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# Rural District of Meriden.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1939,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

### Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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1, MILVERTON HILL,  
LEAMINGTON SPA,

December, 1940.

**To the Meriden Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1939, very late owing to delayed arrival of the necessary statistics and pressure of other work.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is a short statement of fact with no comment. All the available information is, however, being kept for record and, if required, can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

## *Meriden Rural District.*

### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

|   |        |     |     |                   |                       |
|---|--------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1939                           |        |     |     |                   | For Birth Rate 29,210 |
|   |        |     |     |                   | „ Death „ 29,590      |
|   | Total. | M.  | F.  |                   |                       |
| Live Births { Legitimate  | 498    | 271 | 227 | } Birth Rate 17.5 |                       |
| { Illegitimate  | 16     | 9   | 7   |                   |                       |
| Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births                        |        |     |     |                   | 25                    |
| Deaths ... ..   | 281    | 150 | 131 | Death Rate        | 9.5                   |
| Adjusting Factor for Death Rate                                 |        |     |     |                   | 1.02                  |
| Adjusted Death Rate   |        |     |     |                   | 9.7                   |
| Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth |        |     |     | { From Sepsis     | —                     |
|   |        |     |     | „ other causes    | 2                     |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—                    |        |     |     |                   |                       |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births                               |        |     |     |                   | 55                    |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births             |        |     |     |                   | 56                    |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births         |        |     |     |                   | 63                    |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                                  |        |     |     |                   | 1                     |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)                                   |        |     |     |                   | —                     |
| „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)                            |        |     |     |                   | 2                     |

### B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

*Public Health Staff.*—A complete list was given in the Report for 1938.

*Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

|                  | Positive. |     | Negative. |     | Total. |
|------------------|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|--------|
| Diphtheria ...   | 19        | ... | 75        | ... | 94     |
| Enteric Fever... | —         | ... | 4         | ... | 4      |
| Tuberculosis ... | 4         | ... | 10        | ... | 14     |
|                  |           |     |           |     | 112    |

### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

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

1. (i) WATER.—The district is favourably situated in respect of piped supplies of water. Of the 24 parishes, 11 have between 80 and 95% of the dwellings supplied; 7 have between 25 and 75%, and the remaining 6 parishes depend largely on separate wells. The mains are continually being extended.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Twelve parishes have main sewerage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No change.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.—See Table I.

#### D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual Table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes, but with a view to economy it is not being printed.

##### (b) *Housing Conditions.*

1. *General Observations.*—This question was discussed fully in the Report for 1930, to which reference may be made.

2. *Sufficiency of the Supply of Houses.*—There are now 247 Council houses in the district, but it is certain that the demand still exists.

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—Representations were made during the year in respect to 2 dwellings, and in these cases undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted from the owners.

5. *Unhealthy Areas.*—No Representations were made in respect to Clearance Areas.

#### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The interest of the Inspectors in the maintenance of a clean milk supply has been kept up, in spite of calls on their time due to the War. Defects in premises and methods were reported monthly, and improvements numbering 81 were effected.

##### *Clean Milk.*

Two farms are licensed for tuberculin tested milk, and 108 are on the accredited roll. During the year 7 cow-keepers qualified newly for the latter.

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

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1931.*

|      |     | Smallpox, | Diphtheria. | Scarlet<br>Fever. | Enteric<br>Fever. | Pneumonia. | Encephalitis<br>Lethargica. | Puerperal<br>Pyrexia. |
|------|-----|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1932 | ... | —         | 8           | 29                | —                 | 52         | 1                           | 1                     |
| 1933 | ... | —         | 18          | 35                | —                 | 63         | —                           | 2                     |
| 1934 | ... | —         | 59          | 77                | —                 | 58         | —                           | 1                     |
| 1935 | ... | —         | 56          | 78                | —                 | 55         | —                           | 1                     |
| 1936 | ... | —         | 69          | 118               | —                 | 36         | —                           | 1                     |
| 1937 | ... | —         | 98          | 46                | —                 | 57         | —                           | 4                     |
| 1938 | ... | —         | 54          | 36                | —                 | 58         | —                           | 4                     |
| 1939 | ... | —         | 41          | 39                | —                 | 42         | —                           | 5                     |

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1939.

*Immunisation.*—Arrangements have been made for the supply to Medical Practitioners of material for Immunisation against Diphtheria, and 285 children were immunised during the year, 275 at Coleshill.

