

**[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Rugby Borough.**

**Contributors**

Rugby (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1939

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/z6daecry>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

**Borough of Rugby.**

**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.**

Leamington Spa :

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

1940.

1, MILVERTON HILL,  
LEAMINGTON SPA,  
December, 1940.

**To the Rugby Borough Council.**

MR. MAYOR, MRS. GREEN, 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, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Green, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## Borough of Rugby.

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

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1939 { For Birth Rate 39,190  
 „ „ Death „ 39,520

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births { Legitimate	534	307	227	} Birth Rate 14.0	
Illegitimate	16	9	7		
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	16
Deaths ... ..	459	222	237	Death Rate	11.6
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate	...	...	...	...	1.0
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	11.6
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ... „ other causes			...	— 1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	36
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	37
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	2

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

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list was given in the Report for 1938, the only alterations being the resignation of Mr. Leach and Mr. Key, and the appointment of Mr. Griffith. Mr. Burton, one of the Clerks, joined the Forces September 2nd, 1939.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—The following Table shows the number of free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ... —	...	43	43
Enteric Fever...—	...	7	7
Tuberculosis ... 9	...	35	44
			94



### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) *Water*.—59 samples of the Public Water Supply were examined during the year ; this figure is much greater than usual owing to precautions which were necessary after the serious flooding of the works in October, 1939.

(2) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Work on the completion of the contracts for the sewage disposal extensions at the main works has proceeded, but it has now been found that further diversions of storm water, etc., are necessary.

Hillmorton works continues to give fairly satisfactory results.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—The majority of the closets are water-closets, but approximately 290 pail closets and earth closets remain in the area that was added in 1932. The number has been reduced by 61 during the year by conversion into water-closets connected to the sewer and by demolition of houses in Clearance Areas, etc., and will be reduced progressively from year to year.

During the year 63 water-closets have been provided with flushing cisterns under the powers given in the Public Health Act, 1936, and it is anticipated that the progress under these powers will be continued.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—Maintained satisfactorily. A total of 14,625 cleansings of pail-closets were carried out by the Authority.

### D. HOUSING.

The usual Table has been prepared and is being preserved for reference.

#### *Housing Conditions.*

(i) *General Observations*.—No systematic house to house inspection has been carried out ; such work was commenced in the early part of the year, and 38 houses were inspected.

It will be seen in a subsequent paragraph that the work of clearance of unfit property has continued, and some satisfaction can be expressed with regard to the progress made.

(ii) *Sufficiency of supply of houses*.—No houses erected by the Council ; 293 were erected by private enterprise.

(iii) *Overcrowding*.—No new overcrowding cases were reported and there is no reason to believe that any overcrowding existed up till the end of August. After the outbreak of war, conditions fluctuated, but so far as is known did not result in overcrowding.

(iv) *Fitness of houses.*—All complaints have been dealt with and housing conditions generally well maintained. Thirteen houses have been declared to be individual unfit houses and action taken has resulted in the closure of three and the acceptance of undertakings in respect of the other ten.

(v) *Unhealthy Areas.*—Confirmation has been received of Clearance Orders made in respect of the Pinders Lane, Castle Street, Queen Street and Main Street, Newbold Areas, affecting 23 houses and 63 persons. No new Orders have been made and none are outstanding awaiting confirmation.

(vi) *Byelaws relating to Buildings.*—New byelaws with respect to new buildings have been made and confirmed, and operated from June 1st.

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

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

- (1) 2 designated milks for bacteriological examination.
- (2) 38 ordinary milks for bacteriological examination.
- (3) 28 ordinary milks for biological examination.
- (4) 66 milks for chemical analysis.

Results of the examinations or analyses :—

- (1) 1 was satisfactory.  
1 was unsatisfactory.
- (2) 24 were satisfactory.  
14 were unsatisfactory.
- (3) 28 gave negative results.
- (4) 64 were genuine.  
2 were not genuine.

No legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the unsatisfactory samples, but in respect of fat deficiencies in milk "appeal to the cow" samples showed the milk, as produced from the cow, was not up to the presumptive standard. The matter was referred to the County Agricultural Advisor, who gave instructions as to proper feeding in order to correct these deficiencies.

(b) *Meat Inspection.*—The details of animals slaughtered, carcasses inspected, and meat condemned, is given in the table below. There were 20,135 animals slaughtered and inspected in the slaughterhouses in the town, of which 5 are owned by the Corporation and 9 privately. The number of slaughterhouses registered and licensed and in use is the same as shown in the 1938 Report.



*Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	<i>Cattle excluding</i>			<i>Sheep and</i>	
	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known)	2,168	11	314	10,302	7,340
Number Inspected ...	2,168	11	314	10,302	7,340

*All diseases except Tuberculosis.*

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	3	16	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	157	—	1	22	131
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	7.24	—	1.28	.37	1.81

*Tuberculosis only.*

Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	191	2	—	—	251
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	8.86	18.18	—	—	3.49

**VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.***Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1930.*

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Fever.
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
1938 ...	—	37	55	4	33	—	16
1939 ...	—	5	37	—	53	—	14

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

*Smallpox.*—No cases were notified during the year.

*Diphtheria.*—During the past year there were 5 cases notified, with no deaths.

Of the cases, 5 were taken to the Isolation Hospital.

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

Hillmorton C. Infants, 15th to 27th Feb. Influenza and Whooping Cough.

St. Matthew's Infants, 11th May to Whitsun Holidays. Chicken-pox.

*Non-notifiable Infectious Disease*—There was nothing of special note.

