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Borough of Rugby.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1937,

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.

1938.



I, MILVERTON HILL,

LEAMINGTON SPA,

June, 1938.

To the Rugby Borough Council.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. GREEN, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report for the year 1937, relating to the sanitary conditions of the Borough and the health of its inhabitants.

As mentioned in the Report for 1936, the improvement in industry has continued to create problems in housing and overcrowding, and it is certain that our figures with respect to the latter need considerable revision ; this is however an expensive operation both in time and money, and cannot be undertaken lightly and without very careful consideration.

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

Much of the work in connection with this Report has been done by Mr. Bartlett, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and I wish to thank him and his staff for willing assistance at this and all other times.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Green, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

T. BARTLETT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., for
Meat, etc.

Sanitary Inspectors :

*L. A. STROUD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. for
Meat, etc.

°G. V. R. LEE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. for
Meat, etc.

F. T. KEY, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

†W. L. LEACH, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert R.S.I. for
Meat, etc.

Clerks :

S. H. WEST.

F. H. A. BURTON.

Surveyor :

W. H. SPICER, M.I.M.Cy.E., A.I.W.E.

Public Analysts :

Messrs. HILL & RIGBY.

Medical Officer of Health :

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

†Commenced July 12th, 1937.

*Resigned November 27th, 1937.

°Resigned May 29th, 1937.



The "Natural Increase," of population, that is, the excess of births over deaths, showed a net gain of 78.

Birth-Rate.—There were 498 births, giving a Birth-Rate of 13.4 per 1,000 ; in 1936 the respective figures were 436 and 12.1.

Death-Rate.—There were 420 deaths, giving a Death-Rate of 11.3 per 1,000. The respective figures for 1936 were 412 and 11.5 per 1,000.

Of the deaths, 79 were due to Heart Disease, 51 to Cancer, 22 to Bronchitis, and 33 to Apoplexy. There were 22 deaths due to some form of Tuberculosis. Details of the various causes of death will be found in Table IV.

Cancer has been responsible for the following number of deaths in recent years :—

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
22	25	36	36	23	35	29	31	26
1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
26	32	30	39	55	49	51	61	51

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1937 was about the average for the past 10 years. The rate per 100,000 of the population was 133 ; this compares with the figures of the past 10 years :—

1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
107	107	132	123	111	157	140	142	169	133

The total number of deaths from Cancer in the Combined Districts population of 176,920 was 268, and the figures per 100,000 population for the past 10 years are as follows :—

1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
125	124	151	142	152	155	146	146	148	151

Infantile Mortality.—20 deaths of children under one year were registered, giving a rate of 40 per 1,000 births. Again the number of deaths due to congenital conditions is very high, viz., 14.

The following Table gives the figures for past years :—

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Number	23	19	21	12	20	19	21	16
Rate	53	45	60	32	53	50	65	48
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Number	13	16	25	17	20	11	22	20
Rate	42	62	62	45	45	28	50	40

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list is given at the front of the Report.

There are four Sanitary Inspectors and two Clerks, all whole-time officials. The control of the sewerage, sewage disposal, public water supply, scavenging, and the supervision of new buildings is in the Department of the Borough Engineer.

The list of duties of the Inspector was given in the Report for 1930, and does not need repetition.

2. *Nursing in the Home.*—As stated in 1930 Report.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—The following Table shows the extent to which the County Scheme has been utilised for free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	32	121	153
Enteric Fever...	—	4	4
Tuberculosis ...	6	69	75
			<hr/> 232 <hr/>

7. *Legislation in force in the District.*

Vide 1930 Report.

RUGBY CORPORATION ACT, 1933.

This Act gives power with respect to :—

Part	II.	Water Supply.
„	III.	Electricity.
„	IV.	Streets, Buildings, Sewers and Drains.
„	V.	Infectious Diseases and Sanitary Provisions.
„	VI.	Common Lodging Houses.
„	VII.	Lands.
„	VIII.	Hackney Carriage and Traffic Provisions
„	IX.	Public Buildings, Parks, etc.
„	X.	Financial.
„	XI.	Miscellaneous.

The headings to Clauses relating to Parts V. and VI. were detailed in the 1933 Report.

