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Borough of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1955,

BY
D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE
Warwickshire Combined Districts



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

1956





38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

December 31st, 1956.

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
WARWICK.

Mr. MAYOR, Mrs. LEES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my sixth annual report upon the health of the district. There has been a small increase in population and a slight fall in infant mortality. The birth rate is lower and the death rate higher than last year. Early in the year Mr. R. Wormell retired from the post of Borough Engineer and Surveyor and was replaced by Mr. Hector Brown.

The year 1955 saw the completion of your sewerage works which again made possible a satisfactory effluent. There was also a rise in water consumption to point the necessity for the additional bulk supply.

Food and Drugs.—New legislation was announced which will come into full effect during 1956. The application of the new food hygiene regulations will be especially important in Warwick where there is a preponderance of older property in use for the purposes of food or catering business.

Housing.—This year there was again a small programme only of new council housing. Fortunately there was much private development in the Wharf Street area and some progress with plans to develop the Percy Estate. The rise both in building costs and interest rates cannot help the Council's clearance programme. However not all residents in the specified areas will require low cost housing as there are undoubtedly many who can afford a larger rental in exchange for a good house.

The slow progress with the removal of unfit houses has given time to landlords to sell more of them, often to unwary purchasers who pay more than a prudent valuation. In some cases they go on to expend uneconomic sums upon improving their property in apparent ignorance that they may risk considerable loss. Other types of transaction come occasionally to light which are no more than evasion of the Rent Acts by unscrupulous speculators.

Much work has arisen from investigation of applications for improvement grants which have at times overloaded your

small department. Nevertheless one would wish to see more use made of this useful measure. So far its effect in this borough has been mainly limited to owner-occupiers some of whom have attempted costly reconstructions of old dwellings. Meanwhile many tenanted houses of lesser age and greater suitability have remained untouched although they are the main type for which the grant procedure was devised. Fair progress has been made with ordinary repair notices but work is slow to proceed. Your housing list numbers some 800 applications. If, as experience shows, you must ultimately meet 75 per cent. of these, then your needs for this purpose will be almost 600 new houses leaving aside those built as replacements. The waiting period is now five to six years from marriage and may further lengthen. This is a social evil which requires a vigorous solution. In my view the time has come for a start on your proposed programme to acquire and patch unfit houses. Many of these could have a further seven to ten years of useful life and would serve to start off young married couples with a home of their own.

General.—Special attention was given to sampling of your paddling pool where a most disturbing degree of animal pollution was found at peak periods. Proposals were therefore made for a more modern system of purification. The notice of the Council was also drawn to the increasing number of improperly operated diesel vehicles emitting offensive fumes in your streets. It is hoped that existing powers will be used to check this before it becomes, like the factory emissions, a major health problem. Prevention is better than cure in no sphere more than that of securing clean air.

I have once more the pleasant duty of thanking the members and officers of the Council for their support and for many acts of kindness during the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Warwick.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1955	15,670						
Area 5,075 Acres.							
Rateable Value, £124,520							
Product of Id. Rate, £494. (31.3.55)							
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	14.04						
" " " (corrected)	13.8						
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	30.8						
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	11.2						
" " " (corrected)	11.1						
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	<table style="display: inline-table; border: none; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; padding-right: 5px;">{</td> <td>From Sepsis</td> <td style="text-align: right;">—</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; padding-right: 5px;">{</td> <td>From Other Causes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> </table>	{	From Sepsis	—	{	From Other Causes	1
{	From Sepsis	—					
{	From Other Causes	1					
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—							
All Infants per 1,000 live births	27.3						
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.2						
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	77.0						
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—						
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	—						
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—						

Population.—There has been an increase of 50 persons almost all of which can be accounted for by natural increase.

Birth Rate.—The figure is below average and some way under the 1954 rate.

Death Rate.—This is near the average.

Four deaths were due to violence, one from motor vehicle accident, and three from other accidents.

Statistics for the past seven years and also for England and Wales in 1955 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 Engineer :

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

(Retired 31st January, 1955).

H. S. BROWN, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Chartered Civil Engineer.

(Commenced office 1st February, 1955).

Public Analysts :

HILL and RIGBY, Birmingham.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA*Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Dysentery ...	2 ...	— ...	2

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)*Infant Welfare Centres :*

Lakin Road F.A.P. ... Wednesdays 2—4 p.m.

Fridays 2—4 p.m.

Racecourse ... Thursdays 2—4 p.m.

Local enquiries re Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 or 2999).

