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Urban District of Solihull.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1946,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

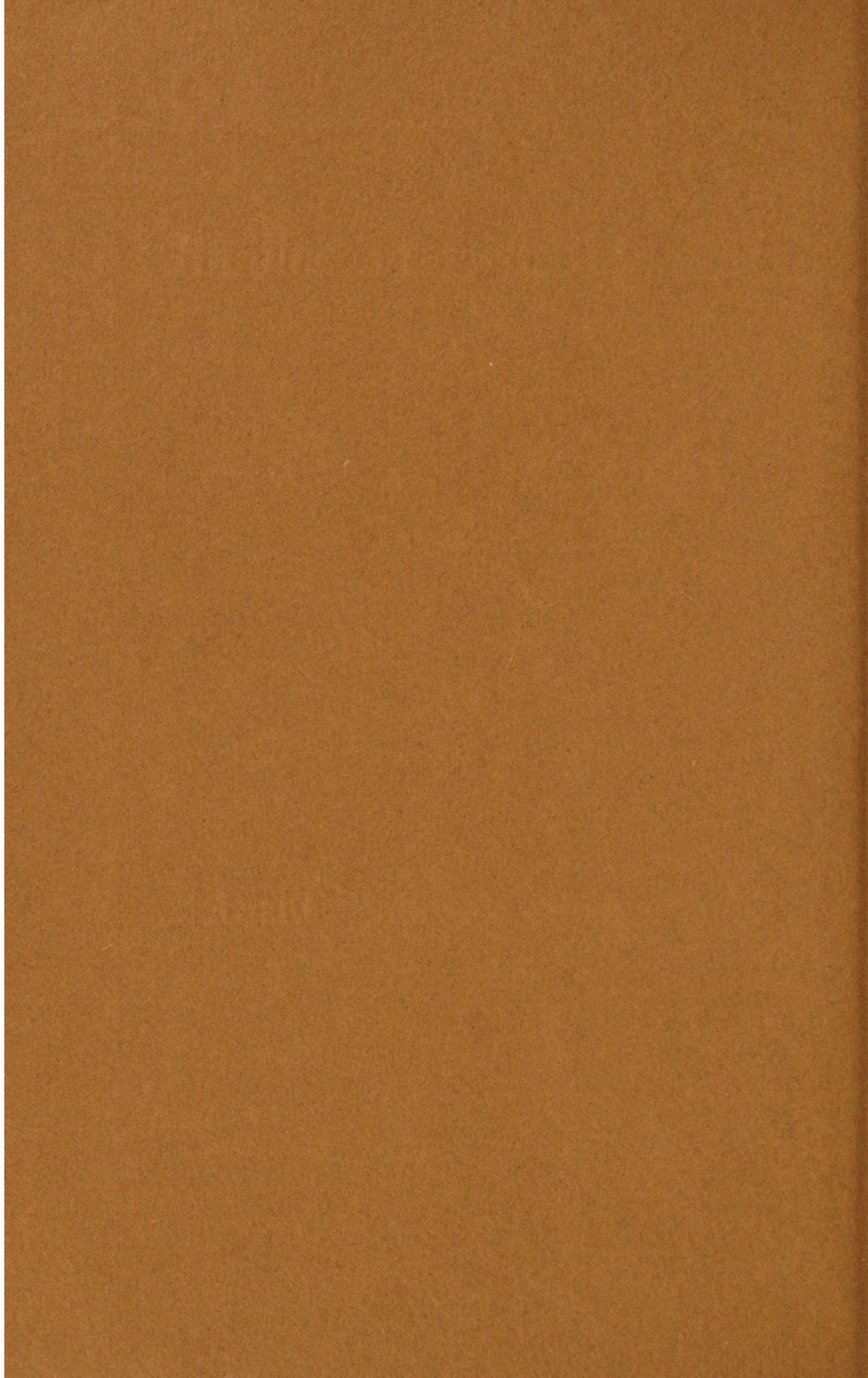
OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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1947.



1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

August, 1947.

To the Solihull Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1946, this is the 28th Annual Report I have presented to you.

As in the past few years this Report is restricted to a statement of facts, but a more extended report is given by the Sanitary Inspector.

