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Contributors

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RURAL DISTRICT OF SOLIHULL.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR 1913,

BY

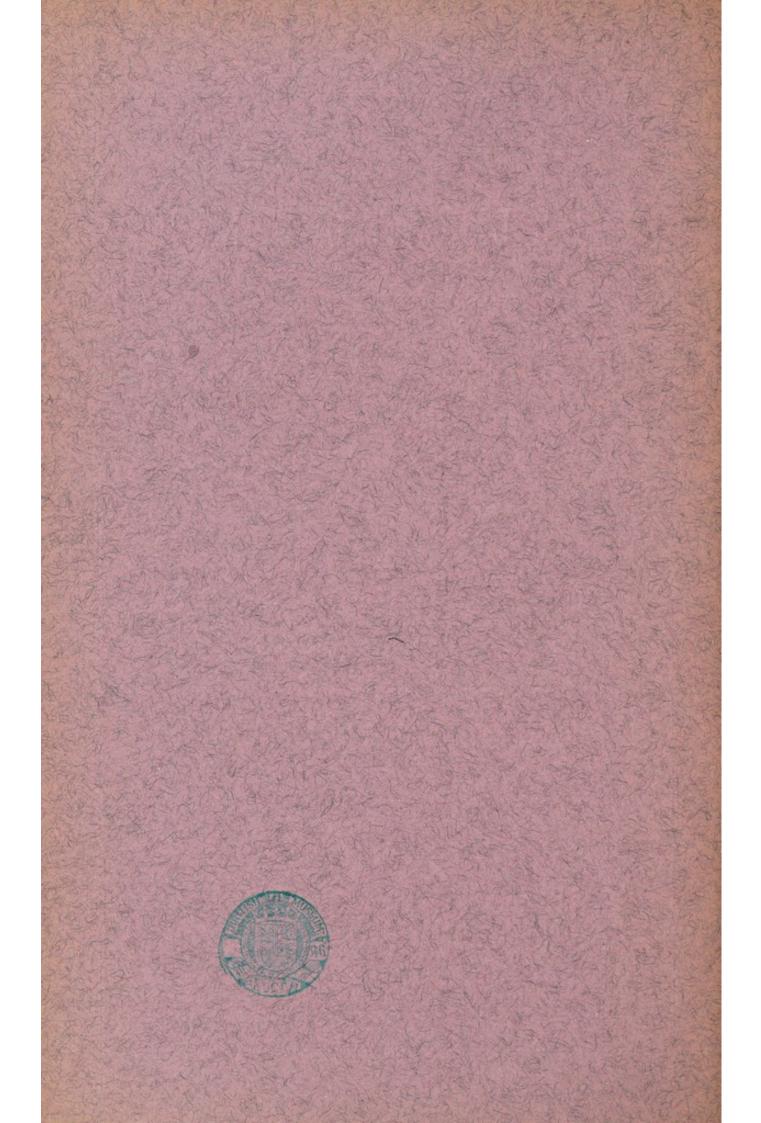
CLAUDE E. TANGYE, B.A., M.D. Lond., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington :

A. TOMES, 43, 45 & 68, BEDFORD STREET.



17, Lansdowne Circus,
Leamington,
May, 1914.

To the Solihull Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Fifth Annual Report on the health of the Rural District of Solihull.

In the preparation of this Report I have endeavoured to follow the suggestions laid down in the Memorandum issued in December, 1913, by the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, and would point out that much of the information which would appear to be unnecessary to those who are acquainted with the District is nevertheless particularly required by that Board.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CLAUDE E. TANGYE,
Medical Officer of Health.

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Solihull Rural District.

Area, exclusive of water, 41,457 acres. Inland water, 350 acres.

	Census, 1891. Census, 1901.				Census, 1911		
Population		12,786		14,673		18,762	
Inhabited Houses		2,748		3,220		4,242	
Average number of sons per house	per-	4.7		4.4		4.4	
*						4.4	
Esti	mated	l Population	on (19)	13), 19,660.			

General Character of the District.—There are three chief centres of population of residential type, namely, Solihull, Shirley, and Olton. In addition, however, Dorridge, Knowle, Balsall, and Packwood are rapidly developing as residential areas, and throughout the District there are many larger houses.

The only important industry within the District is that of agriculture, more especially dairy-farming.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—The mains of the City of Birmingham Water Department are available for practically the whole of the populous parts of Solihull, Shirley, and Olton, whilst Knowle also receives the Birmingham supply though partly through the mains of the North Warwickshire Water Company. The estimated number of houses supplied from the various mains at the close of the year was 1,245.

Private wells of the usual shallow type are the source of supply for the rest of the area, and these are constantly receiving the attention of the Sanitary Inspector. Four new private wells have been provided under his supervision for the use of existing houses. It is a pleasure to be able to report at last that mains are in course of being laid by the North Warwickshire Water Company to supply the hamlet and almshouses of Temple Balsall. The polluted wells of that area have been for many years under the consideration of the District Council, and the obvious remedy is now being taken owing to a great extent of the necessity of a large residence on the course of the proposed main.

The water supply of the Solihull and Meriden Joint Isolation Hospital at Catherine de Barnes has been derived from a shallow well which has naturally been found at times insufficient to provide adequately for so large an institution, and the supply from this source broke down altogether in the autumn. Since then water has been supplied by means of water-carts to make up the deficiency. Recently also water has been pumped from a new well in course of sinking, and this water has been used in the Hospital for purposes not requiring a pure supply.

The new well has been sunk with great difficulty to a considerable depth in the drift gravel, and it is proposed to keep out the surface water from this stratum and to tap a supply from beneath the next impermeable stratum. If a sufficient supply giving a good analysis is obtained within a reasonable time, all requirements will be met. but it appears to me that it would have been better to have arranged for an extension of the water main as suggested, before the hospital was built, at the Local Government Board Inquiry as an alternative.