National Welfare Foods are on sale at Child Welfare Sessions or from :—*W. V.S. Office :* 3, Jury Street, Warwick.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 2-30—4-30 p.m.

Thursday, Saturdays ... 10—11 a.m.

Mrs. BULL, 51, Stratford Road, Warwick.

Monday 2—3-30 p.m. ; Thursday 5—6-30 p.m.

Ambulance.—The Depot is at Lakin Road F.A.P. (Tel. Warwick 86). 24-hour service.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

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

1. *Water Supply.*

Quantity.—The water consumption continued to rise during the year although not quite so sharply as in previous years. The total consumption was 279,792,000 gallons which showed an excess of 10,280,000 gallons over the previous year. Supplementary supplies were again taken in bulk from the Hatton Central Hospital.

Quality.—Samples from the Collecting Well at Haseley and from the town mains were taken by the Health Department and found to be satisfactory.

2. (a) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—The systems were kept in satisfactory order except for the need of minor flushing and clearance of blockages in isolated instances.

Sewage Disposal.—The new main low level outfall sewer completed in 1954 was found to be satisfactory in operation and the ancillary works of storm water tanks, etc., at the disposal works were completed during the year. Apart from some mechanical breakdowns, the works operated satisfactorily and a satisfactory effluent obtained throughout.

2. (b) *Rivers and Streams.*—The levels remained normal and during this year very little trouble was experienced in flooding from this source.

3. *Public Cleansing.*—A satisfactory collection of refuse was maintained but it was found that even a slight shortage of labour lengthened the seven or eight day collection period. The tip at the Stratford Road was maintained in its usual condition. Controlled tipping is not practised.

4. *Swimming Baths.*—Owing to extreme disintegration of the walls during the preceding winter the open air bath was closed to the public. As there is no covered bath regrettably the town now has no swimming bath available for the use of its youth. The degree of pollution of the River Avon must be regarded as making it unsafe for bathers. The head of detergent foam often present is sufficient reminder of the many effluent discharges into this river. Confirmation is given by the copies of analyses supplied by courtesy of the Severn River Board.

HOUSING

Six houses and 18 flats were built by the local authority during the year. Development of a large private estate for about 100 houses was commenced. This estate is at the rear of Wharf Street and at the end of the year roads and sewers had been set out.

Private houses completed on other sites totalled 11.

Considerable progress had been made in the preparation of the road and sewerage details for the new Percy Estate with a view to building being commenced in 1956.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950. (SECTION 8).

Tuberculosis Milk Investigations.—Routine milk samples were taken by authorised officers of the County Council within the Borough and sent for biological examination. Results were obtained from samples taken as follows:—

<i>Designation of Milk</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Positive</i>
Pasteurised	1	—
“ Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ”	—	—
“ Tuberculin Tested ”	1	—
“ Accredited ” and Non-graded ...	1	—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1948.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1948	—	10	—	5	—	—
1949	—	10	—	3	—	—
1950	1	9	1	6	—	—
1951	3	4	1	14	1	1
1952	—	7	—	3	3	11
1953	—	7	—	6	6	10
1954	—	7	—	8	1	15
1955	—	7	—	5	—	10

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1955.

The number of notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia remains high owing to the new statutory definition and the fact that Warwick is one of the local centres for hospital midwifery.

Diphtheria.—No cases were notified for the fourth successive year.

Diphtheria Immunization.—During 1955 16 school children and 186 children under school age were protected for the first time, and 240 Booster doses were given to maintain the immunity of older children.

Measles.—Measles was on a reduced scale this year and only 95 cases were recorded.

Whooping Cough.—16 notifications were made during 1955. 171 infants were immunised against Whooping Cough, either singly or in combination with Diphtheria prophylaxis.

TUBERCULOSIS

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5-10	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	2	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	11	12	3	4	7	1	—	—	4	—	1	—

There was a decrease in the whole county of 67 new notifications as compared with 1954 but, in Warwick Borough the total rose from 14 to 23. Deaths in the same period rose

from 3 to 5 giving the highest mortality rate for any district in the county viz. 0.32 per 1,000 population.

Local press publicity was given to the County Medical Officer's review in his 1955 annual report of the average incidence and mortality rates for the county districts in the five years 1951-1955 inclusive. In respect of pulmonary forms of Tuberculosis the all county rates per 1,000 of population were as set out in the tables below for purposes of comparison.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis

	1955	1951-55
Warwick M.B.	0.26	0.24
Warwick R.D.	0.24	0.19
Leamington M.B.	0.10	0.15
Southam R.D.	0.07	0.09
Kenilworth U.D.	—	0.09
All county average	0.11	0.14

New Notifications

Warwick M.B.	1.46	1.33
Warwick R.D.	1.16	0.94
Leamington M.B.	1.06	0.95
Southam R.D.	0.48	0.76
Kenilworth U.D.	0.61	0.87
All county	0.12	0.91

All figures per 1,000 population per annum.

