

[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, Meriden R.D.C.

Contributors

Meriden (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1946

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/evhf95g8>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

Rural District of Meriden.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1946,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

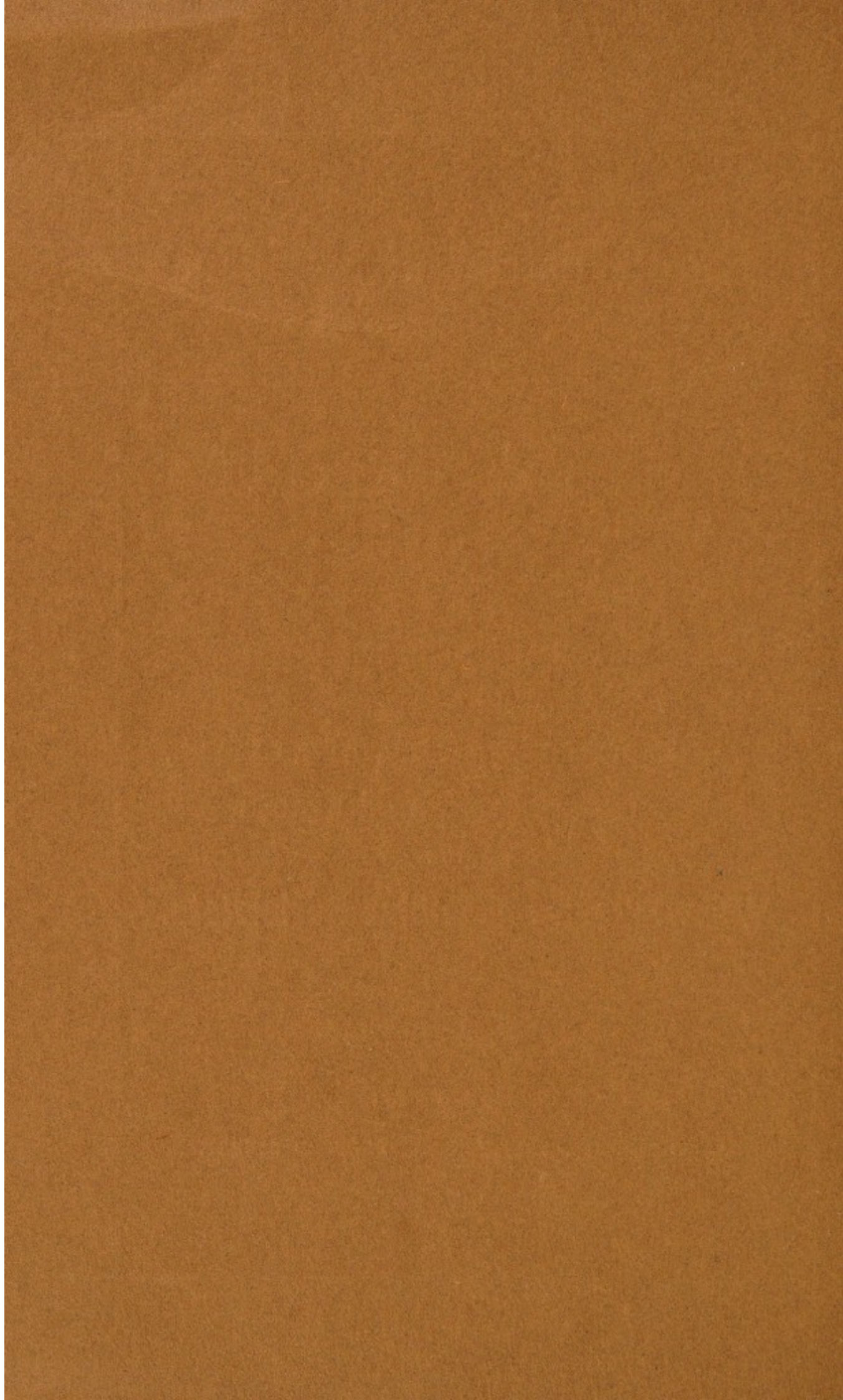
OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1947.



1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

August, 1947.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1946, this is the 28th Annual Report I have presented to you.