8. *Hospitals.*—No change to report during the year, but reference to the Isolation Hospital accommodation is made under the report on Scarlet Fever.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*

(a) Infectious diseases, arrangements remain the same as given in the 1930 Report.

(b) As regards non-infectious cases, including maternity cases, requiring removal to Hospital, Institution or Nursing Home, the Corporation operate two ambulances, over an area defined roughly as being within a radius of six miles of the Clock Tower.

No charge is made to persons permanently resident within the area so defined, the charges being met by the Corporation or by the Rugby Rural District Council according to the place of residence.

The details of the above arrangements are set out in the Report of 1934, and are still in operation.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) *Water*.—The amount of water supplied shows a very marked increase, but the supply in all cases has been perfectly satisfactory, and there has been no need of restriction during the dry summer. Bacteriological and chemical examinations have been carried out at monthly intervals, and prove the water satisfactory in quality, and further bacteriological examinations have now been arranged at fortnightly intervals. Mains, upwards of seven miles in length, have been extended to serve the building estates in various parts of the town.

(2) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—The Hillmorton Sewage Disposal Works were completed during the year, and are giving very satisfactory results, particularly with regard to the condition of the Clifton Brook. Work is still proceeding in the reorganisation of the main sewage disposal works, and every care is taken to maintain a good effluent during the progress of the works. With the completion of the seven miles of new sewers, the drainage of a large number of houses was connected and cesspools discontinued. The provision of new sewers and pumping station at Newbold is proceeding satisfactorily, and the extensions at the Destructor Pumping Station; the ejector station at Brownsover should be completed during the coming year.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—Generally, the improvement effected in the River Avon has been maintained. With the completion of the reconstruction of the Hillmorton Sewage Works, considerable improvement in the effluent discharged from these works has resulted, as the treatment of sewage is now controlled and properly regulated. The condition of the Clifton Brook has improved, and is now reasonably satisfactory. The River Swift is clean and satisfactory. The Sow

Brook has for some time past been receiving the effluent of small sewage disposal plants, and has not been altogether satisfactory, and in the past year, a considerable amount of water, pumped from excavations for the new Sow Valley Sewer, has been put into the stream. This has resulted in a marked deterioration in the appearance of the stream owing to discoloration, but with the completion of the works and the connection of many of the house drainage systems formerly discharging effluent to the stream, a considerable improvement has taken place. Trade effluent outfalls on the main stream have been under observation, and have been satisfactory, and a year of progress and improvement can be reported. Further progress and improvement can be forecast for the next twelve months.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—The majority of the closets in the Borough are water-closets, but approximately 400 pail and earth closets remain in the area that was added in 1932. The number has been reduced by 30 during the year by conversion into water-closets connected to the sewer, and will be reduced progressively from year to year.

About 2,000 water-closets in the area are not provided with flushing cisterns, but the powers given in the Public Health Act, 1936, will enable these to be dealt with.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—The collection and disposal of refuse and the scavenging and watering of streets have been carried out in an efficient manner.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—A detailed report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the work carried out in his Department is given later in this Report, and also a tabular statement.

The work of the Department has been carried out efficiently, and although systematic house-to-house inspection has received little attention, it is hoped to extend this branch of the work in the coming year. A system of card indexing has been introduced to enable this to be carried out efficiently.

(iv) *Shops*.—The survey of the conditions in shops has been continued, and the action taken involved the service of 72 notices in respect of matters found in contravention of the 1934 Act. Eleven certificates of exemption have been granted in respect of sanitary accommodation, and eight in respect of washing facilities. The circumstances in nearly every case being that the shop was part of a dwelling-house, and that although there was not provided "in the shop"

suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, such accommodation and facilities were reasonably available.

(v) *Smoke Abatement*.—Thirty smoke observations have been made during the year, and it has been necessary to serve three formal notices relating to the emission of black smoke, and in every instance improvement has been effected.

The smoke problem in the area is very small, and plants are modern, and there appears to be no reason why any nuisance should ever occur. Each instance quoted above was due to improper handling.

(vi) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—The open-air pool and swimming bath have been maintained in a satisfactory condition, and the filtration plant has worked efficiently.

(vii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs*.—Fewer complaints of bug infestation have been received, partly due to the apparent success of treatment given in the past, partly that a number of known infested houses have been demolished, and partly to the cooler weather experienced in 1936.