In 1955 Warwick had 24 out of 106 new cases occurring in the central area i.e. 22.6% whereas its population is only 16% of the whole. For some years the town had a rate of new notifications significantly above the County average and the highest death rate of any district. Although five districts had higher rates for incidence of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis the Warwick figure of 0.20 per 1,000 was still above the average for the whole county (0.16). Warwick's share of the local area's total of notifications and deaths is probably greater than the quoted 22.6 per cent. since a number of cases are attributed to Warwick Rural District solely through the presence in the Central Hospital at Hatton of long-stay patients who may have developed their disease in their place of original residence. Statistical analysis of population by age distribution shows that Warwick does not have an undue predominance of older age groups among which a higher incidence would be expected.

The Mass Radiography Unit made a survey in 1954 at which attendance was less than 6% of the population. Almost

two out of every five persons X-rayed were members of the staff of local authorities. After such poor results the unit did not come in 1955 and a mere 280 persons, living in Warwick, had miniature chest X-rays that year. Only 30 of these were aged 45 years or over and one case of disease was discovered.

Of the 30 local infections in 1955 no stage of the disease was recorded in 11 cases. Of the remaining 19 the staging was as follows :—

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>% of Warwick total (1955)</i>	<i>% of cases in whole county (1955)</i>
Early (R.A.1)	5	26	46
Intermediate (R.B.2)	8	42	39
Advanced (R.B.3)	6	32	15

During the year 38 persons affected by tuberculosis have been notified, 31 having pulmonary and 7 other forms of tuberculosis. 8 of the total were transfers into the district.

Of all 38 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis newly notified in 1955, 12 resided in council houses, 9 in potential clearance areas (or blocks scheduled as unfit) and 17 in other privately owned property. Residents in what may loosely be termed the East End numbered 14 of which 8 were in two streets only.

25 patients were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium, and 22 were discharged during the year.

The following table gives the incidence of Tuberculosis for the period 1935-1955 (21 years) :—

<i>Tuberculosis</i>	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases ...	14	24	21	20	32	27	22
Deaths...	5	12	6	7	8	9	13
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases ...	12	11	38	29	20	31	20
Deaths...	10	13	11	12	9	8	14
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Cases ...	20	21	22	32	40	24	38
Deaths...	6	6	8	1	3	3	5

Of recent years B.C.G. vaccine has been offered to contacts with Tuberculosis who react negatively to skin sensitivity tests and are therefore presumed to be vulnerable to infection. This year 40 persons under fifteen years of age received these injections under the supervision of the Chest Physicians. Segregation after injection is no longer practised except for the occasional boarding out of infants. Where this proves necessary, the County Health Committee is able to defray the cost of boarding the infant out in a suitable foster-home for a six weeks period.

Thanks are due to Dr. S. W. Savage, County Medical Officer for much statistical information regarding the county and its various districts which has appeared in his annual report for 1955. So far as the Borough's small total can justify significant conclusions, these can be drawn as follows :—

- (1) that Warwick has a recent notification rate of pulmonary tuberculosis which is above the average and one of the highest in the County.
- (2) that the associated mortality rate (averaged for the years 1951-1955) is the highest in the county.
- (3) that the ratio of early to intermediate plus late stage notifications is less favourable in Warwick than in the whole county.
- (4) that the acceptance rate for mass radiography surveys has been much below that achieved in other county districts including some of those where the known incidence of Tuberculosis has been less than half the Warwick rate.
- (5) that Tuberculosis incidence may be related to the high percentage of unfit or substandard houses known to exist within the borough. The Council's proposals to deal with these have been submitted to and approved by the appropriate Ministry but little action has yet been possible.

This borough has a much higher proportion than its neighbours of old, worn out or unfit dwellings. Action to deal with these by clearance, demolition, patching, etc., has so far been on a regrettably small scale having regard to the large number of houses in a condition which cannot be regarded as other than prejudicial to health. The injurious effects of substandard property upon the health of the occupants will be masked to some extent by the Council's recent activity in giving priority in tenancy allocation of new Council

houses to the families where modified active Tuberculosis exists. Thus the balance tends to shift unduly away from unfit areas towards Council estates if the register is classified upon a geographical basis and perhaps to obscure the urgent need for improvement of housing conditions.