As in the past few years this Report is restricted to a statement of facts, but a more extended report is given by the Sanitary Inspector.

Kindness has been extended to me by members of the Council and my colleagues, for which I am most grateful.

I am, Ladies 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, 1946	33,770
Birth Rate	19.0
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	28
Death Rate	9.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	1
(From Sepsis	1
,, other causes	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	65
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	59
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	167
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
.. .. Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
.. .. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	5

Population.—The estimated population, 33,770, is 660 greater than the estimate for 1945.

Birth Rate.—19.0 per 1,000 is slightly lower than in 1945, and practically the same as that for England and Wales.

Death Rate.—9.5 per 1,000, is much lower than that of England and Wales, viz., 11.5.

Infantile Mortality.—65 per 1,000 births is much higher than that for 1945 and the figure for England and Wales in 1946. Conditions obtaining prior to birth would appear to be the greatest contribution to this high figure.

Statistics for the past few years and also those for England and Wales in 1946 are given in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Officers.—Unchanged.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	—	33	33
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis...	5	32	37
			70

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

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

WATER. (1) 73 samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis, and 5 for bacteriological examination. 18 were of good quality, 20 unsatisfactory, and 40 condemned. No complaints were made as to quantity, except in respect of private piped supplies and odd wells.

(ii) Five chemical analyses of mains supplies were made; all satisfactory.

(iii) Contamination of piped supplies. One complaint of mains water was made on account of discolouration and deposit in a "dead end" main which was remedied when a through connection was made.

(iv) Wells were dealt with by cleansing and re-sampling and in 27 cases by connecting to mains.

(v) Houses with mains supplies (a) direct to houses, now number 6,496, and (b) by means of standpipes 103. Seventy-four per cent. of the houses in the district are supplied by mains.

Particulars of schemes for mains extensions of 12,625 yards, to cost £15,073, promoted during the year, will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

D. HOUSING.

During the year the Survey asked for by the Minister under the Hobhouse Report was completed and the results submitted to and adopted by the Council, together with five-year and long-term programmes.

Out of 8,898 houses, 1,215 were listed as non-working-class and the remaining 7,683 classified as follows:—

Category.

1	Satisfactory	...	...	...	3,399
2	Minor defects	...	...	...	1,940
* 3	Requiring repair, alteration or improvement	...	...	...	1,621
5	Unfit and beyond repair	...	...	...	646
—	Already condemned	...	...	...	77
					<hr/> 7,683 <hr/>

*Of this number, 108 suitable for re-conditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

The programmes adopted were 646 in five years, 554 long-term, which with 366 existing houses makes an ultimate total of 1,566 houses.

85 new post-war council dwellings were occupied by the end of the year, namely 80 Tarran type bungalows and 5 Swedish houses. At the time of writing (Aug., 1947) 144 were occupied.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Foodstuffs condemned were 4 pigs, 1 calf, 16 dozen eggs, 14 lb. cheese, 106 lb. bacon, 148 tins various foods, 2 shoulders of mutton, 17 lb. butter, 9 lb. kidney, 140 lb. flour, 6 lb. biscuits and 30 lb. raisins.

Control of premises under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was continued, and a fixed standard adopted in connection with the registration and maintenance of ice-cream producing and selling premises.

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1938.

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
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
1944 ...	—	16	60	—	51	—	9
1945 ...	—	15	35	—	51	—	13
1946 ...	—	9	46	2	48	—	5

Enteric Fever.—There were two cases notified, one of Typhoid Fever and one of Paratyphoid B-Fever; in neither case was the source of infection ascertained.

Scarlet Fever.—46 cases notified, rather below the average for the past 8 years. Three cases each occurred at Marston Green and Castle Bromwich, six each at Coleshill and Arley and 3 each at Keresley and Fillongley.

Diphtheria.—Of the 9 cases, 5 were in adults. In only two cases was there a doubtful history of immunisation on entry into the Services. There were no deaths.

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation has continued during the year, and in all at the end of 1946 4,308 children had been treated in the schools and 2,323 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, giving a grand total up to December 31st, 1946 of 6,631.

School Closures.—None.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-		Pulmonary.		Non-	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	6	—	3	—	1	—	—
25	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	1
35	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	18	12	3	5	5	1	1	2

Treatment.—12 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 10 were discharged.

