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Borough of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT

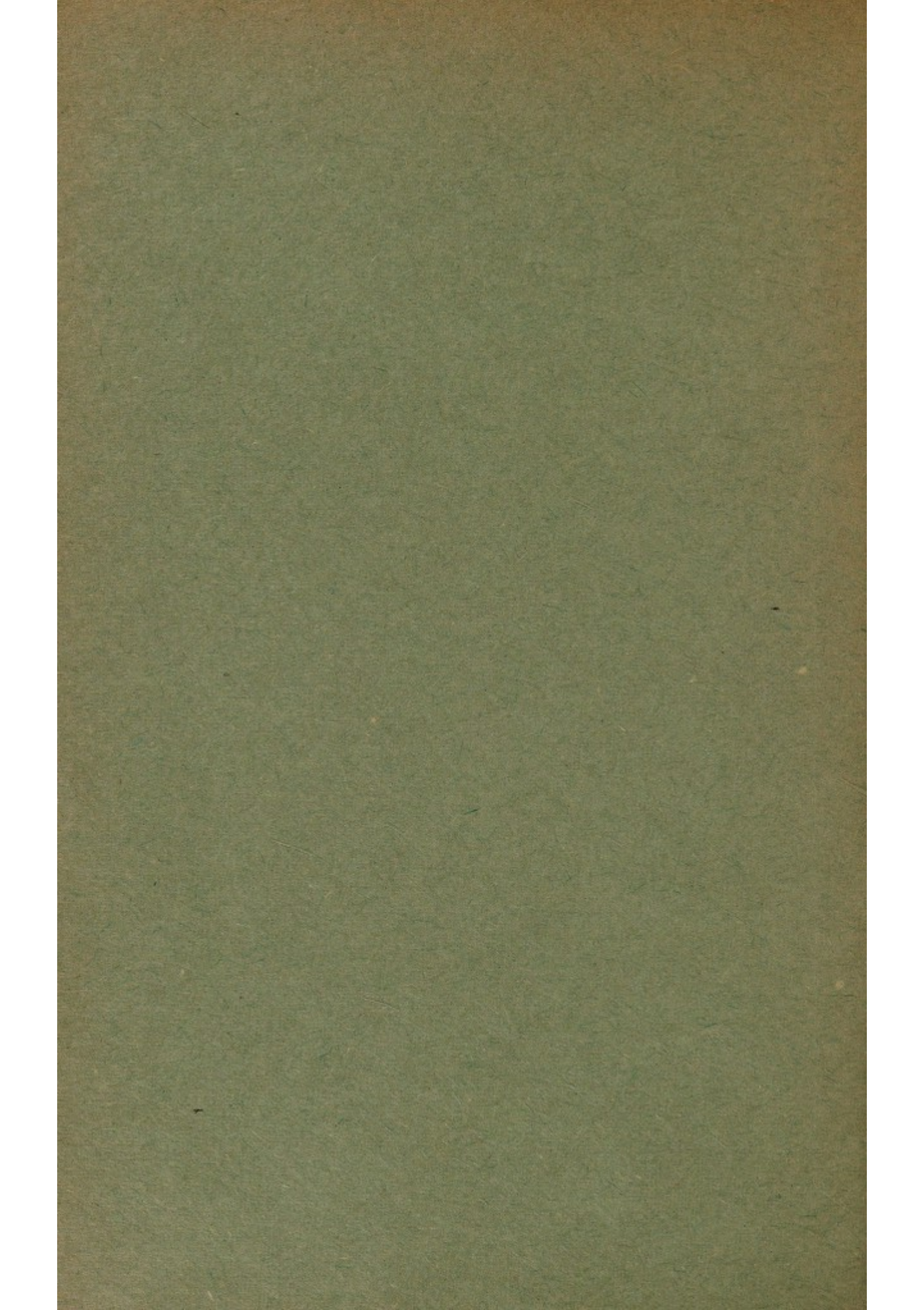
OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1968

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

1969



1 EUSTON SQUARE,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

5th August, 1969.

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
WARWICK

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for 1968 concerning the health of your district.

Birth and death rates fell and the population rose by almost a thousand. The incidence of infectious disease was low. Illegitimate births formed 8.7% of the total live births.

Future housing development has been slowed down following representations by the river authority regarding the overloading of your sewage disposal works at Longbridge. Spray irrigation of land has continued in an attempt to improve the final effluent entering the River Avon. Containment of sludge has also been a problem during this wet year and on one occasion an escape of this material to the river could not be prevented.

