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Urban District of Solihull.

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 :

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1938.





1, MILVERTON HILL,  
LEAMINGTON SPA,

June, 1938.

**To the Solihull Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. TIMMS AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the report for the year 1937, relating to the sanitary condition of the District and the health of its inhabitants.

The development of the District continues, an increase in population of 4,860 as estimated by the Registrar-General, is an indication of this growth. Our own estimate of the population is higher than this, and is based on the number of houses erected since the Census of 1931.

Such growth as this, even by the Registrar-General's figures, practically 20,000 since the Census of 1931, or approximately 80 per cent., must necessarily produce difficulties in administration.

The question of staffing, which is referred to in the body of the Report, is, under the altered circumstances, one of some urgency, and at the time of writing the Public Health Committee are considering a special report on the subject.

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 fallen to Mr. Chard, the Sanitary Inspector, to whose keenness any success in the work must be largely attributed. To him and his staff I wish to tender my thanks for ready help at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Timms and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,  
Medical Officer of Health.



**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF  
THE SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

*Sanitary Inspector :*

ALFRED HORACE CHARD, Cert. R.S.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

NORMAN HARRY READ, Cert. R.S.I.

GEORGE ERIC FALLOWS, Cert. R.S.I.

*Clerk :*

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

*Surveyor :*

REGINALD DUNN, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.

*Public Analysts :*

HILL & RIGBY.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

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

## *Solihull Urban District.*

### A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres) ... ..	20,189
Population, Resident Census ... ..	25,372
Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1937 ... ..	45,360
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931) ... ..	6,643
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Book ... ..	15,585
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931) ... ..	6,732
Rateable Value ... ..	£350,682
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£1,461

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

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	822	425	397	} Birth Rate 18.7
{ Illegitimate	27	18	9	
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births ... ..				44
Deaths ... ..	443	226	217	Death Rate 9.8
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate ... ..				.98
Adjusted Death Rate ... ..				9.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth { From Sepsis				—
{ „ other causes				5
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				61
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..				38
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..				1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..				1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..				—

### VITAL STATISTICS.

*Population.*—The Registrar-General's estimate of the population in the middle of 1937 was 45,360 ; this shows an increase of 4,860 over the estimated figure of 40,500 in the middle of 1936, and an increase of 19,990 over the Census figure of 25,372. The rapid growth of the District is thus well shown. There seems little doubt that the increase is greater than the Estimated Population would appear to show.



The "Natural Increase" *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, was 406.

*Birth-Rate.*—There were 849 births, of which 27 were illegitimate, giving a birth-rate of 18.7 per 1,000. In 1936 the respective figures were 718 and 17.7.

*Still-Births.*—The Registrar-General notes 39 Still-births, giving a rate per 1,000 total births of 44.

*Death-Rate.*—There were 443 deaths, giving a death-rate of 9.8 per 1,000. In 1936 the respective figures were 337 and 8.3.

The adjusted Death-Rate for comparison with that for England and Wales was 9.5.

A detailed analysis of the causes of death is given in Table IV. Of the deaths, 22 were due to Influenza, 58 to Cancer, 23 to Apoplexy, 112 to Heart Disease, 7 to Bronchitis, 7 to Kidney Disease, 19 to Violence, and 7 to suicide.

With regard to Cancer the deaths for the past 18 years are as follows:—

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
27	39	24	24	27	31	52	40	37
1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
36	53	37	32	39	36	58	55	58

The number of deaths from Cancer was the same as the peak figure for 1935, *viz.*, 58. The rate per 100,000 of the population was 128, this compares with the figures for the past 8 years as follows:—

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
193	120	118	133	113	161	136	128

Of these 58 deaths, 28 were in males and 30 in females, showing an increase of 3 males on the figures for 1936.

The total number of deaths in the Combined District 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	147	151

*Infantile Mortality.*—The Infant Mortality amounted to 51 deaths, *i.e.*, 60 per 1,000 births as compared with the figure for England and Wales of 58. Of these 51 deaths 36 were due to conditions obtaining prior to birth.

A comparison with the figures for the past few years is given in Table II. at the end of this Report.

The appropriate figures for England and Wales are given below Table II. later in this Report.

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

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list is given at the front of the Report. The continued rise in the population of the District must of necessity increase the work of the Department, and as a matter of fact the Staff is now unable to deal with many matters within the province of the Public Health Department in such a way as the Council would wish; at the time of writing a special report on this matter is under the consideration of the Public Health Committee.

2. *Nursing in the Home.*—None provided.

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

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	208	515	723
Enteric Fever ...	—	26	26
Pulmonary Tu- berculosis ...	5	49	54
			803

7. *Legislation in Force in District.*—**The Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936**, received the Royal Assent on July 31st, 1936. The Act gives powers with respect to :—

Part I.—PRELIMINARY.

„ II.—STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

„ III.—SEWERS, DRAINS, ETC.

„ IV.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND SANITARY PROVISIONS.

„ V.—HUMAN FOOD.

„ VI.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BATHS, PARKS, ETC.

„ VII.—LANDS.

„ VIII.—FINANCIAL.

„ IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

For further information reference may be made to the Report for 1936,



8. *Hospitals.*—There are no changes to report in the statement given in the Report for 1930. The continued increase in the population served by the Isolation Hospital, Catherine-de-Barnes, both in this District and the Meriden Rural District, together with a large proportionate increase in the child population, has caused considerable difficulties in obtaining isolation accommodation in suitable cases. A special report was presented to the Joint Hospital Committee, and plans for enlargement and reconstruction of the Hospital are at the moment in the hands of the Committee.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*—The Ambulances are housed at the Fire Station, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull. Telephone 2222 Solihull. The ambulance turned out to 366 calls during the year.

### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1 (i) *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 and the District from Aylesbury Road, Packwood, up to Hockley Heath, also receive a supply through the mains of the Coventry Corporation. More than two-thirds of the houses in the District are so supplied. This number is constantly increasing, and fresh mains have been laid in many roads during past years to keep pace with the building operations.

There are approximately 950 private wells supplying 1,500 houses.

The Council decided to extend the City of Birmingham water mains to Catherine-de-Barnes, and this work is now in progress.

The following list indicates the rapidity with which these extensions are being carried out:—

#### *New Water Mains or Main Extensions carried out during 1937.*

				<i>Length of Main laid.</i>	
Fircroft	...	...	...	170 lin.yds.	New Road.
Barn Lane	...	...	...	86	do.
Lode Lane	...	...	...	216	do.
Hatchford Brook Estate	...	...	...	413	do. do.
Brook Lane	...	...	...	142	do.
Damson Lane Estate	...	...	...	123	do. do.

			<i>Length of</i>		
			<i>Main laid.</i>		
Highlands Road	...	...	250	lin.yds.	New Road.
Prospect Lane	...	...	223	do.	
Streetsbrook Road	...	...	406	do.	
Ulleries Road	...	...	640	do.	do.
Goodway Road	...	...	446	do.	do.
Irving Road	...	...	340	do.	do.
Rangoon Road	...	...	50	do.	do.
Victor Road	...	...	47	do.	do.
Warwick Road	...	...	63	do.	
Church Hill Road	...	...	53	do.	
Slater Road	...	...	53	do.	do.
Lyndon Road	...	...	500	do.	
Knightsbridge Road	...	...	500	do.	do.
Highwood Avenue	...	...	1,930	do.	do.
Kimberley Road	...	...	500	do.	do.
Onslow Crescent	...	...	200	do.	do.
Castle Lane	...	...	210	do.	do.
Haslucks Green Road	...	...	130	do.	
Shakespeare Road	...	...	80	do.	do.
Hampton Lane	...	...	27	do.	
Mill Lane, Bentley Heath			180	do.	
St. Bernards Road...	...	...	53	do.	
Damson Lane	...	...	153	do.	
Wells Green Farm Estate			4,470	do.	do.
Lode Lane	...	...	316	do.	
Purseley Close	...	...	100	do.	do.
Ashford Avenue	...	...	83	do.	do.
Whitefields Road	...	...	310	do.	
Stratford Road	...	...	32	do.	
Manor Road, Dorridge	...	...	350	do.	
New Road off Manor Road			53	do.	do.

These extensions amount to a total of 7.89 miles.

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 11. This would appear to indicate that building operations are for the most part following the water mains.

Further particulars are given in the appended Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Conditions remain much the same as was indicated in the last Report, but the special Committee formed to deal with the question of sewer exten-



sions has continued to be very active, as is indicated by the appended list of extensions. It is realised that in a growing district such as this the problem is an immense one, and requires very careful forethought and consideration.

The Public Health Committee, in conjunction with the Sewage Disposal Committee are preparing a scheme for the connection of all dwelling houses to the sewer where the same is available, and for the conversion of pail closets into water closets; this will be a very desirable improvement.

During the year the Council, as a constituent Authority under the Birmingham Tame and Rea Drainage Board, has had two representatives on that Board.

In addition to the houses draining into the Birmingham Tame and Rea Drainage Board sewers the District Council have to maintain six small works. They are situated as under:—

On Golf Links, Copt Heath.

By side of highway, Warwick Road, Copt Heath.

In gardens Dove House Lane, Solihull.

On land off Burman Road, Shirley.

On land off Lode Lane, Solihull.

(To be put out of use early 1938).

On land Alston Road.

(Put out of use 1937).

The five Cresspool Emptying Machines are kept very fully employed, there are about 622 Cesspools in the District.

*Sewer Extensions, 1937.*

*Sewerage Works carried out by Contract, January 1st to December 31st, 1937.*

	Length in Yards.	Total Value of Tender.			
			£	s.	d.
Olton & Elmdon Drainage (part)	15,500 ...	31,694	3	11	
Majors Green Sewerage ...	4,000 ...	9,244	6	8	
Purnells Brook Sewerage ...	1,500 ...	3,856	0	10	
Warwick Road Flooding Relief Scheme ...	2,900 ...	9,317	4	9	
F.W. Sewer through Olton Golf Course ...	1,200 ...	2,306	0	0	
S.W. Sewer, Lyndon Road ...	1,200 ...	2,360	0	0	
Mill Lane S.W. Drainage ...	100 ...	642	1	4	
	<hr/>	<hr/>			
	26,400 yds.	59,419	17	6	
	<hr/>	<hr/>			

= 15 miles.

