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Borough of Warwick.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1951,

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa

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

1952





38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.
August, 1952.

To the Council of the Borough of Warwick

Mr. MAYOR, Mrs. LEES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my second annual report upon the health of the district. In his last report to you my predecessor in office wrote of the importance of housing in terms with which many will agree. Therefore, I beg to draw attention to the sections of your Senior Sanitary Inspector's clear and able report dealing with housing and housing repairs.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the Medical Officer of Health, in addition to his duties to the five district councils forming the Joint Sanitary Committee, has to act as Area Medical Officer to the County Council for the Central Area. This appointment which is allocated 50 per cent. of his time, includes the duty of attendance at certain meetings of the Area Health Sub-Committee and the Divisional Executive for Education. This work is carried out from the County Council's Area Health Office in Leamington Spa towards the costs of which office the Joint Sanitary Committee makes an annual contribution.

The Area Health Office undertakes local administrative duties in connection with nursing and midwifery services, vaccination and immunization, Home Help service, care and aftercare of the sick (including Tuberculosis) and child welfare as well as the School Health Service. This co-ordination of duties helps in the treatment of many health problems which arise, and ensures a wide field both of interest and activity. Increased printing costs however limit the detailed description of the facilities available within your area.

I wish to refer here to that part of my report which deals with Diphtheria. There is evident some falling off in the public interest in Diphtheria Immunization, but what has occurred will emphasize that Diphtheria still is a serious disease and the need for the protection of infants against it is as vital as ever.

In conclusion I have to acknowledge the courtesy and help which I have had from my colleagues and to thank the members of this council for their kindness and support.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Warwick.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1951	...	...	...	15,550
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	...	15.1
" " " (corrected)	...	...	...	15.7
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	0.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	...	12.2
" " " (corrected)	...	...	...	11.8
Deaths from Diseases and	{	From Sepsis	...	—
Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth		From Other Causes	...	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—				
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	12.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	13.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
" " Diarroea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

Population.—An increase of 250 on the estimated figure for 1950.

Birth Rate.—The figure is below the average of the past 7 years (17.9) but near that for England and Wales which is 15.5.

Death Rate.—This is slightly under the average for 7 past years (13.1) and similar to that for England and Wales, viz. 12.5.

Infant Mortality.—This at 12.8 was lower than last year's figure of 20.8 per 1,000 births and below the average for England and Wales viz. 29.6. This is the lowest infantile mortality rate on record in the Borough. Comparison with the national rate is however bound to be only an approximation owing to the small size of the group of local births and the wide variations which can be produced in the infant mortality rate by two or three extra deaths in one year. For instance an additional two deaths in the past year (making the total of 5 as in 1950) would have raised the rate from 12.8 to 21.2. Nevertheless, the Borough may well be proud that for 1945 and each subsequent year its infant death rate has been below the rate for England and Wales.

Statistics for the past seven years and also for England and Wales in 1950 will be seen under Table II.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WARWICK

Medical Officer of Health :

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

J. BULLOCK,

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I. Exam. Jt. Board.

Cert. R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and Foods.

Cert. Institute of Housing.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

S. H. WEST,

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I. Exam. Jt. Board.

Cert. R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and Foods.

Cert. R.S.I. for Smoke Inspectors.

Borough Engineer, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineers :

R. WORMELL, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E., A.M.T.P.I.

Public Analysts :

HILL and RIGBY, Birmingham.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :—

	Positive		Negative		Total	
*Diphtheria	...	8	...	44	...	52
*Enteric Fever	...	—	...	1	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	—	...	—	...	—
						53

*This includes specimens from Heathcote Isolation Hospital.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

I am indebted to Mr. Wormell, the Borough Engineer, for much of the following information :—

1. *Water Supply*.—Bacteriological examinations were made of the raw and treated water at intervals during the year. These were satisfactory except during a brief period in the autumn when it was found necessary to increase the chlorination. At other times of heavy rainfall the chlorination was increased temporarily.

