[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Warwick R.D.C.

Contributors

Warwick (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1951

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Rural District of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1951,

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

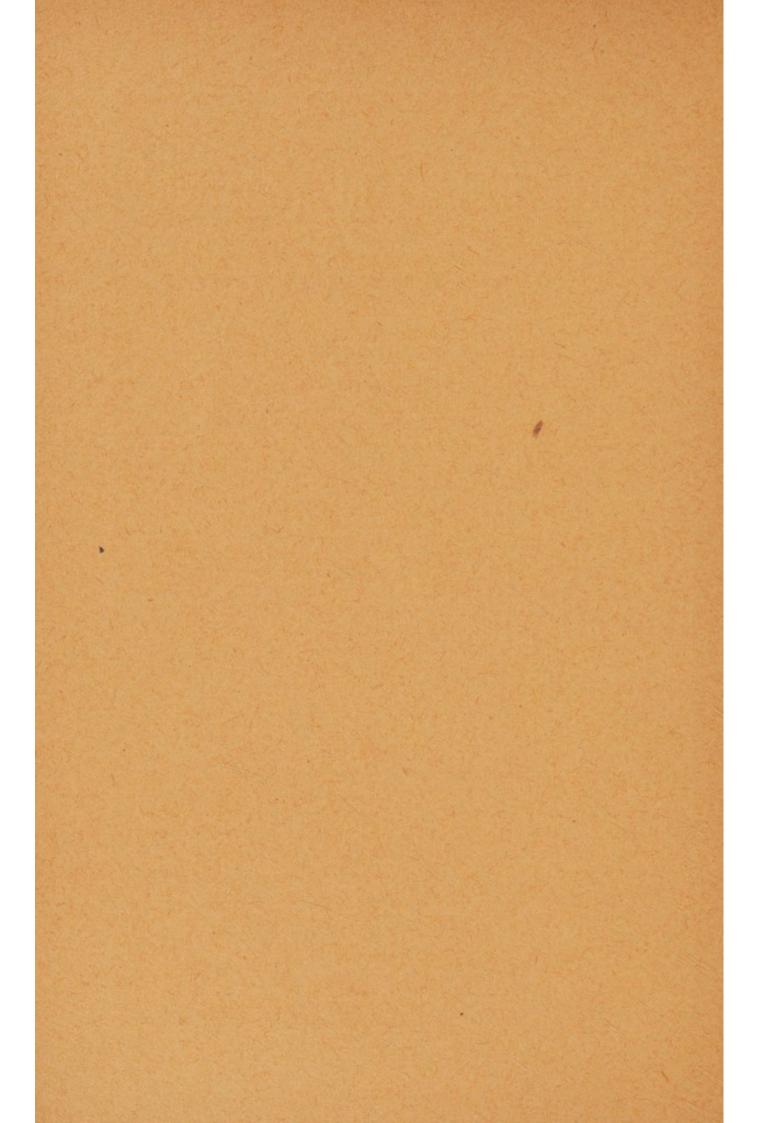
OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa

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

1952



38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

September, 1952.

To the Council of the Rural District of Warwick

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my second annual report on the health of the District. The health of your district during the year 1951 has been good and, despite the winter epidemic of Pneumonia, the death rate is below the average. Important events of the year were the passage of model food byelaws and substantial progress with the sewerage of the village of Cubbington.

The population of the district continues to increase steadily and the demand for housing remains insistent. Although a number of representations have been made to you for demolition or closing orders, such action has been held to a minimum in view of the housing situation. A parallel problem lies in the existence of many caravan and temporary dwellings upon unlicensed sites: a surprisingly small percentage of the occupants have made application for building licences in your area.

The most serious problem of the type however lies in the parish of Stoneleigh where steady development of a most unsatisfactory type has continued up to the point where insanitary conditions exist which are prejudicial to the health of the occupants. It will, therefore, be necessary for me to advise you in the coming year to consider radical action so as to remedy the public health nuisances and ensure proper living conditions upon this site. In conclusion I have to thank the members and officers of this Council for their unfailing kindness and help throughout the past year.