*Sewerage Works carried out by Direct Labour.*

			<i>Lin. yds.</i>	<i>Lin. yds.</i>
			<i>Foul.</i>	<i>Storm.</i>
		<i>Size.</i>		
Warwick Road ...	...	9in.	51	
Yew Tree Lane ...	...	9in.	310	
Grange Road, Dorridge		21in.		191
Sharmans Cross Road ...	...	15in.		100
Bills Lane ...	...	15in. & 12in.		87
School Road, Hockley Heath ...	...	9in.		200
Barn Lane ...	...	9in.		202
Castle Lane ...	...	9in.		181
Fords Road ...	...	9in.	207	307
Tilehouse Green Lane ...	...	9in.		602
Prospect Lane ...	...	9in.		309
Danford Lane ...	...	9in.		280
Beechnut Lane ...	...	9in.		166
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			568	2,625
			<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year :—

16.81 miles of foul water sewers were constructed.

1,587 dwelling houses were passed for occupation.

5 lay-outs for developments of new Estates approved.

2 (i) The Rivers Cole and Blythe pass through this District in their early stages. There is no known pollution taking place.

3 (i) *Closet Accommodation.*—About four-fifths of the Closets are water flushed. It is estimated that there are about 900 Pail Closets in the District, of which 850 are emptied weekly by the Local Authority ; in special cases this work is done twice weekly.

During the year 6 pails have been converted into water closets.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*—Schemes are in operation throughout the whole of the District.

The ashes and refuse are removed to tips, and most of the night-soil to the various sewage outfalls.

House refuse is removed from about 15,110 dwelling houses ; 14,700 houses have ash-bins.



The refuse tips are situated as under :—

Lode Lane, Solihull.  
 Old Sewage Works, Olton.  
 Fordrove Farm, Elmdon.  
 Houndsfield Lane, Tidbury Green.  
 The Old Brickyard, Chessetts Wood.  
 Haslucks Green Road, Shirley.

The system of " Controlled Tipping " is in use, and all the Tips are well kept and a credit to the Council.

(iii) 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.

(iv) SHOPS ACT, 1934.—Number of Shops 617 with shops with Assistants 246. Number of Assistants, Males 331, Females 211, " Young Persons," Males 112, Females 54. Only one shop was found not to comply with Section 10 re Sanitary Accommodation and Washing Facilities, these premises are being reconstructed.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Complaints were received with respect to 3 Factories. Advice was given and further observation taken, so far with satisfactory results.

(vi) SWIMMING POOLS.—There are open-air swimming pools at Solihull, Knowle and Shirley. Closed during the winter months.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—

*Shirley.* Swimming Pool. Two samples taken and both considered satisfactory.

*Knowle.* Swimming Pool. Two samples taken and both considered satisfactory.

*Solihull.* Swimming Pool. The sample taken was considered satisfactory.

#### (vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

(a) Number of houses infested ... Two.

(1) Council Houses ... None.

(2) Other Houses ... Two.

(b) Number of houses disinfested ... Two.

(c) Methods used for freeing infested houses.—Spraying with " Vermicine " and fumigation with " Cimex," (used in conjunction).

- (d) Methods used on transfer to Council Houses.—  
None required.
- (c) Whether disinfection by Local Authority or Contractor.—By Sanitary Department of the Local Authority.

SCHOOLS.—The Elementary Schools and private schools of the District have been inspected as occasion arose.

RATS.—Occasional complaints have been received with respect to Rats, and advice and baits have been given where necessary.

MOSQUITOES.—No complaints were received during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACT.—No samples were taken ; in only one factory in the District is Rag Flock used, and that is for the padding of cheap furniture.

## 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) ... ..	293
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	533
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	5
(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 ...	24

### 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 ... ..	11
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### 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 ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	—



B.— <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	134
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
C.— <i>Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	8
D.— <i>Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	57
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	57
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	288½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	5
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	33
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	92½
(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

#### (b) *Housing Conditions.*

*Inspection* has been continued, and many houses have been re-inspected. There are now 1,694 houses of which particulars are registered, and these are mainly the oldest houses in the District, including temporary wooden buildings and caravans.

1. *General Observations.*—This question was dealt with somewhat fully in the Report for 1931, and it only remains to say that this Council is still continuing its policy of erecting houses and advancing money on mortgage to purchasers.

At the end of 1937 the Council had 506 houses. In 952 cases the Council had advanced money on mortgage to owner-occupiers. 453 of this number were transferred to the Birmingham Municipal Bank as from December 25th, 1936.

2. *Sufficiency of the Supply of Houses.*—This is obviously a difficult question to answer, but generally speaking it would appear that the demand has by no means been satisfied as yet, and this is as one would expect having regard to the closeness of Birmingham and the general growth of the District. The fact that it has been impossible in certain cases to proceed with Demolition owing to the lack of other accommodation gives some indication of the shortage.

	<i>Up to date.</i>
(1) Council Houses ... ..	506
(2) Subsidies granted ... ..	1,419
(3) Loans advanced on Mortgage ...	952

The actual number of Council Houses, and their distribution throughout the various parishes, is given below, also much further detailed information which may be of interest.