Kindness has been extended to me by members of the Council and my colleagues, for which I am most grateful.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

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

Medical Officer of Health :
H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :
a, c, e, f. ERNEST VAUGHAN.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :
a, c, d. JOSEPH S. FORMAN.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :
b, c. GEOFFREY N. DEAN.
b, c, e. STANLEY MONKS.
(Commenced duties March, 1946).

b, c. EDWARD STANSFIELD.
(Commenced February, 1946). (Resigned October, 1946).

Rodent Inspectors :
J. McDONALD.
E. CALLAGHAN
(Commenced duties October, 1946).

Clerks :
GLADYS E. TROUT.
PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.
BARBARA J. L. ROWE.
(Resigned September, 1946).
GLADYS A. HALFORD.
(Commenced duties October, 1946).

Analysts :
BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY.

- a.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- b.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board.
- c.* Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- d.* Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e.* Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- f.* Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Solihull Urban District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1946	61,720
Birth Rate	19.5
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	22
Death Rate	8.9
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	2
(From Sepsis and other causes)	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3

Population.—There is a marked increase in the Estimated Population, viz., 61,720 as against the figure of 58,770 in 1945.

Birth Rate.—19.5 per 1,000, the same as in 1945, this is rather low compared with the figures for 1943 and 1944, but above the figure for England and Wales, viz., 19.1.

Death Rate.—8.9, rather lower than the average for the past 10 years and much lower than the figure for England and Wales, viz., 11.5.

Statistics for the past few years and of England and Wales are shewn in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list of personnel is given at the front of the report. During the year the post was created and filled of one Additional Sanitary Inspector. The Inspectorial staff now comprises a Chief Sanitary Inspector, his deputy and three Additional Sanitary Inspectors. In addition there are two operatives carrying out the work of rodent destruction and appropriate clerical staff.

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

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	25	122	147
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	76	82
			229

8. *Hospitals.*—There are no changes to report in the statement given in the Report for 1941.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*—The Ambulances administered by the Warwickshire County Council are housed at The Hermitage, Lode Lane, Solihull. Telephone Number (Emergency) Solihull 2333. (Routine) Solihull 2683.

Water.

(i). *Whether the supply has been satisfactory :—*

(a) *In quality.*—In those parts of the Urban District served by the mains of the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry the supply has been satisfactory in quality. In the more rural parts of the area, where premises are scattered and where water mains have not been laid, the quality varies with the season because the wells are generally of the "shallow" type which are readily polluted. Water mains extensions to rural areas, undertaken by the Council, are tending to reduce the numbers of these unsatisfactory wells and the completion of the main laying programme will considerably reduce the potential risk of water borne infection inherent in this type of water supply.

(b) *In quantity.*—The comments made in the last report with regard to the supplies furnished by the water undertakers of the cities of Birmingham and Coventry still have the same application. Rural supplies which last year suffered from severe shortage were restocked during an abnormally wet season and the supply of emergency water by motor transport was therefore discontinued except to some Council houses the well supplies to which were polluted and where mains extensions were awaited.

(ii). Results of examinations of piped water supply. Two routine samples were submitted to the analyst from the supplies of each of the water undertakers for chemical and bacteriological examination, all samples proving satisfactory.

(iii). *The facts as to contamination by lead.*—As a result of the consideration of samples examined over past years it can be said that there is no evidence to show that the mains water supplies serving Solihull are liable to be plumb-solvent.

(iv). *Action in respect of contamination.*—No action was necessary affecting public or piped supplies.

(v) *Number of houses and population served by public water mains.*

(a) *Direct to the houses.*

The number of houses and retail shops, as ascertained from the rate books, is 19,005. Of these, approximately 17,728, or 94 per cent., are connected to mains direct to the houses and 1066 or 5.5 per cent., are served by 752 wells.

(b) *By Standpipes.*

The survey mentioned elsewhere has revealed that 111 houses or approximately .5% are served with mains water from 30 standpipes or taps in outbuildings for the common use of several houses.

The proportion of the population supplied from the public water mains is not accurately known and can only be estimated in proportion to the number of houses given above.

For further particulars on the subject of water supplies see the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

1. (ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—Extensions to sewers were carried out during the year but mainly in connection with the preparation of sites for housing estates. The four motor driven cesspool emptying machines were kept fully employed in emptying the 812 cesspools serving 1,673 premises in the area.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*—This matter is referred to in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*—The Council undertake the removal of house refuse throughout the whole of the area. Apart from 38 premises served by privy middens, the ash bin method of storage is in operation throughout the district. The system of disposal is that of controlled tipping; although this method of deposition on land is carried on near to inhabited premises, no complaint has been received as to nuisance arising, and the work, which is undertaken by the Surveyor's Department, is carried out very satisfactorily.