An intensive local X-ray survey is required in 1956 having the fullest support of the council with the aim of obtaining a response equal to or better than that achieved in comparable county districts. Propaganda will need to be varied and intensive and directed specially towards encouraging the attendance of persons (a) over 45 years old and (b) referred by general medical practitioners as these groups normally contain the highest proportion of active cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 of this Act provides that where persons—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, and the Medical Officer of Health gives a written certificate in the prescribed form, the local authority may apply to a court, having jurisdiction for an order to remove the person to a suitable and convenient place e.g. hospital. Seven days clear notice must be given of the intended application and it must also be given to the person managing the premises. The order, if granted, may authorize a person's detention for a period not exceeding three months.

Investigation was made into four cases reported by various agencies. Two of these proved to be simple welfare problems. Notes follow regarding the two others.

Case 1.—Mrs. A. R.—. This woman had been infirm for many years as the result of a stroke. Her husband died suddenly some years before and she was dependent on the services of a working son and occasional home help. There was gradual deterioration and she was not suitable for Part III accommodation. With the aid of her doctor a place was found in the chronic wards of a local hospital where she later died.

Case 2.—Mr. H. P.—. A single man living alone as a recluse behind and over a shop had allowed both his person and living quarters to fall into a neglected condition. After careful note had been taken of conditions it was felt that the proper remedy was by way of the nuisance clauses of the Public Health Act 1936. After an ineffective statutory notice, the Council obtained the issue of a summons and the Court ordered compliance within one month with the terms of the original notice.

Two prominent citizens came forward to give much practical help and a very great improvement was thus made to the deplorable situation. However at a later date he sold up his small business and took up residence in Part III accommodation.

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, 1955.

Inspections and re-inspections of all classes totalled 4,858, compared with 4,839 in 1954 and 4,884 in 1953.

Table I gives details of inspections; the high annual figure for inspections of dwellinghouses was maintained and work in connection with food hygiene, pest destruction and Shops Act administration was continued on the intensified scale of the last few years.

Housing inspections for the Selection of Tenants Sub-committee again occupied a great deal of time, but as these are closely related to other statutory housing duties with which the department is concerned they were conveniently combined with normal housing work.

HOUSING

Ten houses which had become dangerously dilapidated were represented under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as unfit for human habitation. Demolition orders were made in respect of nine of these houses and in one case an undertaking to use the premises for business purposes only was accepted. Twelve houses were demolished under the terms of demolition orders made in earlier years and a further seven unfit houses as a result of informal action. Six families were rehoused by the local authority from houses subject to demolition orders and nine families from the West End Clearance Area were also rehoused. Three houses in this area were demolished. In all, 22 houses were demolished during the year.

Under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Minister of Housing and Local Government required the authority to submit proposals for dealing with unfit houses and stated that if it was felt that all such houses could be dealt with during the next five years proposals should be framed accordingly, otherwise a statement was to be submitted showing houses which it was proposed to demolish within the first five years and at the same time giving details of unfit houses it was proposed to acquire within the first period and demolish in a subsequent period. Houses acquired for later demolition were to be subject to the "deferred demolition" provisions of the 1954 Act by which financial assistance is given to enable such dwellings to be brought up to a minimum standard for the time being.

The Council's proposals were submitted towards the end of the year. These gave the total number of unfit houses as 820 and ten years as the period which the Council thought necessary for securing their demolition. Of the total problem the Council proposed to demolish 298 houses in the first five year period and, still in the first period, acquire 314 houses for temporary repair and subsequent demolition. It was not proposed to acquire the balance which makes the figure up to the 820 declared. Approval of the whole programme was received at the end of the year when the Minister asked that it should be pursued vigorously.

The Council resolved to make available to occupiers of unfit houses a number of municipal houses (not necessarily new houses) equal to one-half of the number built annually during the next few years, thus taking advantage of the full subsidy for this proportion. Higher building costs and interest rates have unfortunately already done much to offset the benefits of the preferential subsidy for slum clearance and undoubtedly difficulties will arise in providing suitable alternative accommodation for some in condemned property. Nevertheless, there are many in these unfit houses who at the present time can afford the higher rents and who should be prepared to set aside a greater proportion of the family income for a good house than is the case while they live in grossly sub-standard houses. Though slum clearance proposals may have to be extended over a longer period, the rent question should not result in a serious weakening of effort to rid the town of its black spots. With determination and ingenuity the problem could still be solved in a period little longer than the ten years envisaged when the proposals were submitted.