The number of new houses with regard to which occupation certificates have been granted during the year under the Public Health (Water) Act with respect to water supplies from private wells was 31, these houses being supplied from a total of 20 new wells. This total does not represent all the new

houses which have come into occupation, since it has not been the custom in the District to issue certificates under this Act in the case of new houses supplied from the water mains. The number of new houses supplied from the mains which came into occupation during the year was 50.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The great majority of properties along the line of new sewers at Shirley and Blossomfield have been connected, as will be seen from the Inspector's report, no less than 178 connections having been made during the year under his supervision, leaving only 128 houses still unconnected. In this way a very large number of most offensive conditions have been abolished, and a notable improvement in sanitation generally obtained.

Further sewerage extensions are urgently needed. As reported in June, 1911, it is highly desirable that Arden Road, Dorridge, should be sewered, and although this matter has again been before the Council no steps have yet been taken.

On 11th November I reported as follows as to the necessity for an extension at Lugtrout Lane :—

- "I beg to report on the result of various inspections of the drainage of twelve new cottages in a group at the corner of Lug Trout Lane and Hampton Lane. The drains are connected with three dumb-wells, two of which are emptied by the Council at fortnightly intervals, and the third at rather longer intervals.
- "Frequent complaints have been received as to the over-flowing of these dumb-wells, and backing-up into house drains. I have found that these complaints are fully justified, and the condition has at times been most insanitary.
- "I would strongly recommend that the Council should consider the desirability of sewering this area, as this would appear to be the only method of doing away with the present inefficient and expensive arrangements for sewage disposal."

It appears that this matter was reported upon by my predecessor in 1909, and a scheme was then prepared to deal at the same time with Lugtrout Lane and Elmdon Heath, which also requires sewering. The first-mentioned area appears to be the more urgent, but the complete scheme is necessary to do away with a series of nuisances and the objectionable and expensive method of emptying dumb-wells by the Council's carts.

A general description of the various sewage outfalls was given in my last Annual Report, and conditions remained much the same during the past year. The new outfall works at Catherine-de-Barnes are in very satisfactory operation.

Closet Accommodation.—A general description under this head was given last year. As will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's Report, in a large number of instances improvements has been obtained in dry disposal methods, and in addition in 36 instances the water-carriage system has been installed in place of dry disposal.

Scavenging.—The Surveyor's Report appended shows the work done in this department at Solihull and Knowle. The ashes and refuse are removed to tips, and most of the night-soil to the various sewage outfalls.

Complaints have been received as to the condition of the tip at Lode Lane, where a moat surrounding an old farm house has been used for this purpose. The occupants of the house naturally are subjected at times to nusiance, and I have reported on this matter to the Council. The house refuse is buried under ashes as far as possible, but the position of this tip is by no means ideal, though it is a matter of great difficulty to find a suitable place elsewhere.

Complaints have also been received with regard to the meadow at Mill Pool Lane, Packwood, where refuse, including night-soil from Knowle, is temporarily deposited. This tip is situated very near the road, and undoubtedly is at times a nuisance to passers-by. It would be very desirable to make some more satisfactory arrangement for this refuse, especially during the summer months.

On 9th December I reported as follows with regard to the village of Tanworth-in-Arden :—

"I have to report that, owing to various complaints, I have inspected the present sewerage of the village of Tanworth-in-Arden.

"Nuisances are undoubtedly caused by the present system, especially from a number of gulleys in connection with the sewer which are not properly disconnected, and also from the ditch which receives the sewage from the south-east slope of the village.

"It is very desirable that the Council should take into consideration the general question of the sewerage, and also the provision of a scavenging scheme for the removal of house refuse and night-soil. The present methods of disposal of the latter by individual cottagers leads to various nuisances, and the danger of pollution of wells upon which the village depends for its water supply."

Whilst the sewerage of the village is very old, it appears to me capable at the present time of sufficient improvement to deal with the comparatively small volume of slop-water without giving rise to nuisance, and the necessity for an expensive sewerage scheme for the village would be obviated, especially if the Council undertook the suggested scavenging scheme which is at present under the consideration of a Committee.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—The Table appended to the Sanitary Inspector's Report gives a summary of his inspections, and in his Report will be found full details on this matter, as well as on the premises controlled by Byelaws.

Schools.—The elementary schools of the District have been inspected as occasion arose, and the improvements suggested by the Sanitary officials have been willingly carried out by the School Managers.

At Shirley Council School the dumb-well has been abolished, and the drains connected to the public sewer.

At Bentley Heath School new sanitary accommodation has been provided at a greater distance from the school premises than the pre-existing arrangements.

At Forshaw Heath Schools the sanitary accommodation has been ventilated, and the schools cleansed.

The Tanworth Schools have also been cleansed.

New Council Schools of modern type have been built at Hockley Heath, and at Balsall Street.

The water supply for Temple Balsall School will shortly be remedied by the extension of the water main as already mentioned.

FOOD.—There are altogether 80 registered cow-keepers in the District, 7 milk-shops in connection with milk rounds, and 10 persons who have milk rounds only.

The improvements in structure and general condition noted in past Annual Reports have been continued during the year. Under the Inspector's supervision two sets of new cowsheds have been built in place of dilapidated structures, and numerous other sheds have received structural improvements. The worst cowshed in the District, situated at Solihull, has been under the consideration of the Council, who have taken steps since the close of the year that should prove effective.

The 25 bakehouses, of which two were void at the end of the year, have received constant attention and are kept in a fairly cleanly state. In one case the floor has been relaid, and in another drainage improvements obtained, whilst numbers of bakers have been warned as to need for greater cleanliness.

A new slaughter-house was erected and licensed at Hockley Heath, and fully meets the requirements of the Local Government Board for such buildings. Including this there are ten registered and six licensed slaughter-houses in the District, one of the former situated at Shirley being unused. In one instance in the parish of Knowle structural improvements are very necessary, but owing to certain difficulties they were not obtained during the year. Other structural improvements are mentioned in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The butchers have continued to co-operate with the Council's officials in cases where meat after slaughter has appeared in any way unsound, and the Inspector gives details of voluntary surrenders of meat found on inspection unfit for food. No tubercular meat was discovered during the year.