#### SUBSIDY COUNCIL HOUSES.

Solihull	... Hermitage Road	... 26	... 9/-	... 3 bed.
	Wharf Lane	12	9/-	3 "
	Cornyx Lane	12	9/-	3 "
	Alston Road	60	9/-	3 "
	"	36	7/6	2 "
	Damson Lane	22	9/-	3 "
	"	8	7/3	2 "
	Heath Road	8	9/-	3 "
	"	8	7/6	2 "
	"	2	6/-	3 "
	"	4	4/9	2 "
Olton	... Lyndon Road	10	9/-	3 "
	Lode Lane End	8	9/-	3 "
Shirley	... Olton Road and			
	Streetsbrook Road	46	9/-	3 "
	Tythe Barn Lane	8	9/-	3 "
	" "	6	7/6	2 "
	Cranmore Road	42	9/-	3 "
	" "	24	7/6	2 "
Monkspath	... Hay Lane	6	4/9	2 "
	"	7	6/-	3 "
	"	11	9/-	3 "
Illshaw Heath	... "	8	7/3	3 "
	"	14	6/-	2 "
Hockley Heath	Stratford Road	10	8/6	3 "
	Aylesbury Road	16	8/6	3 "
	" "	12	7/6	2 "
Norton's Green	... "	8	8/6	3 "
Knowle	... Kixley Road	16	7/-	2 "
	Hampton Road	30	8/6	3 "

#### NON-SUBSIDY COUNCIL HOUSES.

Solihull	... Lode Lane	... 5	... 15/-	... 3 "
	Widney Road	12	13/-	3 "
Olton	... Castle Lane	8	13/6	3 "
	"	1	5/6	2 "



## SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT.

Solihull	...	Bunkers Hill	...	2 ...15/-	...	3 bed.
		Hillfield Road	...	1 ...15/-	...	3 ..
Shirley	...	Longmore Road	...	3 ...16/-	...	3 ..
			...	1 ...15/10	...	3 ..
Knowle	...	Lodge Road	...	2 ...14/-	...	3 ..
		Waste Lane	...	2 ...12/6	...	3 ..
		Birmingham Road	...	1 ...13/6	...	3 ..
Bentley Heath	...	Mill Lane	...	5 ...14/-	...	3 ..
Shirley	...	Stratford Road	...	1 ...17/6	...	4 ..
		School Lane	...	1 ...15/-	...	3 ..

3. *Overcrowding*.—There were 57 dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year, including 5 additional cases which were found during the year. 33 cases were abated during the year.

Further information is given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

4. *Fitness of Houses*.—Routine inspection of houses is continuing, and there is no doubt that the appointment of an additional Inspector would enable us to carry on this work at an increased pace.

*Water Supply*.—Where the water mains are available, it is the rule for the supply to be taken into the houses. When the only supply is from wells, the pump is almost invariably inside.

*Closet Accommodation*.—Apart from a few marked instances, there is usually private accommodation for each house.

5. *Clearance Areas*.—

*Clearance Area No. 2*.—The Rowens, Shirley. Two caravans were demolished during 1937 leaving three caravans occupied by one person each at the end of the year.

*Clearance Area No. 3*.—Miss Hurst's Field, Solihull Lodge. A Public Inquiry was held during the year and the order was confirmed by the Ministry. The five buildings remained occupied at the end of the year.

*Clearance Area No. 4*.—Mrs. Owen's Field, Solihull Lodge. A Public Inquiry was held during the year and the order was confirmed by the Ministry.

Seven of the eight buildings remained occupied at the end of the year.

Additional houses were in course of erection at the close of the year.

6. During the year 5 Demolition Orders under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made by the Council; 9 dwellings were demolished either by the Council or the

Owners, and 7 were demolished without the making of Orders.

7. *Bye-Laws, etc.*—New Bye-laws are under consideration.

### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—Generally speaking the quality of the Milk Supply in the District would appear to be good, though I have no figures, as the sampling is for the most part done by the Officials of the County Council.

At the end of the year 1937, there were on the Register, Cowkeepers 92, Cowkeepers who retail the whole or part of their milk 47, Retailers 108, and Milkshops 51.

There were no refusals to register, and no registrations were revoked.

Licences have been applied for and granted for the sale of Certified Milk, Grade A. (Tuberculin Tested Milk), Grade A. Milk, and Pasteurised Milk.

*Tuberculous Milk.*—Acting on the instructions of the Special Milk Committee, 21 samples of milk were sent to the Birmingham University to be examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli; the Bacilli were present in 1 sample. As the samples were "mixed ones," this is a good result, and reflects great credit on the herds of dairy cows supplying the District.

Where a positive sample is discovered, every effort is made by the County Council to trace and slaughter the infected animal under the powers of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

The Inspector has spent much time and given much encouragement to the Milk Producers of the District with a view to the improvement of the milk supply of the area, and a more comprehensive reference to this matter is given in his Report.

A considerable number of cow-keepers and retail purveyors of milk have improved their premises in regard to facilities for the cleaning of milk vessels.

(b) *Meat.*—It is realised by the Council that the inspection of all meat at the time of slaughter is impossible. Each slaughter-house is visited weekly, at the registered hour of slaughtering, if possible, and visits are paid at other times.

Condemned meat is disposed of either (1) by sending to Birmingham, where it is dealt with by a special department, or (2) by burial under suitable conditions and supervision.



The Shopkeepers have all come into line with reference to keeping shop windows closed, and there are no Stalls in use in the District.

*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) ...	832	—	Not known.	6552	888
Estimated.					
Number inspected ...	75%	—	—	50%	75%
Estimated.					

*All diseases except Tuberculosis.*

Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—

*Tuberculosis only.*

Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.					

*Slaughterhouses in Use.*

	1920.	Jan., 1937.	Dec., 1937.
Registered ...	10	5	4
Licensed ...	7	8	9

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Bakehouses, Slaughterhouses, etc., are referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, where information is also given as to food condemned and food samples taken.

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

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1931.*

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1932 ...	7	37	20	30	—	3
1933 ...	6	37	5	57	—	4
1934 ...	16	86	4	41	—	1
1935 ...	41	92	1	29	—	—
1936 ...	70	129	3	44	—	1
1937 ...	96	136	1	55	—	10

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1937.