(iv) *Smoke Abatement.*—The following matters are dealt with fully in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which follows:—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

SHOPS ACT.

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

D. HOUSING.

Overcrowding.—So far as observation can be relied upon the worst cases of overcrowding seem to have been relieved during the year. There are two likely reasons for this, firstly, that the Council have completed and let 250 prefabricated houses and 22 houses of traditional type, whilst private enterprise completed 267 permanent type houses. There is no doubt that consideration of need entered largely into the allocation of Council houses, whilst families entering houses completed by private enterprise relieved conditions elsewhere. Secondly, the movement of families dissatisfied with the conditions under which they were living into hutments vacated by service units, whilst not administratively satisfactory has relieved many cases of overcrowding.

Fitness of Houses.—Again one must report increasing difficulty in securing the carrying out of repairs owing mainly to shortages of labour and materials. The system of licensing works of building construction again tends to delay the execution of repairs most urgently needed.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This subject is dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Tuberculous Milk.—67 samples of milk from dairy herds were examined by biological methods in order to ascertain the presence of the tubercle bacillus. It was hoped that more samples would be taken but the shortage of animals available for inoculation has considerably reduced the number of samples which could be handled by the laboratory.

Of these samples 3, or 4.5 per cent. proved positive. In each case the positive sample was reported to the officials of the Veterinary Service, in order that they might inspect

the respective herds, isolate the affected animals and deal with them under the Tuberculosis Order, by slaughter, when found.

The following Table shows the number of samples taken in each of the five recent years and the percentage found to contain the bacillus.

*Milk Samples examined by inoculation for
Tubercle Bacilli.*

		<i>Number of samples Examined.</i>		<i>Number positive to Tubercle Bacillus.</i>		<i>Percentage Positive.</i>
1942	...	21	...	3	...	14.2
1943	...	73	...	—	...	—
1944	...	144	...	4	...	2.8
1945	...	58	...	6	...	10.3
1946	...	67	...	3	...	4.5

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

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1940.

		<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Enteric Fever.</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Encephalitis Lethargica.</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia.</i>
1941	...	6	28	24	37	—	4
1942	...	17	91	—	58	1	1
1943	...	12	175	1	71	—	3
1944	...	7	167	1	39	—	11
1945	...	7	90	—	34	—	10
1946	...	12	114	—	40	—	3

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1946.

Scarlet Fever.—114 cases were notified, more than in 1945 but less than in 1943 and 1944. The cases were distributed as follows:—Shirley 44, Solihull 31, Sheldon 15, Olton 12 and Knowle 11.

Diphtheria.—Of the 12 cases notified 6 were in Adults and were not immunised. Of the remaining cases, mostly mild ones, 5 had been immunised, one in 1941, one in 1942, one in 1944, and a further one in 1945. There were 2 deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation continued throughout the year, and at December 31st, 1946, 4,539 children of school age had been treated, and 3,938 under school age, giving a grand total of 8,477 immunised up to the end of 1946.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of note. No schools closed.

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

TUBERCULOSIS.

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	3	2	—	1	1	1	—	
5	—	3	3	2	—	—	1	
15	4	4	—	—	—	3	1	
25	3	6	1	1	1	6	—	
35	9	3	—	—	6	—	—	
45	7	1	—	—	4	1	—	
55	1	1	—	—	4	—	—	
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	
TOTALS	28	20	4	4	17	14	2	

The following Table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis for the past 20 years, and the number of deaths yearly for the same period.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Cases	32	30	24	21	30	27	30
Deaths	12	17	13	11	16	12	16
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases	21	36	38	42	53	60	60
Deaths	12	6	13	14	14	15	26
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
Cases	58	61	60	51	48	56	
Deaths	23	24	27	23	18	33	

The increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis during the past 20 years is more than accounted for by the increase in the population.

56 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 48 being Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 8 of other forms.

48 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 12 were discharged after treatment.

12 deaths were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 56 cases notified during the year, 7 died.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Viewed in retrospect it can be seen that 1946 was a year of transition, a year during which the Urban District began to settle down to the uneasy conditions engendered by the change from war to peace. Restlessness, change and adjustment to change affecting the whole country were reflected in the work of the Department.

