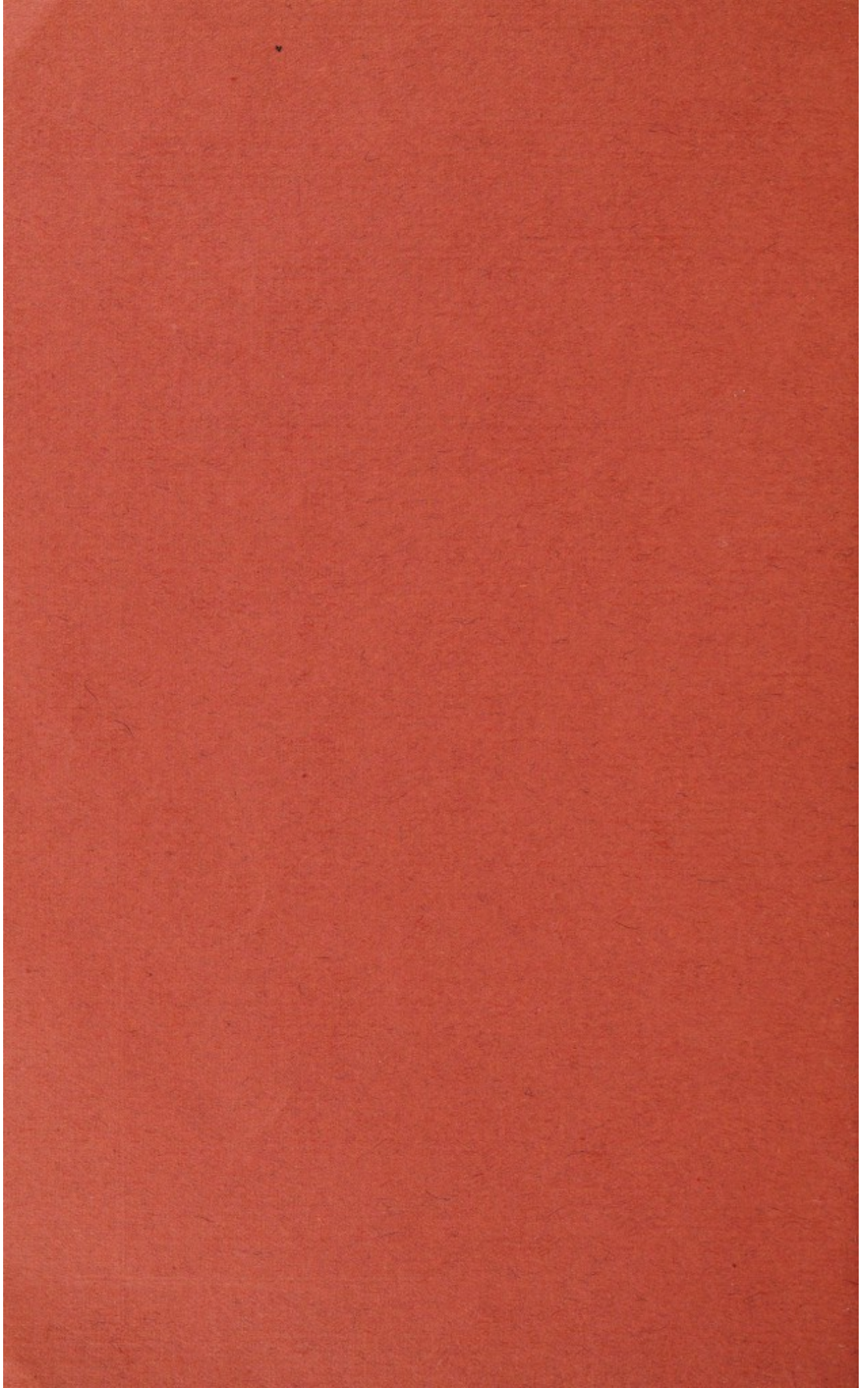
OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington :

A. TOMES, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1926.





14, YORK ROAD,
LEAMINGTON SPA,
May, 1926.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Report for the year 1925, relating to the health of the District.

Incorporated in the Report, as required by the Ministry of Health, is a survey of conditions during the past five years. As a record, even if an imperfect one, of health conditions in the District, it may be of some interest.

I would wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and also to my colleagues for their ready help at all times.