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, 1951		19,940
Birth Rate		11.9
Crude Corrected		11.6
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births		3.3
Death Rate		8.9
Corrected Death Rate		9.5
Deaths from Diseases and (From Sepsis		-
Accidents of Pregnancy and (,, other caus	ses	
Child-birth		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :-		
All Infants per 1,000 live births		25.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate	live	
births		26.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate	live	
births		_
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		-
D: 1 1 1 1		
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		A STATE OF THE STATE OF

Population.—The estimated mid-year population was 19,940, which is 270 more than the figure given by the Registrar General for 1950, which in its turn was 250 over the 1949 total.

Birth Rate.—This, at 11.6 per 1,000, is lower than in 1950 and less than the figure for England and Wales which is 15.5.

Death Rate.—The crude rate was only 8.9 per 1,000 for the year; after correcting for various factors the comparable rate was 9.5 per 1,000 which is below the figure for England and Wales (12.5). Fewer deaths were recorded both from cancer and Heart and Circulatory disorders.

Infantile Mortality.—This fell from 57 in 1949 to 41 per 1,000 live births in 1950. The figures for England and Wales were for the same years 32 and 29.8 per 1,000 births. For 1951 the local mortality rate was reduced to 25.2 and the rate for England and Wales to 29.6.

Details of statistics for the past few years, together with those for England and Wales in 1951, are given in Table II.

Both the birth and death rates have since 1947 shown a declining tendency. The assumption may therefore be made that the steady rise in population of the district, amounting in the same period to 1640, is in large part due to inward migration of families from other districts.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

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	 W - W	 -	
Tuberculosis	 _	 4	 4
Dysentery	 8	 9	 17
			30

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

- 1. (i) Water.—There are three sources of public water supplies—Whitnash, Shrewley and Radford Semele. All public supplies are chlorinated. The supplies have been satisfactory as to quality and quantity. A careful watch has been kept upon the purity of the Shrewley water since the decision was taken not to cover over the elevated storage tank. Considerable work was done on the Radford Semele borehole with a view to its restoration to service. It will be noted that the operations at Radford Semele have led to delivery of water which although pure as regards bacterial content, has a very high figure of hardness, most of which is permanent. It is hoped that this will revert in time to a lower figure as even the former content of 51 parts was much higher than desirable in a public supply.
- (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 analysis, to be satisfactory.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES ANALYSIS RESULTS

Results expressed in parts per 100,000

	Radford	Whitnash	Shrewley
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0044	118-3	0.0104
Albuminoid Ammonia	-	0.0024	-
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.80	3.4	1.4
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	0.25	0.72	_
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4			
hours	0.002	0.021	0.008
Total Solids dried at 100° C.	218	68	40
Hardness Temporary	21.5	21.0	15.0
Permanent	61.5	13.0	8.0
Total	83.0	34.0	23.0
Nitrite	0.0004	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) 1,810 houses out of a total of 4,898, comprising about 37% of the total are supplied with water from the public mains. None is supplied by means of standpipes.
- 2. The Council has begun to bore at Rowington with a view to providing a piped water supply to the western parishes. The first part of the Western Area scheme is now complete i.e. the piped service from the borehole at Shrewley. The number of doubtful or unsatisfactory samples of private well supplies taken annually in the western area points clearly to the need for a comprehensive public scheme such as you have planned to undertake.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Schemes have been prepared for the following parishes: (1) Baginton and Stoneleigh Village; (2) Hatton and Shrewley; (3) Radford Semele and Offchurch. Work has commenced on the Barford and Sherbourne Scheme, and the Cubbington Scheme is nearing completion. Crude sewage is treated at Coventry or Learnington Spa. The only disposal works owned by the Council are small works dealing with drainage from Council house estates and these have proved difficult to maintain in the face of wilful damage. The Cubbington sewerage work has progressed more slowly than was expected and meanwhile pollution of watercourses by septic overflow has continued. An unsolved problem also exists at Radford Semele where foul effluents gain access to the River Leam a bare mile above the Borough of Learnington Spa waterworks. A considerable measure of natural purification does occur within this distance owing to the depth and sluggish flow of the river. However, it is likely that some cleansing of the river will take place in the future which will tend to speed up the rate of flow. Thus it is desirable that proper treatment should be given to the Radford effluents as soon as possible. Apart from the public health grounds, this will have the benefit of allowing further instalments of the housing programme planned for this village, to take place. As will be seen from the table in Section D (2), which follows, only about one third of the projected total of houses has been built there. The scheme for Radford Semele and Offchurch having passed the Council has been submitted to the Ministry and it is hoped that at an early date an inquiry will be held and that approval to your proposals will be forthcoming. Approval has been given to the Baginton and Stoneleigh village scheme already mentioned.