The demand for improved water supplies in the more rural parts of the district led to schemes of mains extensions being formulated; the urge for improved standard of housing accommodation was responsible for some families leaving the house which they shared with others to occupy without permission, premises, mainly hutments, left vacant by Service units; an outbreak of typhoid fever in Wales emphasised the necessity for supervision in the manufacture and distribution of ice cream, and alterations in the distribution of rationed meat caused an influx of applications for permission to prepare cooked meats. Shortage of labour and materials restricted building work, so that in turn desired improvements at farms and other food producing premises could not be carried out, conversions of sanitary accommodation to more desirable types were limited and considerable difficulty was experienced in securing the carrying out of essential repairs to dwellings.

Departmentally the appointment of another Sanitary Inspector tended to ease the strain on the technical staff, although the taking over of Food and Drugs sampling work from the Warwickshire County Council, which was envisaged at the year's close, presaged a further staff increase.

In the midst of all this simmering change progress has not been unsatisfactory as the following pages show.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Particulars of Entries in Registers.

Cowkeepers only	...	...	...	...	80
Cowkeepers who retail milk	...	...	...	...	11
Other retailers of milk	...	...	...	...	51

Particulars of persons registered to produce and sell Designated Milk. Licensed as producers by the County Council.

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	5
Accredited	...	...	...	...	18

*Licensed to sell Designated Milk by this Council.
Supplementary or Dealer's Licences.*

	Supplementary.	Dealer's.
Tuberculin Tested	3	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	3	1
Accredited	—	—
Pasteurised	5	2

Licensed by this Council to operate Pasteurising Plant ... 1

MILK SAMPLES.

The following Table gives the results of milk samples submitted to the tuberculosis biological test, bacteriological tests and to the phosphatase tests.

	Fresh Milk.		Tuberculin Tested. Pasteurised Milk.		Pasteurised Milk.		Heat Treated Milk.		TOTALS.	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
No. of Samples ...	205		85		234		46		570	
Methylene Blue Test ...	102	103	51	18	156	51	35	11	344	183
Bacterial Count ...	—	—	16	—	26	1	—	—	42	1
Coliform Test. ...	163	42	72	6	195	22	34	3	464	73
Phosphatase Test	—	—	68	—	200	—	45	—	313	—
T.B. Inoculation	64	3							64	3

In addition to the samples submitted to the inoculation test, 5 samples failed because the inoculated guinea-pigs died before the tests were complete.

The standards used to determine whether samples were satisfactory were those set down in Milk (Special Designations) Orders which lay down standards for Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Pasteurised Milk.

More time has been spent and more milk samples have been taken during 1946 than during any previous year, and on the whole the bacteriological quality of the milk can be said to have improved.

Whilst it is true that milk which has been pasteurised or subjected to some other form of heat treatment is consumed by the majority of the local population, it is the fresh milk, samples of which are

generally collected at the farm, which proves most unsatisfactory. Most of this farm milk is transported to dairies for heat treatment, but manipulation alone cannot make poor quality milk entirely good and for this reason any improvement in the product at the farm is to be welcomed.

The results of pasteurised milk samples also show improvement, a trend probably not unconnected with the cessation of hostilities and an improving labour position, for the milk treatment and bottling industry was harder hit than many others during the years of conflict. The improvement in keeping quality and the less frequent appearance of those bacteria associated with dirt is particularly pleasing as showing some progress along the road to normality, even though that advance was not all that was desired.

COWSHEDS.

During the period under review, alterations and improvements to the extent shown in the table below were carried out. At the end of the year, other notices sent to the responsible persons requesting that certain repairs and alterations be executed remained outstanding, mainly due to builders being so inundated with orders that they were unable to do the work.

Defective floors reconstructed	...	...	2
" " repaired	...	...	1
" natural lighting remedied	...	...	2
" ventilation	...	...	3
Internal walls cement rendered	...	...	8
New dairies built or adapted	...	...	2

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of food were examined and disposed of after inspection had shown that they were unfit for human consumption:—

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Bread and Biscuits	...	2	3	—
Fish	...	5	2	3
Prunes and Sultanas	...	3	1	18
Miscellaneous Tinned Foodstuffs	...	13	1	5
Miscellaneous	...	1	1	5½
Total	...	1	6	0
				3½

Of the above, 9 cwts. was destroyed because it was unfit for further use, whilst the remainder was diverted for use as animal feeding stuffs.

ICE CREAM.

