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# Rural District of Rugby.



## 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.

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August, 1944.

**To the Rugby Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FAIRHOLME, 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.

## *Rugby Rural District.*

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

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1943	...	...	—
Birth Rate	...	...	18.5
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	22
Death Rate	...	...	11.4
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	...	...	60
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	57
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	105
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

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

1. *Public Health Officers.*—The position of Additional Sanitary Inspector has been vacant since Jan. 7th, 1943. This has entailed considerable extra work for the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
*Diphtheria	7	44	51
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis...	5	16	21
			72

\* These numbers include swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital at Harborough Magna.



### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.—There is a steady increase in the number of connections from the water mains to private houses, farmhouses and buildings. During the year an extension of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of mains was made to a group of farms, under the auspices of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee. It was hoped to extend a length of water main to serve the Brinklow Council houses, but permission for the release of the materials was not forthcoming from the appropriate ministry.

In the course of the year 27 samples of water were analysed, 5 of them bacteriologically and the rest chemically. Of this number 5 were safe, 4 suspicious, and 18 unsafe. 42 houses were connected to the mains during the same period.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—There has been no alteration in the methods of treatment at the various sewage disposal plants in the district. Following representations, a new disposal plant has been constructed at a Forces establishment. Another such establishment has received attention. As I indicated in a previous report (1942) several contemplated schemes will be given attention on the termination of hostilities. During the year the drainage to 76 premises was attended to.

2. (i) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Some sources of pollution of streams were investigated. Forces establishments were among the offenders, due to overloading their sewage disposal plants. A further case arose from premises—previously a country mansion but now a school and children's home—where the disposal arrangements were inadequate. Remedial measures have been taken in all cases.

Towards the close of the year a series of water samples were taken from the River Avon from Watling Street to the bridge at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. This was done jointly by the Sanitary Inspectors from Rugby Borough, Warwick County and Rugby Rural Councils. The results have received attention.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Labour is increasingly difficult, but every effort is made to secure conversions wherever possible. During the year the sanitary accommodation at 56 houses was improved by repair or renewal.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of household refuse and ashes, including pail closet contents, is generally



satisfactory. There have of course been some delays, but these were unavoidable and mainly due to labour shortage. The collection of salvage throughout the district also made some difference.

#### **D. HOUSING.**

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes.

*General Observations.*—The need for houses is greater than ever and far outweighs all other needs. War workers and war-time married couples are all housed in the pre-war housing accommodation of the district. Overcrowding obviously exists to a very great extent and the details of our overcrowding survey are of little practical value to-day. As soon as conditions permit after the war another survey will have to be made, and it is hoped and expected that the standard will be higher than the previous one.

There are many temporary buildings which will give their own particular type of difficulty after the war when they have to be dealt with. In addition, we have, under the Defence Regulation 68AA and Circular 2156 permitted 21 condemned houses to become reoccupied.

One noteworthy feature during the year was that the Council started and almost completed their allocation of 10 houses for agricultural workers. The two at Churchover were the first to be completed in the county and the local Member of Parliament officially opened them. At the time of writing this report (May, 1944) all the houses are completed.

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

(a) *Milk Supply.*—During the year 4 cowsheds were modernised and 23 samples of milk were submitted for chemical analysis. Only one was not genuine; a warning was given and later samples were satisfactory.

A further 266 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological analysis:—*Methylene Blue Reductase Test*—51 (31 satisfactory, 5 lost in transit and 20 unsatisfactory); *Biological Analysis*—12 (all negative); *Phosphatase Test*—13 (7 satisfactory, remainder delayed in transit); *Resazurin Testing*—183 (146 of good and moderate keeping quality, 34 poor keeping quality and 3 lost in transit); *Churn Rinsings*—2 (1 satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory).

(b) *Meat Inspection*.—All slaughtering is during the war centralised and done outside your area. Nevertheless, your Sanitary Inspector has maintained observation on the slaughterhouses, meatshops and vans, etc. During the year he condemned 165 lbs. of bacon, 6 lbs. of cheese, 126 lbs. of fish, 280 lbs. of flour and 72 tins of various foodstuffs.

*Bakehouses*.—These are generally maintained in a satisfactory state of cleanliness. Only in one instance was action deemed necessary. This particular baker supplies several Forces establishments, he was short of staff, but immediately his attention was drawn to the conditions not acceptable to us, he immediately diverted his staff to the task of cleaning up the premises.

*Food Poisoning*.—One suspected case arose during the year which was immediately investigated and satisfactorily accounted for.