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports elsewhere that the council's slum clearance programme is now virtually at an end. The original plan was to deal with 820 unfit houses within ten years. Execution of the plan in practice took fourteen years but an additional 80 houses were included in the process. His report also gives much detail of food premises.

I have to thank the members of the Council for their interest in and support of the department's work. It is also a pleasant duty to thank all my colleagues on your staff for their help and unfailing courtesy. In particular recognition is due to Mr. Bullock, Chief Public Health Inspector, who has over the years done so much to lighten my task.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,
Medical Officer of Health.

1968

Population (estimated) Mid-year	...	...	18,690
Area	5,057	acres	
Rateable Value	...	...	£960,875
Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£3,976
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	14.2
" " " " (corrected)	...	...	14.8
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	26
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	10.4
" " " " (corrected)	...	...	10.0
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	15
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	16.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—

The Birth Rate and death rate both fell.

Statistics for the past nine years and also for England and Wales in 1968 will be seen under Table II.

Medical Officer of Health :

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

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

MYRTLE V. RICHARDS, M.B., CH.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.,

Senior Public Health 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 Managers.

Deputy Chief Public Health 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 Water Engineer :

C. E. BROWN, M.I.MUN.E.

Assistant Housing Inspector :

Mr. H. D. NASH.

Assistant Housing Officer :

Mr. D. A. KENT.

Clerical Staff:

Senior Clerk—Mrs. O. M. JAMES.

Clerk/Typists—Mrs. P. M. NEVILLE (resigned June 1968).

—Miss S. A. SMITH.

—Miss P. L. RUSSELL (from September 1968).

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act Inspector:

Mr. L. KERSHAW (part-time) (resigned June 1968).

General Handyman and Rodent Operative :

Mr. T. FIELD.

Public Analysts :

BOSTOCK, HILL and RIGBY, Birmingham.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

Infant Welfare Centres.

Cape Road C.W.C.	... Mondays	2—4 p.m.
	Fridays	2—4 p.m.

Local enquiries re Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 1 Euston Square, Leamington Spa ('Phone 27284).

National Welfare Foods are on sale at Child Welfare Clinics.

Ambulance.—The depot in Montague Road, Warwick, serves Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth and district. Superintendent: Mr. Allen (Tel. Warwick 42387).

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

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

Water Supply.—A satisfactory supply was maintained throughout the year by the South Warwickshire Water Board. Heavy rains during the summer must necessarily have eased supply provisions.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Only in minor instances were any difficulties experienced in sewerage systems. The Council's consultants introduced preliminary plans for the drainage of the Northern Area, together with trunk outfall sewers both for storm and foul drainage.

Sewage Disposal.—Having in mind overloading difficulties the works were maintained reasonably satisfactorily. Particular concern was caused in the retention of sludge within the lagoons and considerable quantities were accordingly transported to other sites. An inquiry into the new sewage disposal works was conducted by a Ministry of Housing Inspector, the immediate result of which was the invitation for tenders for the new sludge drying unit.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.—A weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year.

Housing.—The extension of the group of dwellings for old people at Saltisford Gardens by the addition of 23 bungalows and another warden's house was completed. This extension was named Antelope Gardens. In the same scheme 29 family houses were also built for municipal housing purposes. The scheme for building for sale of 25 houses in Hill Street was also completed. Private housing development was very limited owing to the curb imposed regarding planning permissions.

Rivers and Water Courses.—Extreme flooding was experienced in August and roads were impassable in the West End. Bridge End and St. Nicholas Park were also flooded.

Only in one instance in Bridge End was it found necessary to evacuate householders.

Swimming Baths and Paddling Pool.—The inclement weather was not conducive to satisfactory bathing conditions. The analysis of the water in the swimming bath gave good results.

The Engineer/Manager of the South Warwickshire Water Board has kindly supplied the information that 7,208 houses

in the Borough have a direct piped supply serving a recorded population of 17,770 persons. No houses remain dependent upon a standpipe. Water is chlorinated as necessary and has been sufficient in quantity and quality. A Joint Laboratory Service with two other Boards was set up on 1st April 1967 and regular chemical and bacteriological examinations are carried out at their Rugby laboratory. Details follow of one analysis report made by the Chief Chemist.

Water analysis results expressed in parts per million.
Received on: 3rd December 1968.

From : South Warwickshire Water Board Laboratory Service.
Description : Haseley (chlorinated).

Chlorine in Chlorides ...	...	29
Manganese		0.01
Iron (Fe) ...	...	0.08
Alka Ca Co ₃ ...	...	217
Total Hardness ...	...	306
Fluoride. F. ...	...	0.22

(Signed) B. Rhodes, Chief Chemist.