The increased demand for ice cream, together with the association of this manufactured product with an outbreak of typhoid fever in Wales, has caused the Public Health Committee to examine the condition of premises where ice cream is manufactured in the Solihull district, and to draw up a code of conditions of structural requirements, subject to which new registrations will be granted. Briefly, these required that the building used for manufacture should be of brick or similar permanent material, that concrete floors and inside walls impervious to moisture be provided, that lighting, ventilation, water supply and drainage should be adequate, that satisfactory provision be made for sterilization of utensils, that Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, be complied with, and that no household domestic operations be carried on in the premises.

Whilst it was felt that persons already registered might suffer hardship if these conditions were imposed immediately, owing to the difficulties under prevailing conditions of getting building work done, the Council's policy was communicated to them and they were told that a reasonable standard of both premises and methods would be insisted upon in the future.

Registration is effected under Section 97 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936, which whilst similar in most respects to the corresponding provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, does require the registration of the person selling or manufacturing ice cream in addition to the registration of the premises.

As the number of applications to manufacture seemed to be increasing, the Public Health Committee asked for a survey to be made of the manufacturing premises in the district in order that the existing position could be examined. The survey showed that there were 17 registered manufacturers in the district and that the number of applications to manufacture before the Committee at that time was 8. Inspection had shown that none of the new applicants had premises which satisfied the Committee's conditions of structural requirement nor were they prepared to provide such premises. Applicants were then invited to appear before the Committee to show cause why they should not be refused registration, and in each case registration was refused. The survey had shown that the premises of one manufacturer were entirely unsuitable for the purpose and he, upon appearing before the Committee, gave an undertaking that he would not manufacture ice cream until new premises had been provided. In addition three applications for registration as vendors of ice cream were received and two of these were granted, one being outstanding at the close of the year. The one outstanding was from a person manufacturing ice cream outside the district who wished to sell it from a barrow in the street. The policy laid down by the Committee with regard to the sale of such ice cream was that it should be either covered with suitable wrappings or sold in containers which would protect the product from street dust or similar sources of contamination, and correspondence along these lines was being conducted at the close of the year.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

The Ministry of Food allocate to butchers a proportion of meat for the purpose of manufacture into pressed beef, sausages and similar commodities. The butchers have in many cases passed back this meat to wholesale manufacturing firms who have made up the material for them.

During the year butchers in the district became dissatisfied with this method of business and applications were received for permission to manufacture on their own premises. Upon consideration of the applications the Council decided that only persons whose premises were satisfactory should be registered and again drew up a code of structural requirement. As registration is affected under the same legal provision as in the case of ice cream manufacturers, similar requirements were adopted with slight adjustments to allow for differences in the processes.

Of the 22 applications received, two of the applicants were considered to have satisfactory premises and were registered and two cases were adjourned pending structural adaptation or alteration, and the remainder were refused after each applicant had been given the opportunity of interview by the Public Health Committee.

At the close of the year five premises were registered to manufacture meat products.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The heavy rainfall experienced during 1946 brought to an end for the present at least, the shortage of water which has been the subject of complaint from the occupiers of houses served by wells during recent years. Quantity is no longer questioned, but the quality of drinking water obtained from the easily polluted shallow well common in the rural parts of the area, still leaves much to be desired.

The Council, well aware of the weaknesses of this form of supply, asked for a comprehensive report on the possibility of mains extensions, which was submitted during the year, and immediately accepted the recommendation of a three year programme contained therein. This programme was decided upon with the two main points of need and financial reasonableness kept well in mind and was as follows:—

<i>Financial Year.</i>	<i>Name of Scheme.</i>	<i>Estimated Capital cost.</i>	<i>Council's Guarantee for 12 years.</i>			<i>Length of mains Yards.</i>	<i>Number of premises served.</i>
			£	s.	d.		
1946-47 :							
	Major's Green, Shirley	£6,024	753	0	0	3,570	116
	Warwick Road-Knowle to Heronfield ...	£1,880	197	1	3	1,723	20
	Norton Lane, Wood Lane, etc., Earlswood	£3,278	352	3	11	2,081	37
1947-48 :							
	Tythe Barn Lane, Shirley ...	£1,856	201	7	6	1,100	38
	Shutt Lane, etc., Illshaw Heath ...	£5,689	665	15	3	3,372	58
	Henwood Lane-Barston Lane, Solihull ...	£1,452	164	15	0	840	20
	Tanworth Lane, Lady Lane, Earlswood ...	£3,561	409	17	1	2,110	32
1948-49 :							
	Mill Lane, Bentley Heath ...	£506	£53	17	6	300	6
	Windmill Road-Vicarage Road, Packwood	£1,005	114	15	0	750	12
	Chapel Lane, Hockley Heath ...	£253	£26	15	3	150	12
	Rumbush Lane, Earlswood ...	£685	£78	12	9	435	7
	Peterbrook Road, Shirley ...	£1,148	129	18	9	680	13
	Lugtrout Lane (East) Solihull ...	£388	76	10	7	230	3
	Lugtrout Lane (West) Solihull ...	£262				155	
	Lugtrout Lane (West) Solihull ...	£1,181	123	18	0	700	25
	Chessetts Wood Road-Chapel Lane, Packwood ...	£1,650	169	2	6	1,797	42
	Creynolds Lane, Shirley	£882	95	12	6	570	15