The following table shows the incidence and deaths from Tuberculosis since 1927 (for 20 years):—

Tuberculosis.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Cases ...	34	31	33	33	23	21	36
Deaths ...	13	12	23	16	9	5	18
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases ...	21	35	27	26	19	54	35
Deaths ...	12	16	7	12	6	17	18
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
Cases ...	40	36	49	51	29	38	
Deaths ...	18	19	13	20	18	9	

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Meriden Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for 1946.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Samples were examined by the analyst as follows:—

	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>	<i>Con- demned.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
New Wells ...	2	—	—	2
Old wells ...	10	18	35	63
Springs ...	—	2	—	2
Rainwater ...	—	—	1	1
Birmingham mains	4	—	—	4
Arley mains ...	1	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—
	17	20	36	73
	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION.

192 inspections were made and the following items condemned and surrendered for the reasons stated:

- carcase and organs of 2 pigs, generalised tuberculosis,
- do. 1 pig, fevered,
- do. 1 pig, swine erysipelas,
- do. 1 calf, blackleg,
- 16 dozen eggs, unsound,
- 14 lbs. cheese, decomposed,
- 106 lbs. bacon, decomposed,
- 148 tins various foods, unsound,
- 2 shoulders N.Z. mutton, caseous lymphadenitis,
- 17 lbs. butter, rancid,
- 9 lbs. kidney, nephritis,
- 140 lbs. flour, contaminated by varnish on railway,
- 6 lbs. chocolate biscuits, mouldy,
- 30 lbs. raisins, mouldy.

Closer attention has been given to the registration and control of premises under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the following were newly registered during the year: for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream 6, for storage and sale only of ice-cream 5, for sausage and cooked meats 3, and for fried fish and chips 2.

A standard to be used in the registration of ice-cream premises was adopted comprising section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with means of lighting and ventilation in accordance with building byelaw 88 (2) as for a habitable room and articles 14 (1) (i) and 21 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, reading "ice-cream" for "milk."

Two cases of suspected swine fever were reported but were not confirmed.

The first producer's pasteurising licence in the district was issued during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfections numbered 74. For scarlet fever 41, diphtheria 9, tuberculosis removals 11, deaths 5, cancer death 1, dysentery 1, and typhoid fever 3.

NUISANCES.

The following were dealt with :

Animals so kept	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of refuse, etc.	...	...	...	...	3
Ashes receptacles defective	...	...	...	...	19
Cesspools overflowing	...	...	...	...	34
Choked and defective drains	...	...	...	...	66
Closets defective (school)	...	...	...	...	1
Damp walls	...	...	...	...	42
Dirty house	...	...	...	...	2
Flooded cellar	...	...	...	...	1
Foul ditch	...	...	...	...	12
Housing repairs	...	...	...	...	163
Insanitary middens	...	...	...	...	2
Pail closets defective	...	...	...	...	1
Prevalence of rats	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater conductors defective	...	...	...	...	12
Roofs defective	...	...	...	...	44
Unsafe building	...	...	...	...	1
Waterclosets defective	...	...	...	...	42
Want of water supply	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	7

460

The figures reported above give a general idea of the state of the district as to things which are "prejudicial to health" or cause discomfort. Defects in dwellings such as housing repairs, dampness, defective roofs and rainwater conductors are examples. Other serious nuisances of frequent occurrence are defective waterclosets, overflowing cesspools, choked and defective drains and foul ditches.

The abatement of nuisances has never been more difficult, either for the owner or the local authority and endless visits, interviews and telephone calls are required to get the work done by the tradesmen when the owner has given the order, or alternatively to get the work done by the Council in default.

Thirty-seven statutory notices were served about nuisances and one summons was issued against an owner in respect of non-compliance with a nuisance abatement notice.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION.

Routine samples were taken of effluents of small disposal works at factories so as to control their maintenance. One works got into very bad condition, requiring drastic action to restore it to working order.

In April the River Blythe suffered destruction of fish along a length of about seven miles, beginning at the junction of the Eastcote brook, which receives the effluent of the Barston works of the Drainage Board. The matter was discussed by all concerned and likely sources

of the poison were investigated by the officers of Solihull Urban District, but to the best of my knowledge the place of origin of the discharge was not found.