The preparation of the present Report has entailed special work on the part of Mr. Davey, which I acknowledge with many thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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Meriden Rural District.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	55,856
Population (1925)	18,290
,, (Census, 1921)	17,049
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	3,631
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	3,712
Rateable Value	£153,306
Sum represented by a penny rate	£632

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate	282	142	140	} Birth Rate 16.2
{ Illegitimate	14	8	6	
Deaths	207	101	106	Death Rate 11.3
Factor for Correction of Death Rate for Age and Sex Distribution ... ..				.870
Corrected Death Rate				9.8
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—				
From Sepsis				2
,, other causes				3
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—				
Legitimate, 57 ; Illegitimate, 71 ; total, 57.				
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				1
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)				3
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				1

VITAL STATISTICS.

Table II. gives the comparable figures for the past five years.

Population.—The estimated figure of 18,290 shews an increase of 1,241 over the Census figure for 1921.

The “natural increase,” that is, excess of births over deaths, was 89.

Births.—There were Registered 296 births, giving a rate of 16.2 per 1,000 population. These figures are less than those for 1924, which were 317 and 17.6.

Deaths.—207 in number, giving a death-rate of 11.3 per 1,000 population. This is .1 per 1,000 more than in 1924.

The various causes of death are set out in Table IV., but the following causes are worthy of special mention :—Influenza 8, Apoplexy 12, Heart Disease 25, Bronchitis 11, Pneumonia 9, Tuberculosis 24, Bright's Disease 6, Congenital Debility 7, and Violent Deaths 11. As regards Cancer the following are the numbers of deaths tabulated since 1912 :—

1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
16	14	20	20	22	21	16
1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
25	21	23	28	23	26	23

Infantile Mortality.—17 deaths, giving a rate of 57 per 1,000 births, as compared with 18 and 57 in 1924.

7 deaths were due to conditions prior to birth.

Amount of Poor Law Relief, 1925 :—

Maintenance in Institutions—	£	£
(1) Provided by Guardians	... 1,498	
(2) Other Institutions	... 162	
	—	1,660
Outdoor Relief ...	...	1,614
Maintenance of Lunatics	...	2,315
		<hr/> £5,589 <hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—The feature of the water supply of the District is that nearly one-half of the total of inhabited houses are supplied from mains. This is a very satisfactory position for a Rural District, especially as the number is increasing each year.

The changes in and additions to the Water Supplies of the District during the past five years are shewn in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Of the 8 samples of well water taken during the year, 5 were reported to be unsatisfactory.

Certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act have been issued with respect to 222 new houses.

Drainage and Sewerage.—During the year under review, visits were paid to the sewage outfalls in the district. These will be found described in the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1914. Practically no alteration has taken place, but the systems in existence were found to be working well, though in many instances at full capacity. Some extensions of sewers are referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, also a tabular statement of the various methods of treatment.

Scavenging.—The present position of the District in this respect is as follows :—

In only one instance, that of Water Orton, is the work carried out by a Contractor. Coleshill, Castle Bromwich, and Hampton are scavenged by the Staff of the Council. It is satisfactory to note that this work done departmentally continues to be more efficient than it was when contracted out, and a request has been received for the Water Orton work to be done by the Council.

The work of the Morris Tonner motor vehicle is referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, but one may note that it has been very satisfactory, and the number of collections has been increased.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections, and in the Sanitary Inspector's Report will be found details on this matter, as well as on the premises controlled by Bye-laws.

SCHOOLS.—The elementary schools of the District have continued to receive inspection as occasion has arisen.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—There is nothing of special note to report here. Generally speaking, the quality of the milk would appear to be good, though in some cases greater cleanliness might be observed with advantage.

There were 6 additions to the Register during the past year, and the Inspector has endeavoured by frequent visits to ensure as much improvement as possible in dairies and cowsheds.

There have been no refusals to register, and no registrations have been revoked.

No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.

(b) *Meat.*

Inspection.—The size of the district makes it impossible to inspect all slaughterhouses at the regular time of slaughter, but a record is kept of such times, and an endeavour made to inspect as frequently as possible, emergency cases are practically always visited.

During the past year 70 dressed carcasses were inspected, and in all, 7 were condemned for various reasons. This is in addition to various organs condemned.