On the whole the meat supply of the District may be said to be prepared under satisfactory conditions.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered entirely by the officers of the County Council.

HOUSING.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS 1910.

Number of Houses Inspected for purposes of Sec. 17 of Act 1909.	Number of Houses found unfit for Habitation.	Number of Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	Number of Closing Orders made.	Number of Dwelling Houses the defects in which were remedied with- out the making of Closing Orders.	Number of Dwelling Houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habita- tion.
1911 105	2	2	Nil	53	Nil
1912 124	15	3	3	72	Nil
1913 252	15	4	5	134	2

The 252 houses completely inspected under the Housing Regulations during the past year were distributed thus in ten of the eleven parishes of the District, namely:—

Balsall	 		12 h	ouses.
Elmdon	 		3	,,
Knowle	 		13	,,
Lapworth	 		10	,,
Nuthurst	 		3.	,,
Packwood	 		5	,,
Solihull	 		77	,,
Shirley	 		71	,,
Olton	 		25	,,
Tanworth	 		33	,,
		_	252	,,

Fifteen of these houses—five at Tanworth, four each at Solihull and Shirley, and one each at Lapworth and Packwood—were found unfit for habitation. It was only necessary, however, to make four representations to the Council with regard to closure, namely in the cases of two cottages at Shirley, one at Tanworth, and one at Kingswood. All these were closed by the Council as well as a cottage at Solihull which was reported upon at the end of 1912. The remaining eleven unfit houses were either voluntarily closed by their owners or rendered habitable.

The two houses which were rendered habitable after closure by the Council were closed in 1912 and situated in the parish of Solihull. No repairs have yet been attempted in those houses closed during the past year.

The demolition of condemned houses provided for by the Housing and Town Planning Act after the expiration of three months from closure if no attempt at repair has been made, has not been systematically carried out by the Council; in one instance an extremely insanitary cottage was intermittently occupied under the most miserable conditions by the tenant for many months after "closure." It is highly desirable that, when the closure of premises is definitely decided upon, the provisions of the Act should be strictly observed.

Including certain houses outstanding from previous years, 134 were put into a thoroughly habitable state without resort to closing orders. In 23 houses repairs were in progress at the close of the year, in 40 repairs had not then been begun, and in 83 no repairs were found necessary.

The various defects found during inspection are enumerated in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. In addition to the twenty-six back-to-back houses mentioned in my last Annual Report, six such houses exist at Waggon Hill, Solihull. This type of house is wrong in principle from a sanitary point of view, since through ventilation is practically impossible, and it is now illegal to erect such houses. But fortunately those existing in the District are in open situations, and are being put into as habitable a condition as their structure allows.

On the whole the condition of the housing of the working classes in the District is, if anything, above the average of the County generally. For the most part only the worst houses have been selected for inspection, and as far as possible inspection has at once been followed by communications to the owner as to necessary repairs, which have almost without exception been carried out on informal notice without formal action by the Council. In this way the general housing conditions are being substantially improved throughout the District, but it is impossible to expect that the inspection of all houses under £16 per annum in rental, as required by the Regulations of 1910, can be completed for a very considerable

time unless an Assistant Inspector is provided for this purpose. The Sanitary Inspector already has his time fully occupied, and cannot do justice to more than about 250 house inspections per annum, involving, as a large majority do, correspondence as to repairs, meetings with owners, and frequent re-inspections. The estimated number of houses in the District under £16 per annum in rental is 2,723, and the number completely inspected to the end of 1913, 481. Under present conditions all such houses will have been completely inspected by about the year 1921.

The Sanitary Inspector provides me with the following list of cases of overcrowding met with during the year:—

OVERCROWDING, 1913.

Inmates.	м.	F.	Cubic Feet T. required, Bedrooms,	Remarks.
Inmates.	м.	F.	1. required, Degrooms.	
Over ten	I	2	3) 1350 (2	Abated on informal
Under ten	2	I	$\frac{3}{3}$. $\frac{1350}{1,148}$ Cub. ft.	notice
Over ten	2	I	3) 1050 (2	Abated on informal
Under ten	I	6	3 1950 { 2 7 1,148 Cub. ft.	notice.
	100		// (-)-1	
Over ten	2	I	3 1200 1	Abated on statutory
Under ten	I	I	3 1200 { 1 2 324 Cub. ft.	notice.
Over ten	1	-		Unabated
		2	3 1950 1,528 Cub. ft.	Chabated
Under ten	3	4	7! 1,528 Cub. ft.	
Over ten	I	I	2) 900 (I	Unabated.
Under ten	I	I	2) 900 { I 700 Cub. ft.	
Over ten	I	1	2 900 I 700 Cub. ft.	Unabated.
Under ten	I	I	2) 700 Cub. ft.	
Over ten	I	2	2) 1650 (2	Abated on informal
		-	3 1650 2 784 Cub. ft.	
Under ten	4	1	5) (784 Cub. it.	notice.
Over ten	3	1	4 2100 5 2	Abated on informal
Under ten	4	2	6) (1,528 Cub. ft.	notice.
CHUOI COIL	7	-	(2,520 0001101	notice.

Eighty-one new houses came into occupation during the year; details of building plans approved will be found in the Surveyor's Report.

There can be no doubt that if additional cottage property were erected at Solihull it would rapidly be occupied, as the demand for housing is growing in that neighbourhood. At Forshaw Heath a serious case of overcrowding cannot be remedied owing to the absence of an available house. In this part of the District the need for additional housing appears to be increasing. On the whole, however, the demand has not yet reached the acute stage experienced in certain other Districts of the County.