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:			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..	3	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
15 ... ..	6	5	—	1	—	4	2	—
25 ... ..	5	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
35 ... ..	6	1	2	1	—	4	1	2
45 ... ..	3	1	—	—	5	1	2	—
55 ... ..	3	—	2	—	3	2	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	26	11	5	4	8	14	6	2

During the past year there have been notified 46 cases. In 37 cases the lungs were affected, and the remaining 9 the disease affected other parts of the body.

Of the 46 new cases notified during the past year, 7 have died during the year.

*Treatment.*—During the past year 32 cases have been admitted to a Sanatorium for treatment.

28 cases were discharged after treatment.

#### REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this Report has been received and kept for reference.



TABLE I.

## BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

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

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	1809	10	142	1732
Cow Sheds ... ..	22	—	1	—
Lodging Houses ... ..	10	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	13	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	50	—	1	13
Bakehouses ... ..	136	—	5	—
Slaughter Houses ... ..	4157	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	201	4	45	47
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ... ..	45	—	7	6
Water-closets ... ..	103	5	1	1
House Drainage ... ..	1105	28	32	50
Water Supply ... ..	119	31	—	17
Pigsties ... ..	45	—	1	1
Animals improperly kept... ..				
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	4	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	2774	24	10	60
TOTALS ... ..	10593	102	245	1927

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food ... ..	No.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ... ..	782
Ditto of Food found adulterated ... ..	125
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ... ..	4
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	2
	2

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed ... ..	1055
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	133
Schools ditto ditto ditto ... ..	—

T. BARTLETT, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

## BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

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	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
1938	38,130	544	14.6	21	39	410	10.7
1939	39,530	550	14.0	20	36	459	11.6



TABLE III.—BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR 1939.

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) ... ..	5	1	3	1					5	
Erysipelas ... ..	18		1	4	4	6	3			
Scarlet Fever ... ..	37	8	20	4	4	1			32	
Typhus Fever ... ..										
Enteric Fever ... ..										
Pneumonia ... ..	53	2	3	8	4	15	19	2		17
Malaria ... ..										
Dysentery ... ..	15		4	11						
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	14			8	6					
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	1		1							
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1		1							
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..										
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	37		3	11	15	7	1			22
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	9	1	3		3	2				8
Totals ... ..	190	2	13	44	43	47	35	6	37	47

TABLE IV.  
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	222	237
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..		
2 Measles ... ..		
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..		
4 Whooping Cough ... ..		1
5 Diphtheria ... ..		
6 Influenza ... ..	6	6
7 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..		
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..		
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	10	14
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	8	2
11 Syphilis ... ..	2	2
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..		2
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	27	34
14 Diabetes ... ..	7	5
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	14	13
16 Heart Disease ... ..	44	43
17 Aneurysm ... ..	1	1
18 Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	13	14
19 Bronchitis ... ..	7	8
20 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	14	3
21 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	9	5
22 Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	1
24 Appendicitis ... ..		2
25 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..		1
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..		3
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	6	2
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	7	2
29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..		
30 Other Puerperal Causes ... ..		1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. ... ..	4	5
32 Senility ... ..	15	24
33 Suicide ... ..	3	1
34 Other Violence ... ..	9	12
35 Other Defined Diseases ... ..	13	30
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown ... ..		



# TABLE IV BORONIC ACIDS

TABLE OF BORONIC ACIDS

NAME	FORMULA	Wt. % B	Wt. % C	Wt. % H	Wt. % O
1. Boric acid	H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	19.15	41.77	6.72	32.36
2. Sodium borate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> · 10H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
3. Sodium metaborate	NaBO <sub>2</sub> · 2H <sub>2</sub> O	14.30	44.44	11.11	30.15
4. Sodium tetraborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> · 10H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
5. Sodium pentaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>10</sub> · 9H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
6. Sodium hexaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>13</sub> · 8H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
7. Sodium heptaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>7</sub> O <sub>16</sub> · 7H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
8. Sodium octaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>8</sub> O <sub>19</sub> · 6H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
9. Sodium nonaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>9</sub> O <sub>22</sub> · 5H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
10. Sodium decaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>10</sub> O <sub>25</sub> · 4H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
11. Sodium undecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>11</sub> O <sub>28</sub> · 3H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
12. Sodium dodecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>12</sub> O <sub>31</sub> · 2H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
13. Sodium tridecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>13</sub> O <sub>34</sub> · H <sub>2</sub> O	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
14. Sodium tetradecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>14</sub> O <sub>37</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
15. Sodium pentadecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>15</sub> O <sub>40</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
16. Sodium hexadecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>16</sub> O <sub>43</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
17. Sodium heptadecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>17</sub> O <sub>46</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
18. Sodium octadecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>18</sub> O <sub>49</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
19. Sodium nonadecaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>19</sub> O <sub>52</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
20. Sodium eiccosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>20</sub> O <sub>55</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
21. Sodium heneicosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>21</sub> O <sub>58</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
22. Sodium docosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>22</sub> O <sub>61</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
23. Sodiumtricosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>23</sub> O <sub>64</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
24. Sodium tetracosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>24</sub> O <sub>67</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
25. Sodium pentacosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>25</sub> O <sub>70</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
26. Sodium hexacosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>26</sub> O <sub>73</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
27. Sodium heptacosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>27</sub> O <sub>76</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
28. Sodium octacosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>28</sub> O <sub>79</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
29. Sodium nonacosaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>29</sub> O <sub>82</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04
30. Sodiumtriacontaborate	Na <sub>2</sub> B <sub>30</sub> O <sub>85</sub>	10.41	44.44	11.11	34.04