The rainfall for the year was considerably in excess of the yearly average and the supplies of water from the main source at Haseley and subsidiary pumping well at the Woodloes were ample for both the domestic and trade (metered supplies) users of the Borough.

Seventeen houses only are served by private wells. The number of houses with shared taps is 346 ; 143 taps, either on standpipes or in common wash-houses, serve these houses which are occupied by approximately 7.2 per cent. of the population.

2. (i) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—There were no major extensions to the sewerage system which, with the four subsidiary pumping units, was satisfactory. During the year a private pumping unit serving two houses in Myton Road was installed and connected to the Council's rising main from the pumping plant in Myton Crofts.

The works operated satisfactorily. Major renewals to the filter bed mechanism of three percolating filters were made and it is hoped that similar renewals to all filters at the works will have been completed by the end of 1952. During the summer all the sludge drying beds at the lower works were cleaned out.

(ii) *Rivers and Streams*.—A survey of the brook from the Montague Road area was carried out and a programme for dredging and cleaning out was prepared and carried out by direct labour.

A complete survey of the Gog Brook adjoining the new housing estate and St. Mary's lands was also carried out and a scheme formulated for easing the flow of the brook particularly in times of flood. The scheme includes the provision of a culvert under part of the running track at the Racecourse. It is hoped to carry out this scheme during 1952.

(iii) Sanitary fittings provided at existing buildings during the year were as follows :—

<i>Type</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>New W.C.s</i>	<i>Lav. Basins</i>	<i>Urinals</i>
Factories ...	3	6	10	5
Licensed Houses	1	1	1	—
Schools ...	1	13	1	—
Private Houses	9	12	10	—
Offices ...	1	3	3	—

(iv) *Public Cleansing*.—With the acquisition of an additional refuse lorry it was possible to maintain three collecting teams and consequently a weekly collection in all but isolated instances was carried out.

The refuse tip was maintained in good order.

(v) *Swimming Baths*.—The baths, open to the public from Whitsun until September, continued to be treated by the "Chloramine" process of sterilization in conjunction with a small filter. The water is on a continuous flow system.

D. HOUSING

During the year 12 licences for the erection of new privately-owned houses were issued and four houses were completed and occupied.

Council house building progressed and the main housing site on the Stratford Road is nearly completed. One hundred and forty-two houses, including twenty-four flats, were completed and occupied in the Borough as a whole.

A number of cases were investigated where it had been claimed that priority was merited for health reasons and recommendations were made when necessary to the Housing Committee. Several enquiries were also made into the circumstances of persons, temporarily resident within the Borough, who were registered as applicants for a house in the area of another authority. Few personal enquiries into complaints of unfit housing were needed on account of the very detailed information which your Housing Officer possesses concerning house property in the town.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1943.

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1943	...	21	26	—	17	—	1
1944	...	13	14	—	23	—	—
1945	...	—	21	—	10	—	—
1946	...	3	4	—	8	—	—
1947	...	1	12	—	14	—	1
1948	...	—	10	—	5	—	—
1949	...	—	10	—	3	—	—
1950	...	1	9	1	6	—	—
1951	...	3	4	1	14	1	1

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1951.

This year the number of notifications of Pneumonia was higher than usual and was associated with a prevalence of illness of influenzal type in the early months of the year.

School Closures.—Nil.

Diphtheria.—Three cases were notified and removed to hospital where two of the children died. None of the children affected are known to have been immunised. It is regrettable to record that two of the three cases ended fatally in a year when the total of deaths due to Diphtheria was only 34 for the whole of England and Wales.

The Registrar General's corrected return does not show these deaths as recorded against the Borough of Warwick and they are therefore omitted from Table IV. The children concerned were inmates of a Children's Home to which they had come from places of residence in other districts.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation of children against Diphtheria continued. During 1951 24 school children were protected for the first time, together with 203 under school age, giving a total of 227. 343 children were given "Booster" doses during the year with a view to maintaining their immunity.