I have reported to the Council on a rather unusual aspect of the housing question in connection with various more or less temporary wooden structures of the bungalow type. These have been freely erected in the District originally for use at week-ends in the summer by families from Birmingham. Gradually certain of these families have begun to prolong the week-ends until some of the bungalows are occupied all the year round. Unfortunately these premises, whilst possibly not seriously objectionable for their original use, are by no means satisfactory as to sanitation for the permanent occupation of families. Since none of these bungalows have been granted certificates of occupation under the Public Health (Water) Act, their permanent occupation is illegal, and should be prevented by the Council. The worst instance of this type of occupation occurred in the case of a wooden building built over a lake. This was used as a bar for the sale of liquors in connection with a Fishing Club by day, and as a bedroom by night for a family including a tubercular child. It was only after much trouble and frequent visits from the District and County staff that the occupation of this building was stopped.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Staff.—This consists of a Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, both whole-time officials. In addition the services of the late holder of the office of Sanitary Inspector are retained as Assistant Inspector and for the purpose of administration of the Canal Boats Acts, and he also performs the duties of Steward of the Small-pox Hospital. The Sanitary Inspector is the official designated for the purpose of the Housing (Inspection of District) Order.

The Sanitary Inspector has provided himself with a motor cycle for the more efficient carrying out of his work, and has found it of the greatest use.

It will be observed that almost all the sanitary work of the year has been obtained on informal communications from the Inspector, without the necessity of statutory notices from the Council. In only twelve instances were such notices required, and from this it may be seen that good sanitary progress is being obtained with the minimum of friction.

Hospital Accommodation.—At the Solihull and Meriden Joint Isolation Hospital at Catherine-de-Barnes fourteen beds are provided for scarlet fever, six for diphtheria, and four for enteric fever. As will be seen from Table II., forty-five cases of scarlet fever, two of diphtheria and one of typhoid were removed during the year from the Solihull District for treatment at this Hospital.

The Small-pox Hospital at Sheldon in the Meriden Rural District serves the same two Districts and is under the same committee as the Hospital already mentioned. This Hospital can provide for sixteen cases, and is kept in a state of readiness by the resident caretaker and his wife under the direction of the Steward. No case was admitted during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious
Diseases.

Seventy-four cases of acute infectious disease were notified during the year, comparing with 101 during 1912, 58 during 1911, and 165 during 1910. Table II. gives the statistical details and areas of occurrence.

Diphtheria.—Only two cases of this disease occurred during the year, one at Solihull and one at Tanworth. Both were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where the case from Tanworth ended fatally.

A free supply of anti-toxin is provided by the Council for use in cases of diphtheria amongst the poorer inhabitants of the District, and can be obtained by doctors from the following chemists:—G. F. Winfield, High Street, Solihull; F. H. Biddle, Warwick Road, Olton; T. H. Foden, Stratford Road, Shirley; T. J. Rice, The Square, Knowle; T. J. Rice, Dorridge.

Scarlet Fever.—Sixty-two cases were notified, and 45 of the patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital. As will be seen from Table II. 22 occurred in the parish of Solihull, but these were more or less scattered in time and area. The 16 cases at Tanworth constituted an epidemic in that village which necessitated school closure from 24th September to 20th October, and an outbreak at Forshaw Heath necessitated closure of that school from 6th October to 3rd November. Both these schools were thoroughly disinfected by formalin spray, and subsequently cleansed and re-colourwashed.

None of the cases of scarlet fever proved fatal, with the exception of one patient who died from another cause at the hospital.

Enteric.—Only one case of this disease was notified, and the patient was removed to hospital. This case occurred at Olton, but was definitely imported from another District. The patient recovered at the hospital.

Erysipelas.—Eight scattered cases occurred during the year.

Puerperal Fever.—One case was notified at Solihull in December, and proved fatal. Another death of a resident of the District occurred from this disease at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital, but this case is not included in the list of notifications given.

The following Table shows the extent to which the County scheme has been utilised for the free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University:—

	F	ositive.	N	Vegative	e.	Total.
Diphtheria		9		43		52
Enteric Fever		Nil		Nil		Nil
Phthisis		3		11		14
						- 66

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.—Measles was very prevalent throughout the first half of the year, and necessitated the closure of 12 schools in various parts of the District. This epidemic was a continuation of that which began in the previous November. Three deaths were registered as due to this disease, one at Bentley Heath, one at the Union Workhouse, and one in Solihull. That at the Workhouse occurred in an adult.

A few cases of whooping cough were reported early in the year, and an infant death was due to this disease at Copt Heath. Chicken-pox appeared at Catherine-de-Barnes in October, and so many children were affected that school closure was unavoidable.

The following is a list of elementary schools in the District closed during the year on account of infectious disease:—

Knowle Mixed and Infants', measles, Xmas holidays to Jan. 13th.

Lapworth, measles, Xmas holidays to Jan. 20th.

Packwood, measles, Xmas holidays to Jan. 27th.

Bentley Heath, measles, Xmas holidays to Feb. 3rd.

Shirley Council Infants', measles, Xmas holidays to Feb. 3rd.

Shirley C.E. Mixed, measles, Xmas holidays to Feb. 3rd.

Nuthurst, measles, Jan. 6th to Feb. 17th.

Hockley Heath C.E., measles, Jan. 6th to Feb. 17th.

Bentley Heath, measles, Mar. 5th to April 5th.

Solihull R.C., measles, April 22nd to May 26th.

Solihull C.E. Infants', measles, June 23rd to summer holidays.

Catherine-de-Barnes, measles, July 7th to summer holidays.

Tanworth, scarlet fever, Sept. 24th to Oct. 20th.

Forshaw Heath, scarlet fever, Oct. 6th to Nov. 3rd.

Catherine-de-Barnes, chicken-pox, Oct. 7th to Oct. 27th.

All these closures were advised by myself either after consultation with the School Medical Officer for the County, or as the result of previous agreement with him as to the course of action; all certificates being countersigned by him.