D. HOUSING

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

1. Overcrowding.—This does not at present appear to be a serious problem although many parental homes are overcrowded by the presence of young couples unable to get their own house.

2. The following table shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme, prepared in 1945, together with the progress up to December, 1951, shown in the last column.

	T.	S.	<i>P</i> .	Completed
Bishops Tachbrook	10	_	76	26
Whitnash	10	_	40	50
Radford Semele	10	4	72	30
Offchurch	_		16	113/- 399
Hunningham	_	to what had	18	A Lines
Eathorpe		than both	8	Total Taland
Weston-under-				
Wetherley	-	_	8	8
Cubbington	10		103	42
Baginton	_	1000 -	24	Smit -onte
Stoneleigh	-	2	36	20
Ashow	-	il in mare	4	OR TOME YOU
Old Milverton	_		6	ilyan <u>ar</u> naqi
Leek Wootton	-	_	22	_
Wasperton, Barford				
and Sherbourne	-	_	52	-
Norton Lindsey	-	-	8	be de la
Budbrooke	-	The second	18	0 12-21 0
Hatton	_		30	5 6 14 20 15
Shrewley	_	2	8	10
Lowsonford	_	2	15	12
Rowington	-		20	_
Lapworth	-	_	16	10
Lapworth (Wharf Lar	ne)	_	12	Jones
Baddesley Clinton	-	_	8	8
Beausale	-	Bys -	12	12
T-4-1-	-	10	600	900
Totals	40	12	632	228
	000		THE PERSON NAMED IN	

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

3. Fitness of Houses.—The general condition of many houses is poor and some condemned cottages must be kept occupied. Also the appropriate action to condemn and demolish other unfit properties cannot be taken in yet many instances where it is justified because of disrepair and sanitary defects,

4. Temporary Dwellings.—Apart from the caravan sites at Whitnash, the main problems were (a) squatters' huts now administered by this Council and (b) the growth of huts and shacks in Stoneleigh Parish. These are dealt with in more detail in the Sanitary Inspector's report. A sub-committee of the Health Committee has inspected the site at Stoneleigh and has seen at first hand the disgusting and unhealthy conditions.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The decision of the Council to draft model byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was an important step in the campaign for clean food. By the end of the year it had been necessary to report persistent breaches of the byelaws at one retail food shop.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1944

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
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	_	_
1951	 _	1	4	1	52	-	1

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1951. The main feature of the infectious disease returns has been the high incidence of notifiable forms of Pneumonia. This figure of 52 arose largely in the earlier months of the year and should be related closely to the 33 notifications for 1950 many of which occurring late in that year were part of the same winter epidemic. The deaths from this cause numbered 7 in each of the two years so that the mortality was significant. The bulk of the persons affected were aged 45 years or over.

One case of Diphtheria occurred in a child not protected by immunization and unhappily the disease ended by the boy's death in hospital.

Diphtheria Immunization.—Last year this work was curtailed for special reasons. This year the work was again resumed in earnest and totals comparable with 1949 were achieved. However, the percentage of children born in the district and immunized on or before their first birthday is at 49 per cent., still below the safety figure. To achieve the minimum of 75 per cent. called for in the national campaign will require considerable efforts. The physical means of performing the set task exist and only the public response is lacking.

	1949	1950	1951
Children immunised under 5 years	183	77	170
Children immunised 5 to 15 years	27	22	43
Children receiving Reinforcing (or Booster) doses	305	172	249

School Closures .- Nil.