The methods used are unaltered, and no report of failure has been received.

The following statement is given in the form prescribed.
(1) The number of (a) Council Houses (b) other houses (i) found to be infested, (ii) disinfected.

(a) (i) Nil	(ii) Nil
(b) (i) 5	(ii) 5

(2) The methods employed for freeing houses from bugs have varied according to circumstances.

Sulphur fumigation has been employed in unoccupied houses prior to demolition, allowing 5 lbs. of sulphur to every 1,000 cubic feet of air space, measures being taken against leakage and infiltration of air. The atmosphere in the houses was first humidified and the treatment period 24 hours.

For occupied houses, mouldings, architraves, etc., have to be eased off or removed from the walls, and all surfaces, cracks, etc., thoroughly sprayed with a vapourising vermicide of proprietary manufacture.

In no instance has HCN been employed for house disinfestation.

(3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal from Clearance Areas, etc., to Council Houses are as follows :—

(i) All furniture and effects other than bedding are collected in removal vans owned by the Corporation, and are taken to an open spot well removed from dwellings or other occupied buildings, and treated with HCN. After treatment, the vans are opened and well aired, and the goods returned to their owners at the new houses, all soft furnishings being tested for the presence of HCN and given further airing as required.

(ii) All bedding is removed separately and steam treated at the Steam Disinfector, and after airing, returned as above.

(4) Sulphur fumigation, spraying with a vapourising vermicide and steam treatment are carried out by the Corporation, but the HCN treatment is carried out by a Contractor.

(5) Periodic visits of inspection are made to all houses occupied by tenants from Clearance Areas, and enquiries made as to further infestations, and so far no single instance has been found.

D. HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	414
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2012
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	99
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	362
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	53
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	361

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	268
--	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—*Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners... | | | | — |

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | — |

C.—*Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936*

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

D.—*Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | 1 |

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Total	532
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | 446 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Housing Conditions.

(i) *General Observations.*—Few systematic housing inspections have been carried out, as considerable work has been undertaken in extension of the programme for clearance of unfit property. All complaints of housing defects and conditions have been dealt with, but owing to new building activity in the area, considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting repair work carried out within a reasonable time owing to lack of available labour.

(ii) *Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.*—The demand for houses to let still persists, largely for the type that will let at low rentals, and as indicative of this the Corporation has a waiting list of applicants for Council Houses, of which three to four hundred are "live" applications, and 275 are from persons in houses occupied by more than one family.

During the year, 410 houses have been completed, 366 by private enterprise and 44 by the Corporation.

The Addison Road Estate has now been completed, 130 houses having been erected, out of which, 108 were erected for the rehousing of families from Clearance Areas, etc. There are now 152 houses in the course of erection or to be erected on the Hillmorton site, and 70 houses on the Parkfield site at Newbold-on-Avon. Of this total, 87 have been allocated for Slum Clearance purposes and 54 for the abatement of overcrowding.

(iii) *Overcrowding.*—As indicated in the last paragraph, houses are being built to accommodate overcrowded families, but certain abatements have been effected by the Slum Clearance removals.

In the course of the year, all owners who had not made application for "permitted numbers" have been notified and their attention called to the requirements of the Act of 1936.

Investigation into the possible overcrowding caused by the population movement to this area due to improvement in trade and the transfers from depressed areas is proceeding.

(iv) *Fitness of Houses.*—As Slum Clearance progresses, so does the general standard of housing in the District improve, and while it is impossible as yet to adopt a standard applicable to the whole Borough, conditions in parts of the area added in 1932 have been improved, and will continue to improve.

A further 44 houses have been erected by the Corporation and occupied by families from Clearance Areas, etc., and 35 houses have been demolished in such areas after being disinfested.

(v) *Unhealthy Areas*.—Up to the end of 1937, the action taken by the Corporation under the 1930 and following Housing Acts, has resulted in the declaration of 35 Clearance Areas comprising 224 dwelling houses, housing 620 persons (the acreage of the areas was 10.62, which gave a density of 21 houses and 58.38 persons per acre), and the consideration of 21 individually unfit houses, the making of 17 demolition orders, and the acceptance of 4 undertakings, the number of persons affected being 59.

Three appeals were made to the County Court against Orders made by the Corporation, but were subsequently withdrawn and the houses demolished.