*Smallpox.*—There were no cases during the past year.

In case of necessity the Smallpox Hospital of the City of Birmingham is available, by arrangement, for the isolation of such cases as may occur.

*Diphtheria.*—The number of cases was much larger than in 1936, viz., 96. Of these, 84 were treated in Hospital, and there were 6 deaths. Of these 96 cases 40 occurred at Solihull, 2 in each of 6 families and 3 in one family, 24 at Olton, 2 in four families and 3 in one (12 of these cases occurred in connection with one school, 13 at Shirley, 12 at Knowle, 3 in one family, 5 at Hockley Heath and 3 at Packwood. Quite a considerable number of cases were of Nasal Diphtheria or rather Virulent Nasal Discharge and so escaped early diagnosis.

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

*Immunisation.*—Arrangements have been made for the provision, free of charge, of material for immunisation against Diphtheria, but it is too early to report as to the success of the scheme.

Antitoxin may be obtained by Doctors for their poorer patients at the cost of the Council from the following Chemists: W. K. Winfield, High Street, Solihull; H. A. Martin, Stratford Road, Shirley; A. H. Windridge, Ltd., The Square, Knowle; T. S. Rice, Dorridge; and a notice to this effect has been sent to all Doctors practising in this District.



*Scarlet Fever.*—The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was 136, as against 129 in 1936 and 92 in 1935.

90 cases were removed to Hospital, and 2 died.

The cases were distributed geographically as follows: Shirley 47 (4 in one family, 3 in one family and 2 in each of two families). Solihull 34 (2 in each of three families. Knowle 25 (5 in an Institution, 3 in each of 2 families and 2 in one family). Olton 17 (2 in each of two families), and Packwood 10 in one school.

I have no record of any use having been made of the DICK TEST, or of any method of artificial immunisation.

*Enteric Fever.*—1 case of Paratyphoid B. Fever was notified during 1937. There were no deaths. No source of infection could be ascertained.

*Isolation Hospital Accommodation.*—See Section B. Hospitals.

*Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.*—10 cases were notified. There were no deaths.

*Pneumonia.*—55 cases were notified, and there were 20 deaths.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—7 cases notified.

*Encephalitis Lethargica.*—No cases notified.

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

*Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.*—The following list of school closures indicates fairly accurately the incidence of these diseases:—

Shirley C.E. Junior and Mixed Infants, 22nd Jan. to 1st Feb. Influenza.

Shirley Council Infants, 1st to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Olton C.E. Infants, 29th Jan. to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Olton, 12th to 26th Feb. Measles.

Tidbury Green, 29th Jan. to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Solihull Sharman Cross Junior, 30th Jan. to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Solihull Sharman Cross Junior and Infants, 15th March to Easter Holidays. Measles.

Salter Street C.E., 30th Jan. to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Knowle Parochial, 1st to 8th Feb. Influenza.

Solihull R.C., 15th to 22nd Feb. Measles.

Tidbury Green, 5th to 15th March. Influenza.

Tidbury Green Junior and Infants, 31st May to 14th June. Whooping Cough.

Solihull C.E. Infants, 5th March to Easter Holidays. Measles.

Olton Waggon Lane, 28th May to 7th June. Measles.

Notifications of all Infectious Disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-		Pulmonary.		Non-		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	...	1	2	...	3	1	...	—	—
15	...	3	8	...	2	3	...	3	...
25	...	5	5	...	—	2	...	1	1
35	...	2	1	...	—	—	...	1	—
45	...	—	2	...	—	—	...	3	3
55	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	1	1
65 and upwards	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
TOTALS	...	13	18	...	5	6	...	6	8

42 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 31 being of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 11 of other forms.

The following Table shows the notifications and deaths for each year since 1921 :—

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Cases	21	28	28	29	27	32	30	24
Deaths	11	7	18	16	13	12	17	13
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Cases	21	30	27	30	21	36	38	42
Deaths	11	16	12	17	12	6	13	14

8 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 5 were discharged after treatment.

14 deaths were due to Pulmonary tuberculosis, none to Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 42 cases notified during the year, 4 died. The visiting of the cases has been carried out by the County Health Visitors. Any special points discovered by their visits have been reported, and the necessary steps taken.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free by the Council for cases where they are desirable. After deaths from tuberculosis, and after removals of patients when known, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector, and the bedding, etc., either removed to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection, or burnt. In certain cases where bedding is burnt, compensation is given.

## CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There is nothing special to note here.



## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. TIMMS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1937.

### DETAILED SUMMARY.

Table I. gives a tabulated summary of the work done.

### ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

NOTICES.—Informal notices were served in 385 cases. No Statutory Notices were served for the abatement of nuisances.

No Legal proceedings were taken during the year.

DRAINAGE WORK.—The smoke, chemical or water tests were applied to 12 drains. The drainage system of 17 houses was entirely reconstructed and 189 partly reconstructed or otherwise put into a sanitary condition.

In 188 cases existing dwelling-houses have been connected to the sewer, and the cesspools or septic tanks abolished.

In 7 cases pail closets have been converted into water closets and provided with flushing cisterns.

In 2 cases additional closet accommodation has been provided. In 38 cases ash-bins have been provided in place of ash-pits or other unsuitable receptacles.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.—In 533 cases dwelling-houses were inspected or re-inspected; this includes inspections of temporary wooden dwellings and caravans.