9

TUBERCULOSIS

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

-		New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Age-Periods.	Pulm	onary	No Pulm	on- onary	Pulm	onary	No Pulm	n- onary
		M.	F.	М.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	0	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
	1-5	-		-	_	_	-	-	-
	5-10	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
1	10-15	-	1	2	-	_	-	-	-
ı	15-20	3	1	-	-	_	-	-	
ı	20-25	2	1	_	-		_	_	
	25-35	2	5	-		_	-	-	_
١	35-45	2	1	-	_	_	1	-	
١	45-55	-	-		-	_		_	
	55-65	4	-	-	-		-	1	
	65 & upwards	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Totals	14	10	2	2	1	1	1	-

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

Cases Deaths	 1932 10 6	1933 16 7	1934 14 3	1935 8 3	1936 11 7	1937 20 6	1938 20 7
Cases Deaths	 $ \begin{array}{c} 1939 \\ 23 \\ 4 \end{array} $	1940 18 3	1941 27 6	1942 12 2	1943 22 4	1944 11 4	$ \begin{array}{r} 1945 \\ 26 \\ 4 \end{array} $
Cases Deaths	 1946 19 7	1947 22 7	1948 22 6	1949 26 6	$ \begin{array}{r} 1950 \\ 26 \\ 2 \end{array} $	1951 28 3	

During the year 28 cases of tuberculosis have been notified, 24 of which were of pulmonary and 4 of other forms of tuberculosis.

Sanatorium.—During the year 6 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, and 5 were discharged.

Arising out of the bed shortage, domiciliary treatment of active cases has been increasing. The treatments have been carried out by the District Nurses under the supervision of the Chest Physician or family doctor.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1951.

Public Cleansing.

The Council have 3 Cesspool Emptiers and 5 Refuse Collection Vehicles and a staff of 6 drivers and 10 loaders. Authority has been given to purchase 2 further collection vehicles, but labour continues to be the difficulty in improving and extending the service.

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 refuse collection vehicles which should have a staff of 16 men—at present there are 12. 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 which should have a staff of five men, at present there are four. 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. One machine is kept as a reserve.

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 often several days behind. One cause of the shortage would appear to be due to the higher wages paid in the factories, and another the lack of amenities such as canteens.

All refuse is disposed of by means of tipping. There are four main tips sited at Baginton, Bishops Tachbrook, Cubbington and Rowington, and there are a number of small tips which can only be used during dry weather.

Temporary Housing.

The "Squatters" camps are still with us. There are three, one each at Stoneleigh (Finham), Stoneleigh (Stareton), and Blackdown. The latter two are reasonable but Finham camp is very difficult. Some of the tenants try to keep the huts in a decent condition, but, unfortunately others are not particular. The huts have been improved since the Council took them over, but they are fast wearing out. The time has now arrived when as one becomes vacant, it should be demolished. The worst collection of temporary buildings in the district is the encampment known as "Seaton's Field" in the parish of Stone leigh. Here there are a number of caravans and huts, about 70 in number. All contained in an area of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres or thereabouts. Drainage

for the most part is by open channels, soaking into the soil. The dwellings, even for huts, are very much sub-standard. The encampment is a legacy of the war, when people were bombed out and were glad to take what was supposed to be temporary refuge. There are also a number of other hutments in this area, for the most part, in building plots, owner occupied, and which are being demolished as the owners obtain Civil Building Licences.

Sanitary Services.

Water Supply: The following parishes have piped public water supplies:—

Baddesley Clinton, Baginton, Barford, Bishops Tachbrook, Cubbington, Hatton, Leek Wootton, Old Milverton (part) Radford Semele, Shrewley, Stoneleigh, Whitnash.

The following have piped private supplies:— Ashow, Offchurch, Sherbourne.

Sewage: The following parishes are sewered (or schemes have commenced):—

Barford, Bishops Tachbrook, Cubbington, Sherbourne, Stoneleigh (excluding village), Whitnash.

Work on the Cubbington and the Barford and Sherbourne schemes has been continued throughout the year. The Cubbington Scheme is almost finished. The Contractors are waiting for delivery of the pumps, which are expected in the very near future.

Good progress has been made with the Barford and Sherbourne sewer. The chief obstacle to the early completion of this scheme is the crossing of the River Avon. It is hoped to make the crossing during April or May, and the scheme should be in operation by June, 1952.

A tender for the Baginton and Stoneleigh schemes has been accepted, but at the time of writing this report the Contract had not been signed.