## VI. 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	...	—	—	27		74		1		29		—		1
1937	...	—	—	23		62		—		40		—		8
1938	...	—	—	8		27		—		35		—		2
1939	...	—	—	14		43		—		23		—		3
1940	...	—	—	21		44		1		24		—		2
1941	...	—	—	7		30		2		25		—		2
1942	...	—	—	2		17		—		17		—		7
1943	...	—	—	3		33		—		13		—		1

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

*Diphtheria Immunisation*.—The campaign for the immunisation of school children commenced in 1941, and up to the end of 1943, 1,805 children had been treated in the schools and 362 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, making a total of 2,167.

*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	...	—	—	...	—	1
5	...	...	...	1	—	...	3	1	...	—	—	...	—	—
15	...	...	...	3	5	...	—	1	...	1	1	...	—	—
25	...	...	...	1	3	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
35	...	...	...	4	1	...	1	—	...	4	1	...	—	—
45	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
55	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards			...	1	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
			...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
TOTALS	...		...	10	9	...	5	3	...	7	2	...	—	1
			...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—

*Treatment.*—13 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, and 11 were discharged.

## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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

The summary of work done will be found in Table I.



TABLE I.

## RUGBY 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 ... ..	404	—	48	55
Roadside Cafes, &c. ... ..	24	—	—	—
Cow Sheds and Dairies ... ..	702	—	52	40
Bakehouses ... ..	91	—	19	58
Slaughter Houses, Shops and Vans	126	—	—	—
Sampling Visits (Milk Foods) ...	58	—	—	—
Milk Samples ... ..	282	—	—	—
Swimming Pool visits ... ..	2	—	—	—
Interviews and Appointments ...	207	—	—	—
Water Samples and Visits ... ..	187	—	—	—
Watercourses ... ..	36	—	2	2
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	42	—	4	10
Special Visits ... ..	63	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	5	—	—	—
Visits to Refuse Tips (Rats and Mice)	86	—	—	—
Complaints .. ...	20	—	17	17
Smoke Observations ... ..	1	—	—	—
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	73	2	4	6
Infectious Disease Visits ... ..	73	—	—	—
Lots of Bedding and Houses				
Disinfected ... ..	73	—	—	—
Verminous Houses Visits ... ..	23	—	—	7
Petroleum Visits ... ..	7	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	2	—	—	—
Knacker Yards ... ..	4	—	—	—
Improved Closet Accommodation	56	—	56	55
Defective Cesspools ... ..	1	—	1	1
Defective Drainage (House) ... ..	76	—	18	29
Ditto ditto (Plant) ... ..	2	—	2	2
Dustbins provided ... ..	30	1	30	18
Accumulations ... ..	1	—	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>2757</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>301</b>

## Surrenders of Unwholesome Foods :—

Flour ... ..	280lbs.
Bacon... ..	165lbs.
Fish ... ..	126lbs.
Cheese ... ..	6lbs.
Tins (Various) ... ..	72

Samples of Food taken for analysis ... ..	24
Samples of Food found adulterated ... ..	1
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... ..	27
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for drinking ... ..	22

LESLIE R. NUTTING, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

## RUGBY 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	18,310	294	16.0	12	41	219	12.0
1938	15,570	282	17.3	24	85	194	12.0
1939	—	—	15.1	—	39	—	11.6
1940	—	—	12.6	—	56	—	11.9
1941	—	—	16.5	—	48	—	12.0
1942	—	—	17.2	—	43	—	10.2
1943	—	—	18.5	—	60	—	11.4



TABLE III.

## RUGBY 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.		
Small-pox ... ..									
Plague ... ..									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	3		1		2				3
Erysipelas ... ..	4				1	1	1	1	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	33		9	13	7	4			30
Typhus Fever ... ..									
Enteric Fever ... ..									
Pneumonia ... ..	13		5	1	4	1	1	1	6
Malaria ... ..	1				1				
Dysentery ... ..	2				2				
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1					1			
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1		1						1
Poliomyelitis ... ..									
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19			1	8	9		1	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8		2	4	1	1			1
Totals ... ..	85		18	19	26	17	2	3	33

TABLE IV.  
RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	99	95
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	1
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	—	1
5 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	7	2
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	—	1
9 Influenza ... ..	3	2
10 Measles ... ..	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph. ... ..	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.) ... ..	1	2
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	1	1
15 Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	3
16 Cancer, other Sites ... ..	6	5
17 Diabetes ... ..	—	—
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	8	10
19 Heart Disease ... ..	29	21
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys. ... ..	4	2
21 Bronchitis ... ..	1	5
22 Pneumonia ... ..	3	3
23 Other Resp. Diseases ... ..	1	6
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	2	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	—
26 Appendicitis ... ..	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	2	2
28 Nephritis ... ..	1	3
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis ... ..	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	2
31 Premature Birth ... ..	3	4
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	5	4
33 Suicide ... ..	1	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	6	1
35 Other Violent Causes ... ..	3	3
36 All Other Causes ... ..	11	8