The following are on the Register :—

Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	1,451
Temporary Wooden Dwellings	...	...	...	219
Caravans	...	...	...	24

Where the conditions were considered such as to render the premises unfit for human habitation they were dealt with under the Housing Acts. In other cases the defects were remedied under the Public Health Acts :—

Caravans demolished in Clearance Area				
No. 2, 1935	...	...	...	2
Demolition Orders made during the year...				5
Dwellings demolished by District Council				5
Dwellings demolished by Owner	...	...	...	4
Dwellings demolished by Owner (Without Demolition Order)	...	...	...	6

Better housing conditions have been provided under the Council's Schemes.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936.

## OVERCROWDING SURVEY.

Dwelling-houses enumerated	...	...	6,880
Ditto measured	...	...	7,334
Number of applications for " Permitted "			
Numbers	...	...	459
Number of Certificates for permitted numbers issued	...	...	459
Number of Owners and Agents concerned			396
Number of houses for which " Permitted " numbers have been issued	...	...	3,765
Number of " Temporary " licences granted re cases of overcrowding	...	...	2
Number of cases of overcrowding at the end of the year	...	...	57
Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	57
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	288½
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1937	...	...	5
Due to increase of age of children	...	...	4
Due to too large a family taking a house too small	...	...	1
Number of overcrowded cases remedied during the year 1937, is detailed as follows :—			
Remedied by the actual occupiers themselves by various ways	...	...	23
Remedied by removal of caravans	...	...	7
Remedied by persons moving out of the District	...	...	3
Number of persons concerned in the above remedied cases	...	...	92½

No legal action was taken during the year.

The Minister of Health fixed the 1st January, 1937, as the " appointed day " (under the Housing Act, 1936, for overcrowding) for the Solihull Urban District, after which, if the Occupier or Landlord of a dwelling-house causes or permits it to be overcrowded he shall be guilty of an offence.

The " permitted number " must be stated in the rent books as from the 1st January, 1937.

## SCHOOLS.

Council schools and Private schools are periodically inspected. The sanitary conveniences at the Schools are kept up to a high standard.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations have been taken at intervals during the year of various chimney stacks within the Urban District for the emission of black smoke.

Complaints were received with reference to the emission of black smoke from a chimney at Solihull and the owner's attention was drawn to the matter.



Considerable attention was given to this complaint and observations were made over a period of several months. The occupier of the premises eventually complied with the suggestions made and the alleged nuisance was abated.

No further complaints have been received.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one offensive trade within the Urban District, namely, gutscraper. The premises were erected for the work carried on, and the business is well conducted. No complaints have been received from the occupants of the dwelling-houses which have been erected in the immediate neighbourhood. We have no bye-laws which govern offensive trades. These premises are inspected from time to time.

#### KNACKER YARDS.

There is no knacker yard within the Urban District.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, 11 certificates were issued for the occupation of new dwelling-houses, but this only includes houses where drinking water is derived from wells. Forty-five samples of well water were taken and submitted to the County Analyst, eleven of the wells were not considered reasonably safe for the use for drinking purposes. In four cases the wells were closed, and the five dwelling-houses connected to the Public Water Supply.

Where the Public Water Supply was not available, the cause of the pollution was removed, the necessary repairs to the well carried out, and further samples taken.

Defective drains in two cases were found to be the chief cause of pollution.

Twenty houses were connected to the Public Water Supply in place of well water.

#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 13 slaughter-houses in the Urban District, the same number as in 1932 :—

Registered slaughter-houses	...	...	4
Licensed slaughter-houses	...	...	9

On the whole the slaughter-houses and premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Internal walls are regularly lime-washed.

The premises are regularly inspected, and as far as possible during the hours of slaughter.

A new up-to-date slaughter-house has been erected at Solihull in substitution for a wood and galvanized iron building and is now controlled by an Annual Licence.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Frequent inspections were made of food stores. On the whole these were found in a clean condition, and it was only occasionally that improved methods could be suggested.

Twelve notices of "Occasional Slaughter" were received from cottagers or farmers, and the carcasses in connection with these notice were inspected and found satisfactory.

The pigs had been fed on the premises, and were for home consumption only.

The meat traders have co-operated in the carrying out of the Regulations, and have on the whole complied with suggestions from the Public Health Department.

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The Council, by a resolution dated the 17th day of October, 1933, resolved that Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, shall on and from the 1st day of January, 1934, apply to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs. Every such animal shall be instantaneously slaughtered, or shall by stunning be instantaneously rendered insensible to pain until death supervenes, and such slaughtering or stunning shall be effected by means of a mechanically-operated instrument in proper repair. Thirty-two licences to slaughter animals were in force at the end of the year issued by this Local Authority.

#### BAKEHOUSES.

There are 14 bakehouses, 2 being factory bakehouses. Occasional inspections are made, and the interior of the bakehouses have been regularly limewashed and the premises kept in a clean condition.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 16 Factories and 78 Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.

#### OUT-WORKERS.

Five names of out-workers were received from other Districts. The premises are inspected at least once each year.

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY.

There are 92 registered cowsheds within the Urban District; all have received periodical inspection. There is an increasing desire on the part of cow-keepers to supply clean milk and to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

The following work was carried out on informal notices :—

New feeding troughs with tubular standings provided	...	...	...	...	2
Water laid on to cow-sheds	...	...	...	...	4
Additional light in roof or walls	...	...	...	...	4
Additional ventilation in roof or walls...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors re-paved and channelled	...	...	...	...	4
Drains from cow-sheds re-laid	...	...	...	...	1
Yards paved in front of cow-sheds	...	...	...	...	2

The whole of the interior of the cowsheds have been cleaned down and limewashed at least twice during the year.