Generally speaking it would appear that the regulations, which naturally appear somewhat irksome to the butcher, have been reasonably well observed.

Slaughterhouses in use.

	1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	13	14	14
Licensed ...	—	2	6

Three applications for licenses were refused.

Condemned meat is disposed of by the Council.

(c) The Bakehouses are subject to frequent inspection, and are kept mostly in a cleanly condition.

(d) The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered in the District entirely by the Officers of the County Council.

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1920.

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Fever.
1921	...	26	41	—	21	—	1
1922	...	3	47	1	58	—	1
1923	...	37	62	2	56	—	1
1924	...	20	25	2	46	2	2
1925	...	14	48	1	68	—	2

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1925.

Smallpox.—No cases occurred during the past year, and the one case at Allesley at the latter end of 1924, fully described in the last Report, remains the only one for many years.

Having regard to the general neglect of vaccination, and the prevalence of this disease in the vicinity, arrangements are in constant readiness for dealing with any cases which may arise.

Diphtheria.—14 cases were notified during 1925,; of these, 6 occurred at Coleshill, of which 2 were in the Roman Catholic Homes, and 3 at Minworth in the Hutments on the Aerodrome, where the best possible conditions for the spread of infectious disease appear to exist.

The number of cases of Diphtheria in 1923 was considerably increased by an epidemic which occurred in the Roman Catholic Homes at Coleshill, where there were 19 cases. Had it not been for the efficiency of the administration of these institutions, there would undoubtedly have been many more cases.

As far as I am aware, the SCHICK TEST has not been used in the District, though undoubtedly it might be of use in such an epidemic as mentioned above.

The Council provides a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin through the following Chemists:—Mr. Axford, Smithford Street, Coventry, and Mr. Cook, High Street, Coleshill.

Scarlet Fever.—48 cases were notified, and of these 18 occurred at Minworth, mainly in the Hutments in the Aerodrome, and as mentioned above, conditions are such, due to the somewhat crowded state of this group of wooden buildings and the comparatively large number of children, as to ensure the probability of the rapid spread of infectious disease. It was only due to prompt measures that the cases were limited to the number recorded.

In 1923, as in the case of Diphtheria, there was a considerable epidemic of Scarlet Fever at Coleshill, mostly in the Roman Catholic Homes, 24 cases being notified; this accounts mostly for the large total for that year.

I have no record of the Dick Test being used, or of any method of artificial immunisation.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases were notified, but one was withdrawn on request, as after removal it was found not to be a case of this disease. The source of the infection in the remaining case could not be ascertained. The comparative

freedom from Enteric Fever of this district may be ascribed in part at any rate, to the fact that nearly half the houses are supplied by the water mains of the Birmingham and Coventry Corporations.

Puerperal Fever.—Two cases were notified from Allesley and Fillongley, and there were two deaths. It is questionable whether all the cases which occur come to our notice, because they are often sent either into Birmingham and Coventry, From the former one receives an occasional notification.

Pneumonia.—68 cases were notified, and there were 9 deaths. The medical men practising in the Meriden Rural District have nearly always been punctilious in notifying this disease. Should an entry in the Death Returns give the cause of death as Pneumonia, and there is no corresponding notification, enquiry is immediately made of the Medical man concerned.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases were notified—and the figures for the past five years are 2, 1, 0, 1, 0. Any notification is immediately passed on to the County Medical Officer for investigation.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—No cases were notified during 1925. During the past 5 years there have been 2 cases notified and 2 deaths.

Laboratory Work.—See Section 6.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No action was taken or required.

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.—The following list of school closures indicates fairly accurately the prevalence of these diseases :—

Corley, from Jan. 19th to Jan. 26th. Influenza.
 Berkswell, from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 16th. Influenza.
 Fillongley, from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 16th. Influenza.
 Meriden, from Feb. 11th to Mar. 8th. Influenza.
 Sheldon, from Feb. 13th to Mar. 15th. Whooping Cough.
 Corley, from Feb. 13th to Easter Holidays. Measles.
 Fillongley, from Mar. 16th to Mar. 30th. Measles.
 Minworth, from Mar. 20th to Mar. 27th. Influenza.
 Castle Bromwich, from Mar. 20th to April 7th. Influenza.
 Over Whitacre, from Mar. 20th to Easter Holidays. Whooping Cough.
 Maxstoke, from Mar. 27th to Easter Holidays. Influenza.
 Marston Green, from Mar. 30th to Easter Holidays. Influenza.
 Nether Whitacre, from April 20th to May 4th. Whooping Cough.
 Shustoke Mixed, from June 24th to Summer Holidays. Whooping Cough.

