

[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Solihull U.D.C.

Contributors

Solihull (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1940

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xspsp3jd>

License and attribution

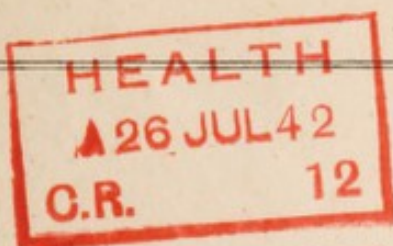
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

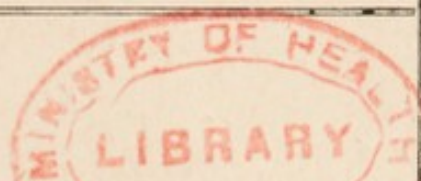
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



6/5,
LIBRARY



Urban District of Solihull.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1940,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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

1941.

1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA,
December, 1941.

To the Solihull Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. TIMMS AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1940 ; it is regretted that it has been delayed for various causes.

Again, 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, 1940	...	...	54,760	
	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	1019	508	511	} Birth Rate 19.1
{ Illegitimate	28	14	14	
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	34	
Deaths	578	287	291	Death Rate 10.6
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate	...	...	...	1.15
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	12.1
Deaths from Diseases and	{ From Sepsis			3
Accidents of Pregnancy and	{ „ other causes			—
Child-birth				
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—				
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	54
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	54
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live	...	...	...	36
births	...	...	...
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	3

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—During the year we had a Chief Sanitary Inspector, a Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and one additional Sanitary Inspector.

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

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	48	247	295
Enteric Fever	7	20	27
Pulmonary Tu- berculosis ...	4	32	36
			358

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 513 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 823 private wells supplying 1,195 houses.

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 3.

(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 668 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.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—House Refuse is removed under the Council's Scavenging Scheme; the majority of the houses in the District are provided with approved 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, 682.

(vi) *SMOKE ABATEMENT*.—No complaints were received.

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

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

MOSQUITOES.—As the result of complaints one stagnant pool was sprayed with paraffin with good results.

D. HOUSING.

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

3. *Overcrowding.*—No complaints were received, but it is likely that in a certain number of cases overcrowding did take place ; it is difficult, however, to remedy this under present conditions.

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—Routine inspections were carried out during the early part of the year, but later staff decreases prevented its continuance.

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 instances, there is usually private accommodation for each house.

5. *Clearance Areas.*—Nil.

6. During the year 4 Demolition Orders under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made by the Council ; 5 dwellings were demolished either by the Council or the Owners, and 3 were demolished without the making of Orders.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—At the end of the year 1940 there were on the Register, Cowkeepers 89, Cowkeepers who retail the whole or part of their milk 45, Retailers 112, and Milk-shops 53.

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

Tuberculous Milk.—5 samples of milk were sent to the Birmingham University to be examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli ; the Bacilli were not found. As the samples were " mixed ones " this is satisfactory.

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1934.

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
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
1940	...	24	68	12	40	—	4

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1940.

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

Knowle Infants ... 15th to 29th Jan.—Chicken Pox.

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

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
					Non-				Non-	
AGE—PERIODS			Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—
1	—	—	...	1	3	...	—
5	—	—	...	4	1	...	—
15	3	8	...	—	—	...	2
25	8	12	...	—	3	...	1
35	2	2	...	—	3	...	—
45	8	—	...	—	1	...	—
55	2	1	...	1	—	...	—
65 and upwards	1	—	...	—	—	...	—
TOTALS			...	24	23	...	6	7	...	3

60 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 47 being of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 13 of other forms.

13 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 11 were discharged after treatment.

9 deaths were due to Pulmonary tuberculosis, 3 to Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 60 cases notified during the year, 8 died.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The information for this Report is available.

TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

		Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
			Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	270	4	116	115
Lodging Houses	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	144	—	9	11
Cow Sheds	...	194	—	29	28
Bakehouses	...	20	—	3	3
Slaughter Houses	...	38	—	—	—
Canal Boats	...	3	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	33	—	3	3
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	37	—	12	14
Water-closets	...	33	—	18	22
House Drainage	...	132	—	71	68
Water Supply	...	106	—	17	8
Pigsties	...	16	—	9	9
Animals improperly kept	...	15	—	6	5
Offensive Trades	...	5	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	...	7	—	1	1
Other Nuisances	...	130	—	38	44
Ash-bins in place of Ash-pits	...	15	—	7	7
Rat Infested Premises	...	88	—	—	23
Fish Fryers	...	8	—	2	2
TOTALS	...	1294	4	341	363

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	...	...	No.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated	...	...	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	24
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	17

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTION DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	43
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	105
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	2

ALFRED H. CHARD, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1940 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
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
1940	54,760	1,047	19.1	57	54	578	10.6

TABLE III.—SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1940.

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)	24		9	4	7	4			22	2
Erysipelas	11				4	2	5			
Scarlet Fever	68		17	39	5	7			30	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	12		3	3	5	1				
Pneumonia	40	4	2	2	3	9	10	10		24
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia	4				3	1				3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	8			2	5	1				5
Poliomyelitis	3		1	2						
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1								
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	47				11	24	11	1		17
Other forms of Tuberculosis	13		4	5		3	1			9
Totals	231	5	36	57	43	52	27	11	52	60

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	287	291
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...		
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	1
3 Scarlet Fever		
4 Whooping Cough	1	1
5 Diphtheria		2
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	13
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	8
8 Syphilitic Diseases	3	
9 Influenza	4	3
10 Measles		
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...		
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.		
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	4	1
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	7	8
15 Cancer of Breast		6
16 Cancer, other Sites	19	28
17 Diabetes	2	4
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	27	30
19 Heart Disease	62	76
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	7	6
21 Bronchitis	19	12
22 Pneumonia	9	15
23 Other Resp. Diseases	4	3
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	6	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	2	1
26 Appendicitis	3	
27 Other Digestive Diseases	4	4
28 Nephritis	12	3
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis		3
30 Other Maternal Causes		
31 Premature Birth	13	6
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	8	8
33 Suicide	5	3
34 Road Traffic Accidents	8	4
35 Other Violent Causes	22	18
36 All Other Causes	27	23

