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HEALTH
A 17 OCT 1944
C.R.

Rural District of Meriden.

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1943,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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1, MILVERTON HILL,
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August, 1944.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. WHEATLEY AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1943 ; this is the 25th Report which I have presented to you.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. All available information is being kept for record and can be produced.

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

I am, Madam and 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, 1943	...	...	—
Birth Rate	...	...	19.4
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	12
Death Rate	...	...	9.4
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis	...	1
	„ other causes		1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	45
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			39
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	156
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Officers.—Unchanged.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	2	41	43
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	3	34	37
			80

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections.

1. (i) WATER.—22 samples of water were submitted to the Analyst, whose results showed that 9 were of good quality.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes.

A survey of housing requirements was made during the year, including details of the new houses needed for each parish.

(b) *Housing Conditions.*

General Observations.—The position has by no means improved, and conditions exist which the Council would not have tolerated in previous years.

Fitness of Houses.—No representations were made during the year.

Unhealthy Areas.—No representations were made in respect of Clearance Areas.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The year was one of considerable activity in supervision of milk production, based on the samples taken under the Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, which was given wholehearted support. Over 400 samples were taken, and it was possible to show a very considerable improvement in the quality of the milk, as shown by sample results, before the end of the year.

These inspections included visits at milking time, which are inclined to reveal much more than simple building inspections. A few cowshed floors were relaid, cooler places improved, etc.

1,531 inspections of cowsheds were made, and 51 of dairymen's premises.

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1935.

	Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1936 ...	—	69	118	—	36	—	1
1937 ...	—	98	46	—	57	—	4
1938 ...	—	54	36	—	57	—	4
1939 ...	—	41	39	—	42	—	5
1940 ...	—	34	62	2	55	1	7
1941 ...	—	60	47	4	73	—	2
1942 ...	—	33	55	—	56	—	4
1943 ...	—	18	122	2	91	1	3

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1943.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation has continued during the year, and in all at the end of 1943 4,094 children had been treated in the schools and 950 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, giving a grand total up to December 31st, 1943, of 5,044.

School Closures.—NIL.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
					Non-				Non-	
			Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
AGE—PERIODS			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	1	—	...	—	...	—
1	...	...	...	—	1	2	...	1	...	—
5	...	...	...	2	4	3	...	—	...	1
15	...	...	...	2	—	...	...	3	...	—
25	...	...	...	7	—	2	...	2	1	...
35	...	...	...	4	—	2	...	1	...	1
45	...	...	...	1	—	1	...	1	1	...
55	...	...	...	1	—	—	...	1	1	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	...	—	...	—
TOTALS	...	...	17	16	6	10	...	5	7	...

Treatment.—21 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 17 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Copies of this Report have been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1943.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
					Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	...	...	1297	—	89	112
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	51	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	1531	—	—	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	14	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	36	—	—	—
Canal Boats...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	13	—	10	13
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Water-closets	...	...	...	10	—	10	10
House Drainage	...	...	...	79	4	54	64
Water Supply	...	...	...	226	1	14	15
Pigsties	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	—	2	—	2
Various Inspections	...	...	...	*4074	—	—	—
New Buildings	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	7331	7	177	218

							No.
Drain tests: Other than Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Unwholesome Meat condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...	1336lbs.
Samples of Food taken for analysis (Milk)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of Food found adulterated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

* Includes billeting visits.

TABLE II.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1943 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
1937	27,540	464	16.0	21	45	294	10.7
1938	27,980	519	18.6	24	46	268	9.6
1939	—	—	17.5	—	55	—	9.5
1940	—	—	17.4	—	59	—	13.2
1941	—	—	16.5	—	59	—	10.6
1942	—	—	17.4	—	42	—	9.3
1943	—	—	19.4	—	45	—	9.4

TABLE III.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1943.

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)	18	.....	2	5	5	5	1	.....	18	.....
Erysipelas	27	.....	1	1	.....	8	13	4	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	122	.....	29	73	5	15	.....	.....	82	.....
Typhus Fever ... ..		.....						
Enteric Fever	2	1	.....			1	.....		
Pneumonia	91	10	8	17	8	25	13	10		20
Malaria	2				1	1				
Dysentery	1					1				
Puerperal Pyrexia	3				2	1				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	4	.....	2	2						
Poliomyelitis	2			2						
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	.....			1					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3								
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..		.....						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	.....		3	10	17	3	.....		12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	16	1	3	7	.....	4	1	.....		2
Totals	325	15	45	110	32	78	31	14	100	34

TABLE IV.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	172	149
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	2
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	5	6
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	—
8 Syphilitic Diseases	2	1
9 Influenza	4	8
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	5	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	6	3
15 Cancer of Breast	—	6
16 Cancer, other Sites	21	14
17 Diabetes	1	2
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	19	21
19 Heart Disease	28	31
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	3	3
21 Bronchitis	19	9
22 Pneumonia	11	9
23 Other Resp. Diseases	2	1
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	2	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	—
26 Appendicitis	—	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
28 Nephritis	6	2
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	1
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31 Premature Birth	6	3
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	4	3
33 Suicide	—	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	4	—
35 Other Violent Causes	11	1
36 All Other Causes	9	12