Shustoke Infants, from June 24th to Summer Holidays. Whooping Cough.

Fillongley, from July 7th to Summer Holidays. Whooping Cough.
Minworth Mixed, from July 27th to Summer Holidays. Scarlet Fever.

Lea Marston Girls, from Oct. 13th to Nov. 6th. Chickenpox.

Lea Marston Boys, from Oct. 23rd to Nov. 6th. Chickenpox.

Castle Bromwich, from Dec. 8th to Xmas Holidays. Chickenpox and Mumps.

The school teachers of the District follow the rules laid down by the County Council with regard to exclusion of members of infected families from school, which rules are based upon the Ministry of Health's Memorandum of 1925. Notifications of all infectious disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

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
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
20	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	1	—	—	4	2	—
35	6	5	1	—	5	1	—	1
45	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
TOTALS	13	10	3	1	9	8	5	2

27 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 23 being of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 of other tuberculous disease. The figures since the commencement of compulsory notification in 1912 are as follows:—

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Cases ...	56	72	55	41	38	32	30
Deaths ...	17	18	19	16	15	22	16
	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Cases ...	44	45	27	40	36	27	27
Deaths ...	16	11	13	11	9	7	24

24 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis, of which 17 were of pulmonary tuberculosis and 7 of other tuberculous diseases.

Treatment.—6 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, and 9 were discharged.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free through the Sanitary Inspector for cases where they are desirable. After deaths from tuberculosis, and after removals of tuberculous patients when possible, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector.

It may be noted that 3 of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis came from Birmingham, having moved into the District with a view to improvement of health, and of the non-pulmonary type, 1 occurred at St. Gerard's Hospital, having probably contracted the disease elsewhere. The subtraction of these figures improves the statistics.

By an arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health I have supplied him every week with lists of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the County Health Visitor has visited. Through this arrangement I have from time to time received information as to defective conditions in the patients' homes, and steps have been taken to remedy these.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

17 deaths of infants were registered as belonging to the District during the year, comparing with 18 during the preceding year, and equivalent to the infant mortality rate of 57 per thousand births. This rate is the same as that for 1924, and this figure is the best of the past five years.

7 of these deaths were due to premature birth and other congenital causes.

Under the Notification of Births Act, 246 births have been notified out of the 296 which were registered in the District during the year. The Act continues to be disregarded in many cases, but an endeavour is being made in all cases to obtain an explanation from the persons responsible.

Weekly lists of births have been regularly forwarded to the County Officials, and infants have been visited by the County Health Visitors. Much of the success attained of recent years in reducing infant mortality is due to their efforts.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There is nothing of special note.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—None provided by the Local Authority.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority.—(1) Tuberculosis, None. (2) Maternity, None. (3) Children, None. (4) Fever and Smallpox: The Solihull and Meriden Joint Isolation Hospital at Catherine-de-Barnes in the Solihull Rural District continues to provide for the patients from the Meriden District. In this institution fourteen beds are provided for scarlet fever, six for diphtheria, and four for enteric fever.

The Joint Small-pox Hospital at Marston Green in the Meriden Rural District provides for the same two Districts. This Hospital can receive sixteen cases, and is kept in a state of readiness.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

The following Table shows the extent to which the County scheme has been utilised for the free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University:—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	18	69	87
Enteric Fever...	1	3	4
Tuberculosis ...	6	12	18
			<hr/> 109 <hr/>

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

A summary of the work done in this department is given in Table I., and the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Acts adopted in the District:—

P.H. Act, 1875. Sections 112 and 113; and such of the provisions of Section 160 as incorporate the provisions of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to naming the streets and numbering the houses.

P.H.A.A. Act, 1890. Sections 23, 25 and 33.