The aim in this work is to secure the immunisation of at least 75 per cent. of all babies before their first birthday. This is the lowest figure set for the national campaign. The Borough of Warwick's achievement for 1951 appears to be a little over 55 per cent. which compares well with most places but is still far short of the target. The deaths recorded above of two out of three non-immunised children under six years will show that Diphtheria is still a very dangerous disease and that there is no room for complacency or slackening in the campaign. Parents cannot, therefore, be too strongly urged to have every child immunised before its first birthday. The local Health Authority's scheme provides for this to be done free either by the family doctor under the National Health Service or at either of the Child Welfare centres.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—One case was notified and subsequently confirmed. The patient was an adult patient in Warwick Hospital admitted from outside the district.

During the year the Medical Research Council carried out field investigations into certain aspects of the disease. Information was passed direct to that body regarding cases occurring in the Borough or neighbouring districts.

Also a practical experiment was carried out in April and repeated in July. This involved the laying of 120 sewer swabs on each occasion and lifting them after 72 hours for transmission packed in ice to the London laboratories. As can be readily imagined this was far from an easy or pleasant task and thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and their staffs who co-operated in taking the samples. The results of the experiment were negative in so far as the virus was not recovered from any of the swab samples. However, this method is one which could prove useful in the investigation of other diseases and it is, therefore, of value to have had practical experience of the technique of sewage swabbing.

Typhoid Fever.—No cases have occurred. One Typhoid Carrier has, however, been under periodic observation.

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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals ...	10	10	1	1	5	3	—	—

During the year 22 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified 20 being Pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

16 patients were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium, and 21 were discharged during the year.

The following table gives the incidence of Tuberculosis for the period 1932-1951 (20 years) :—

Tuberculosis.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cases ...	15	25	12	14	24	21	20
Deaths	9	16	9	5	12	6	7
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cases ...	32	27	22	12	11	38	29
Deaths	8	9	13	10	13	11	12
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
Cases ...	20	31	20	20	21	22	
	9	8	14	6	6	8	

The incidence of fresh cases has altered little. The number of deaths at 8, although more than in the last two years, is below average (9.7) for the past ten years. Two of the eight persons deceased had not been notified during life as having the disease: the ages of the two persons was 65 and 66 years respectively. Although the average interval between first notification and death was about 4 years, the period in three of the six notified cases was one year or less. Only one death occurred at an age less than 45 years and the average age at death was 55 years. The customary table of case distribution has been omitted in order to save printing costs. The places of residence of the eight deceased persons were: Upper Cape, Theatre Street, West Street, Saltisford, Peel Road, Hampton Street, Wathen Road and Paradise Street.

REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Council of the Borough of Warwick

MR. MAYOR, MRS. LEES and GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

Inspections and re-inspections of all classes totalled 4,801 compared with 5,025 in 1950 and 4,354 in 1949.

The intensified work in connection with food hygiene, pest destruction and Shops Act administration referred to in the report for 1950 was continued during the year under review, and the high annual average figure for inspections of dwellinghouses was maintained.

Housing inspections for the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee again occupied a great deal of time, but this work continued to be combined with statutory housing duties to avoid, as far as possible, interruption in the normal work of the department. This sub-committee was, however, particularly busy during the year and, in consequence, the inspectorial and office work necessarily involved was heavy. For ready co-operation in meeting these increased demands upon the office and for excellent services in other branches of the department's work, I again wish to thank Mr. S. H. West, Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. M. Price, Housing Assistant and Mrs. James, Clerical Assistant. I desire also to thank members of the Council and Chief Officers of other departments for helpful co-operation.

HOUSING

Ten houses which had become dangerously dilapidated were represented under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as unfit for habitation. Demolition Orders were made in respect of seven of these, an undertaking that the house would be made fit was accepted in one case and in respect of two other houses undertakings that the houses would not be re-let for human habitation were accepted.