Application to the Warwickshire County Council and the Ministry of Health for grant under the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act, 1944, in respect of the Major's Green proposed mains extension having produced only negative results, the Council authorised the signature of the necessary guarantee forms with the water undertakers, the Birmingham City Council. At the close of the year this scheme, capable of serving 117 houses and 4 farms in the area, was almost completed.

A water main was also laid along the Warwick Road to the boundary of the Urban District at Heronfield, making mains water available to 20 premises in that area.

Although the carrying out of the programme of extensions commenced well, towards the close of the year it was clear that because of the shortage of labour the water undertakers would not be able to carry out to the time table the programme laid down.

Part of the programme was a joint scheme with the Stratford-on-Avon Rural District Council to continue a main to the boundary of the Solihull District from which point it would be continued to new housing sites in the Stratford Rural area by the water undertakers, the City of Birmingham Water Department. The portion of main to the Solihull boundary has been completed and work is continuing in the Stratford district, but it seems that the limited amount of labour available will be employed in the latter district for some time, so delaying the carrying out of the programme in this district. In connection with this scheme two branch mains along portions of Wood Lane and Lady Lane, Earlswood, in this district are also delayed.

During the war years the records showing the situation and number of wells in the area had become somewhat outdated and it was felt that a complete survey was necessary. This was undertaken and as a result it was established that 1,066 houses, representing 5.5% of the total number of houses in the district were served by 752 wells at the year's close. During 1946, 84 houses were connected to mains rendering 60 wells redundant.

The Department's policy of obtaining for analysis samples from wells which served groups of houses or which were likely to affect the general public as is the case with cafes and similar establishments, was continued during the year. For this reason and upon complaint 36 samples were submitted to chemical analysis and 11 of these for bacteriological examination also, with the following results:—

Number of samples submitted to chemical and bacteriological analysis	...	...	...	...	...	13
Number satisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number unsatisfactory in bacteriological examination only	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number unsatisfactory in chemical analysis only	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of samples for chemical analysis only	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	14
						—
Total number of samples	...	...	...	...	...	36
						—

The receipt of an unsatisfactory sample is normally followed by a visit to the well concerned by a member of the department, and after investigation remedial measures are initiated.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The adverse weather experienced in 1946 seriously affected the attendance at the two privately owned swimming pools open to the public. Chlorination of the water is practised at both pools and check kept on the chlorine content by means of comparators by the proprietors.

The department submitted check samples of pool water to the analyst, who reported no unsatisfactory result.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

In Premises.

An experienced operator was employed during the whole of the year, his full time being devoted to infestation and treatment of infested premises. He discovered 162 infestations of which 7 were estimated to be "Reservoir" infestations (i.e., over 200 rats), 44 of a major character (over 50 rats), and 111 of a minor character. Infestations abated totalled 160, 269 premises being concerned. One of these infestations was outstanding at the end of 1945 and treated during the current year.

Solihull being essentially a residential area, commercial premises are few and consequently most of the infestations reported above were found at private dwellings.

Due to the increased demand on the services of the rodent operator which made it impossible for him to cope with all the work, another rodent operator was engaged in October.

In Sewers.

In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Food investigations were carried out into the infestation of sewers on one occasion. It was hoped to carry out two surveys during the year, but owing to inclement weather conditions the survey intended to be made in the winter had to be abandoned.

As in the light of past experience it was expected that only light infestations would be found, attention was concentrated on points known to have been previously infested. Of 40 manholes baited, later inspection showed that in 8 cases the sausage rusk bait was consumed and further baiting followed by zinc phosphide poisoning was carried out in one manhole on each side of those found to be affected.