P.H.A.A. Act, 1907. Sections 15, 16, 17, 21, 25, 27 to 30 (inclusive), 32 to 35 (inclusive), 38, 44, 45, 46, 49, and 51 to 68 (inclusive). Sections 39 to 42 (inclusive) for Allesley, Castle Bromwich, Bickenhill, Coleshill, Curdworth, Hampton-in-Arden, Meriden, Minworth, Nether Whitacre, Over Whitacre, and Water Orton.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

In addition to the duties of Sanitary Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Davey is designated as Inspector under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, and he superintends the various scavenging schemes and administers the Canal Boats and Petroleum Acts. The Inspector is provided with an assistant to perform the actual manual work in connection with sewers, drains, disinfection, etc., and also with a clerk to relieve him of routine office work. The duties of his office have increased so much during the past few years, that it is only by the use of motor transport that it is at all possible to carry them out, and it is certain that if New Orders and Regulations continue to be issued as in the past year, a further appointment will be necessary.

9. HOUSING.

I. *General Housing Conditions.*—Having regard to the geographical position of the Meriden Rural District, between the two large cities of Birmingham and Coventry, it would be expected that its housing conditions would be much influenced by them, and this is the case. In both cities the lack of housing is great, and the tendency, estimable as it may be in principle, to get into the country, has led to many difficulties in the rural districts; furthermore, since the children of many of the inhabitants of parishes near to the two cities work in the cities, it is only natural that they should wish to live in their native place.

The conditions as regards housing provision in both areas as mentioned above are very serious, and in spite of the attempt which Birmingham has made, and is still making, by building freely, to mitigate the housing shortage, which has for many years been considerable, it has continued to increase, in other words the amount of housing provided has been small as compared with the demand.

The result in the Rural District of Meriden has appeared to operate in two directions. In the first place the overcrowding which exists in the cities has led to a similar, though not quite so serious, state of affairs outside, but the statistics furnished in this report do not give any idea of the amount. In 1921, there were 16 families of 3 or more inhabitants occupying tenements of one room, 89 of 3 or more occupying tenements of 2 rooms, and 440 of 3 or more occupying tenements of 3 rooms. There is little doubt that at any rate these conditions have not improved. Secondly, many people in the large towns are apparently under the impression that building bye-laws are non-operative in the Rural Districts, and they have come out and erected sheds of the poorest description, in which they live under very bad conditions. The Council has had to take drastic steps in a few cases to enforce their powers.

In 1921 the Council completed 14 houses under the original housing scheme of the Government ; of these, 6 were at Allesley and 8 at Meriden ; no further housing has been undertaken by the Council.

The Tame and Rea Drainage Board have continued their scheme for housing their employees ; this scheme was in being prior to the War, but valuable though it is, it cannot help much the general shortage.

The Birmingham Corporation have taken over the Hutments on the Aerodrome in the Parish of Minworth ; these have been reconstructed to a considerable extent. There is no doubt that these dwellings have done little, if anything, to relieve the housing difficulties in the district, as they are practically all filled by workers from the adjacent Dunlop Factory. On the other hand they must, by the nature of their construction and arrangement, which is such as to be far from ideal, lead to conditions which are not present in any other part of the District.

At the time of writing the Council are again considering the building of houses, and it is certain that such a course will be of great advantage. Many houses have been built under the various Subsidy schemes, but these are all of such a character as to be beyond the means of the working man.

II. *Overcrowding*.—Only three cases were officially reported. One has been abated, but the other two remain unrelieved because of the lack of alternative accommodation.

III. *Fitness of Houses*.—The Housing Survey of 1919, which was made by my predecessor, Dr. Tangye, with much care, shewed that there were 67 houses which were in a hopeless condition, and a further 503 which were seriously defective. The state of affairs to-day is still very unsatisfactory, and it is difficult to see how much progress could have been hoped for.

Every endeavour has been made to see that absolutely essential work should be done, but the plea has frequently been made, why should money be spent on houses which have been stated to be unfit for habitation, and it must be admitted that this is a difficult question to answer. Then again, given the consent of the owner to carry out certain works, there has been the difficulty in obtaining the necessary workmen and materials to do the work.

I am of opinion, taking the above difficulties into consideration, that the housing conditions of the district have been maintained and indeed improved during the past five years, but it must be obvious that it is impossible to close many houses until such time as there are further houses available, and one might add, until these are available at a reasonable rental.

It is difficult if not impossible, to apportion the blame as to defective houses between the owners and tenants, but generally speaking we find that owners have done little of late to improve their property, though it has been noted that where work has been recently done, the tenant has, in a few cases, quickly effaced all evidence of such work.