The greater number of the cow-keepers have at least a portion of the floor, including the channel, washed down once a day.

Frequent inspections have been made of the 108 registered premises of milk retailers within the Urban District. Special attention is given to the cleaning of milk vessels, including bottles, also to the persons handling milk.

On the whole these premises were well conducted, and are kept in a clean condition; improvements are continually suggested and carried out.



The 51 milk shops have also been inspected.

The following work was carried out on informal notice :—

New buildings for the cooling of milk ... ..	8
Sterilization plants provided ... ..	5
New buildings for the washing and storage of milk vessels ... ..	4
Floors re-paved with a hard impervious material	8
Drains re-laid and put into a sanitary condition	3
Inlets to drains trapped ... ..	2
Premises connected to the Public Water Supply	1

The floors are cleansed daily and the walls and ceilings at frequent intervals.

#### MILK.

Milk is classified by the Ministry of Health under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, not compulsorily, but on request of the producer, according to its hygienic quality. The primary purpose of classification is to enable consumers to recognise the quality of the milk that is offered to them, and so to specify the quality that they wish to buy.

The highest grade of raw milk that is recognised under the new order is termed "Tuberculin Tested," and the lowest "Accredited."

Licences issued to producers by the Warwickshire County Council.

	1936.	1937.
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	34	61
Accredited ... ..	555	626
Solihull District.		
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	1	1
Accredited ... ..	18	23

With a view to maintaining the standard of Graded Milk, fifty-six samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, The University, Birmingham.

Forty of the above samples complied with the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Eight samples of milk were taken from producers premises not holding a licence under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, four of which complied with the standard for "Accredited" Milk.

In addition to the above 56 samples, 79 samples were sent to the County Analysts on behalf of the Warwickshire County Council and 66 samples complied with the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The staff in the Public Health Department is at all times available for giving advice and assistance.

Efforts are being made by the farmer and the dairyman to secure a milk which is clean and free from disease.

The methods of handling milk continue to improve. The purchase of up-to-date appliances facilitate the work both at the farm and the bottling establishment.

Tests of milk supplies are carried out to measure the amount of contamination which has occurred during production and handling.

Bacteriological tests merely show whether the milk supplies have been produced and handled under hygienic conditions.

The standards required under the terms of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, were detailed in the Report for 1936, to which reference may be made.

In 21 cases samples of mixed milk from 14 dairies have been taken for examination for tubercle bacilli.

Negative results were reported in 20 cases.

In addition to the above the County Veterinary Surgeon took 30 samples, five being positive and 25 negative.

The County Veterinary Surgeon dealt with ten infected animals under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

Prosecutions were taken for offences against the Milk and Dairies Order in two cases. A fine of 20/- and costs of 21/- were imposed in each case.

In one other case the Clerk, by instruction of the Public Health Committee, sent a letter of warning.

#### MARGARINE ACT, 1887.

This Act requires that every package whether sold by wholesale or retail must be marked in prescribed form with the word "Margarine." Frequent inspections were made and the packages were found to comply with the provisions of the Act.

#### ICE CREAM.

The Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936.—Section 97 of the Act makes provision for the Registration of ice-cream and preserved food manufacturers and premises.

Number of registered premises...	...	...	88
Number of registered persons ...	...	...	98
Number of premises where the manufacture of ice-cream takes place	...	...	25
Number of premises where ice-cream is sold as received from the manufacturers ...	...	...	63
Number of cases where registration for manufacture was refused by the Council	...	...	1

The County Analysts reported that the six samples of ice-cream submitted for analysis were bacteriologically and chemically of good quality.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT.

I am indebted to the Chief Sampling Officer of the Warwickshire County Council for the undermentioned particulars.

Ninety-nine samples were taken within this Urban District all of which were satisfactory except one sample of milk.

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat, fish and other foods have been inspected during the year. No proceedings have been instituted.

The undermentioned meat and other foods have been condemned as unfit for food, voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:—

A portion of a carcass and the whole of the internal organs of a beast.

The whole of the internal organs of a beast.  
Both in the early stages of tuberculosis.



46 retail butchers occupy premises in the Urban District, and 35 obtain their supply of meat from the City of Birmingham Meat Market, it having been previously subject to inspection. Fish, fruit and vegetables are chiefly obtained from the City Markets, and are also subject to inspection. Retailers on the whole sell a good article. Hawkers of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables have greatly increased in this District during the past few years. These hawkers are constantly under observation.

#### SHOPS ACTS.

There are 617 shops on the register, an increase of 41 over 1936 :—

			1935.	1936.	1937.	
Solihull	...	East Ward	...	34	42	48
"	...	West	..	114	112	115
Shirley	...	North	..	166	186	192
"	...	South	..	25	34	35
Olton	...	...	...	93	103	123
Knowle	...	...	...	68	68	68
Packwood	...	...	...	32	31	36

In 246 shops there is a total of 542 assistants employed, 211 females and 331 males; 119 of these shops employ a total of 166 young persons who come within the Shops Act, 1934; 54 are females and 112 are males.

Prosecution was made in one case and a fine of 10/- was imposed with costs of 21/-. This was for failing to observe the hours of closing.

Letters of warning were sent by the Clerk in three other cases.