Of the above, 11 Clearance Areas comprising 51 houses have been declared, and 2 demolition orders made affecting 171 persons, during the year under review.

(vi) *Byelaws relating to Houses*.—The existing byelaws are still under review, and the draft of new byelaws under preparation, and these will be submitted in due course.

(vii) *Town Planning*.—See the Report of 1930.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—During the year the following samples were taken :—

- (1) 32 designated milks for bacteriological examination.
- (2) 48 ordinary milks for bacteriological examination.
- (3) 67 milks for biological examination.
- (4) 60 milks for chemical analysis.

Results of the examinations or analyses :—

- (1) 18 complied with the prescribed conditions.
14 did not comply.
- (2) 5 were satisfactory.
43 were unsatisfactory.
- (3) 65 gave negative results.
2 or 2.97 per cent. showed the presence of living tubercle bacilli.
- (4) 58 were genuine.
2 were not genuine, being deficient in fat.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the vendors of the samples of milk found to be deficient in fat, but were subsequently withdrawn, and a warning issued, as it was considered that, although the vendors had been negligent, there had been no intent to defraud.

The following figures are included as being of interest showing as they do the approximate milk consumption in the Borough. Daily counts at two periods of the year were taken, and averaged, and gave the following results:—

Consumption expressed in pints per head					
per day	...	...	...	...	.585
Consumption expressed in gallons per					
head per year	...	...	...	...	26.724
<i>Description under</i>			<i>Consumption in gallons</i>		
<i>which sold.</i>			<i>per annum.</i>		
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	...	...	...	...	137
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	10,585
Accredited	...	...	...	...	4,602
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	312,000
Sterilized	...	...	...	...	5,200
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	663,205
Total			...	...	995,729

(b) *Meat Inspection.*—During the year, a total of 17,817 animals were inspected. The details of the inspections are given in the table below, and reference is made in the Sanitary Inspector's Report as to the quantity of meat, etc., surrendered. There are 14 slaughterhouses in the town, 5 owned by the Corporation and 9 privately. The Corporation has under contemplation the erection of a Public Abattoir, primarily because Cattle Market improvements will necessitate the demolition of the existing Public Slaughterhouses but also because the Slaughterhouses generally are not satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses in use.

	1930.	Jan., 1937.	Dec., 1937.
Registered
Licensed

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1,908	64	267	8,562	7,116
Number inspected ...	1,908	64	267	8,562	7,116

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	1	1	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	62	2	1	—	162
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	3.35	4.69	.75	—	2.30

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	1	6	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	52	—	3	5	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.72	—	1.50	.13	.72

(c) *Bakehouses.*—There are 26 bakehouses (including factory bakehouses) on the register, all of which have been visited and supervised. They are generally well maintained and kept in a clean condition.

(d) *Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.*—This Act is administered within the Borough partly by the Warwickshire County Council and partly by the Corporation.

A total of 104 samples were taken by the sampling officers of the Corporation during 1937, 91 of which were formal and 13 informal (including the 60 samples of milk already referred to), and submitted to the Public Analysts for chemical analysis.

The proportion of samples per 1,000 of population was 2.79, and the percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 1.92. The average composition of the milks submitted was fat 3.76 per cent., and solids not fat 8.84 per cent.

Details of samples taken and results are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Legal proceedings were instituted in two instances, but subsequently withdrawn.

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1928.

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1929 ...	—	39	47	5	79	1	1
1930 ...	—	67	49	3	39	1	5
1931 ...	—	33	32	3	29	—	—
1932 ...	—	9	29	—	52	—	1
1933 ...	—	11	244	—	79	—	2
1934 ...	—	30	433	5	64	—	2
1935 ...	—	84	191	1	26	—	—
1936 ...	—	127	86	—	48	—	8
1937 ...	—	71	163	—	84	—	22

Reference to Table III. will give the age incidence of the cases notified during 1937.

Smallpox.—No cases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.—During the past year there were 71 cases notified, with 3 deaths.

Of the cases, 59 were taken to an Isolation Hospital; 2 occurred in each of three families, 3 in one, 4 in two, 5 in one, and 6 in one family.

As far as I am aware the SCHICK REACTION has not been used in the District.