D. HOUSING

Mr. Bullock has dealt with this subject in detail later in this report. It is therefore only desired to draw attention to the virtual completion of your slum clearance programme begun in 1955. Demolition took place in 1968 of 59 houses subject to individual orders and 17 in clearance areas. No wartime prefab bungalows remain in occupation. The Council is now the landlord of almost one-third of the houses in the town.

E. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 (SECTION 31)

Tuberculosis Milk Investigations.—Five milk samples were taken by County Council Officers within the Borough and sent for biological examination in 1968. Results were negative for Tubercle bacilli. An additional sample was examined for Brucella Abortus.

Samples were also taken under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1953 (as amended) insofar as these relate to dealers' licences.

		<i>Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>
Untreated	...	5	5	0
Pasteurized	...	59	58	1*
Sterilized	...	3	3	0

* Failed Methylene Blue but passed phosphatase test.

This information has been given by courtesy of the County Medical Officer. Other items appear in the report by Mr. Bullock.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1960.

		Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Dysentery
1961	...	317	19	16	—	2	—	—
1962	...	14	3	1	—	3	—	15
1963	...	367	33	—	—	4	—	12
1964	...	66	8	5	—	1	—	8
1965	...	148	4	2	—	1	—	—
1966	...	231	11	8	—	—	—	6
1967	...	176	4	15	—	—	—	10
1968	...	33	3	4	—	—	—	—

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the notifications for 1968.

This was a year in which few notifications of infectious disease were received. The incidence of measles was low but this cannot be ascribed to the new vaccine first employed in the summer months. Not only did fewer children come forward for vaccination than had been expected but the largest supplier withdrew his vaccine from the market in order to modify the production. Stocks, therefore, have been small during 1968-69 and it may be some months before the situation improves.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis

B.C.G. Vaccination.—School children in their 13th year undergo a skin sensitivity test. B.C.G. vaccine may be given to those who show no reaction. Positive reactors are not vaccinated but are investigated if the reaction is very strong after a normal Heaf test. Signed parental consent is obtained before tests begin.

Number of children given Heaf Tests	...	801
" " " vaccinated	...	615
" " positive reactors	...	131
" investigated by X-Rays	...	31
" absent for readings of test	...	55

These figures relate to senior children attending six Warwick schools but not all these reside within the borough. Following an X-ray one child was referred for medical investigation.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1968

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following table gives the incidence of Tuberculosis for the period 1948-1968—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cases ...	20	20	21	22	32	40	24
Deaths ...	14	6	6	8	1	3	3
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Cases ...	28	23	27	20	22	11	5
Deaths ...	5	3	1	—	—	1	2
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Cases ...	5	7	8	3	3	5	8
Deaths ...	2	1	3	—	—	—	1

The sole death was from non-respiratory Tuberculosis. The figures for the past decade show a most encouraging improvement over the preceding one; this must be due in part to social as well as medical factors. Both incidence and deaths had fallen almost to one quarter of the earlier figures in spite of some population growth in this decade.

Eight new notifications were received, all being adults. 1 death occurred due to Tuberculosis.

Two patients were admitted to Sanatorium and three patients were discharged during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

This table is enclosed by a request of the Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961, to be furnished in their Annual Reports with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. This table, which is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, should be attached as an annex to the Report.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968 FOR THE BOROUGH OF WARWICK IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Insp'tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	20	1	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	97	14	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).....	14	—	—	—
Total.....	123	34	8	—

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	3	2			
Total	8	6	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Four out-workers were recorded in the list required by Section 133 (i) (c), Part VIII of the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 of this Act provides for Medical Officers of Health to make official representations to their Councils with a view to application being made to the local magistrates' court for an order authorizing the compulsory removal to, and detention in, an institution of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease. The like action may also be taken in regard to persons who are living in insanitary conditions (being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated) and not having proper care and attention.

One woman was reported by her doctor during the year as not in receipt of care and attention.

Case Report. Mrs. O— (83 years) was living in warden accommodation for old persons. Confusion accompanied mild heart failure early this year and she became frail. She was smoking excessively was careless in disposal of stubs and tended to drop china and break it. She refused advice to enter hospital for a period and her doctor asked that the Council should consider whether or not to apply to the Court for her compulsory removal. However, this step was avoided as she removed about this time to reside at the home of a son.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting a report covering the activities of my department for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The following summary shows the progress made since 1945 in clearing away unfit houses:—

<i>Houses demolished</i>			<i>From 1945 to 1964 (inc.)</i>	1965	1966	1967	1968	<i>Total</i>
Individual Demolition								
Orders	...	...	437	86	34	30	59	646
In Clearance Areas	...	...	223	38	1	—	17	279
			660	124	35	30	70	925

In addition to the above, all temporary prefabricated bungalows built immediately after the War, 50 in all, have been demolished.