Six houses were demolished as a result of informal procedure and 15 under the terms of demolition orders made in earlier years. Eight families were rehoused by the local authority from houses subject to demolition orders, the remainder securing privately-owned accommodation. Two of the demolition orders were the subject of appeals to the County Court, but the Council's action was confirmed, appeals being dismissed and costs awarded to the respondents.

The conversion of one house, parts of which had been closed under the terms of a closing order, into two self-contained flats was completed during the year.

The erection of 118 new houses and 24 new flats by the local authority and 4 new houses by private enterprise was only slightly less in extent than the heartening contribution made in the previous year towards a solution of the town's housing problems. As, however, the number of new applications for municipal houses, received principally from homeless people, was again in excess of the total number of units of new accommodation provided, the housing problem from the point of view of homeless people was not lessened. Over-crowding in many houses still presents an ugly problem incapable of early solution, though overcrowding in the town as a whole may not appear at first view a particularly serious matter if the total population and the number of houses in the town only are considered. The predominance of small houses, in so many cases overcrowded, and the number of larger houses, so often not used to the best advantage from the point of view of one studying the housing accommodation in the town as a whole, reveal the true nature of existing overcrowding as being the crowding into small dwellings of people whose means are insufficient to enable them to enter the market for purchasing larger houses, many of which changed hands during the year under review. The proportion of houses with three or more bedrooms occupied by three or less people is very high indeed.

Repairs to old property were again limited to urgent work and the related problems presented by the high cost of repairs and the continued occupation of worn-out houses provided difficulties even more serious than those experienced in the immediate post-war years.

Demolition of houses which are unfit by reason of the combined defects of dampness, darkness, disrepair, inadequate ventilation, inadequate water supply and sanitary accommodation, and congestion on site, had again to be postponed and only houses having dangerous structures could be considered for demolition. Consequently, the total number of houses considered as unfit for habitation and not capable of being made fit at a reasonable expense, was not reduced from the high figure given in previous reports.

The practice of offering for sale with vacant possession small dwellings which have customarily been available for letting to people in the lowest income groups was continued by some owners whenever an opportunity occurred and, notwithstanding the knowledge that most of such houses were included in proposed clearance areas and were really unfit for habitation except on a short-term basis, purchasers were eventually found. In some cases it was observed that the vendors were themselves owner-occupiers who had lived in the property for only a short while and who had discovered the wisdom of the adage "at the first hand buy, at the third let lye" in relation to old and worn-out property.

HOUSING REPAIRS

The increasing tendency on the part of property owners to resist notices requiring repairs was again evident during the year, and following-up procedure to enforce compliance with notices was even more necessary than in the previous year. Proof of this is to be found in the increased number of statutory notices which were served. Statutory notices are not usually served until preliminary notices have first been issued, reminders sent, and a reasonable time allowed for the execution of work. As was stated in the report for 1950, reluctance to carry out repairs is principally due to the inadequacy of the maximum permitted rents of controlled property. The extent to which the Rents Restriction Acts now operate unfairly is most noticeable in respect of the self-contained houses built within the last 60 or so years. The houses referred to are outside any demolition proposals, are usually structurally sound and, if adequately maintained, are capable of providing good accommodation for many years to come. Unfortunately, a high proportion are neglected through the force of economic considerations and only persistent efforts on the part of the local authority prevent extreme dilapidations in these cases. The limitation imposed by the Housing Act that a repairs notice must be capable of being satisfied at a reasonable expense when combined with the effect of the operation of the Rent Restriction Acts provides an insurmountable obstacle in efforts to secure completely adequate reconditioning of these originally better class houses.