Immunisation.—Arrangements have been made whereby the material for this purpose is supplied free by the Council to such practitioners as apply for it. This scheme has been in operation for only a short time, and no report is yet available as to its success or otherwise.

Anti-toxin is supplied free by the Council for use amongst the poorer patients in the town. This can be obtained by doctors from Messrs. Chamberlain, Chemists, Market Place.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases notified during the year was 163, shewing a considerable increase in the figure for 1936 of 86, and of these 139 were removed to Hospital. In 7 instances there were 2 cases in one family, 1, 3 in one family, and in 3 instances there were 4 in one family. There were 11 cases in the Hospital of St. Cross.

Harborough Magna Hospital.—As the result of the completion of the Hospital there has not been the difficulty experienced in past years in obtaining the necessary beds for isolation.

Enteric Fever.—No cases notified.

Pneumonia.—84 cases were notified, and there were 24 deaths.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—No cases were notified.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.—22 cases were notified; there were 2 deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—1 case was notified, and reported to the County Medical Officer for immediate action if necessary.

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

School Closures.—The following list indicates the prevalence of Non-notifiable Infectious Disease :—

St. Matthew's Infants. 12th Jan. to 1st Feb. Whooping Cough
St. Matthew's Infants. 17th Mar. to Easter Holidays. Whooping Cough.

Wood Street Junior. 12th to 25th Jan. Whooping Cough.

Rugby Chapel Street Junior and Infants. 16th to 25th Jan. Influenza.

Rugby Eastlands. 18th to 25th Jan. Influenza.

Rugby Northlands Junior. 20th Jan. to 1st Feb. Influenza.

New Bilton C.E. Infants. 15th Mar. to Easter Holidays. Mumps

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.—There was nothing of special note, save that there were 21 deaths from Influenza.

Notification of infectious disease occurring amongst the children at school is duly sent by the teachers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Non-				Non-	
	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
1	1	1	...	—	1	...	1
5	3	—	...	—	1	...	—
15	7	5	...	2	3	...	1
25	2	4	...	2	2	...	2
35	4	4	...	—	1	...	—
45	3	—	...	2	—	...	1
55	1	—	...	—	3	...	1
65 and upwards	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—
TOTALS	...	21	14	...	6	8	...	5
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the past year there have been notified 49 cases. In 35 cases the lungs were affected, and the remaining 14 the disease affected other parts of the body.

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Cases	35	39	42	31	36	31	25	26
Deaths	11	19	22	20	21	23	13	19
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Cases	35	38	37	42	41	45	47	49
Deaths	15	25	22	23	25	31	19	22

I have set down the number of case notified each year since 1921. It will be seen that the number of deaths each year for the same period has been included. There is little change in the incidence of the disease during the past 15 years.

The above figures show that the total number of cases put on the Register up to the end of 1937 was 1,182, with 529 deaths. As regards some of the earlier cases nothing is known of their fate or whereabouts. Of the 49 new cases notified during the past year, 11 have died during the year.

Treatment.—The total known number of cases treated at a Sanatorium since the establishment of the register is 507. During the past year 32 cases have been admitted to a Sanatorium for treatment.

23 cases were discharged after treatment.

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, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There is nothing of special note to record.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. GREEN, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration my Report on the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors in the year 1937.

Table I. shows that part of the work that can be usefully summarised and tabulated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year notifications were received in respect of 346 cases of infectious diseases, details of which are indicated in the analysis shown in Table III.

The accommodation now available in the enlarged Infectious Diseases Hospital at Harborough Magna has proved sufficient to meet all requirements during the year, and the following summary shows how diphtheria and scarlet fever cases were nursed :—

		<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>
At Harborough Magna Hospital	...	67	137
Nursed at home...	...	4	25
Total	...	71	162

The motor vehicle which is engaged principally in connection with infectious disease prevention has covered a distance of 4,980.6 miles during the year.

The vehicle is well maintained and is giving very satisfactory service.

The number of visits made by the disinfecting assistants for infectious disease prevention and other work was 5,542.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 14 slaughterhouses in the town, of which 4 are registered and 10 licensed. The need for further accommodation becomes greater with each succeeding year in consequence of the increase in the number of animals slaughtered, and this together with the growing necessity for more hygienic and modern premises to replace the existing accommodation emphasises the necessity for the consideration now being given to the provision of a public abattoir.