STATUTORY ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACT DURING THE YEAR.

Thirteen houses were represented for action under the demolition order provisions for individual houses, six demoli-

tion orders and four closing orders being made; decisions affecting three houses were deferred. Four demolition orders were made on properties represented previously.

At the end of the year the Paradise Street/Vine Lane Redevelopment was well advanced.

PROGRESS UNDER THE 1955 SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The slum clearance programme initiated in 1955 was to all intents and purposes completed in 1968, when it was possible to rehouse most of the old people who had remained in unfit houses long after their younger neighbours had been found municipal accommodation. In consequence it was possible to demolish some rows of houses which had remained eyesores long after most had been vacated.

The total of the original programme was 820, which, with additions made in the intervening years bringing the total to rather more than 900, were to be demolished within ten years from the date the programme was approved. It will be seen that the total number of unfit houses demolished since the end of the War had risen to 925 by the end of 1968—nearly a quarter of the houses in the Borough in 1945.

The completion of the old people's bungalows at Pickard Street late in 1967 provided a welcome opportunity to deal with a number of condemned dwellings and, with casual vacancies occurring from time to time in the greatly increased number of old people's dwellings in the town, there are now few old people living alone in unfit property.

The Housing Committee is continuing to pursue its policy of phasing out the sub-standard houses it acquired and patched up for temporary occupation, chiefly in Stand Street and Friars Street, though progress in this is unavoidably slow and 23 still remain occupied. They call for early demolition.

Further progress was made in the removal of unfit properties in the town centre which is the subject of limited redevelopment; the remaining houses in West Rock were demolished. Demolition is now unfortunately far ahead of redevelopment, and notwithstanding the use of cleared areas as temporary car parks, the appearance of parts of the town centre is to say the least very ragged.

The Housing and Public Health Committees jointly decided to use Housing Act powers to enforce repair and improvement of a limited number of fairly sound terrace-type houses which the owners had failed to maintain in a reasonable

condition. Notices under the repairs provisions of the Housing Act, 1957, had been served in respect of six houses in Victoria Terrace, Saltisford, the owners failed to carry out the work required, and, rather than have the work carried out by the Council in default, after prolonged negotiations, sold the property to the Council. A scheme for repairs and modernisation, incorporating new kitchens, bathrooms, internal water closets, and central heating was prepared by the Borough Surveyor and a contract for the work to be carried out by a local builder had been signed at the end of the year.

Five houses in Friars Street had been similarly acquired but a decision on the extent of modernisation had not been reached as these houses were less suitable for long-term improvement.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND LOANS

Improvement grants to assist in the provision of modern amenities and the cure of dampness were still a feature of the Council's housing policy. By the end of the year, the number of privately owned dwellings modernised with the aid of grants since the inception of the scheme in 1950 had risen to 730. In addition work was in progress at 28 private houses.

During 1968, 59 properties were considered for improvement or conversion and of these 38 were formally approved for grants—4 tenanted and 34 owner-occupied. It is of interest to note that of the discretionary grants formally approved, no less than 74% were maximum grants. Nearly £6,600 was paid as improvement grants during the year. The work of modernising sub-standard municipal accommodation continued although it was only possible to proceed with 4 houses during 1968. The total number of municipal houses modernised was 295 by the end of the year.

During the year consideration was again given to applications for grants and/or loans for buildings of architectural or historic interest. In one instance a loan was given at a reduced rate of interest and in another the amount of a loan previously approved was increased because of the additional work found to be necessary. The total number of buildings of architectural or historic interest, the cost of the repair or improvement of which has been helped by the making of a grant and/or loan, is now 86.