In view of the serious difficulties associated with the application of the Housing Act to achieve house repairs, notices were usually served under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, which preclude works of general reconditioning. In consequence, notices were limited to urgent repairs only, though the attention of owners was drawn to other defects calling for repairs in the interests of good maintenance.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS

One hundred and twenty-four self-contained terrace-type houses relating to which notices had been issued during 1949 and 1950 were re-inspected; 85 of these were found to have been brought up to a satisfactory state of repair; work was commenced during the year on the remaining 39. Four statutory notices affecting these houses were served and complied with.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING

One hundred and eighteen new permanent houses and twenty-four new flats were occupied during the year. They form part of the new estate off Stratford Road. At the end of the year the local authority owned 958 houses (including 50 prefabricated bungalows) and 24 flats, or in total 21.6 per cent. of the dwellings in the Borough. In all, 146 families, with a population of 626, were rehoused during 1951.

Of the families formerly in rooms, 91 were rehoused in new houses or flats, eight in houses erected prior to 1939 and three in prefabricated bungalows. Twenty-six families formerly occupying old houses were rehoused in new houses, six in pre-1939 houses and one in a prefabricated temporary bungalow. In addition, eleven families from houses subject

to demolition orders were rehoused, six being housed in new houses, four in pre-1939 houses and one in a prefabricated temporary bungalow. In four cases included in this analysis the families were rehoused on the grounds of tuberculosis. To promote the fuller use of municipal accommodation, 19 transfers were effected during the year.

In the six years since the end of 1945, 470 families, comprising 2,025 persons, have been rehoused, but during the same period there have been 1,215 applications, 192 of these being registered during 1951. Though quite a number of applications are cancelled annually, either at the request of the applicants, or upon instructions from the selection of Tenants Sub-Committee in cases where applicants have applied to another local authority as well as to this Borough, the majority are found to be genuinely made and registration confirmed.

At the 31st December there were 789 applications outstanding, 446 being in rooms or otherwise without houses and 343 in houses. Most of the latter were occupying overcrowded and/or unfit dwellings. Of the 446 applications from homeless people, 205 were from childless couples, 161 from applicants with one child, 59 from those with two children, 14 from applicants with three children and seven were from applicants with four or more children. Of the homeless, the average period they had waited since marriage was rather less than four years; there were 263 applicants who had been without houses for varying periods up to four years and 183 in excess of four years.

As has been stated in earlier reports, the number of housing applicants by no means represents the total new houses needed as the figure includes only a few of the tenants of houses which must be demolished to achieve a material improvement in the standard of pre-war housing accommodation. There are many cases of overcrowding too, which do not figure in the register of applicants for municipal houses. High municipal rents alone are preventing the appearance of an insistent demand from the tenants of unfit and overcrowded houses.

The family incomes revealed by applicants usually reflect the rents that can be afforded, though variations in incomes and domestic circumstances between the date of application and the time of rehousing inevitably mean that the standard of house contemplated when the application is made is not necessarily acceptable to the applicant when a tenancy is offered. It is an unfortunate fact that the proportion of applicants stating a preference for pre-1939 houses for reasons of lower rent is now increasing, though during the year under review few potential tenants refused tenancies of new houses.

The information disclosed by the 789 applicants showed that 370 or 47 per cent. had a family income of less than £7 10s. 287 or 36.3 per cent. had an income between £7 10s. and £9, 107 or 13.5 per cent. had an income between £9 and £11, and 25 or 3.2 per cent. had an income exceeding £11. It has been suggested that for families of ordinary means, the proportion of the family income spent on rent and rates is reasonable if it does not exceed one-fifth. Present rents of new municipal houses vary slightly according to type but they average approximately 27/6d. per week; it will be seen, therefore, that nearly half of the applicants can be considered as only just able to afford present rents or likely to afford them only with sacrifices. It must be

borne in mind, of course, that there are other factors affecting decisions at the time offers of tenancies are made, including such considerations as the uncertainty of continued overtime pay and bonuses which the applicant has reckoned as regular income during the past few years and the likelihood of further increases in the rents of municipal houses without a compensatory increase in the family income.