INDUSTRIAL SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Although informal smoke observations made during the year on the Cranmore Estate factory site did not show any nuisance, a complaint led to observations being made at an early hour. Although the statutory limit for the emission of black smoke was not exceeded, the large quantities of grey smoke did cause some inconvenience to nearby residents. Suggestions made by the department to the factory owners on how to avoid such smoke emissions were rapidly acted upon by them and the condition was remedied without the necessity for legal action.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Due to limitation of stocks the need of enforcing early closing hours has been considerably reduced. Routine visits have been paid to enforce those provisions of the Acts dealing with sanitary provisions and comfort of workers.

FACTORIES.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, the following items were dealt with:—

Inadequate ventilation	...	...	1
Sanitary Accommodation:			
Defective	...	...	1
Insufficient	...	...	—
Want of cleanliness	...	...	3
Other Offences	...	...	6

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

As the houses in the district are mainly of the modern residential type, the closet accommodation is of the modern washdown type, with the exceptions given below.

On the Department's list are 848 pail closets and 38 privy middens. Of these the majority are emptied weekly and the remainder as required.

The policy of converting pail closets and privy middens to water closets proceeded during the year and here again progress was slower than hoped due to the difficulties that master builders were encountering in obtaining labour and materials.

During the year, 4 pail closets serving four houses were converted to water closets, the Council in each case making a grant to the owner towards the cost of conversion.

In addition, flushing cisterns were provided to four hand-flushed closets when town mains were made available.

CARAVANS.

Two applications each to establish a caravan for permanent habitation were received and considered under the powers contained in the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936. Under this legal provision it is an offence to place any van upon land within the Urban District without the permission of the Council. Knowing, by unhappy experience the difficulties caused by the establishment of this type of dwelling the Council have adopted the general policy of discouragement of siting of these structures. The two applications were therefore refused.

Two other cases were dealt with. In one case five caravans and three marquees were established in the Solihull Lodge area and in another, one caravan at Knowle. Resolutions were adopted by the Council giving instructions to institute proceedings failing removal of the vans within one month. In both cases removal was carried out before the expiry of the period allowed.

OCCUPATION OF SERVICE CAMPS.

In early August the widespread movement of some families, dissatisfied with the housing conditions under which they were living, into huts vacated by Service units following the end of the war, spread to Solihull and within a week or two most of the available camp sites in the district had become occupied without permission.

A census taken in September showed that on 8 sites 219 persons had firmly established themselves in 58 huts and were settling down to make themselves as comfortable as the circumstances allowed. As the Council had no jurisdiction in the matter, all the affected camps being Crown property, little could be done except to secure by regular inspection and the giving of advice, the carrying out of which was supervised, that nuisance did not arise.

Subsequently the position was regularised by the appropriate Ministry asking the Council to take over the camps and administer them on the Government's behalf, at the same time suggesting weekly rentals considered suitable to the type of accommodation occupied. The Council accepted the Government's suggestion and these camps are now under the supervision of the Housing Committee.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Two cases of pollution have occurred within the year under review.

In one case a sewer storm overflow discharged into a stream in times of heavy rainfall causing nuisance to nearby houses because the bed of the stream had become silted up and was holding back the discharged sewage. The bed and banks of the stream were cleaned and regraded by prisoner labour and the complainants satisfied.

A more serious matter was the discharge of a presumed cyanide solution into the sewer, which passing through the Barston sewage works seriously affected the purification processes and then passing into the River Blythe killed fish in the river for several miles.

Although the Department did not know of the occurrence for some time afterwards, as soon as it was known a complete survey was undertaken of factories in the drainage area and three were found to be using cyanide solutions as electrolytes in electro-plating processes. Enquiries were pursued at these premises and circumstantial evidence discovered which left little doubt of the responsibility for the discharge.

Precautions were then taken at the three factories using the process to prevent a recurrence. Later enquiries evoked the information that two of the factories concerned were expecting to remove their premises out of the district in the foreseeable future, when the plating processes would be discontinued.

PETROLEUM.

During the year, 98 licences have been issued covering the storage of 168,220 gallons of petrol and 56,000 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium, and the income received from the payment of licence fees was £69 5s.