The school teachers of the District carefully follow the rules laid down by the County Council with regard to exclusion of members of infected families from school, which rules are based upon the Local Government Board's Memorandum of 1909. Notifications of all infectious disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded from the schools to myself.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Sixty-two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 52 being of phthisis and 10 of other forms. Table II. gives the areas of occurrence.

Twenty-two deaths were due to tuberculosis, 14 of which occurred from phthisis and 8 from other forms. I have supplied the County Medical Officer of Health every week with lists of cases of tuberculosis notified, and the visiting of the cases has been carried out by the County Health Visitor. Any special points discovered by her visits have been reported to me, and the necessary steps have been taken to remedy defective conditions as far as possible.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free through the Sanitary Inspector for cases where they are desirable. After deaths from phthisis, and after removals of phthisical patients when the circumstances require it, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector and the bedding removed to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection.

All the five Shelters belonging to the Council have been in regular use throughout the year. Four of these are loaned to the County Insurance Committee for a period of one year, and the other is used by a patient who is unable to claim benefit either directly or indirectly from that Committee. On the whole the results of the use of Shelters have been very satisfactory.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Twenty-two deaths of infants were registered during the year, giving the satisfactory infant mortality rate of 58 per thousand births.

Table IV. sets forth the various causes of infant deaths, and it will be observed that 9 were due to congenital causes.

Two deaths were due to tuberculosis, and one each to measles and whooping-cough, but none to summer diarrhœa.

Under the Notification of Births Act, 301 births were notified by doctor, nurse, or relative, out of the 376 which were registered as occurring in the District. The proportion notified is not so high as in some other Districts, and it does not appear to be thoroughly realised that the non-observance of this Act renders the parent or attendant liable to a heavy penalty.

Weekly lists of births notified have been regularly forwarded by me to the County Officials, and a large number of infants have been visited by the County Health Visitor. The infant mortality rate has shewn a gratifying decline in the District during recent years, and there can be no doubt that much credit is due to the present system of visiting mothers rendered possible through the information obtained by this Act.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Tables I. and III. are self-explanatory, and do not require much comment. It is extremely satisfactory to note that although the general death-rate for the District for 1912 was the lowest on record, that for the past year is very much lower, being only 9.9 per thousand of the population.

The Registrar-General has supplied a factor for the correction of the death-rate just given. The age and sex distribution of any community naturally differs from that of England and Wales generally, and also from that of any other community. Therefore the death-rate of one District must be corrected before it can be compared with that of England and Wales generally, or with that of any other District. The standardized death-rate for the Rural District of Solihull for 1913 is 9.0 per thousand, as compared with the crude net death-rate already given as 9.9. This standardized death-rate of 9.0 compared with that of 12.1 for the rual districts of England and Wales generally during 1913.

Many of the details of Table III. have already received comment. Cancer accounted for 22 deaths, heart disease for 20, and bronchitis and pneumonia for 21. The total of 50 given under "other defined diseases" above 65 years of age include a majority of deaths certified as due to old age.

The vital statistics of the District for 1913 are, on the whole, exceedingly satisfactory.

I append the Reports of the Surveyor and of the Sanitary Inspector :—

REPORT OF SURVEYOR.

TO THE SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to report that the work done in my department during the past year has been as follows:—

SOLIHULL.

- House Scavenging.—Dumbwells emptied, 1,163 as against 1,743 in 1912; pans emptied, 16,659 as against 18,923 in 1912; tubs emptied, 44,730 as against 39,607 in 1912; ashpits emptied, 2,612 as against 2,424 in 1912; total loads, 10,579 as against 14,781 in 1912.
- Maintenance of Sewers (Flushing).—763 loads of water, or about 305,200 galls., as against 731 loads, or 292,400 galls. in 1912.
- STREET WATERING.—The roads have been watered with 4,839 loads, or about 1,935,600 galls., as against 6,521 loads, or 2,608,400 galls. in 1912.

KNOWLE.

- House Scavenging.—Dumbwells emptied, 156 as against 170 in 1912; pans emptied, 2,673 as against 2,512 in 1912; tubs emptied, 7,437 as against 6,231 in 1912; ashpits emptied, 971 as against 848 in 1912; total loads, 1,660 as against 1,309 in 1912.
- Maintenance of Sewers (Flushing).—1,116 loads of water, or about 446,400 galls., as against 1,309 loads, or 523,600 galls. in 1912.
- STREET WATERING.—The roads have been watered with 860 loads, or about 344,000 galls, as against 1,162 loads, or 404,800 galls. in 1912.

BUILDING PLANS.

	Hou	ses.	dition	Shop	s.	Moto House	r es. S	tablin	g.	Cow- sheds.	Slaug	hter ses.
Solihull .	5	I	 13	 4		6		-		I		-
Knowle.	І	2	 4	 		I		1		_		
Tanwort	h I	2	 3	 I		_		-		I		I
Packwoo	d	2	 3	 I				_		_		_
Balsall .		6	 I	 2		_		-		-		-
Lapwort	h	4	 2	 _		_		I		-		_
Nuthurs	t	2	 _	 _		_		_		_		_
Barston	-	_	 I	 		-				_		_
			-	-		-				-		-
Total.	8	9	28	8		7		2		2		I

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. E. CURRALL,

Surveyor to the Council.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my. Third Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

The year under review has been a record one with regard to general repairs, also sanitary improvements on property in the district, and I am able to report that only twelve statutory notices have been served.

Where repairs are required to be carried out on property, the owners' attention is first drawn to the matter by letter.

The work of re-draining, and the abolition of foul and offensive dumbwells, privies with open pits, etc., at Shirley, and connections to the new sewer, continues to make good progress, and what was a most insanitary area has almost disappeared.

In the Shirley area there are some 430 houses which can be connected to the new sewers, 302 of which have already been connected, and the remaining 128 I hope to considerably reduce during the present year.

The water test has been applied to all new drains.

Under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, I have been able to increase the number of inspections, which is in accordance with the wishes of the Local Government Board, and I hope to show a further increase next year, as the drainage work in the Shirley District will not require so much supervision as during the past two years.