The local slum clearance problem should now be circumscribed, not by adopting a lower standard to reduce the number of houses involved or by extending the period of action substantially, but by preventing an enlargement of the problem in parts of the town which cannot be dealt with finally until more urgent cases elsewhere have been dealt with. In this connection the "deferred demolition" proposals are most important and their implementation urgent. Acquisition of houses bought for temporary improvement could ensure that only people already living in unfit houses would occupy dwellings in which casual vacancies occur. Houses would be improved to a standard good enough for the time being for a proportion of those living in clearance areas for whom suitable municipal houses are not available. The areas concerned could be redeveloped in manageable stages.

Delays in commencing the Percy Estate have prevented the formal representation of further clearance areas but this should not interfere with the complementary and equally important process of acquiring unfit houses for temporary improvement. Until active steps are taken in this direction, the total problem will not be reduced to the extent it ought to be, as nearly every unfit house vacated, not already subject to a confirmed order, is bought by someone who adds ultimately to the town's rehousing burden.

There is a steadily increasing number of owner-occupiers in clearance areas. Some of these are not absolute owners but have to accept all the responsibilities of owners. They have usually agreed to buy at an exorbitant price, have failed to obtain a loan from a building society, have gambled on the remaining life of the property and have disregarded the probability that the Council will acquire the house and that they will become tenants until alternative accommodation is found and the house demolished. The financial arrangements they have made can often result in serious difficulties when the property is compulsorily acquired and at best they are an evasion of the Rents Acts to bring in an income to the true landlord vastly in excess of that he derived from the property when it was subject to rent control.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS AND REPAIRS

Apart from inspections made under sections 11 and 25 (provisions relating to unfit houses not capable of being rendered fit) and of section

58 (overcrowding) of the Housing Act, 1936, 205 houses were inspected under the Housing Acts. Eighty-five notices, some of them calling for comprehensive maintenance repairs, were served during the year and 33 were complied with. In the case of the better class property capable of providing good accommodation for many years to come, intimation notices forwarded to owners gave particulars of defects calling for urgent remedy, and, where necessary, in addition drew attention to work necessary in the interests of timely maintenance.

This action, coupled with that made concerning applications for improvement grants under the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1949-54, has resulted in a large number of instances where a general overhaul has been carried out. To the end of the year, 55 inquiries, involving 80 houses, had been received about the possibility of grants, and 114 investigations and inspections had been made. The position at 31st December, 1955 was that of the inquiries made, in 9 cases all the work of improvement and necessary repair had been completed and the grants paid; in 30 instances the work was in progress; 5 applications had not been approved by the Council and 11 applicants had decided not to proceed further. In nearly every case the scale of improvements was very high, and, due to the extensive reconstruction necessary in most cases, the work was expensive. So far the majority of applications have come from owner-occupiers and there has been little interest evinced by landlords of the substantial terrace-type property which is common in certain parts of the town. The grant provisions were designed principally for this latter class of property and it was envisaged that these Victorian dwellings could be modernised at far less cost than that entailed in the modernisation of some of the older dwellings for which grants have been approved in Warwick.

In all, a total of 522 inspections were made under the Housing Acts during the year. Due to insufficient labour for repair work, the difficulty experienced in getting repairs carried out within a reasonable time continued, even though in most cases the defects made the subject of notices were of an urgent nature. Quite often a period of several months now elapses from the date an owner has been persuaded to place an order with a builder and that on which the work is completed.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING

Six new houses and 18 flats were occupied during the year. The 6 houses were of the Cornish Unit type and were built on the former Saltisford Common. Seventeen casual vacancies in existing houses occurred. At the end of the year the local authority owned 1,116 houses (including 50 prefabricated bungalows), 82 flats and 12 bungalows, or in total over 25% of the dwellings in the Borough. In all 38 families, with a population of 128, were rehoused during the year.

Thirteen of these families were rehoused from rooms, 19 from houses subject to demolition or clearance orders and 6 from poor and/or overcrowded dwellings not subject to demolition orders. Two families were rehoused on the grounds of tuberculosis. As in previous years quite a number of transfers were arranged to make better use of municipal accommodation and several of the prefabricated bungalows figured in this process.

In the ten years since the end of 1945, 730 families comprising 2,721 persons have been rehoused, but during the same period there have been 1,771 applications, 103 of these being registered during 1955.