General action taken to improve housing conditions is indicated in the following Table for 1925.

Subsidy.—The number of houses built under the Regulations still continues satisfactory.

Up to the end of the year 487 houses had been approved for Subsidy ; these comprise 327 Parlours and 160 Non-parlour Type. Of these, 318 were completed for occupation by the end of the year.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

1.—NEW HOUSES.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	.....	222
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts,		
1919, 1923 or 1924 :		
(i.) By the Local Authority	.....	Nil
(ii.) By other Bodies or Persons	.....	190

3651) 6700 11.9
 3631
 3069

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	127
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	19
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	83

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	104
---	-----

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. <i>Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners... ..	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	—
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
C. <i>Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.</i>	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

REPORT OF SANITARY SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR.

TO THE MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Fifth Annual Report.

SUMMARISED TABLE.

1,104 Houses and premises have been visited and revisited.
221 defects have been noted.
106 Informal notices were issued.

WATER SUPPLY.

Certificates for occupation under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, have been granted in 222 cases, embracing the new houses completed during the year.

WATER ANALYSIS.

	Passed.	Unsatisfactory.	Condemned.	Total.
New Wells ...	3	...	2	5
Pump Water	—	...	2	2
Other Sources	—	...	1	1
				8

The following alterations and additions to the Water Supply of the District have taken place during the past five years :—

Parish.	Locality.	Mains owned by.	Work done.
Allesley ...	Washbrook Lane	Coventry Corporation	Extension (4") approx. 200yds.
Bickenhill ...	Land Lane	Birmingham	" (4") " "
	Elmdon Lane	"	" (4") " "
	Hampton Lane	"	" (4") " 150yds.
Castle Bromwich	Hodgehill Common	"	Main enlarged for about 1 mile (12").
	Stechford Lane	"	Extension (4") approx. 300yds.
Coleshill ...	High Street	"	Main enlarged for about 2 miles (6").
Fillongley	Main Road	Meriden R.D.C.	Extension (2") approx. 200yds.
Minworth ...	Cottage Lane	Birmingham Corporation	Extension (4"), 100yds.

Also many short extensions for individual property.

We are at present negotiating with the City of Birmingham for extensions of their mains to supply a portion of the Parish of Sheldon, which is developing rapidly, also Hurst Lane, Castle Bromwich.

SEWERAGE.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No great changes have taken place since 1914, when these systems were described in detail in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

The following shows briefly the present state of things :—

Parish.	Treatment.	Effluent.	Location.	Recent Improve- ments, etc.
Allesley ...	Tank ...	On land (6 acres)	Coventry Road	—
Castle Bromwich	Drainage Board	—	—	—
Coleshill ... (Southern half)	2 Tanks ...	On land (12 acres)	Hornets ...	—
Curdworth ...	Drainage Board	—	—	—
Hampton-in-Arden	Tank ...	On land (31½ acres)	The Moors ...	Scum boards introduced and larger effluent carrier across brook, 30yds. effluent sewer laid.
" ...	Tank ...	On land (16½ acres)	Siden hill ...	—
Lea Marston ...	Tank ...	To river 200 yds. distant	—	—
Meriden ...	Tank ...	To ditch ...	Dowlands ...	Tank recently introduced.
Minworth ...	Drainage Board	—	—	Detritus chamber enlarged.
Water Orton ...	" ...	—	—	—
Over Whitacre	2 small tanks ...	On fields ...	—	—
Nether Whitacre	3 small tanks ...	To ditch ...	The Heath ...	—
" ...	1 tank ...	On land (8 acres)	Hogg ell's End	—

Several sewer extensions have been carried out during the past five years, among the chief of which are :—

Castle Bromwich (Hodgehill Common)	620yds. 9" Stoneware.
	400yds. 6" "
Water Orton (Castle Bromwich Road)	300yds. 6" (including 230yds. C.I. Syphon).
Coleshill (Green Lanes) ...	100yds. 6" Stoneware.
(Cole End) ...	40yds. 6" "
Sheldon (Bell Lane) ...	220yds. 6" "

SCAVENGING.