SQUATTERS.

This kind of housing self-help began during the year and we had at Wood End Camp (military) 30 families, at Tile Hill Hostel (industrial) 156, Cedars, Castle Bromwich (military) 3, and Park Road, Coleshill (military) 2. Responsibility was accepted for these by the Council with the exception of Tile Hill Hostel on the Coventry border, which that Council took over.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Connections to the mains were made for existing houses in 27 instances and in addition schemes were put forward for mains extensions at Chadwick End, Corley Moor and Four Oaks, Meriden, comprising over seven miles of mains at a cost of £15,073, to supply 187 houses and 30 farms, 68 per cent of which had unsatisfactory supplies.

A further proposal for 1,540 yards of main at Over Whitacre could not proceed owing to excessive cost per dwelling.

For a Rural District, Meriden is very well situated indeed as to piped supplies of water. Parishes with more than 80% of their houses on the mains are Arley, Bickenhill, Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Keresley, Shustoke, Water Orton and Nether Whitacre.

HOUSING.

We had the satisfaction, during the year, of completing the Housing Survey asked for by the Hobhouse Report, and in October the Council adopted the Survey and a housing programme based upon it.

The classification of 646 houses in category 5 (unfit and beyond repair) is a reminder of the further effort which will be required to deal with the shortcomings of existing houses when the present urgent need for additional new houses is satisfied.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. T. KENYON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,
Coleshill,
Birmingham.

16th October, 1947.

TABLE I.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	1387	18	251	269
Lodging Houses ...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	29	—	—	—
Cowsheds ...	418	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	9	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	60	—	—	—
Canal Boats ...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ...	21	3	18	21
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	—	—	3	3
Water Closets ...	42	1	41	42
House Drainage ...	101	7	94	101
Water Supply ...	519	6	5	11
Pigsties ...	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept ...	3	—	3	3
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	2	—
Other Nuisances ...	34	1	33	34
Various Inspections ...	1700	—	—	—
New Buildings ...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4323	36	448	464

	No.
Drain tests: Other than Water ...	—
Unwholesome Meat condemned ...	583lbs.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk) ...	—
Samples of Food adulterated ...	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	78
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	40

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed...	—
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease ...	74
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1946 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
1940	30,830	538	17.4	32	59	408	13.2
1941	34,210	564	16.5	35	59	377	10.6
1942	34,510	600	17.4	25	42	321	9.3
1943	34,310	667	19.4	30	45	321	9.4
1944	33,870	679	20.0	30	44	337	9.9
1945	33,110	649	19.5	30	46	309	9.3
1946	33,770	631	19.0	41	65	319	9.5

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1946.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1946.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	19.1	0.53	11.5	43
126 Great Towns, including London	22.2	0.67	12.7	46
148 Smaller Towns	21.3	0.59	11.7	37
London	21.5	0.54	12.7	41

TABLE III.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1946.

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)	9	1	3	2	3			8	
Erysipelas	8			1	1	3	3		
Scarlet Fever	46	1	15	23	3	3	2	22	
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever	2				1	1			
Pneumonia	48	7	3	9	2	6	17	4	20
Malaria									
Dysentery	6		1	2	2		1		
Puerperal Pyrexia	5			1	4				1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	2							
Poliomyelitis									
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1							
Polio-Encephalitis									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	30	1	1	7	12	5	4		6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	1	2	3	2				3
Totals	165	9	23	38	21	34	28	12	30

TABLE IV.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	169	150
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	1
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	3
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	2
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9 Influenza	1	2
10 Measles	1	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	7	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	6	6
15 Cancer of Breast	—	3
16 Cancer, other Sites	12	9
17 Diabetes	—	1
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	17	22
19 Heart Disease	38	36
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	4	6
21 Bronchitis	8	8
22 Pneumonia	12	8
23 Other Resp. Diseases	3	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	3	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	3	2
26 Appendicitis	1	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases	7	4
28 Nephritis	4	3
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	1
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31 Premature Birth	6	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	6	6
33 Suicide	2	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
35 Other Violent Causes	5	5
36 All Other Causes	16	11