Practically the whole of the work in the Health Department has up to the present been carried out by informal notice, and I sincerely hope this mode of procedure will continue.

The Nuisances abated during the year amounted to 1,506:—
123 houses cleansed in part or whole; 261 defective house roofs, walls, chimneys, and floors repaired; 33 privies converted into earth-closets;
24 privies converted into water closets; 34 water closets provided with flushing cisterns; 118 house drains partly or entirely re-laid; 137 inspection chambers provided; 73 drains trapped with earthenware gullies; 4 urinals repaired or re-built; 46 outhouses repaired and limewashed; 23 earthenware sinks and waste pipes fixed; 69 disused dumbwells and privy-pits filled up to ground level; 84 yards paved or repaired; 43 water closets and drains opened and repaired; 53 rain

water gutter and down spouts fixed or repaired; 20 wells cleaned out or repaired; 33 offensive accumulations removed; 16 lots of swine or other animals (improperly kept) removed or cleansed; 9 cases of over-crowding abated; 26 houses connected to the public water supply; 116 repairs to cow-sheds, slaughter-houses, and bakehouses; 67 houses disinfected after infectious disease; 2 schools disinfected; 113 other nuisances removed. A few notices were outstanding at the close of the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

During the year 74 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz.:—
Scarlet fever 62, diphtheria 2, typhoid 1, puerperal fever 1, erysipelas 8, and of these 45 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of diphtheria, and 1 of typhoid fever were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital; 42 cases of scarlet fever, 1 of diphtheria, and 1 of typhoid fever were discharged cured; 1 scarlet fever, and 1 diphtheria patient from this district died in the Hospital; 11 scarlet fever patients remained under treatment at the end of the year.

Disinfectants are supplied, and all rooms, bedding, and other articles likely to retain infection are disinfected after the patient is removed to Hospital, or on recovery at home

The necessary disinfection was carried out after 51 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of diphtheria, 1 of typhoid fever, 1 of puerperal fever, 11 of phthisis, and 1 of cancer.

Houses in part or whole were stripped and limewashed in 50 cases.

All children from infected houses are excluded according to the usual rules, and notices sent to the school.

Notice is also sent to the school when the house has been disinfected, giving the date when the children may be re-admitted.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 10 registered and 6 licensed slaughter-houses in the District, which have been frequently inspected, though it is difficult, owing to the wide area of the District, to visit at the time of slaughter.

One slaughter-house has been void during the whole year.

An application was received and plans submitted for the erection of a slaughter-house at Hockley Heath, which were considered by the Sanitary Committee, and the necessary licenses for erection and occupation of the same were granted. One slaughter-house which was in a dilapidated and insanitary condition has been thoroughly overhauled, and very great improvements, I am pleased to report, have been made.

Another slaughter-house had general repairs carried out and improved drainage.

Minor repairs were carried out at other slanghter-houses, but one or two are far from approaching model requirements.

On the whole, the premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Constant attention has been given to the inspection of meat, fish, and other foods.

On several occasions I have been called in to examine meat where a doubt arose as to its fitness for food, and the decision of your Medical Officer of Health and myself on all occasions has been accepted without any objection being raised.

About 55lbs. of liver, 12lbs. of pork, the whole viscera of a calf, and two cows' heads with actinomycosis were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

The factories, workshops, and bakehouses on the registers number 102, viz.:—Factories 10, workshops 67, bakehouses 25.

Two bakehouses were void at the close of the year.

Occasional visits are made, and where a nuisance was found to exist, in or about a workshop, the owner or occupier was communicated with; in all instances the requirements of your Inspector have been satisfactorily complied with.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of persons on the register at the end of the year is 97, comprising:—Dairies and milkshops 17, cow-keepers 80.

Visits have been paid to the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops. The periodical limewashing of cowsheds has been carried out.

Two new cowsheds have been erected to re-place dilapidated and nsanitary structures and allow accommodation for 26 cows.

Three cowsheds have been re-paved and channelled, two provided with additional light and ventilation, five more trapped drains have been provided, in three cases the ground has been made up and channelled paving provided in front, and 16 cow-keepers have been cautioned as to general cleanliness. Again I must ask to be allowed to point out that it is fairly common to see manure deposited in such large quantities near the cowshed that the animals themselves have difficulty in entering the cowshed doors, though improvements in this direction are taking place.

PUBLIC HEALTH (WATER) ACT, 1878.

Under the Public Health (Water) Act I have issued certificates for 31 new houses, 48 samples of water have been taken and submitted to the County Analysts, 16 of which were reported to be unfit for drinking purposes.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

The house-to-house inspection has been continued during the year, and in all 252 houses have been thoroughly inspected, an increase of 128 during the previous year.

As I remarked in former reports, owners generally have been willing to carry out suggestions made, and in many cases I have gone over the property with them, pointing out the defects and giving particulars how the repairs should be executed.

The undermentioned repairs have been carried out on some of the smallest house property in the District.

The following is a summary of the alterations and repairs carried out after inspection:—Houses cleansed in part or whole, 61; house walls and ceilings re-plastered, 12; house floors re-laid or repaired, 61; new doors and windows provided or repaired, 73; windows made to open, 52; defective roofs, chimneys, and walls repaired, 72; drains re-laid, trapped, ventilated, or disconnected, 58; drains opened and repaired, 18; earthenware sinks and waste pipes fixed in place of brick sinks, 19; privies converted into water closets, 17; pail closets converted into water closets, 22; privies converted into earth closets, 23; water closets provided with flushing cisterns, 14; additional closet accommodation provided, 9; privy-pits filled up to ground level, 37; rain water gutter and down-spouts fixed, 52; yards re-paved or repaired, 50; damp course provided, 6; out-houses re-built, 17; out-

houses repaired, 19; out-houses limewashed, 73; pantries provided with external light and ventilation, 16; pigsties removed from near dwelling-house, 3; wells cleaned out or repaired, 9; wells filled up, 6; houses connected to public supply, 14; miscellaneous repairs, 39; total, 852. Houses with no through ventilation, 72; houses with one bedroom, 11; houses with two bedrooms, 160; houses with three bedrooms, 81.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
ALFRED H. CHARD,
Sanitary Inspector.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF SOLIHULL.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1913.