I am pleased to report that since the introduction of the Morris Tonner for the Scavenging work done departmentally in the Parishes of Coleshill, Castle Bromwich, and Hampton-in-Arden, together with the provision of a moveable galvanized iron tank used on the Tonner for pan emptying, the work has been greatly facilitated. The collections are consequently more frequent, viz., once every 3 or 4 weeks instead of every 5 or 6 weeks as before.

Water Orton.—The work is still done by Contract.

INSPECTIONS.

Allesley ...	140	Minworth ...	55
Berkswell ...	73	Great Packington ...	—
Bickenhill ...	62	Little Packington ...	4
Castle Bromwich ...	213	Sheldon ...	77
Coleshill ...	109	Water Orton ...	62
Coundon ...	—	Nether Whitacre ...	23
Corley ...	36	Over Whitacre ...	8
Curdworth ...	6	Wishaw ...	1
Fillongley ...	37	Shustoke ...	9
Hampton-in-Arden	36	Miscellaneous ...	50
Lea Marston ...	3		
Maxstoke ...	4		
Meriden ...	96		1,104

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Minworth Schools were thoroughly disinfected after an outbreak of Scarlet Fever.

BUILDING PLANS.

During the year 151 plans were dealt with, embracing 280 buildings, as against 220 plans for 363 buildings last year.

Developments continue at Marston Green (in both the Parishes of Bickenhill and Coleshill), Hodgehill Common, Sheldon, and Allesley.

During the year 225 buildings were completed, viz. :—222 Houses, and Bungalows, 2 Temporary Dwellings, 1 other Building.

The following Table shows the building progress made during the past seven years :—

Year.						Permanent dwelling houses completed.
1919 ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
1920 ...	...	...	...	...	...	49
1921 ...	...	...	...	...	...	62
1922 ...	...	...	...	...	...	55
1923 ...	...	...	...	...	...	115
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	170
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	222

ANALYSIS OF DEPOSITED PLANS.

	Houses.	Bungalows.	Cottages.	Additions and Conversions	Temporary Dwellings.	Motor Houses.	Other Buildings	TOTALS.
Allesley ...	49	14	—	—	5	—	—	68
Berkswell ...	5	1	4	—	2	1	1	14
Bickenhill ...	20	13	—	1	3	—	3	40
Castle Bromwich	27	—	—	1	2	13	3	46
Coleshill ...	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	8
Corley ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Curdworth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fillongley ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Hampton-in-Arden	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	12
Maxstoke ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meriden ...	4	1	—	4	—	—	1	10
Minworth ...	20	—	—	—	1	1	3	25
Nether Whitacre	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Over Whitacre ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Sheldon ...	20	13	—	—	—	—	—	33
Water Orton ...	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	10
Wishaw ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Shustoke ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lea Marston ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	163	58	5	11	14	16	13	280

SUBSIDY.

	Parlour.	Non-Parlour.	Totals.
Number of houses or bungalows approved for Subsidy from December, 1923, to December 31st, 1925	327	160	487
Number completed between December, 1923, and December 31st, 1925 ...	228	90	318
Number actually completed ready for occupation during 1925	138	52	190

The total amount involved in approvals up to the end of 1925=£36,525.

The total amount paid to the end of 1925=£23,850.

The Ministry of Health have sanctioned 626 houses in all, so that, up to the time of writing, we have a balance of 102 which may yet be approved.

For a rural area I venture to suggest that this is a very gratifying result. It will be appreciated, however, that this has involved a tremendous amount of additional work.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, Etc.

Under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, 6 persons were registered.

Numerous visits were paid to these and established premises, and improvements made where necessary.

The usual limewashing and cleansing has been attended to.

PETROLEUM.

7 new licenses for the storage of petroleum were granted.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Workplaces, etc., have been kept under general observation, no special action having been taken or reported to the Government Inspector for the District.

The informal notices to cleanse premises, etc., have been readily complied with by the owners.

A report of H.M. Inspector as to insufficient lavatory accommodation was received, and the necessary accommodation provided.

BAKEHOUSES.

The 14 Bakehouses in the District have been kept reasonably clean. There are no underground Bakehouses.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The 20 Slaughter-houses have been visited as often as possible.

MEAT INSPECTION.

(*Meat Regulations, 1924*). Also see *Food Section*.

Condemned meat is buried in lime at a depth of from 5 to 6ft.

The administration of the Meat Regulations as regards Shops, Stalls, etc., is carried out by myself.

Three applications for licensing were refused.

