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Rural District of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1950,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa

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1951



38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

July, 1951.

To the Council of the Rural District of Warwick

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my first annual report on the health of the District. The report for 1950 deals with the events of a year when Dr. H. Gibbons Ward held office as your Medical Officer of Health and so I have only indirect knowledge of many of the facts and figures which are recorded in the text.

A lengthy foreword is therefore inappropriate. I wish, however, to thank the members of the Council for their, kindness and consideration to me at all times and to acknowledge with gratitude the willing help which I have received both from my predecessor in office and from my colleagues, the officers of this Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Warwick Rural District

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1950	...	...	19,670
Birth Rate	...	...	13.6
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	4
Death Rate	...	...	7.9
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	8.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis	...	—
	{ „ other causes	...	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	41
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Population.—The estimated mid-year population was 19,670, which is 250 more than the figure given by the Registrar General for 1949.

Birth Rate.—This, at 13.6 per 1,000, was the same as the previous year but less than the figure for England and Wales which in 1949 and 1950 was 16.7 and 15.8 per 1,000 respectively. Although the rate for England and Wales declined last year, there was no change in this district.

Death Rate.—The crude rate was only 7.9 per 1,000 for the year; after correcting for various factors the comparable rate was 8.5 per 1,000 which is again well below the figure for England and Wales. Fewer deaths were recorded both from cancer and Heart and Circulatory disorders.

Infantile Mortality.—This was reduced from 57 last year to 41 per 1,000 live births. However this rate is still above the figures for England and Wales which were for the same years 32 and 29.8 per 1,000 births.

Details of statistics for the past few years, together with those for England and Wales in 1950, are given in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) Public Health Officers.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

E. ARTHUR LYNE, Cert. Sanitary Inspector,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

F. SPENCER, Cert. Sanitary Inspector.

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :—

		Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	...	—	9	9
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	—	6	6
				—
				15
				—

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water*.—There are three sources of public water supplies—Whitnash, Shrewley and Radford Semele. The latter is at present out of commission waiting the removal of silt. The work, it is hoped, will be effected early in the New Year. Meanwhile, the village is being supplied from Whitnash. The two former supplies have continued to be satisfactory as to quality and quantity. The Whitnash supply is chlorinated and the Shrewley supply will be chlorinated in the near future.

(ii) Samples for bacteriological and chemical examination of both treated and untreated water have been taken, and have been satisfactory. Samples have also been taken from public supplies in parishes where the Council is not the water supply authority, and in each case the samples have proved upon analyses, to be satisfactory.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES ANALYSIS RESULTS

Results expressed in parts per 100,000

		Radford	Whitnash	Shrewley
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	—	—	0.0076
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	—	—	—
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	2.5	3.6	1.7
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	0.27	1.0	Absent
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours	...	0.008	0.010	0.002
Total Solids dried at 100° C.		72	56	40
Hardness {	Temporary	19.0	21.0	13.0
	Permanent	32.0	13.0	8.0
	Total	51.0	34.0	21.0
Nitrite	...	Absent	Absent	Absent

(iii) None of the supplies is liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) No action in respect of any form of contamination has been necessary.

(v) 1,650 houses out of a total of 4,787, comprising about one-third of the total are supplied with water from the public mains. None is supplied by means of standpipes.

2. The Council has purchased an existing bore well at Shrewley, and propose to sink a bore at Rowington, so as to provide a piped water supply to the Western area of the rural district. This area, in parts, is very short of water; many wells in Hatton and Shrewley parishes are dry, or yield very little. Water has been carted by the Council twice weekly to certain houses in this "dry" area, but it is hoped that this will not have to be done much longer since water mains for the first part of this scheme are already being laid.

Water Main.—The extension of the water mains from Bishops Tachbrook to Barford is complete, and there is now a link main between Radford and Whitnash stations.

Drainage and Sewerage.—A number of new schemes are being prepared and work on the Bishops Tachbrook Scheme has been completed. The new scheme for Barford and Sherbourne is expected to commence early in 1951.

D. HOUSING

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

1. *Overcrowding.*—There is little to add to the last report. Overcrowding has, however, abated slightly.