It will be remembered in 1967 the number of applications for standard grants was greater than that for discretionary grants. This tendency has been reversed and the position during this year has reverted to that of the years when grants were first introduced. In fact the applications for discretionary

grants were three to one as compared with those for standard grants. Owners of properties which already contain several of the amenities to which standard grants apply continue to make applications for grants towards the provision of additional amenities, but it is noticeable that owners of older type houses which are without *all* the amenities and often in addition lack dampproof courses, in many instances are applying for grants towards the cost of building rear extensions and remedying dampness in the existing buildings, at a cost of £1,000 and over.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING

The following summary shows in respect of 1968 (a) new houses built by the authority, (b) families rehoused and (c) municipal dwellings owned by the local authority :—

New houses built	...	...	...	64
Houses owned by the local authority (including 74 tenanted houses acquired by the Council, most of which are for early demolition)	...	...	...	2,073
Percentage of houses owned to total houses in Borough	...	...	...	32.4%
Vacancies occurring in existing houses				145
Vacancies in houses acquired by Council				5

Houses were let as follows:—

Housing Applicants	...	...	...	92
Demolition Order	}	...	...	23
Clearance Order				
Undertaking				
Clearance Area	}	...	...	—
Compulsory Purchase Order				
Transfers	}	...	...	91
Exchanges				
Staff	...	...	...	1
Central Area Redevelopment		...	...	2
Special	...	...	...	—
Industrial	...	...	...	—
Welfare Medical	...	...	...	5
Population rehoused	...			711 (or 3.3 per family)

Included in the above are 28 cases where the occupiers were old age pensioners, either as couples or living alone.

To promote the fullest use of municipal accommodation 91 transfers and exchanges were arranged.

In the 23 years since the end of 1945, 2,361 families comprising 7,926 persons have been rehoused, but during the same period there have been 3,026 applications, 116 of these being registered in 1968.

Routine house-to-house inspections of municipal houses were made by the Assistant Housing Officer to ensure that conditions of tenancy were being complied with. The time devoted to this work was unavoidably limited, but, nevertheless, 271 houses were visited.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Inspections for the purposes of the Public Health Acts totalled 609. The number of notices served under the Public Health Acts provisions was 26 most of which related to dwelling house defects of a general nature. Work required in 33 notices previously served was found to be undertaken.

DRAINAGE, SANITARY ACCOMMODATION, WASHING FACILITIES AND REFUSE RECEPTACLES.

During the year 12 notices requiring obstructed drains to be cleared were complied with; 89 obstructed drains were dealt with by the department; 3 notices in respect of inadequate washing facilities, 12 in respect of water closets and 8 for removal of accumulations were served and on the whole received prompt attention.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

Rats and Mice.—Systematic investigations to ascertain infestations were carried out throughout the period. The department dealt with infestations as follows:—

Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	67
Factories and offices	...	...	...	...	40
Shops	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	6
Hotels and cafes	...	...	...	...	1
Clubs and licensed premises	...	...	...	...	1
Allotments and plots of land	...	...	...	...	78
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	39

Hospitals, sewage disposal works and the refuse tip received regular visits and were treated for infestations as and when required. Twenty-seven block treatments of properties and large areas of land were undertaken.

Sewer manholes in one area were inspected but no rats were found.

British Railways were called upon during the year to exercise stricter control of railway embankments.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Routine inspections and observations of factory chimneys for the purposes of the Clean Air Act were continued. The number of visits and observations made in connection with clean air generally amounted to 291.

Prior Approval to new plants satisfying the provisions of the Clean Air Act was given in seven cases—viz.: 3 at factories, one at a school, one at a multiple store, one at a launderette and one for greenhouses—(all burning oil).

A foundry in the Borough had difficulties in respect of grit emission from the chimneys serving the cold blast cupolas during the latter months of 1968, but the Management co-operated fully in restricting output until the trouble had been found and corrected and are now investigating the possibility of using additional equipment to avoid occasional smog conditions.

Daily volumetric sampling of the air continued at the front and rear of premises in Jury Street throughout the year and comparisons again made between the traffic polluted atmosphere at the front and the comparatively pure air at the rear.

I referred last year to the work of Mr. W. M. Lewis, City Analyst of Coventry, who made a detailed study of the daily deposits and the nature of the pollution. His work—especially in relation to the amount of lead and sulphur present in the atmosphere—formed the basis of a paper we prepared and submitted to the Annual Conference of the National Society for Clean Air.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

Fifteen visits were made under the Noise Abatement Act and action taken as necessary.

Complaints regarding noise were investigated and efforts to abate the nuisance are proceeding at—a factory at the

Cape; a garage in Stratford Road; a factory in Vine Lane; a factory in Nelsons Lane; a shop in Shakespeare Avenue.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government's circular on industrial noise was studied and a report will be submitted in 1969 on steps taken to combat noise from industrial sources, difficulties experienced in specific cases and inadequacies of existing legislation. This report has been requested by the Ministry. Present indications are that most complaints about nuisance arising from industrial sources in Warwick are due to accidental or thoughtless behaviour by workers on nightshifts causing disturbing irregular noises rather than the constant noises of machinery and equipment. The dropping of a sheet of metal by a nightworker appears to be far more disturbing to a nearby resident than the level of noise produced by constantly running machines.