During the year 70 dressed carcasses were inspected, as follows :—

Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Others.	Total.
21	...	20	...	2
		27		70

The following carcasses or portions were condemned for the reasons shown :—

Article destroyed.	Disease.
3 Cows and organs	Tuberculosis
2 pigs " ...	" (generalised).
1 pig " ...	Jaundice.
Portion of cow 	Milk fever.

Also various organs on account of Congestion, Cirrhosis, Necrosis, Strongyli, etc.

CANAL BOATS.

No complaints have been received.

CONCLUSION.

My thanks are tendered to the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk, and the Sanitary Committee for their cordial support and assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD S. DAVEY,

Member Inst. Mun. and County Engineers.
Cert. Royal San. Institute.
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

TABLE I.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools—				
Foul Conditions ...	12	—	8	8
Structural Defects ...	5	—	5	5
Overcrowding ...	3	—	3	1
Unfit for Habitation ...	—	—	—	—
Lodging Houses ...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ...	18	—	1	1
Cow Sheds ...				
Bakehouses ...	8	—	3	3
Slaughter Houses ...	28	—	1	1
Canal Boats ...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ...	3	—	3	3
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	12	—	4	4
Water-closets ...	2	—	2	2
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps ...	7	—	6	6
No Disconnection ...	—	—	—	—
Other Faults ...	40	—	18	19
Water Supply ...	64	—	11	11
Pigsties ...	10	—	5	5
Animals improperly kept ...	1	—	1	1
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	1	—	1	1
Other Nuisances ...	14	—	10	10
Various Inspections ..	381	—	—	—
New Buildings ...	495	—	29	29
TOTALS ...	1,104	—	111	110
				No.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	...	...	...	9
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ...	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated ...	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ...	...	...	...	8
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	...	...	...	—

NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed ...	...	...	15
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	...	81
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	1
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease...	...	...	—
Convictions ditto ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	—
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...	...	...	—
Convictions ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	—

REGINALD S. DAVEY, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

TABLE II.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925 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.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1919	15,126	247	16.3	21	85	185	12.7
1920	15,099	329	21.8	19	58	153	10.1
1921	16,970	275	16.2	21	76	198	11.6
1922	17,200	305	17.7	20	66	183	10.6
1923	17,440	325	18.7	23	71	203	11.7
1924	17,950	317	17.6	18	57	202	11.2
1925	18,290	296	16.2	17	57	207	11.3

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1925.

We are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following statement showing the birth-rates and death-rates and the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales, and in certain parts of the country during the year 1925.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1925 (Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.

				Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births
England and Wales	...	...	...	18.3	12.2	75
105 Great Towns, including London	...	...	...	18.8	12.2	79
157 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	18.3	11.2	74
London	...	...	...	18.0	11.7	67

TABLE III.—MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases notified.								Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	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 Croup)	14		3	7	1	3			7	
Erysipelas	9			1		1	5	2		
Scarlet Fever	48		22	22	2	2			29	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	1			1					1	
Pneumonia	68	10	21	9	8	4	10	6		9
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Fever	2					2				2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...										
Poliomyelitis	3		2	1						
Encephalitis Lethargica										2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Chicken-Pox	37		18	18		1				
Polio-Encephalitis	1		1							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23		1	1	2	14	4	1		18
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6			2	2	2				6
Totals	212	10	68	62	15	29	19	9	37	37

Isolation Hospitals: Solihull and Meriden Joint Isolation Hospital (at Catherine-
de-Barnes, in the Solihull R.D.);
Solihull and Meriden Joint Small-pox Hospital (at Marston Green, in the Meriden
R.D.)

TABLE IV.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Enteric Fever		
Smallpox		
Measles		1
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough	2	1
Diphtheria		
Influenza	2	6
Encephalitis Lethargica		
Meningococcal Meningitis		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	11	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	13	10
Rheumatic Fever	2	1
Diabetes	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	7	5
Heart Disease	14	11
Arterio Sclerosis	1	3
Bronchitis	2	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 yrs.)... ..		1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		1
Cirrhosis of Liver		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	5
Puerperal Sepsis		2
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		3
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	3	4
Suicide	1	
Other Deaths from Violence	7	3
Other Defined Diseases	21	21
Causes, ill-defined or unknown		2
All Causes	101	106