Many new petroleum storage tanks are being installed and whilst every structural precaution is taken and tanks tested by air pressure before being brought into use, the time is opportune to review the whole subject of petroleum installations. The authority's main power of control is derived from the conditions subject to which licences are granted and these conditions are therefore being reviewed, so that draft regulations may be considered by the Council.

E. VAUGHAN,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

LIST OF DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1946.

INTERNAL.

Defective ceiling construction	...	...	...	...	3
Defective plasters	...	...	...	...	58
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	88
Defective kitchen ranges, fireplaces and flues	...	...	...	...	8
Defective washboilers	...	...	...	...	9
Defective windows and cords	...	...	...	...	15
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	12
Defective staircases	...	...	...	...	5
Defective sinks and waste pipes	...	...	...	...	8
New sinks and waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	3

EXTERNAL.

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	56
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	...	...	...	...	28
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	7
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	8
Defective eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	26
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	47

DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	19
Defective drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	103
Houses connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	3
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	5
H.F. and W.W. closets connected to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	4
Sewage disposal plant reconstructed	...	...	...	...	1
Defective W.C. flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	52
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells discontinued	...	...	...	...	58
Houses connected to water mains	...	...	...	...	89
Defective hot water apparatus	...	...	...	...	9
Defective water supply and pumps	14

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

Structural defects at Farms and Dairies...	16
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MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscellaneous...	74
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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Notices complied with.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	1,472	9	276	221
Milk Producing and Retailing Premises	99	—	7	1
Bakehouses and Food Premises ...	155	—	1	1
Caravans and Camp Sites ...	50	—	—	—
Ashpits and Ashbins	83	7	48	41
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	13	—	6	2
Sanitary Conveniences	104	—	49	39
House Drainage	935	—	43	35
Water Supply	1,719	—	10	11
Pigsties	17	—	3	1
Animals improperly kept ...	15	—	3	2
Factories	21	2	3	1
Outworkers' Premises	24	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	14	—	2	1
Verminous Premises	10	—	—	—
Rat Infested Premises	1,281	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	8	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases & Disinfections	323	—	—	—
Ice Cream Samples	195	—	—	—
Milk Samples	484	—	—	—
Petroleum Installations	64	—	1	—
Water Courses and Ditches ...	36	1	1	—
Miscellaneous	691	—	10	4
TOTALS	7,813	19	463	360

	No.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	349
Samples of Food taken for analysis	2
Samples of Food found adulterated	—
Samples of Water taken for analysis	40
Samples of Water not in all respects satisfactory	25

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

• Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed	26
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	178
Schools ditto ditto ditto	—

E. VAUGHAN, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1946 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
1940	54,760	1,047	19.1	57	54	578	10.6
1941	58,850	1,106	18.8	60	54	577	9.3
1942	60,960	1,204	19.8	52	43	560	9.2
1943	60,670	1,380	22.8	51	37	537	8.8
1944	60,070	1,400	23.4	44	31	532	8.8
1945	58,770	1,143	19.5	34	30	518	8.8
1946	61,720	1,223	19.5	41	33	555	8.9

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1946.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1946.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	19.1	0.53	11.5	43
126 Great Towns, including London	22.2	0.67	12.7	46
148 Smaller Towns ...	21.3	0.59	11.7	37
London ...	21.5	0.54	12.7	41

TABLE III.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1946.

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)	12	3	3	2	4			10	2	
Erysipelas	5				3	1	1			
Scarlet Fever	114	1	33	67	8	4	1	39		
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	40	4	4	10	1	5	13	3	17	
Malaria										
Dysentery	5	2		1	1		1			
Puerperal Pyrexia	3			2	1					
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	5	2	1	1	1					
Poliomyelitis	1			1						
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2								
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	48	5	3	8	21	10	1		28	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	1	5		2				4	
Totals	243	9	49	89	23	42	25	6	49	51

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	285	270
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	1	1
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	14	14
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	3	—
9 Influenza	1	—
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	1
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	7	5
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	7	7
15 Cancer of Breast	—	16
16 Cancer, other Sites	24	35
17 Diabetes	2	—
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	28	30
19 Heart Disease	93	65
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	6	10
21 Bronchitis	11	6
22 Pneumonia	7	10
23 Other Resp. Diseases	7	4
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	5	2
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	3	—
26 Appendicitis	2	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	6	10
28 Nephritis	10	7
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	2
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31 Premature Birth	4	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	12	14
33 Suicide	—	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	5	—
35 Other Violent Causes	5	4
36 All Other Causes	19	21