### *School Closures.*

Maxstoke, 16th to 23rd Jan. Influenza.  
 Shustoke Mixed, 4th to 27th Feb. Whooping Cough.  
 Shustoke Infants', 4th Feb. to 20th Mar. Whooping Cough.  
 Temple Balsall, 21st Feb. to 6th Mar. Whooping Cough.  
 Keresley Infants', 6th to 19th June. Measles.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

| AGE—PERIODS    | NEW CASES.     |     |                |     | DEATHS.        |    |                |     |     |   |
|----------------|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------|----|----------------|-----|-----|---|
|                | Non-Pulmonary. |     | Non-Pulmonary. |     | Non-Pulmonary. |    | Non-Pulmonary. |     |     |   |
|                | M.             | F.  | M.             | F.  | M.             | F. | M.             | F.  |     |   |
| 0              | ...            | ... | —              | —   | ...            | —  | —              | ... | —   | — |
| 1              | ...            | ... | ...            | ... | 3              | 1  | ...            | —   | ... | — |
| 5              | ...            | ... | ...            | 2   | 4              | 4  | ...            | —   | ... | — |
| 15             | ...            | ... | ...            | 7   | 6              | 1  | 2              | ... | —   | — |
| 25             | ...            | ... | ...            | 3   | 6              | 2  | 1              | 2   | 1   | 1 |
| 35             | ...            | ... | ...            | 2   | 3              | 1  | —              | 1   | —   | — |
| 45             | ...            | ... | ...            | 2   | —              | —  | —              | 1   | —   | — |
| 55             | ...            | ... | ...            | 2   | —              | —  | —              | —   | 1   | — |
| 65 and upwards | ...            | ... | ...            | 1   | —              | 1  | —              | 1   | —   | — |
| TOTALS         | ...            | ... | ...            | 17  | 17             | 12 | 8              | 5   | 2   | 1 |

Treatment.—21 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 21 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Copies of these Reports have been received and kept for reference.

|      |    |     |     |
|------|----|-----|-----|
| 1899 | 11 | 30  | 41  |
| 1900 | 24 | 30  | 54  |
| 1901 | 38 | 40  | 78  |
| 1902 | 50 | 58  | 108 |
| 1903 | 58 | 77  | 135 |
| 1904 | 77 | 87  | 164 |
| 1905 | 80 | 118 | 198 |
| 1906 | 80 | 128 | 208 |
| 1907 | 80 | 138 | 218 |
| 1908 | 80 | 148 | 228 |
| 1909 | 80 | 158 | 238 |

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1909.

Vaccination.—Arrangements have been made for the supply of Medical Department of Central for vaccination against diphtheria, and 275 children were immunized during the year 1909 at a total cost of \$100.00.

School hygiene.—The school children of the city were vaccinated against diphtheria during the year 1909. The vaccination was done by the Medical Department of Central. The cost of the vaccination was \$100.00.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| 1909 | 11   | 10     | 21    |
| 1908 | 12   | 11     | 23    |
| 1907 | 13   | 12     | 25    |
| 1906 | 14   | 13     | 27    |
| 1905 | 15   | 14     | 29    |
| 1904 | 16   | 15     | 31    |
| 1903 | 17   | 16     | 33    |
| 1902 | 18   | 17     | 35    |
| 1901 | 19   | 18     | 37    |
| 1900 | 20   | 19     | 39    |
| 1899 | 21   | 20     | 41    |

TABLE I.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1939.

|                                   | Inspections<br>and<br>Observations<br>made. | Notices served. |                | Nuisances<br>Abated<br>after<br>Notices. |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|--|
|                                   |   | Statu-<br>tory. | In-<br>formal. |  |
| Dwelling Houses and Schools ...   | 487   | 6               | 63             | 73                                       |
| Lodging Houses ...                | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| Dairies and Milkshops ...         | 38  | —               | —              | —  |
| Cow Sheds ...                     | 416   | —               | 81             | 81                                       |
| Bakehouses ...                    | 34  | —               | 6              | 6  |
| Slaughter Houses ...              | 1356  | —               | —              | —  |
| Canal Boats ...                   | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| Ashpits and Privies ...           | 31  | —               | 19             | 19                                       |
| Deposits of Refuse and Manure ... | 3   | —               | 3              | 3  |
| Water-closets ...                 | 4   | —               | 4              | 4  |
| House Drainage ...                | 19  | —               | 19             | 19                                       |
| Water Supply ...                  | 87  | —               | 11             | 11                                       |
| Pigsties ...                      | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| Animals improperly kept ...       | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| Offensive Trades ...              | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| Smoke Nuisances ...               | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| Other Nuisances ...               | 44  | 3               | 44             | 44                                       |
| Various Inspections ...           | 925   | —               | —              | —  |
| New Buildings ...                 | —   | —               | —              | —  |
| TOTALS ...                        | 3444  | 9               | 250            | 260                                      |

|   | No. |
|---|-----|
| Drain tests: Other than Water ...             | 10  |
| Unwholesome Meat condemned ...                | 412 |
| Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk) ... | —   |
| Ditto of Food found adulterated ...           | —   |
| Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ...         | 37  |
| Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ... | 21  |

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed ... | 1  |
| Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...       | 66 |
| Schools ditto ditto ditto ...                         | —  |

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.