Plans and proposals for new factories and extensions to factories are increasingly studied in relation to the avoidance of unnecessary noise and an opportunity is always afforded to members of my staff to make observations on this and allied matters.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT PUBLIC HOUSES AND PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

The sanitary accommodation at licensed premises continued to be of good standard. Attention was drawn to defects at 4 licensed premises and at 2 licensed premises the accommodation was improved.

CARAVANS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Twenty-three inspections were made for the purposes of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. At the end of the year five licences permitting the stationing of caravans were in operation. Included in these is Site No. 1 of the main caravan site in the Borough, the renewal of the licence for which had been carried over from 1967. An application for Site No. 2 on the same farm was applied for later. This application was refused but at the end of the year an appeal was pending.

The Council discussed the question of the provision of a Holiday Caravan Site, but by the end of the year no firm decision had been reached.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

During the period under review the existing sanitary accommodation was improved at three factories. At the end

of the year the register comprised 109 factories, 97 having mechanical power and 12 without mechanical power.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Only one business is registered. This is largely for the manufacture of beds and spring mattresses and filling material is obtained only from manufacturers satisfying the legal standards for such material. The Company moved to a newly-built factory during the year. The new premises offer better facilities for the observance of hygienic practices in the manufacture of bedding.

SHOPS ACT, 1950, AND OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Work under the above Acts continued throughout the year. New premises were registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, as they were opened or were re-registered when the businesses changed hands. As will be seen from the prescribed table, 275 premises are registered and of these 23 were registered during the year under review. Fifty-three premises received a general inspection. The number of visits of all kinds for the purposes of the Act totalled 308.

Two accidents were notified during the year; neither of these was fatal.

Particulars in the prescribed form were submitted to the Minister of Labour as required by Section 60 of the Act. The following are extracts:—

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	9	72	9
Retail Shops	9	144	39
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	3		3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	47	2
Fuel storage depots	—	3	—
TOTALS	23	275	53

**ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN
REGISTERED PREMISES ACCORDING TO WORKPLACE**

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	387
Retail Shops	470
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	16
Catering Establishments open to the Public	306
Canteens	16
Fuel Storage depots	10
TOTAL	1205
TOTAL MALES	481
TOTAL FEMALES	724

No exemptions from the provisions of the Act were granted. The above figures do not include self-employed persons not employing assistants, nor limited part-time assistants.

The table of defects found at the different types of premises together with the required narrative report was submitted. The following are extracts:—

	No of Premises
Insufficient heating	6
Unsatisfactory lighting... ..	3
Insufficient ventilation... ..	6
Inadequate cleanliness	3
Insufficient sanitary accommodation or poor condition of sanitary accommodation ...	12
Inadequate washing facilities	3
Inadequate accommodation for clothes ...	—
Inadequate seating facilities	—
Unsatisfactory floors, passages and stairs ...	7
Dangerous machinery	1
Inadequate first aid equipment	16
Absence of thermometer	6
Overcrowding	—
Fire fighting equipment	18
Redecoration	9
Obstructions	8

As necessary, the Fire Authority was advised of obvious risks.

In most of the above instances work required was not of a major character. In 12 cases extra sanitary accommodation, or improved accommodation was required, and in 12 cases works to improve the standard of lighting, heating and washing facilities were required. Notices were served and in most cases co-operation was received. The part-time Inspector engaged to undertake certain duties under this Act resigned in June.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Sixteen investigations were carried out following notifications of infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES GENERAL REGULATIONS, 1959

Milk retailing in the town is still mainly by large retailers not having premises in the Borough. The number of Milk Distributors again increased and at the end of 1968 the register was made up as follows:—

Milk Distributors registered in Warwick	...	24
Dairies, other than farms, in Warwick	...	2

INSPECTION OF FOOD AT RETAILERS' SHOPS.

Visits made to shops during the period under review were: 196 to food shops; 52 to premises used for food preparation; 13 to ice cream premises and vehicles; 4 to bakehouses; 28 to hotels and cafes; 5 in respect of milk and dairies; 17 to market stalls.

Visits under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, numbered 45 and visits in respect of control and quality of food were 35.

Premises concerned with the manufacture and preparation of food for sale were regularly visited, as were ice cream vans, market stalls, the Mop and the Racecourse.

Woolworths new store was completed and fully opened during the year.

A new cafe where food is cooked in the main room, both for taking away and eating in the cafe, was opened during the year.

Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars, Canteens.