On the other hand in new houses there is to be found real evidence of sacrifices of fleeting pleasures for the more substantial advantages of a good house. In the case of applicants rehoused from old and unfit property, savings which offset higher rents arise from the discontinuance of regular costs of redecoration in the battle previously waged against damp and perished wall plaster, less expenditure on disinfectants and insecticides, often telling items in the housekeeping expenses of old property, and a saving of fuel costs when the tenant has previously paid dearly for inefficient means of heating, lighting and cooking.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT INSPECTIONS

Three-thousand-seven-hundred-and-forty-two inspections were made for the purposes of the Public Health Act.

As in previous years most of the 465 Public Health Act notices issued related to dwelling house defects of a general nature and were limited to urgent matters. In 88 cases it was necessary to serve Statutory Notices, and it was necessary to institute proceedings to enforce 2 of the notices.

DRAINAGE, SANITARY ACCOMMODATION, WASHING ACCOMMODATION AND REFUSE RECEPTACLES

Forty-eight notices requiring choked drains to be cleared or defective drains to be repaired were complied with; 35 notices requiring repairs to water closets received attention; 5 washhouses were rebuilt or repaired in compliance with notices; 2 sculleries and water closets adjoining were completely rebuilt following subsidence; the last 4 of the obsolete tipper-type waste water closets were converted to flush water closets; 23 dustbins required by notices were provided; 23 accumulations of refuse were removed following notices.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one common lodging house in use. The return of lodgers sleeping in the town during the year is as follows:—

Adults:—			
Males ...	...	...	6,770
Females ...	...	...	357
			Total 7,127
Under 10 years...	...	...	None

VERMIN INFESTATIONS

Rats and Mice.—Systematic investigations to ascertain infestations were continued. During the year the department dealt with infestations, principally of a minor character at 107 dwellinghouses, 36 factories, 23 shops, 8 clubs and licensed premises, 9 schools, 11 hotels and cafes, 5 other premises, 23 allotments and plots of land, 3 streams.

Work was undertaken at 13 premises on an annual contract basis. The Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works were treated regularly and the sewers twice during the year. Four surveys of blocks of properties were carried out.

Bed Bugs.—As was observed in the previous year, complaints of bed bug infestations were noticeably fewer than was usual a few years ago, though infestations persist in certain blocks of old and unfit property. Apart from issuing insecticide to numerous applicants, the department treated 17 houses successfully. Six lots of verminous bedding were disinfected or destroyed. Thorough precautions to prevent infestation of new houses were adopted in every case where the tenants of infested houses were rehoused in municipal houses.

SMOKE NUISANCES

An increased number of observations were made during the year and 7 notices were served when excessive atmospheric pollution was observed. As in previous years, the managements were interviewed and firing methods discussed with both stokers and managements. Invariably, complaints were made by the managements and stokers of the fuel they were compelled to use, but there is little doubt that more frequent firing with smaller amounts of fuel would considerably lessen the nuisance arising from "black smoke." A common fault found was the practice of stokers to fire heavily at long intervals, usually because of other duties they had to perform. The atmospheric pollution in the vicinity of the Gas Works did not materially improve.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT PUBLIC HOUSES AND PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

The sanitary accommodation of both cinemas was inspected and at these and licensed premises generally the facilities were found to be of a good standard and well maintained. One of the cinemas was closed before the end of the year.

CARAVANS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Five inspections for the purposes of Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were made. Four notices requiring owners to discontinue the use of unlicensed sites for caravan purposes were issued. Two licenses permitting the stationing of caravans were granted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Improvements were made to the sanitary accommodation at three factories. These included the provision of six new water closets. The ventilation and heating were improved at one factory, and at another redecoration was carried out.

Outworkers lists received from employers showed that only three persons were employed as such in the Borough.

The register now includes 127 factories (99 having mechanical power at which local authorities' duties are limited to the enforcement of Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, 22 without mechanical power and 6 other premises to which the Factories Act applies).

