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Urban District of Solihull.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1939,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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1940.

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

To the Solihull Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. TIMMS AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1939, very late owing to delayed arrival of the necessary statistics and pressure of other work.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is a short statement of fact with no comment. All the available information is, however, being kept for record and, if required, can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues,

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

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Solihull Urban District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1939					For Birth Rate 52,260
					„ Death „ 52,610
	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	1133	604	529	19.9	} Birth Rate
Legitimate	30	17	13		
Illegitimate					
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births					31
Deaths	400	207	193	7.6	Death Rate
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate					.98
Adjusted Death Rate					7.4
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth					—
				From Sepsis	—
				„ other causes	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births					28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					29
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)					2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					6

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list was given at the front of the Report for 1938. Geoffrey N. Dean, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., replaced Mr. Fallows in August, 1939, and was called up for Military Service in April, 1940.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
Diphtheria	49	...	288	...	337
Enteric Fever...	2	...	10	...	12
Pulmonary Tu-berculosis	3	...	27	...	30
					379

8. *Hospitals.*—There are no changes to report in the statement given in the Report for 1930. The proposed plans for the enlargement and reconstruction of the Solihull and Meriden Joint Isolation Hospital, Catherine-de-Barnes, have, perforce, had to be deferred.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*—The Ambulances are housed at the Fire Station, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull. Telephone 2222 Solihull. The ambulance turned out to 407 calls during the year.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) *Water Supply.*—The mains of the City of Birmingham and City of Coventry Water Departments are available for practically the whole of the populous parts of the Urban District. More than two-thirds of the houses in the District are so supplied. This number is constantly increasing.

There are approximately 837 private wells supplying 1,210 houses.

New Water Mains or Main Extensions carried out during 1939.

36in. main ... Church Hill Road, Whitefields Road, Widney Lane, Longmore Road, Union Road, Bills Lane, Burman Road, Sansome Road. Approx. length $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

	Approx. length.
4in. ,, ... Back Lane, Hockley Heath ...	200 yards.
Grove Road, Solihull ...	100 yards.
Creynolds Lane, Shirley ...	300 yards.
Berry Hall Lane, Solihull ...	300 yards.
Danford Lane, Solihull ...	75 yards.
Sharmans Cross Road ...	70 yards.
Browns Lane, Bentley Heath	100 yards.

The number of new houses with regard to which occupation certificates have been granted during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, with respect to water supplies from private wells, was 11.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—Conditions remain much the same as was indicated in the last Report.

The three Cesspool Emptying Machines are kept very fully employed ; there are about 572 Cesspools in the District.

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 3 pails have been converted into water closets.

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

House refuse is removed from about 17,110 dwelling houses ; 16,750 houses have ash-bins.

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

(iv) SHOPS ACT, 1934.—Number of Shops, 676.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Complaints were received with respect to 2 premises, viz., brickworks.

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. The material is apparently not used in the District.

D. HOUSING.

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

3. *Overcrowding*.—There were 19 dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year, including 4 additional cases which were found during the year. 9 cases were abated during the year.

4. *Fitness of Houses*.—Routine inspection of houses was continued, and there is no doubt that the appointment of an additional Inspector would have enabled 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.

During the year the intensive investigation into the condition of water supply in the District has been continued, and the table here given will show the result of such examination :—

WATER SUPPLIES—WELLS.
ANALYSIS OF WORK DONE from 1st January, 1939, to 31st December, 1939.

Wards.	No. of Wells Sampled.	No. of Samples Taken.	No. of Houses Concerned.	Safe.		Unsafe.		Unsatisfactory	Connected to Mains.		No. of Wells re-paired.
				Chem.	Bac.	Chem.	Bac.		Wells Re-placed.	Houses Concerned.	
OLTON ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—
SOLIHULL EAST	7	8	8	6	—	1	1	—	6	7	6
SOLIHULL WEST	2	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	5	11	—
SHIRLEY NORTH	5	5	5	1	—	4	—	—	7	13	1
SHIRLEY SOUTH	429	454	554	151	24	203	31	45	10	19	23
PACKWOOD ...	65	68	85	19	1	36	5	7	12	27	12
KNOWLE ...	27	28	32	7	2	11	7	1	21	25	15
TOTAL ...	535	565	686	184	27	255	46	53	63	106	57

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

5. *Clearance Areas.*

6. During the year 1 Demolition Order under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, was made by the Council ; 3 dwellings were demolished either by the Council or the Owners, and 2 were demolished without the making of Orders.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—At the end of the year 1939 there were on the Register, Cowkeepers 90, Cowkeepers who retail the whole or part of their milk 46, Retailers 114, and Milkshops 53.