Your inspectors have continued to carry out as nearly as possible, complete inspection of all animals slaughtered for food, and have inspected, in the course of their duties, 17,817 animals during the year, an increase over last year of nearly 3,000 animals.

UNSOUND FOOD.

During the year there have been 442 voluntary surrenders of diseased and unsound food which had been deemed unfit for food of man, and destroyed.

Details are given below :—

	<i>Bovines.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Carcases and organs	5	6	3
Heads and tongues	20	1	118
Lungs	37	—	75
Livers	59	14	8
Spleens	—	—	1
Kidneys	1	—	—
Hearts	3	—	4
Mesenteries	7	—	31
Forequarters	1	1	—
Hindquarters	2	—	—
Plucks	4	1	31
Organs	2	—	—
Skins	—	—	1
Miscellaneous (lbs. weight)	75	—	—

In addition, the following have been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :—8½lbs. of Pork Sausages ; 2 tins Brisket Beef (6lbs. each) ; and 2 tins Tongue (6lbs. each).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Premises registered under the Factory and Workshop Acts number 200, classified as follows :—

Bakehouses...	...	...	...	...	26
Tailors and Costumiers	...	...	...	...	19
Boot and Shoe Repairers	...	...	...	...	30
Upholsterers and Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	...	13
Garages and Motor Cycle Repairers	...	...	...	...	26
Watch and Clock Repairers	...	...	...	...	11
Builders and Plumbers	...	...	...	...	12
Laundries	...	...	...	...	6
Smiths and Metal Workers	...	...	...	...	10
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	4
Masons and Concrete Workers	...	...	...	...	4
Photographers	...	...	...	...	4
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	2
Bottling	...	...	...	...	3
Printers	...	...	...	...	2
Joinery and Picture Framers	...	...	...	...	7
Food Premises and Dairies	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	10

The premises have been periodically visited and are reasonably satisfactory.

Lists of outworkers have been received from 18 employers within the Borough showing that 17 persons are so employed. Visits to outworkers' premises show them to be generally satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of persons on the registers as retail purveyors was 110, and as wholesale purveyors and producers 51, making a total of 161, an increase of 10 during the year.

There are 24 registered cowkeepers and 63 dairies within the Borough.

Some improvement in premises and methods of production have taken place, but the effects are not reflected in the results of the bacteriological examinations of the ordinary milks submitted. A marked effort will be made in 1938 to achieve improvement up to " accredited " standard for all ordinary milk produced within the Borough.

<i>Samples taken.</i>		<i>Results.</i>
10 TT (including TT Certified) Milks		5 complied with the conditions prescribed. 5 did not comply with the conditions prescribed.
3 Accredited	...	3 complied with the conditions prescribed.
18 Pasteurised	...	9 complied with the conditions prescribed. 9 did not comply with the conditions prescribed.
48 Ordinary	...	5 satisfactory. 43 unsatisfactory.
1 Sterilized	...	1 satisfactory.

In connection with the very high figure of unsatisfactory ordinary milks, I have considered as unsatisfactory all samples that did not conform to the requirements of the "accredited" standard, but I am advised that the Methylene Blue Test results should be examined in conjunction with the results of a test for the presence of bacillus coli and the judgment based on the results of both tests. This will be done in future.

Sixty-seven samples of milk were submitted for examination for the presence of living tubercle bacilli, 41 samples being from sources of supply within the Borough, representing the milk of 570 cows, and 25 samples from sources outside the Borough, representing the milk from 493 cows, a total of 1,063 cows.

Two positive results were obtained or 3% of the total samples taken, and the appropriate action taken resulted in the discovery and elimination of 4 cows with affected udders.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The total number of samples submitted to the Public Analysts was 104, of which 91 were formal and 13 informal.

The proportion of samples per 1,000 of population was 2.79, and the articles sampled were as follows:—1 arrowroot, 1 brawn, 4 butter, 1 coffee extract, 2 condensed milk, 5 cream ices, 1 dried milk, 1 fish cake, 2 ground almonds, 1 jam, 3 lard, 3 malt vinegar, 4 margarine, 60 milks, 3 pepper (white), 1 potted meat, 4 sausage (beef), 2 sweets, 1 tea, 1 boracic ointment, 1 camphorated oil, 1 tincture of iodine, and 1 sulphur ointment.