Though quite a number of applications are cancelled either at the request of the applicants or upon instructions from the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee, the majority are found to be genuinely made and experience shows that three out of every four have eventually to be satisfied. The rate of new applications continued to fall but was still far in excess of the rate of building and average waiting period was again lengthened. It will be seen that new building during 1955 fell very much short of the annual requirement.

At the 31st December, there were 780 applications outstanding, 419 being in rooms or otherwise without a house and 361 in houses. Most of the latter were occupying overcrowded and/or unfit dwellings. Of the 419 applications from homeless people, 159 were from childless couples, 159 from applicants with one child, 76 from those with two children, 21 from applicants with three children and 4 from applicants with four or more children. Of the homeless, the average waiting period since marriage was over six years and considerably longer in the case of applicants occupying houses unsuitable for their needs.

As has been stated in previous reports, the number of housing applicants falls far short of the total of new houses needed, as the figure includes only a small proportion of the tenants of houses which must be demolished to bring about a substantial improvement in the general standard of houses in the town. Many cases of overcrowding too do not figure in the register of applicants.

The unfortunate delay in commencing the Percy Estate made the work of the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee during the year particularly thankless; the members of the Sub-Committee and the staff answering repeated enquiries in an unavoidably negative fashion from day to day made this the most depressing year since the post-war housing programme began. The position was even more unsatisfactory in respect of the availability of plots for private building, the urgent need for which has been discussed so often. High priority in the stages of this Estate's development must be given to making available as quickly as possible land for private development if the opportunity to obtain a reasonable balance between municipal and private building is not to be irretrievably lost.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Two thousand, nine hundred and thirty-two inspections were made for the purposes of the Public Health Act. As in previous years, most of the 480 Public Health Act notices issued related to dwelling house defects of a general nature and were limited to urgent matters. In 80 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices.

DRAINAGE, SANITARY ACCOMMODATION, WASHING ACCOMMODATION AND REFUSE RECEPTACLES

Ninety-four notices requiring choked drains to be cleared or defective drains to be repaired were complied with; 45 notices requiring repairs to water-closets received attention; 4 washhouses were rebuilt or repaired in compliance with notices; 12 dustbins required by notice were provided and 16 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	...	...	7,160
	Females	...	...	371
	Total	...	...	7,531
Under 10 years		...	...	Nil

This is a decrease of 113 on the returns for the previous year.

VERMIN INFESTATIONS

Rats and Mice.—Systematic investigations to ascertain infestations were continued. During the year the Department dealt with and treated infestations principally of a minor character, making the following visits: dwellinghouses 203, factories and offices 15, shops 12, clubs and licensed premises 4, schools 6, hotels 2, cafes 2, allotments and plots of land 13, streams 7, hospitals 4, places of entertainment 8, cattlemarket 8.

The Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works were treated regularly. Three large blocks of properties were surveyed and seven visits were made to other properties belonging to the Corporation concerning infestations.

Bed Bugs.—Complaints of bed bugs were again fewer than usual a few years ago. Apart from issuing insecticide to applicants, the Department treated 17 houses successfully. Thorough precautions to prevent infestations of new houses and flats were adopted in all cases where tenants of infested houses were rehoused in municipal accommodation.

SMOKE NUISANCES

Observations of industrial chimneys carried out resulted in five notices being served when excessive atmospheric pollution was observed. Interviews with managements and the stokers concerned were carried out as found necessary.

The question of the increasing pollution of the atmosphere due to diesel exhausts was considered during the year. It was felt that due largely to the inclines of the approach roads and the narrowness of the streets, the main streets in the centre of the town were badly affected by smoke from diesel engine exhausts, that is, by smoke being made quite unnecessarily. The matter was considered by the Council at the end of the year and it was decided to draw the attention of the Police Authorities to the nuisance.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT PUBLIC HOUSES AND PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

The sanitary accommodation at the cinema and at licensed premises generally was found to be of a good standard and well maintained. At one licensed premises the accommodation was improved after representations to the owners concerned.

CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Seven 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. Caravans were also moved from the grass verge of a public highway. Six licences permitting the stationing of caravans are now in operation in the Borough.