DEPARTMENT DO				
	Inspections	Notices	served.	Nuisances Ab ted
D 11: 11 1 C 1 -1	Observations		In-	after
Dwelling Houses and Schools—	made.	tory.	formal.	Notice.
Foul Conditions	253		67	123
Structural Defects	149		43	255
Overcrowding	25	I	4	9
Unfit for Habitation	38	7	7	13
Lodging Houses Dairies and Milkshops			Anna a	_
0 01 1	26		T.0	2
Palsahausas	139		17	43
Classal Assalassassas	37			17
Camal Basta	185		3	41
Aslanita and Deinies	58	1	25	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	74	1	35	137
Water Classic	76		21	33 6
	0	-	4	0
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps	51		39	73
No Disconnection	13	_	7	26
Other Faults	98	I	109	198
Water Supply	127	2	42	46
Pigsties	38	-	9	II
Animals improperly kept	16		5	5
Offensive Trades	—	-		_
Smoke Nuisances		_	-	-
Other Nuisances	285	_	89	397
Ash-bins Provided	—		2	13
	wn			
Spouts fixed	93	_	36	58
Totals	1789	12	551	1506
				No.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food (voluntarily	surrende	redl	
Samples of Food taken for Analy		surrende	reu)	
Ditto of Food found Adulterat				
Ditto of Water taken for Anal				48
Ditto of Water condemned as				16
Note.—Where an inspection of r defect, it may be enumerate such defect.				
Precautions aga	INST INFECT	nous D	ISEASE	
			LULINIUE.	
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved				21
Houses Disinfected after Infectiou				67
Schools ditto ditto	ditto		D:	2
Prosecutions for not Notifying Ex				e —
Convictions ditto ditt			ditto	
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infe	cted Persons	s or I hir	igs	—

SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report for 1913 on Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Number of						
Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions				
7						
67	8					
74	8					
	7 67	Inspections. Written Notices.				

2.- DEFECTS FOUND.

								Numl	per of De	fects.	ns.
	Pa	rticular	s.					Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Publi	c H	ealth Ac	ts:-								
Want of cleanliness						***		11	11		
Want of ventilation		***				***					
Overcrowding	***	274			***						
Want of drainage of flo	ors	***		***		***	***				
Other Nuisances	***	***				***		6	6		
	(insuffici	ent			***					
Sanitary accommodation	on	unsuita	ble or	defec	tive						
	(not sepa	rate f	or sex	es						
Notice to Limewash I	Bake	houses	***			***	***				
Offences under the Factory	an	d Works	hob A	ct:-							
Illegal occupation of u					(s. 101)		***				
Breach of special sanit to 100) Other offences (exclud	ing	offences	relat	ing to					1		
are included in Pa			report	()				- 10	- 10		
Total	***	***	***		1444	111		18	18		

28

SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT.—FACTORIES, &c.—(continued).

3.-HOME WORK.

Infected ons 109,116		(011 suo	secuti	Pros		1
rk in In 3, Section		8de (01)	ers m	brO beS)		
Outwork in Infected Premises, Sections 109,116		89	stanc	πI		-
		suo	ituoes	Pro		
Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108	1	глед	9S 890	itoV		
Outwork Premis	-	89	ouers	πI		
	-	tions	pus	Faili to se Lisi		
		Prosecutions	to a sign of	Failin keep perr inspect Lis		
7.	0	uəs.	sesser upiers og on sil ga	Neepi Keepi II		
Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.			1	Work-	8	3
Lists, S.	mployers.	g once in the year	Outworkers.	Con-		-
vorkers'	om Emp		- total	Sasiri	00	63
Outr	Lists received from En	he year	kers.	Work- men.		
	Lists red	twice in t	Outworkers.	Con- tractors		
		Sending twice in the year Sendin	100	1		
		Natural of Work	Saudio Of Work		Wearing Apparel— (1) Making, &c. (2) Cleaning and washing. Household Limen Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets Ourtains&FurnitureHangings Furniture and Upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and Brass Articles File making Cables and Grapnels Cart Gear Locks Latches and Keys Umbrellas, &c. Artificial Flowers Nets, other than wire nets Tents Sacks Racquet and tennis balls Paper, etc., Boxes, Paper Bags Brush making Pea picking Feather sorting Carding, &c., of Buttons, &c. Stuffed Toys Basket making Chocolates and sweetmeats Christmas Stockings, &c. Christmas Stockings, &c. Christmas Stockings, &c. Christmas Stockings, &c.	Total

Solihull Rural District .- Factories, &c .- (continued).

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

such such pake-	Factories	***	***	***	- 11	***	***	 10
ops, such pakes a shop bak may lated her	Workshops				***	***	***	 67
workshot as workshot houses, enumerat	Bakehouses	***	****	***				 25

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.		
Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—			
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)			
Action taken in matters referred (Notified by H.M. Inspector			
under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) Reports (of action taken) sent H.M. Inspector	to		
Other			
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101).—			
Certificates granted during the year			
In use at end of the year			

TABLE I. SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	ated to Middle Year.	-	Births		REGIS IN	TAL ATHS STERED THE TRICT.	AB	SFER- LE THS.	Under	ler 1 Year At al Safe Births No. Nate Births N	Ages.	
Үкак.	Population estimated to of each Year.	Uncorrected Number.	Number.	* Kate.	Number.	. Rate.	Of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	. Number.	. Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	17,640	374		21.2	249	14.1	32	15	29	77	232	13.2
1909	18,040	347		19.2	251	13.9	33	8	26	75	226	12.5
1910	18,450	366		19.8	259	14.0	42	20	29	79	237	12.8
1911	18,860	342	332	17.6	247	13.1	51	10	27	81	206	10.9
1912	19,260	367	364	18-9	219	11.4	31	20	21	58	208	10.8
1913	19,660	376	379	19-3	201	10-2	26	19	22	58	194	9-9

^{*}Rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (1913).