The average composition of the milk samples was, fat 3.76% and solids-not-fat 8.84%.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the two vendors of glasses of milk, which on analysis, were found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 15% and 16% respectively. The proceedings were withdrawn on the instruction of the Council after the full circumstances had been considered by them, and warnings were sent to the vendors concerned.

MANUFACTURE OF PRESERVED AND POTTED FOODS.

The register of premises used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, sausage meat, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish or other food intended for sale, required by the Rugby Corporation Act, 1933, shows that 79 premises are so registered. Of these 39 are butchers, 21 fish friers, and 19 premises where food is prepared for sale.

All premises are clean and in reasonable satisfactory condition. No complaints have been received in respect of fish friers' premises.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM.

The register of ice cream manufacturers and dealers shows the total number of persons registered as 59, and the premises where ice cream is prepared or sold as 83. The premises are clean and conditions under which ice cream is made are satisfactory.

Twenty-three samples of ice cream were submitted from 17 dealers for bacteriological examination, and eight samples were reported as being unsatisfactory, having either a colony count grown on Agar exceeding 1,000,000 per gram or showing the presence of bacillus coli in 1/1,000th gram. Advice on the preparation and storage of ice

cream and the sterilization of utensils resulted in the improvement of all except two. In one instance, added raw cream appeared to be the source of bacillus coli, and in the other instance non-sterility of utensils appeared to be responsible for the high count.

Five samples of cream ices taken for analysis for fat content gave results varying from 9.0% to 20.45% of fat derived from milk, and were reported as genuine.

STREET VENDORS OF FOOD.

During the year 12 infringements of the requirements of the Local Act of 1933 relating to the display of vendors' names and addresses on stalls or vehicles were dealt with satisfactorily by informal action.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

There is little rag flock used in the Borough in the manufacture or repair of upholstery or bedding.

During the year, 4 formal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analysts for analysis, and were reported as being satisfactory and showed an average of 9 parts per 100,000 of chlorine.

An informal sample of old rag flock taken from a bed mattress sent to an upholsterer for repair, was found to contain 396 parts of chlorine.

HOUSING ACTS.

Further progress has been made under sections 11 and 25 of the Act of 1936.

During the year, 11 Clearance Areas have been declared, Orders made, Ministry of Health Inquiries held, and Orders confirmed in respect of 51 houses, and 2 demolition orders made in respect of 2 individually unfit houses, affecting a total of 171 persons. A total of 35 houses have been demolished, and a total of 127 persons rehoused in houses provided by the Corporation for the purpose, after fumigation of furniture and effects, and steam disinfection of bedding in the process of removal.

" Permitted Numbers " are being supplied to all owners of tenanted dwelling houses suitable for the occupation of the working classes, and for this purpose a temporary clerk is employed, who will at the completion of this work, carry out a revision of the overcrowding survey.

During the year a total of 2,012 visits of inspection or re-inspection were made, but few systematic house-to-house inspections were undertaken. Re-drainage work required 1,975 visits, many house systems being relaid, and a start has been made upon connecting to the new sewers houses previously draining to cesspools.

RIVER POLLUTION.

Further improvement during 1937 can be reported. The Avon and its tributaries in the Borough are now receiving less pollution than in the past. The improvement has resulted principally from the provision of considerably extended sewerage facilities in the Borough and the diversion to the sewer of sewage which until recently entered the stream, not always fully treated. Trade effluents have given no trouble, and even when the water has been low and the flow small, no trouble of any sort has arisen. Works of improvement to the main stream bed are still being carried out by the Severn Catchment Board.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

A total of 126 inspections were made to 63 registered canal boats, 8 of which were horsedrawn and 55 either motor propelled or towed by motor propelled barges. 140 persons were found to occupy these boats, 49 adult males, 46 adult females, and 45 children.

Conditions were reasonably good, there was no infectious disease reported, and it was not necessary to detain any boat for cleansing or disinfection. Sixteen infringements of the Acts and Regulations were observed, 1 overcrowding, 5 in which the registration certificates were not produced, 4 where the boats were not marked with the Registration place and number, 2 with leaking cabin roofs, 3 painting requirements, and one case where no proper water receptacle was provided. Fourteen notices were duly served and 10 were complied with before the end of the year. No proceedings were instituted.