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The above Act, the object of which is to secure the use of clean filling materials in the manufacture of bedding, toys, baby carriages and other upholstered articles, came into operation on the 1st November, 1951. Premises where certain filling materials are used have to be registered and premises where the materials are manufactured and stored have to be licensed under the provisions of the Act. One business in the Borough has been registered.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Systematic inspection of shops continued and many of the notices outstanding from the previous year were complied with during the year under review. Enforcement of the Shops Act has been considerably strengthened during the last few years. This is again reflected in the notices complied with during 1951 when the following improvement were made: Sanitary accommodation improved at five shops, improved washing facilities (including in many instances the provision of geysers) at 17 shops, improved ventilation at 8 shops, additional seats for staff at six shops. Other contraventions were remedied at 31 shops. Certificates of exemption from the necessity to provide sanitary accommodation are now in operation at five shops.

TERMINAL DISINFECTION

Twenty-one houses were disinfected following the removal of patients to hospital or at the request of occupiers, and six lots of infected bedding were disinfected or destroyed. Fourteen investigations were made following the notifications of cases of infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Registers.—The following make up the current registers:—

Milk distributors	...	...	...	...	...	20
Dairies other than farms	...	...	...	...	...	7

DAIRIES

All dairies were inspected regularly during the year and were maintained at a good standard. At the only dairy where pasteurising is undertaken, further improvements to the plant were made. The further reduction in the number of milk distributors follows the modern trend of absorption of small businesses by larger concerns.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949

The following licences were in operation during the year:—

Dealers' Licences to use the designation

"Tuberculin Tested"	...	8
"Pasteurised"	...	9

Supplementary Licences to use the designation

"Tuberculin Tested"	...	4
"Pasteurised"	...	4

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR "SELF-SUPPLIERS" OF MEAT.

Fifteen pigs were inspected.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AT RETAILERS' SHOPS

Four hundred and five visits were made to shops and food stores for food inspection and the enforcement of other provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Byelaws made thereunder. Food found to be unfit for human consumption weighed 16cwts. 2lbs., a considerable increase over that condemned in the previous year.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, adopted by the Council in 1950, were confirmed by the Ministry of Food early in the year. Copies of these, together with explanatory memoranda and a statement of desired standards, were circulated widely to traders. Full use of the opportunities afforded to discuss the operation of these Byelaws was taken by potential shopkeepers and in three cases proposed premises were not used as food shops after the unsuitable nature of the premises had been explained.

The enforcement of these Byelaws and of Sections 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, all of which concern the suitability of premises for food preparation and personal hygiene in relation to the manufacture, storage and sale of foodstuffs, continued to occupy a good deal of time. Very substantial improvements have been effected at many premises, frequently involving expensive alterations and additional equipment. During the year under review particular attention was again given to the provision of a constant supply of hot water at premises where food is handled and gas or electric water heaters over sinks have now been installed almost without exception. In all 71 notices were issued and 84, including some issued in 1950, were discharged. The following is a summary of the principal improvements made during the year:—

Restaurants, Cafes, Canteens and Snack Bars.—New washing facilities provided at three; additional means for hot water supplies at two; improved ventilation at one; additional sanitary accommodation at one; redecorations at six.

Butchers', Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops.—Partial reconstruction at a butcher's shop; two shops redecorated.

Greengrocers' Shops.—New washing facilities provided at six; additional means for hot water supplies at five and three redecorated. Total reconstruction of one shop.

Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.—New washing facilities at one; additional means for hot water supplies at one; redecorations at two.

Sugar confectionery Shops.—New washing facilities at two; additional means for hot water supplies at one.

Hotels and Boarding Houses.—Additional means for hot water supplies at one; ventilation improved at one; redecorations at one.

Grocers' Shops and General Shops retailing Grocery.—New washing facilities at five; additional means for hot water at four; ventilation improved at three and redecorations at four.

Places of Public Entertainment.—Independent washing facilities and a constant hot water supply were provided at one cinema for employees serving foodstuffs. The catering arrangements from the food

hygiene point of view at the racecourse were maintained satisfactorily. Temporary arrangements for the supply of hot water for cleansing purposes at the marquees were made; the kitchens at the stands are provided with permanent arrangements.