We are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following statement showing the birth-rates and death-rates and the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales, and in certain parts of the country during the year 1913.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1913 (Provisional Figures).

Average Rate per 1,000 Living.

				Births.	Crude. S		Deaths under ne year to 1,000 l*. Births
England and					13.7	13.4	109
96 Great Tov	vns, inc.	luding	Lon-				
don				25.I	14.3	14.7	116
145 Smaller T	owns			23.9	12.8	13.0	112
England and	Wales,	less the	e 24I				
towns				22.2	13.1	I2.I	96
London		***		24.8	14.2	14.2	104

^{*}The standardized death-rates (formerly called corrected death-rates) are the rates which would have been recorded had the sex and age constitution of the populations of the several areas been identical with that of England and Wales as enumerated in 1901.

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TABLE II.—SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913.

peven J.	ediqs	Total Case to Hos				63		45		1					-			60
	-	Nuthurst	-													-		н
ch	.4	Tanwort		1	-	-	-	16	-	-	-		1			6	1	27
in each		Olton.		-	1		63	00	-	Н	-	:	1	:	-	5	10	22
eq .		Shirley.	1				63	10		-	-	-	1	1	-	4	1	==
es notified Locality.		IludiloS			-	-	63	22		1	-	-	-	:		21	4	51
Sases	.h	Раскиоо					-	C4	-	-	1	-	1		-	-		63
-	.0	Lapwort		-	-	1	-	1		1	1	:		-		5	1	-
·Total		Knowle			1		-	2	1	1		1	-		-	'n		10
		Balsall.	1		-	:		(0)	-				1		-	63		10
		65 and shards.					н	1						:	T	00	-	9
ed.		45 to 65.					60	-		1		-		-		2		6
otifi	Tears	.64 01 62			-		63	ro.	1	1	1	:	-		-	24	60	36
Number of Cases notified	gesYea	15 to 25.					-	13		-	:		-		-	=	1	24
of Ca	4	.dI of d	-			09	:	30		1	-					00	10	45
ber	At	.d ot I				1	-	13	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	91
Num		Under I.			-		1	-			-	-	-	1	-	:		
	'Se	At all Ago		-		64	00	62	-	-		1	1	-	-	52	10	136
		NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Small-pox	Cholera	Plague	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Relapsing Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals

Isolation Hospitals: Solihull and Meriden Joint Small-pox Hospital (at Sheldon, in the Meriden R.D.); Solihull and Meriden Joint Isolation Hospital (at Catherine-de-Barnes, in the Solihull R.D.)

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of													
CAUSES OF DEAT	Ъ.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.				1			65 and upwards.	Total Deaths in Institutions in the District.		
All causes { Certified Uncertified		194	22	1	4	7	6	22	38	94	40		
Enteric Fever													
Smallpox													
Measles		3	1			1		1			1		
Scarlet Fever											1		
Whooping Cough		1	1										
Diphtheria and Croup		1				1					1		
Influenza		2								2	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		
Erysipelas											************		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber	culosis)	14				1	2	5	3	3	7		
Tuberculous Meningitis		2	1			1							
Other Tuberculous Disease	es	6	1		1	1	1	1	1		1		
Cancer, Malignant Disease	e	22		1		1		1	9	10	2		
Rheumatic Fever													
Meningitis													
Organic Heart Disease		20			1		1	2	4	12	4		
Bronchitis		9							1	8	1		
Pneumonia (all forms)		12	2		1			5	2	2	3		
Other Diseases of Respirato	ry Organs	4							4		1		
Diarrhœa and Enteritis		2	2										
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		1			1								
Cirrhosis of Liver		4								4	1		
Alcoholism													
Nephritis and Bright's Dis	ease	6					1	1	2	2	1		
Puerperal Fever	***	2						2					
Other Accidents and Di Pregnancy and Parturitie													
Congenital Debility and I tion, including Prematur			9										
Violent Deaths excluding	Suicide	3					1		2				
Suicides		1					5555			1			
Other Defined Diseases		69	5			1		4	9	50	16		
Diseases, ill-defined or unk	nown	1							1	*****			
All Causes		194	22	1	4	7	6	22	38	94	40		

TABLE IV. SOLIHULL RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Caus	e of D	eath.			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All causes	Certi	fied	***		8	2			10	4	4	1	3	22
Au causes	Unce	rtified												
(Small-pox														
Chicken-pox		***	***			-	****							
Measles		***		***			***					1		1
Scarlet Fev		•••	111	444						*****		1		
Whooping				***						,				1
Diphtheria			***							1				
Erysipelas			***			*****		******			******			
, Tuberculor							*****				***			,
Abdominal				4.		447			1222				1	1
1														
Other Tub				**			******			***				1
Meningitis			nlous)								1			1
Convulsion		***	***											
Laryngitis		***	***	***										
Bronchitis				***			*****			****				
Pneumonia		orms)	***								1		1	2
Diarrhœa	***	***	***	***										
Enteritis	**	***		***						2				2
Gastritis								****						
Syphilis			***								1			1
Rickets			***	***										
Suffocation	, over	lying	***											
Injury at B					1				1					1
Atelectasis	***	***		444										
Congenital	Malfo	rmatic	ns		2				2					2
Premature	Birth			***	4	2			6					6
(Atrophy, D	ebility	& Mai	rasmu	s						1				1
Other Caus	ses				1				1				1	2
		-			8			-	10	4	4	1	3	22

Nett Births in the Year:—Legitimate, 367; Illegitimate, 12. Nett Deaths in the Year of:—Legitimate Infants, 21; Illegitimate Infants, 1.





LEAMINGTON SPA:

A. TOMES, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER,
BEDFORD STREET.