NOISE NUISANCES

Complaints were received of excessive noise from extractor fans to paint spraying booths at two factories. Representations were made to the firms concerned and in both cases steps were taken by them to abate the nuisances.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Additional sanitary accommodation was provided at three factories and the existing accommodation was improved at eight factories. Washing facilities were improved at one factory. Notices requiring adequate ventilation at five factories and improved cleanliness at one factory were complied with during the year. The Register now includes 129 factories, 99 having mechanical power (at which local authority's duties are limited to the enforcement of section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937), 20 without mechanical power and 10 other premises to which the Factories Act applies.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One business in the Borough has been registered as required by this Act, and regular inspections are made of the premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Inspections and re-inspections of shops have continued throughout the year. The following improvements were made at shops during the year under review: sanitary accommodation improved at 2 shops; improved washing facilities at 2 shops; improved ventilation at 3 shops. Other contraventions were remedied at 12 shops. Certificates of exemption from the necessity to provide sanitary accommodation are now in operation at four shops.

TERMINAL DISINFECTION

Twenty houses were disinfected following removal of patients to hospital or at the request of occupiers, and 23 lots of bedding were disinfected or destroyed. Seventeen investigations were made following notifications of infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

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

Milk distributors	19
Dairies other than farms	6

DAIRIES

Dairies were inspected regularly during the year and were maintained at a good standard.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences were in operation during the year :—

Dealers' Licences to use the designation :—

" Tuberculin Tested " ...	12
" Pasteurised " ...	16
" Sterilised " ...	2

Supplementary Licences to use the designation :—

" Tuberculin Tested " ...	3
" Pasteurised " ...	3
" Sterilised " ...	2

INSPECTION OF FOOD AT RETAILERS' SHOPS

Seven hundred and forty-nine visits were made to retail food shops and similar premises, 165 were made to premises used for food preparation, 43 to ice-cream premises and vehicles and 10 to hotels. Food found to be unfit for human consumption weighed 4 cwts. 3 qrs. 7 lbs. again a considerable reduction on the amount condemned in previous years.

The enforcement of sections 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act and of the Byelaws made under section 15 of the Act, all of which concern the suitability of premises for food preparation and of personal hygiene in relation to the handling of food, continued to receive full attention. The year closed with the publication of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Of the numerous regulations made under the Act, food hygiene is the subject with which this local authority will be most concerned. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, were due to come into force on the 1st January, 1956; they embrace a very large and varied field of activity, from small kiosks, snack bars and general shops to public houses, factory canteens, cafes, restaurants, grocers, hotels and boarding houses, and include all persons handling food, not forgetting the itinerant food traders. The enforcement of these Regulations will involve a great deal of work. Though many shops and food premises have excellent and often expensive fittings, the advantages which these should confer are often lost because of low standards of personal hygiene on the part of those who handle food. A difficulty experienced in Warwick is that many of the food premises are very congested and ill-designed and unless improvements undertaken are of a permanent character and allow for reasonable expansion of business, the necessity for regular overhaul, involving greater expense than modern premises call for, is unavoidable. There is however no doubt that the general standard of food handling is slowly improving and food traders are finding that CLEAN FOOD is GOOD BUSINESS. The housewife's purse could be more effective than the Regulations, if she chose to use it.

Attention was directed to the need for stricter cleanliness at food premises and in 7 instances, conditions were improved. One cafe considered unsuitable was closed temporarily and only re-opened after considerable improvements had been carried out. In all 78 notices were issued and at the end of the year 70, including some from previous years, had been complied with.

The following is a summary of the principal improvements made during the year :—

Restaurants, Cafes, Canteens and Snack Bars.—New washing facilities at 5 ; redecorations at 7 ; improved sanitary accommodation at 3 ; structural improvements at 4.

Butchers', Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops.—Five shops redecorated.

Greengrocers' Shops.—New washing facilities at 2 ; one shop redecorated.

Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.—One shop redecorated.

Sugar Confectionery Shops.—New washing facilities at 2 ; one shop redecorated.

Hotels and Boarding Houses.—Structural improvements at one ; redecorations at one.

Grocers' Shops and General Shops Retailing Grocery.—Improved washing facilities at 2 ; sanitary accommodation improved at one ; one redecorated ; structural improvements at 3.

Market Stalls and Mobile Canteens.—Inspected regularly, particular attention being given to the protection of foodstuffs. Canteens and food stalls at Warwick Mop and the Racecourse were inspected. As in previous years vehicles and stalls were approved and, where necessary, enquiries were made to other local authorities concerning registrations, before any Food Vendor was allowed to trade at Warwick Mop.

Ice-Cream Premises and Vehicles.—Three premises were registered during the year ; there are now 71 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream in the Borough. Forty-three inspections were made and improvements of a general nature were carried out at 9 premises. The vehicles and equipment of mobile vendors were inspected frequently.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

As found necessary, shops were visited during the year in connection with the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder, concerning correct labelling of foods displayed for sale.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Eleven licenses to slaughter or stun animals were granted.