2. The following table shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme, prepared in 1945, together with the progress up to December, 1950, shown in the last column.

	<i>T.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>P.</i>	Completed
Bishops Tachbrook	10	—	76	26
Whitnash ...	10	—	40	42
Radford Semele ...	10	4	72	20
Offchurch ...	—	—	16	—
Hunningham ...	—	—	18	—
Eathorpe ...	—	—	8	—
Weston-under-Wetherley ...	—	—	8	8
Cubbington ...	10	—	103	16
Baginton ...	—	—	24	—
Stoneleigh ...	—	2	36	16
Ashow ...	—	—	4	—
Old Milverton ...	—	—	6	—
Leek Wootton ...	—	—	22	—
Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne	—	—	52	—
Norton Lindsey ...	—	—	8	—
Budbrooke ...	—	—	18	—
Hatton ...	—	—	30	—
Shrewley ...	—	2	8	10
Lowsonford ...	—	2	15	10
Rowington ...	—	—	20	—
Lapworth ...	—	—	16	—
			12	—
Baddesley Clinton	—	—	8	8
Beausale ...	—	—	12	12
	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	40	12	632	168
	—	—	—	—

T. Temporary. *S.* Swedish. *P.* Permanent.

3. *Fitness of Houses.*—The general condition of many houses is poor, but many condemned cottages will need to be occupied for some time yet. More repairs have been carried out this year than for several past years.

4. *Temporary Dwellings.*—Many of these temporary hutments, are still in occupation as dwellings and some time may elapse before the occupants can be rehoused allowing the hutments to be removed.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This is dealt with in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1943

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1943	...	—	16	19	—	22	—	1
1944	...	—	8	30	—	9	—	—
1945	...	—	9	48	—	13	—	1
1946	...	—	5	16	—	6	—	2
1947	...	—	7	23	1	4	—	—
1948	...	—	—	24	1	5	—	1
1949	...	—	3	18	—	6	—	1
1950	...	—	1	6	—	33	—	—

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1950.

One case of Diphtheria and six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the district.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Owing to the prevalence of Anterior Polomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) this work was severely curtailed as a precautionary measure. The extent of this will be seen by comparison with the 1949 figures.

	1950	1949
Children immunised under 5 years ...	77	183
Children immunised 5 to 15 years ...	22	27
Children receiving Reinforcing (or Booster) doses	172	305

School Closures.—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	4	4	—	—	2	—	—	—
35-45 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	10	10	1	5	2	—	—	—

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Warwick Rural District during the past 20 years:—

TUBERCULOSIS

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Cases ...	10	16	14	8	11	20	20
Deaths ...	5	6	7	3	3	7	6
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Cases ...	22	23	18	27	12	22	11
Deaths ...	7	4	3	6	2	4	4
	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
Cases ...	26	19	22	22	26	26	
Deaths ...	4	7	7	6	6	2	

During the year 26 cases of tuberculosis have been notified, 20 of which were of pulmonary and 6 of other forms of tuberculosis.

Sanatorium.—During the year 2 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, and 1 was discharged.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1950.

Public Cleansing.

This service now covers, with the exception of farms and isolated premises, the whole of the district. The "Isolated premises" are however, considerable in number, and there is strong pressure from time to time for extra houses to be included. The collection of dry refuse is once per fortnight, carried out by means of four machine-driven refuse collection vehicles with a staff of 19 men. One of the older vehicles is kept as a reserve, and for occasional work. A ten cwt. van is provided for the foreman, who also does occasional light transport work for other departments.

The collection of nightsoil is once per week, and cesspools are emptied upon request. There are two machines and a staff of five men. One machine is used mostly for nightsoil collection, the other chiefly for the emptying of cesspools and maintenance work at the Council's small disposal works, but both machines are used for nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying. A new machine is on order and delivery is expected at any time.

The labour position still remains very difficult ; with the exception of about six employees there are frequent changes of staff. Weeks sometimes pass by before a replacement is made and collecting schedules are sometimes several days behind.