The Butchers' Closing Order, 1936, came into operation on the 22nd April, 1936 (excluding that of a Pork Butcher).

#### DISINFECTION.

Rooms at 230 dwelling-houses were disinfected after an infectious disease :—Scarlet Fever 101, Diphtheria 82, Tuberculosis 11, Cancer 26, other causes 10. Bedding and clothing were disinfected or burnt, in 34 cases; after 13 deaths from Cancer the bedding in most cases was burnt. The Public Health Department always recommend this procedure.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year 80 cases of Scarlet Fever, 84 cases of Diphtheria, a total of 164 cases, were removed from this District into the Joint Isolation Hospital, Catherine-de-Barnes.

Thirteen Diphtheria and seventeen Scarlet Fever patients from this District remained under treatment at the end of the year.

One Scarlet Fever and four Diphtheria patients from this District died in the Joint Isolation Hospital.

During the year five cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Heathcote Infectious Hospital, Warwick, for treatment.

One Diphtheria patient from this District died in the Heathcote Infectious Hospital, Warwick.

During the year one case of Diphtheria and one case of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Little Bromwich Hospital for treatment.

The Diphtheria patient died in the Hospital.

## RAG FLOCK ACTS (1911 AND 1928).

There are no places in the District where Rag Flock is manufactured.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

A few complaints have been received, an increase on previous years, chiefly from occupiers of dwelling-houses, with reference to rat-infested premises. Inspection is made of the premises, and advice given as to the most suitable poisons to be used.

On application the Public Health Department provides the necessary bait for the extermination of rats; 87 applications were made.

Under the Act it is the responsibility of the occupier of the premises to take all reasonable and practicable steps for the destruction of rats upon their premises.

## CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.

Three registered boats have been inspected; no infringements were met with.

No cases of infectious disease occurred on any of the boats.

No canal boats are registered by this Sanitary Authority.

## PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Ninety-two licences were granted for the storage of petroleum spirit, and six for carbide of calcium.

In the District the total storage capacity is 103,850 gallons.

The sum of £63 was received for these licences.

## CARAVANS.

During the year Gipsy Caravans came into the District on land at Solihull Lodge, Shirley, and Dorridge, and were satisfactorily dealt with without the Public Health Committee recommending legal proceedings.

The Solihull Urban District Council Act has been a great help in dealing with caravans and many caravan dwellers know they cannot stay within the district.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Timms and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED H. CHARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



TABLE I.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF SOLIHULL.

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 ...	471	—	127	210
Lodging Houses ... ..	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	318	—	11	25
Cow Sheds ... ..	284	—	17	37
Bakehouses ... ..	28	—	3	3
Slaughter Houses ... ..	552	—	6	6
Canal Boats ... ..	3	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	51	—	12	12
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	27	—	7	7
Water-closets ... ..	49	—	24	24
House Drainage ... ..	346	—	122	286
Water Supply ... ..	172	—	23	23
Pigsties ... ..	28	—	1	1
Animals improperly kept... ..	22	—	1	1
Offensive Trades ... ..	6	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	84	—	1	1
Other Nuisances ... ..	31	—	8	8
Ash-bins in place of Ash-pits ...	28	—	22	38
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>2500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>682</b>
				No.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food ... ..				2
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ... ..				—
Ditto of Food found adulterated ... ..				—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ... ..				45
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..				11

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed ... ..				34
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..				230
Schools ditto ditto ditto ... ..				1

ALFRED H. CHARD, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.  
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

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	30,670	445	14.5	20	45	286	9.3
1932	27,130	425	14.8	20	47	264	9.3
1933	29,290	392	13.4	15	38	267	9.1
1934	31,910	491	15.4	27	55	287	9.0
1935	36,040	572	15.9	19	33	291	8.1
1936	40,500	718	17.7	44	61	337	8.3
1937	45,360	849	18.7	51	60	443	9.8

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.—SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

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 Croup)	96	1	20	57	8	8	2	84	6	
Erysipelas ... ..	8				1	2	3	2		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	136	2	32	77	12	13		90	2	
Typhus Fever ... ..										
Enteric Fever ... ..	1		1					1		
Pneumonia ... ..	55	3	6	6	6	10	17	7	20	
Malaria ... ..										
Dysentery ... ..										
Puerperal Fever...										
„ Pyrexia ... ..	10					10				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1			1						
Polio-myelitis ... ..										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7								
Polio-Encephalitis ...										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31	1	1	3	11	13	2		14	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11			4	5	2				
Totals ... ..	354	14	59	148	43	48	24	11	175	42

TABLE IV.  
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	226	217
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		
2 Measles ... ..		1
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	1	
5 Diphtheria ... ..	1	5
6 Influenza ... ..	14	8
7 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..		
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..		
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	8
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..		
11 Syphilis ... ..	2	
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..		
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	28	30
14 Diabetes ... ..	3	2
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	8	15
16 Heart Disease ... ..	56	56
17 Aneurysm ... ..	1	1
18 Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	8	8
19 Bronchitis ... ..	3	4
20 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	15	5
21 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	
22 Peptic Ulcer ... ..	5	3
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	
24 Appendicitis ... ..	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..		1
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..	2	
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	6	7
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	3	4
29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..		
30 Other Puerperal Causes ... ..		5
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. ... ..	21	15
32 Senility ... ..	1	1
33 Suicide ... ..	2	5
34 Other Violence ... ..	10	9
35 Other Defined Diseases ... ..	24	23
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	