TABLE II.  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1939 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     |
| 1933  | 25,630                                       | 397     | 15.4  | 17                                     | 43                          | 264          | 9.6   |
| 1934  | 26,220                                       | 422     | 16.0  | 27                                     | 64                          | 302          | 11.5  |
| 1935  | 26,680                                       | 443     | 16.6  | 19                                     | 43                          | 272          | 10.2  |
| 1936  | 27,090                                       | 473     | 17.5  | 20                                     | 42                          | 280          | 10.4  |
| 1937  | 27,540                                       | 464     | 16.9  | 21                                     | 45                          | 294          | 10.7  |
| 1938  | 27,980                                       | 519     | 18.6  | 24                                     | 46                          | 268          | 9.6   |
| 1939  | 29,590                                       | 514     | 17.5  | 29                                     | 55                          | 281          | 9.5   |

TABLE III.—MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR 1939.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.                          | Number of Cases notified. |                |         |          |           |           |           | Total cases removed<br>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. |                                    |               |
| Small-pox ... ..                             |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Plague ... ..                                |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Diphtheria (including Mem-<br>branous Croup) | 41                        | 1              | 7       | 22       | 5         | 5         | 1         | 36                                 | 3             |
| Erysipelas ... ..                            | 15                        |                |         |          |           | 3         | 9         | 3                                  |               |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                         | 39                        | 2              | 9       | 21       | 4         | 3         |           | 31                                 |               |
| Typhus Fever ... ..                          |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Enteric Fever ... ..                         |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Pneumonia ... ..                             | 42                        | 4              | 4       | 6        | 6         | 8         | 11        | 3                                  | 10            |
| Malaria ... ..                               |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Dysentery ... ..                             |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..                     | 5                         |                |         |          | 2         | 3         |           |                                    |               |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..             | 2                         |                | 1       |          |           |           | 1         |                                    | 1             |
| Poliomyelitis ... ..                         | 1                         |                |         | 1        |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..               |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..                 | 1                         | 1              |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Polio-Encephalitis ... ..                    |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                                    |               |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..                | 34                        |                |         | 2        | 13        | 14        | 4         | 1                                  | 13            |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..           | 20                        |                | 4       | 8        | 3         | 4         |           | 1                                  | 4             |
| Totals ... ..                                | 200                       | 8              | 25      | 60       | 33        | 40        | 27        | 8                                  | 67            |

TABLE IV.  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939.

| CAUSES OF DEATH.  | MALES. | FEMALES. |
|---|--------|----------|
| All Causes ... ..   | 150    | 131      |
| 1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers                                      |        |          |
| 2 Measles ... ..  | 1      |          |
| 3 Scarlet Fever ... ..  |        |          |
| 4 Whooping Cough ... ..   |        |          |
| 5 Diphtheria ... ..   | 2      | 1        |
| 6 Influenza ... ..  | 5      |          |
| 7 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..                                      |        | 1        |
| 8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..   |        | 1        |
| 9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System                                  | 7      | 6        |
| 10 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..                                  | 4      |          |
| 11 Syphilis ... ..  | 1      |          |
| 12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes<br>Dorsalis ... ..          |        |          |
| 13 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..                                   | 13     | 20       |
| 14 Diabetes ... ..  | 4      | 1        |
| 15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..                                  | 4      | 10       |
| 16 Heart Disease ... ..   | 28     | 32       |
| 17 Aneurysm ... ..  |        | 1        |
| 18 Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..                                  | 6      | 6        |
| 19 Bronchitis ... ..  | 9      | 3        |
| 20 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..                                       | 5      | 5        |
| 21 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..                                  | 2      |          |
| 22 Peptic Ulcer ... ..  |        |          |
| 23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..                             |        | 2        |
| 24 Appendicitis ... ..  |        | 1        |
| 25 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..  | 1      | 1        |
| 26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..                               | 2      | 2        |
| 27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..                                    | 6      | 2        |
| 28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..                                 | 1      | 1        |
| 29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..  |        |          |
| 30 Other Puerperal Causes ... ..                                      |        | 2        |
| 31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth,<br>Malformation, etc. ... .. | 16     | 3        |
| 32 Senility ... ..  | 3      | 10       |
| 33 Suicide ... ..   |        | 3        |
| 34 Other Violence ... ..  | 18     | 4        |
| 35 Other Defined Diseases ... ..                                      | 12     | 12       |
| 36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown ... ..                              |        | 1        |