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse is disposed of by means of tipping. There are three main tips sited at Baginton, Bishops Tachbrook and Rowington, and there are a number of smaller tips which can only be used during dry weather. Land has been leased on a long lease at Cubbington where it is proposed to commence another tip. The top foot of soil has been taken off and it is expected to commence tipping in the near future.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections have been made to food premises, including shops and canteens. Visits have been made in connection with emergency slaughter, and a small quantity of food has been surrendered as set out in Table I.

Temporary Housing.

The "Squatters" camps are still with us but as a result of alterations and repairs carried out by the Council the huts have been improved. It was stated in the last Annual Report that Finham Hostel had been taken over by the Council for temporary housing, but later it was decided not to do so. It was felt that a far better plan would be to clear this land of the huts and utilise it for the erection of permanent houses.

There are still a number of temporary buildings, most of them legacies from the war years, and there are a number of condemned cottages, now in such a ruinous condition as to be only capable of affording temporary shelter for a very limited period.

Sanitary Services.

The following schemes have been prepared :—

The Western Area Water,
Barford and Sherbourne Sewage,
Baginton Sewage,
Cubbington Sewage,
Stoneleigh Sewage,
Hunningham and Eathorpe Water,
Hunningham and Eathorpe Sewage,
Radford and Offchurch Sewage.

Since the last Report, work on the Cubbington Sewage Scheme and the Barford and Sherbourne Sewage Scheme, has commenced, and also on the Western Area Water Scheme. Deliveries of water by a tank wagon still have to be made in this area, which covers parts of the parishes of Hatton, Haseley and Shrewley.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative has been employed throughout the year, and as a result of his activities the rat population has been kept down. He spends approximately half his time in prospecting for infestations and the remainder in destruction. All refuse tips receive regular attention. No charge is made to householders for his services, but commercial and business firms are charged.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LYNE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1949

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	387	10	181	165
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds ...	5	—	—	—
Bakehouses	2	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops	67	—	—	—
Ashpits and privies	41	—	—	—
Food Preparation Premises ...	63	—	—	—
Ashbins substituted for Ashpits ...	22	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	121	—	21	21
Water Closets	15	—	—	—
House Drainage	89	—	47	31
Water Supply	181	—	142	74
Pigsties	21	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Factories	17	—	4	2
Shops	30	—	—	—
TOTALS	1061	10	385	293

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food :

Canned Goods Mixed	860 tins
Fish	13 stones
Bacon	15 lbs.

Samples of Water taken for analysis	43
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	15
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	11

Meat condemned :—

Sheep {	Plucks	47
	Heads	14
	Livers	73
	Whole Carcases	12

E. ARTHUR LYNE, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1950 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1944	19,120	311	16.3	9	29	140	7.3
1945	17,850	241	13.5	15	62	164	9.2
1946	17,800	263	14.8	16	61	169	9.5
1947	18,280	296	16.2	11	37	201	11.0
1948	19,730	285	14.5	7	25	155	7.9
1949	19,420	265	13.6	15	57	184	9.5
1950	19,670	269	13.6	11	41	186	7.9

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1950
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population

				Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.8	0.37	11.6	29.8
126 Great Towns, including London	...	...	...	17.6	0.45	12.3	33.8
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	16.7	0.38	11.6	29.4
London	...	...	...	17.8	0.36	11.8	26.3

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1950.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	1		1						1	
Erysipelas	4					1		3		
Scarlet Fever	6		1	5					2	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	33		3	1		6	12	11		
Malaria										
Dysentery	22				4	6	5	7		
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis										
Poliomyelitis	1				1					
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis ..										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20		1	4	3	9	3			2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6		1	5						
Totals	93	—	7	15	8	22	20	21	3	2

TABLE IV.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1950.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes	—	—
1 Tuberculosis respiratory	2	—
2 Tuberculosis other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	6	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	6	2
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16 Diabetes	—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	11
18 Coronary disease, angina	5	8
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	4
20 Other heart disease	14	21
21 Other circulatory disease	4	1
22 Influenza	1	3
23 Pneumonia	6	1
24 Bronchitis	6	—
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	—	—
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	2
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	—	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	9
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34 All other accidents	—	3
35 Suicide	—	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All Causes	82	74

No.	Name	Remarks
1	John Smith	...
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