WATER SAMPLING

Samples of the public water supply were submitted to the Public Analyst and to the Public Health Laboratory Service during 1955 as follows :—

For chemical analysis	...	...	...	...	4
For bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	7

The samples for chemical analysis were also submitted for mineral analysis.

Results received are as follows:—

<i>Sample taken from</i>	<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>	
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tap, Town Centre ...	2	—	2	—
Gathering Ground, Haseley ...	2	—	3	—
Reservoir, Hatton ...	—	—	1	—
Well, Woodloes ...	—	—	1	—

The result of the mineral analysis showed the water to be hard, high in dissolved carbon dioxide, likely to have a corrosive effect when heated and with high iron content.

Six samples of water were also submitted during the year from the Children's Paddling Pool, St. Nicholas' Park, for bacteriological examination. The results showed all except one to be unsatisfactory.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The result of Court Proceedings during 1955 are as follows:—

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Notice served under</i>	<i>Result</i>
No. 97, Friar Street	Ruinous building.	Warwick Corporation Act, 1928, sec. 44.	Order made for demolition within 56 days. Costs awarded to Council 8s. 6d.
No. 4, West Rock.	Filthy and verminous premises.	Public Health Act, 1936, sec. 93.	Nuisance order made for compliance with notice within 28 days.
No. 8, Hill Street.	Defective roofs and gutterings.	Do.	Nuisance order made for compliance with notice within 56 days. Costs awarded to Council 8s. 6d.
No. 14, Hill Street.	Do.	Do.	Do.

CONCLUSION

I wish to thank members of the Council for their ready co-operation in seeking to raise the standard of environmental conditions with which I am concerned. I desire also to thank chief officers of other departments for helpful co-operation and the members of my staff for their willingness to meet the increased demands upon the office and for their excellent services throughout the year.

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, 1955

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	2345	45	292	285
Lodging Houses	6	2	2	1
Factories	56	—	13	19
Licensed Premises	12	1	2	1
Canal Boats	—	—	—	—
Water-closets	141	8	49	45
Drainage	97	12	74	94
Water Supply	63	3	14	8
Places of Entertainment ...	13	—	3	2
Caravans	7	—	4	4
Dustbins	77	—	5	5
Deposits of Refuse	63	1	22	16
Pigsties	25	—	—	1
Vermin Infestations	822	1	3	5
Shops	126	—	45	36
Animals improperly kept ...	37	—	1	3
Smoke Nuisances	38	—	5	7
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	7	—	—	—
Bakehouses	7	—	4	2
Slaughter Houses, Butchers' and other Retail Food Shops ...	749	—	35	33
Occasional Slaughter on Private Premises	—	—	—	—
Premises used for Food Preparation	165	—	26	19
Ice-Cream Premises and Vehicles	43	—	7	12
Miscellaneous Nuisances ...	49	8	44	50
Hotels	10	—	2	1
TOTALS	4958	81	652	649

	No.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	15
Samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination	—
Lots of Infected Bedding, Disinfected or Destroyed	23
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	20
„ Disinfested for Vermin	17
New houses and flats treated with insecticide as a precautionary measure	24

J. BULLOCK, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1955 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
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
1952	15,510	270	17.4	6	22.2	166	10.7
1953	15,620	238	15.2	3	12.6	171	10.9
1954	15,620	252	16.1	8	31.7	160	10.2
1955	15,670	220	14.0	6	22.2	175	11.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1955.

(Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births.	Still Brths per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Brths.
England and Wales	15.0	23.1	11.7 24.9

TABLE III.

BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1955.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	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)									
Erysipelas	1						1		
Scarlet Fever	7	1	5		1				2
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Pneumonia	5	1					4		
Malaria									
Dysentery	2				2				
Puerperal Pyrexia	10			6	4				10
Meningococcal Infection	2	2							2
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)									
Whooping Cough	16	1	10	5					2
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Measles	95	2	47	43	3				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31		4	6	13	5	3		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	1	3	1	1	1			
Food Poisoning	2	2							2
Totals	178	5	62	60	16	21	11	3	18

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	1	—
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	7
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16 Diabetes	—	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	12
18 Coronary disease, angina	9	4
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	3
20 Other heart disease	13	21
21 Other circulatory disease	2	4
22 Influenza	1	—
23 Pneumonia	4	6
24 Bronchitis... ..	10	5
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1
31 Congenital malformations	2	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34 All other accidents	2	1
35 Suicide	—	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	93	82