The Radford and Offchurch Scheme should be commenced as soon as possible. It is now impossible to prevent pollution of ditches and streams, particularly in the Radford area.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections have been made to food premises, including shops and canteens. A temporary slaughter house was set up by the Ministry of Food for a few weeks during the summer, for the slaughter of lambs and sheep.

Number inspected	560
All diseases except T.B. :	
Whole carcasses condemned	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con-	
demned	62
Percentage of the number inspected affected with	
disease other than T.B	100
Parts condemned other than whole carcass:—	
Plucks	7

Sheep	Heads					 2
1010	Livers					 51
	T.B. only					 Nil
	Cattle, cows, c	alves, p	igs			 Nil
	OTHER foods S	Surrende	rs or	Seizure	s:	
	Dry goods mix	ked				 31 lbs.
	Bottled and ca	anned fo	ods			 164 lbs.
	Bacon and Ha	m				 559 lbs.

Byelaws under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 were adopted this year but it is too early to report upon their execution and enforcement. Attention has been paid to all premises selling Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers in the area.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative has been employed throughout the year. As a result of his activities the rat population has been reduced. All refuse tips and public sewers have had regular attention. No charge is made to householders for his services.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LYNE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF SANIT	ARY WORK	DONE IN	THE SANIT	TARY INSI	PECTOR'S
	ARTMENT D		E YEAR 19	51	
Dwelling Houses and	d Schools	387	11	205	171
Dairies, Milkshops a	and Cowshed	ls 7	-	-	_
Bakehouses		3	_	_	_
Slaughter Houses an	d Butchers'	Shops 58	-	_	-
Ashpits and privies		23	-	_	_
Food Preparation P.	remises	47	_	_	
Deposits of Refuse a	and Manure	87	_	18	18
Water Closets		92	-	41	41
House Drainage		121	_	52	42
Water Supply		143	-	87	53
Pigsties		23	_	13	9
Offensive Trades			-	-	_
Smoke Nuisances		—	_		_
Factories		21	_	5	2
Shops		25	1	-	
					_
TOTAL	s	930	12	421	336

TABLE II.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1951 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	ddle	BIE	THS.		DEATH THE I		
	d to Mi	N	ett.	Under	r 1 Year age.	Atal	l Ages.
YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1945	17,850	241	13.5	15	62	164	9.2
1946	17,800	263	1.48	16	61	169	9.5
1947	18,280	296	16.2	11	37	201	11.0
1948	19,730	285	14.5	7	25	156	7.9
1949	1,9420	265	13.6	15	57	184	9.5
1950	19,670	269	13.6	11	41	186	7.9
1951	19,940	238	11.9	6	25	177	8.9

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1951. ENGLAND AND WALES.

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

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

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

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1951.

	Number of Cases notified.					oved	oc.			
	gi At Ages—Years.					rem pita]	eath			
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Total cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox			,.							
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1		1							
Erysipelas	2					1		1		
Scarlet Fever	4		1	2				1		
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	1					1			1	
Pneumonia	52	1	2	5		9	9	26		
Malaria										
Dysentery	25		5	12	4	1	1	2		
Puerperal Pryrexia	1					1				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1		1						1	
Poliomyelitis	4		1	2		1			3	
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	24		1	1	7	10	4	2		2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4			4						1
Totals	119	1	11	26	11	24	14	32	5	3

TABLE IV.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1951

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	1
2 Tuberculosis (other)	1	
3 Syphilitic disease	1	/ _
4 Diphtheria	1	- B-5
5 Whooping Cough	_	-
6 Meningococcal infections	_	_
7 Acute poliomyelitis	_	
8 Measles	_	-
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
3 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- 15	-
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	13	4
	1	
10 70 1.1.	_	
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	17
10.0	14	12
10 77	1	3
00 Other beach disease	15	14
	3	2
en Tudumus	4	2
23 Pneumonia	4	3
24 Bronchitis	4	on the land
25 Other disease of respiratory system	2	
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	THE PERSON LA
97 Contritie enteritie and disprises		1
98 Nanhritis and nanhrosis		and the later of the
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	4	filmerstell pitch
30 Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	CALLED LANGE	and the same of th
31 Congenital malformations	1	The second second
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	9
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	
34 All other accidents	1	3
35 Suicide	1	2
36 Homicide and operations of war		_
All Causes	98	79