Market Stalls and Mobile Canteens.—These were inspected regularly and particular attention was given to the prevention of fouling of food-stuffs stored pending display. One mobile canteen was repainted following notice; in two others washing facilities were provided on official request.

Ice-cream premises and vendors.—Nine premises from which ice-cream is sold were registered (in seven cases following the issue, of cautions for trading without prior registration); there are now 48 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. Improvements of a general nature were carried out at 12 premises. The vehicles and equipment of mobile vendors are subject to inspection.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Fifteen licences to slaughter or stun animals were granted.

Your obedient servant,
J. BULLOCK,
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Warwick.

TABLE I

BOROUGH OF WARWICK

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR, 1951

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	2474	53	200	154
Lodging Houses ...	3	—	1	—
Factories ...	25	—	11	6
Licensed Premises ...	10	—	1	1
Canal Boats ...	—	—	—	—
Water-closets ...	105	27	65	50
Drainage ...	111	7	101	103
Water Supply ...	43	—	13	5
Places of Entertainment ...	9	—	1	3
Caravans ...	5	—	4	4
Dustbins ...	70	4	12	16
Deposits of Refuse ...	19	1	11	23
Pigsties ...	7	—	6	1
Vermin Infestations ...	980	—	7	6
Shops (Shops' Act, 1934) ...	160	—	38	41
Animals improperly kept ...	7	—	9	3
Smoke Nuisances ...	40	—	7	4
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	11	—	2	4
Cowsheds ...	11	—	—	3
Bakehouses ...	4	—	2	—
Slaughter Houses, Butchers' and other Retail Food Shops ...	405	—	29	36
Occasional Slaughter on Private Premises ...	11	—	—	—
Premises used for Food Preparation ...	195	—	4	27
Ice-Cream Premises and Vehicles ...	46	—	16	21
Miscellaneous Nuisances ...	36	—	28	8
Hotels ...	14	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	4801	92	588	520

	No.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food ...	55
Samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination ...	—
Lots of Infected Bedding, Disinfected or Destroyed ...	6
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease ...	21
„ Disinfected for Vermin ...	17
New houses treated with insecticide as a precautionary measure ...	142

J. BULLOCK, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1951 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.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1945	13,880	257	18.5	9	35	205	14.8
1946	14,310	304	21.2	11	36	157	11.0
1947	14,470	304	21.0	11	36	157	10.9
1948	15,550	281	18.1	7	25	144	9.3
1949	15,170	244	16.1	4	16	152	10.0
1950	15,360	241	15.7	5	20.8	176	11.5
1951	15,550	235	15.1	3	12.8	189	12.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1951.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1951.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	15.5	0.36	12.5	29.6
126 Great Towns, including London			17.3	0.45	13.4	33.9
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	16.7	0.38	12.5	27.6
London	...	...	17.8	0.37	13.1	26.4

TABLE III.

BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1951.

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 Group)	3		2	1					2
Erysipelas									
Scarlet Fever	4		2	2					
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever	1		1						1
Pneumonia	14			2		3	3	6	8
Malaria									
Dysentery	4		3	1					
Puerperal Pyrexia	1					1			1
Meningococcal Infection	1			1					
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	1					1			
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20			1	8	7	4		8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2				1	1			
Totals	51	—	8	8	9	13	7	6	18

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1951

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis (respiratory)	5	3
2 Tuberculosis (other)	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	1	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	6
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
16 Diabetes	—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	12	13
18 Coronary disease, angina	9	10
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	8	6
20 Other heart disease	8	21
21 Other circulatory disease	4	6
22 Influenza	2	2
23 Pneumonia	5	3
24 Bronchitis	7	2
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	2	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30 Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	2	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	8
33 Motor vehicle accidents	—	1
34 All other accidents	3	4
35 Suicide	2	2
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All Causes	96	93