Licences have been applied for and granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk and Pasteurised Milk.

Tuberculous Milk.—38 samples of milk were sent to the Birmingham University to be examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli; the Bacilli were present in 4 samples. As the samples were "mixed ones," this is a good result.

(b) *Meat*.

Slaughterhouses in Use.

	1920.	Jan., 1939.	Dec., 1939.
Registered ...	10	4	4
Licensed ...	7	9	9

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1933.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Fever.
1934 ...	16	86	4	41	—	1
1935 ...	41	92	1	29	—	—
1936 ...	70	129	3	44	—	1
1937 ...	96	136	1	55	—	10
1938 ...	62	78	1	50	—	6
1939 ...	18	50	3	54	—	9

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1939.

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

Catherine-de-Barnes, 15th Feb. to 6th March. Whooping Cough.
 Catherine-de-Barnes, 24th May to 19th June. Measles.
 Wagon Lane Infants, 21st March to Easter Holidays. Measles.
 Haslucks Green Junr. Infants, 19th April to 1st May. Measles.
 Hockley Heath, 18th May to Whitsun Holidays. Measles.
 Shirley Council Infants, 8th to 26th 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.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15	4	14	2	2	—	3	—	—
25	5	8	1	2	4	—	—	—
35	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	—
45	5	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	20	26	7	7	9	4	1	—

60 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 46 being of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 of other forms.

15 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 22 were discharged after treatment.

13 deaths were due to Pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 to Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 60 cases notified during the year, 6 died.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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

TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

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

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	410	—	137	190
Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	324	—	11	14
Cow Sheds	250	—	36	51
Bakehouses	24	—	5	5
Slaughter Houses	687	—	5	5
Canal Boats	9	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	36	—	5	5
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	75	—	30	26
Water-closets	76	—	46	35
House Drainage	227	—	136	143
Water Supply	683	1	539	148
Pigsties	39	—	10	9
Animals improperly kept	4	—	2	2
Offensive Trades	18	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	55	—	2	2
Other Nuisances	353	—	90	105
Ash-bins in place of Ash-pits ...	17	—	7	10
TOTALS	3287	1	1061	750

	No.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	11
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	565
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use	301

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	30
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	88
Schools ditto ditto ditto	—

ALFRED H. CHARD, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1939 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1933	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
1938	48,310	1,011	21.0	34	34	376	7.8
1939	52,610	1,163	19.9	31	28	400	7.6

TABLE III.—SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	18	2	10	2	4				14	
Erysipelas	14			1	4	9				
Scarlet Fever	50	2	8	28	8	4			29	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	3	1	1		1					
Pneumonia	54	3	4	6	5	12	13	11		17
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia	9				3	6				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1				1					3
Poliomyelitis	1		1							
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3								
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	46	1		18	21	6				13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	3	3	4	3		1			2
Totals	213	8	19	49	48	55	28	12	43	35

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	207	193
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		
2 Measles		
3 Scarlet Fever		
4 Whooping Cough		2
5 Diphtheria		
6 Influenza	6	4
7 Encephalitis Lethargica		
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	10	3
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
11 Syphilis		
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	1	
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	33	42
14 Diabetes	3	6
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	8
16 Heart Disease	71	52
17 Aneurysm	2	
18 Other Circulatory Diseases	5	7
19 Bronchitis	5	8
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	7	10
21 Other Respiratory Diseases		1
22 Peptic Ulcer	2	
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	3	3
24 Appendicitis	4	3
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc.		1
27 Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	3
29 Puerperal Sepsis		
30 Other Puerperal Causes		1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	13	6
32 Senility	2	6
33 Suicide	5	3
34 Other Violence	6	7
35 Other Defined Diseases	12	10
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown	1	