Number of premises to which Reg. 16 applies	24
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	23
„ of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	23
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	23

Butchers' Shops

Number of premises	21
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	21
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	19

Fruiterers, Grocers and General

Number of premises	50
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	35
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	35

Fishmongers and Fish and Chip Shops

Number of premises	10
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	10
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	9

Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses

Number of premises	60
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	38
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	60

Bakers and Confectioners

Number of premises	13
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	13
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	13

Wholesale Warehouses

Number of premises	1
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	1
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	1

Manufacturing Premises

Number of premises	6
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 16 ...	6
„ fitted to comply with Reg. 19 ...	6

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

The following is a summary of improvements secured during the year at premises to which the Regulations relate :—

				No of Premises
<i>Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars, Canteens</i>				
Major structural improvements	...	...	—	
Improvements to, or provision of extra, sanitary accommodation	...	...	3	
Improvements to washing facilities	...	...	2	
Improvements to equipment, etc.	...	...	2	
<i>Butchers' Shops</i>				
Major structural improvements	...	...	1	
Improvements to, or provision of, extra, sanitary accommodation	...	...	1	
Improvements to washing facilities	...	...	—	
Improvements to equipment, etc.	...	...	2	
<i>Fruiterers, Grocers and General Dealers</i>				
Major structural improvements	...	...	—	
Improvements to, or provision of extra, sanitary accommodation	...	...	2	
Improvements to washing facilities	...	...	2	
Improvements to equipment, etc.	...	...	5	
<i>Fishmongers and Fish and Chip Shops</i>				
Major structural improvements	...	...	1	
Improvements to equipment, etc.	...	...	1	
Improvements to sanitary accommodation	...	...	2	
Improvements to washing facilities	...	...	1	
<i>Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses</i>				
Major structural improvements	...	...	—	
Improvements to, or provision of extra, sanitary accommodation	...	...	1	
Improvements to washing equipment, etc.	...	...	—	
Improvements to facilities	...	...	5	
<i>Bakers and Confectioners</i>				
Improvements to, or provision of extra, sanitary accommodation	...	...	1	
Improvements to washing facilities	...	...	1	
Improvements to equipment, etc.	...	...	1	

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

Observations under the above Act were continued during 1968.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1944

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954

Two licences for slaughtermen were granted during the year.

RENT ACT, 1957

Ten inspections were made for the purposes of the Act. Three Certificates of Disrepair were cancelled and one granted.

WATER SAMPLING

Twenty-six samples of water from taps served by the public water supply proved on examination to be bacteriologically satisfactory. Two samples of the swimming bath water in St. Nicholas Park proved likewise. Three samples from the children's paddling pool submitted for bacteriological examination were found to be less satisfactory, but, notwithstanding the efficiency of the chlorination plant the standard of paddling pool water can rarely be expected to be as high as the swimming bath water.

A petition was received from 16 occupiers of houses in one street in the Borough regarding low water pressure. This was referred to the South Warwickshire Water Board and subsequently remedied.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No proceedings were instituted during the year but severe warning letters were sent following contraventions of the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, arising from the sale of food in respect of which the following complaints were received:

Foreign object in cake; mouldy cake; milk sold in dirty bottle.

A severe letter of reprimand was sent to a chemist and a recommendation sent to the Minister of Health and the Association of Public Health Inspectors that manufacturers of drugs be requested to indicate on packets the last date for the consumption of their drugs. This action followed a complaint that capsules in a mouldy and deteriorated condition and several years old had been purchased from a shop in the Borough.

CONCLUSION

Again I wish to thank the Council for their ready co-operation in seeking to raise the standard of environmental health in the town. In the sphere of housing the Council have achieved particularly noteworthy results and, on a population basis, some notable records, probably not surpassed by any small town in the country. The benefits of this sustained action over many years are most noticeable in the marked reduction in overcrowding of which there is now little in the town, the comparatively small number of dwellings without bathrooms and internal sanitary accommodation, and the few unfit houses left.

I referred last year to improvements in the various aspects of environmental health when observed over a period of more than a quarter of a century. This report is written at a time when the report of the Royal Commission on Local Government has just been published. It appears to me that in the functioning of any large local authority, no matter how efficient in other directions, means will have to be found to enable local environmental health conditions to be constantly reviewed in fairly small areas. Adapting John Stuart Mill's famous political dictum, the price of freedom from circumstances adversely affecting standards we have come to expect is constant vigilance, or else we could see the return of some disquieting conditions we thought, perhaps a little too optimistically we had permanently obliterated.

I again wish to thank members of my staff for their excellent work and willingness at all times and also to thank Chief Officers of other departments for most helpful co-operation.