SHOPS ACTS.

A total of 1,025 visits and observations were made during the year, and 72 notices were served in respect of 149 contraventions of the requirements of the Acts, of which 53 were in respect of forms and notices, 29 for dustbins, 15 regarding dirty conditions, 3 for additional seating accommodation, 13 in respect of sanitary accommodation, and 14 asking for additional or the provision of washing facilities.

GENERAL.

I feel I can report a year's work showing real progress, and I can leave the body of this report to supply the evidence.

In addition to the inspections and observations recorded in Table I., the following visits, etc., have been made :—

Infectious disease inquiries	...	...	251
Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	5,974
Market Inspections	...	...	243
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	...	...	77
Shops Acts Inspections, etc.	...	...	1,025
Tents, Vans, Sheds Inspections	...	...	16
Interviews	...	...	2,186

During the year, Mr. L. A. Stroud left to take up an appointment at Wrexham, and I would record an appreciation of his work while in Rugby.

My thanks are expressed to Dr. Gibbons Ward for past consideration, and to my Staff for the real effort and achievement evidenced in this year's work.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Green and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. BARTLETT,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	2454	139	2430	1577
Lodging Houses ...	101	—	7	—
Dairies and Milkshops ...	124	—	3	1
Cow Sheds ...				
Bakehouses ...	31	—	1	1
Slaughter Houses ...	4044	—	—	—
Canal Boats ...	80	—	14	12
Ashpits and Privies ...	237	3	62	42
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	206	—	10	9
Water-closets ...	221	5	167	76
House Drainage ...	1975	10	194	89
Water Supply ...	282	21	31	36
Pigsties ...	70	—	3	3
Animals improperly kept...				
Offensive Trades ...	31	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	30	—	3	6
Other Nuisances ...	2004	—	109	71
TOTALS ...	11890	178	3034	1923

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food ...	No.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ...	442
Ditto of Food found adulterated ...	104
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ...	2
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	—

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed ...	3353
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	285
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	1

T. BARTLETT, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1937 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
1931	24,310	256	10.5	16	62	272	11.2
1932	35,110	400	12.3	25	62	356	11.0
1933	35,070	379	10.8	17	45	392	11.2
1934	35,140	443	12.6	20	45	367	10.4
1935	35,680	400	11.2	11	28	406	11.4
1936	36,080	436	12.1	22	50	412	11.5
1937	37,260	498	13.4	20	40	420	11.3

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1937.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1937
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births.	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	14.9	0.6	12.4	58
125 Great Towns, including London			14.9	0.67	12.5	62
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	15.3	0.64	11.9	55
London	...	...	13.3	0.54	12.3	60

TABLE III.—BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1937.

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 Group)	71	1	9	35	17	9			59	3
Erysipelas	12			1		4	4	3		
Scarlet Fever	163	4	28	89	17	18	6	1	139	2
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	84	2	11	16	11	18	19	7		24
Malaria										
Dysentery	3			1	1		1			
Puerperal Fever...										2
„ Pyrexia	22				7	15				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis										
Poliomyelitis	1		1							
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1								
Polio-Encephalitis ...										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	35		5	12	6	8	4			15
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14		2	5	4	1	2			7
Totals	406	8	56	159	63	73	36	11	198	53

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	237	183
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...		
2 Measles		
3 Scarlet Fever		2
4 Whooping Cough		
5 Diphtheria	1	2
6 Influenza	10	11
7 Encephalitis Lethargica		
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever		
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	7	8
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	3
11 Syphilis	1	
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	1	
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	26	25
14 Diabetes	2	4
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	16	17
16 Heart Disease	46	33
17 Aneurysm		1
18 Other Circulatory Diseases	12	8
19 Bronchitis	13	9
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	15	9
21 Other Respiratory Diseases	7	2
22 Peptic Ulcer	7	2
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	
24 Appendicitis	4	3
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	2	3
27 Other Digestive Diseases	5	5
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	1
29 Puerperal Sepsis		2
30 Other Puerperal Causes		1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	12	2
32 Senility	10	13
33 Suicide	2	3
34 Other Violence	7	1
35 Other Defined Diseases	22	11
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown		