This is my 27th annual report and I have served with Dr. Livingstone, your Medical Officer of Health, for the last 18 years. After so long an association I feel it is not out of place to put on record my personal appreciation of his helpfulness at all times and guidance whenever sought.

Your obedient servant,

J. BULLOCK,

Chief Public Health Inspector, Borough of Warwick.

TABLE I
BOROUGH OF WARWICK
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES DURING 1968

	Inspections and observations made	Statutory	Informal	Nuisances abated after notice
Dwellinghouses and Schools	3,056	—	124	13
Lodging Houses	2	—	—	—
Factories	34	—	10	6
Licensed Premises	24	—	4	2
Canal Boats	—	—	—	—
Water Closets	53	—	12	12
Drainage	28	—	12	12
Water Supply	13	—	1	1
Places of Entertainment	14	—	3	1
Caravans	24	—	1	1
Dustbins	—	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse	19	1	8	8
Pigsties	—	—	—	—
Vermín Infestations	68	—	2	1
Shops and Offices	308	—	62	39
Animals Improperly Kept	1	—	1	—
Smoke Nuisances	291	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	5	—	—	—
Bakehouses	4	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses, Butchers' and Other Retail Food Shops	287	—	45	21
Occasional Slaughter on Private Premises	—	—	—	—
Premises used for Food Preparation	62	—	9	4
Ice-cream Premises and Vehicles	13	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Nuisances	31	—	26	7
Hotels and Cafes	28	—	12	6
Rent Act	10	—	—	—
TOTALS	4,375	1	332	134
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	8
Samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	—
Samples of Water taken	...	...	...	32
Lots of Infected Bedding, Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	—
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	—
Houses Disinfested for Vermín	...	...	...	67
Improvement Grant Visits	...	...	...	262

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1968
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
1959	15,870	210	13.2	5	23.8	195	12.3
1960	16,000	223	13.9	4	18.0	162	10.1
1961	16,140	261	16.1	5	19.2	196	12.1
1962	16,300	280	17.2	5	17.8	205	12.6
1963	16,260	291	17.5	6	20.6	210	12.6
1964	16,870	294	17.4	5	17.0	196	11.6
1965	17,050	312	18.3	3	9.6	202	11.8
1966	17,330	307	18.3	6	18.9	206	12.5
1967	17,700	326	18.4	10	31.0	204	11.5
1968	18,690	265	14.2	4	15.0	195	10.4

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1968.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birthrate, Deathrate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1968.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births
England and Wales	...	...	16.9	14.0	11.9	18.0

TABLE III.

BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR,
1968.

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									
Scarlet Fever	4	3	1						
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Typhoid Fever									
Pneumonia									
Malaria									
Dysentery									
Puerperal Pyrexia									
Meningococcal Infection ...									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)									
Whooping Cough	3	2	1						
Encephalitis Lethargica ...									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...									
Measles	33	21	11	1					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	7			2	2	2	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1			1					
Food Poisoning									
Totals	48	—	26	13	4	2	2	1	—

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1968.

LIST B (CAUSES OF DEATH)		MALES	FEMALES
5	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	—
6	Tuberculosis (Other)	—	1
20	Neoplasms Benign, etc.	1	—
23	Anaemias	—	1
34	Peptic Ulcer	1	—
17	Hernia/Intestinal Obstruction ...	1	1
19 (1)	Cancer—Stomach	3	2
19 (2)	Cancer—Lung and Bronchus ...	11	2
19 (3)	Cancer—Breast	—	5
19 (4)	Cancer—Uterus	—	3
19 (5)	Leukaemia	3	—
19 (6)	Other malignant neoplasms ...	5	4
21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	3
27	Hypertensive disease	1	2
28	Ischaemic heart disease	29	11
29	Other heart disease	3	4
30	Cerebro-vascular disease	13	14
31	Influenza	—	—
32	Pneumonia	12	10
33 (1)	Bronchitis/Emphysema	5	1
33 (2)	Asthma	—	—
37	Cirrhosis of liver	1	1
38	Nephritis/Nephrosis	1	1
39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
40	Abortion	—	—
41	Pregnancy/Childbirth	—	—
42	Congenital Abnormalities	—	4
43	Birth injury, etc.	—	—
44	Other perinatal mortality	1	—
45	Ill-defined conditions	—	—
46	All other diseases	7	12
BE47	Motor Vehicle accidents	1	2
BE48	All other accidents	1	3
BE49	Suicide, etc.	—	3
BE50	All other external causes	—	2
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	—	1
	Other	—	—
All Causes		102	93

