

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Warwick R.D.C.

Contributors

Warwick (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cadzcmdq>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

HEALTH
A 12 JAN 57
17

Lib

Rural District 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

Leamington Spa

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

1956



38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

October, 1956.

To the Council of the Rural District of Warwick.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my sixth report on the health of your district. It is once more a favourable picture. The population has risen by 970 and now tops the 20,000 mark. The vital statistics are satisfactory.

Caravan Sites.

Arising out of your proceedings taken in 1954 the owner of the Seaton's Field caravan site sought permission of the County Planning authority for drainage and other works required to comply with a court order to abate nuisances. Consent was refused and an appeal was dismissed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government after due enquiry. Meanwhile the nuisances continued and sanitary conditions steadily worsened as the occupation of the site was allowed to increase. Beyond this point it does not seem that all the paraphernalia of Town and Country Planning can advance the matter, and its solution will rest upon resolute action by this council alone, relying upon old established powers under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Cleansing.

It is desired to draw special attention to part of the report of your surveyor and chief sanitary inspector which deals with public cleansing. The importance of this service in the promotion of the public health is not easy to forget, because any shortcoming seldom fails to bring energetic protests from members of the public affected. Wage scales, as fixed by joint negotiation, for persons to be employed in this key public service, have not always appeared to have due regard for the labour position in this area. As a result this council, like others, either has not secured enough men to give an adequate service or has had to fill vacancies with men who by reason of advanced age or physical disability were not equal to the demands of the work.

A great deal has, of course, been done by the purchase of carefully selected machines to equip this department of the Council to combat the effects of past labour shortage. Now that there is some improvement in the supply of labour and you have shut down some of the smaller outlying tips, it will be necessary to look more closely at the unsatisfactory conditions which have prevailed at your Cubbington tip. Situated as it is, close to an important source of public water supply and being near a main road and also approached by a housing estate on the outskirts of Leamington Spa, such a large area of uncontrolled tipping invites criticism of this Council's health services.

Although much has been done to tidy up the site the basic faults still remain. There can be no doubt that rats and flies have been attracted there, to say nothing of the risk of frequent fires. I hope very much that the council will change to a system of controlled tipping. This will inevitably incur higher management costs, but should avoid most or all of the serious nuisances which arise from time to time in connection with the haphazard dumping of refuse into pits or quarries.

Water and Sewerage Schemes.

With regard to sewerage schemes, that for Radford Semele has been completed and this will allow the next stage of your building programme there. These new houses will accommodate many of the persons displaced from cottages in the village which were condemned as part of your pre-war slum clearance programme. If the cleared sites are redeveloped there will be increased demand upon your water supplies. In the latter connection one has to note that your Shrewley and Rowington boreholes are still not interconnected and there are insufficient links between your larger and smaller supplies to equalise demand with consumption.

Food and Drugs Act.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into being on 22nd November, 1955. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 (made thereunder) became enforceable on 1st January or 1st July, 1956. Together these measures will introduce important

new safeguards to the public health. The Council will still have the right to make its own byelaws both for the handling and wrapping of food and also for the Sanitary conditions and management of slaughter houses. All in all these various measures do not go so far as many wished but they are nevertheless a step in the right direction. A fully aroused public consciousness of the need for better food hygiene will be indispensable if still better standards are to be reached.

Finally, I want to record my appreciation of the good work of Mr. Lyne and the sanitary inspectorate and of the kindness, encouragement and help with which they and the members of this council have again furthered my work.

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, 1955	...	...	20,570
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	16.4
" " " (Corrected)	...	...	17.3
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	..	...	31.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	16.7
" " " (Corrected)	...	...	17.0
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	...	...	26.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	24.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	58.8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Population.—The estimated mid-year population rose to 20,570 an increase of 970 persons. This reflects the high rate of new building development as the years total of deaths was higher than that of births.

Birth Rate.—This is little higher than last year. Illegitimate births account for five per cent. of total live births.

Death Rate.—The crude rate rose from 16.5 per 1,000 to 16.7, and the corrected rate was 17 per 1,000, which is a little higher than last year.

Infantile Mortality.—This fell from 57 in 1949 to 25.2 per 1,000 live births in 1951. The present year's low rate is quite satisfactory, being only a little above the last quoted figure.

Details of statistics for the past few years are given in Table II.

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 Inspectors.

R. H. SHORT, Cert. Sanitary Inspector.
A. ROWE, " " "

Clerk.

Miss J. MAHER.

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

		Positive		Negative		Total
Diphtheria	...	—	...	2	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	—	...	—	...	—
Dysentery	...	—	...	7	...	7
Paratyphoid B	...	2	...	—	...	2
						—
						11
						—

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water.*—Sources of public water supply exist at Whitnash, Shrewley and Radford Semele; all of these are chlorinated. At the Radford Semele borehole, saline contamination by underground mineral water has continued and led to distribution of water which is often of a quality chemically unfit for a public supply. The alternatives before the Council will be to link the parish with their western area supply mains and/or to slot the borehole lining as advised by Professor Shotton. New housing at Whitnash places a heavy new load upon the boring there which originally had to be plugged below 195 feet on account of salt penetration. The supply of water to Warwick Borough's reservoir at Hatton began in accordance with the agreement and this Council's plans for a western parishes' supply go forward. Clearly these must, in the absence of reservoir storage, include for a link main to connect the Shrewley and Rowington boreholes which will minimise the wide-spread inconvenience to consumers hitherto caused by pumping failures.

It will also be desirable to have a link across to Barford which will relieve the present excessive draw on the Whitnash borehole, as it does not seem possible to increase the yield of the latter much more.

Leek Wootton.

After some delays consent was obtained to make another trial bore in this parish and a site was selected on geologist's advice close to the existing pumping station. Water was found of reasonable quality but the daily yield was some way below the figure expected from geological considerations. The details of the new bore are as follows :—

Level of surface of ground <i>above Ordnance Datum</i>	233.24 O.D.
Depth and diameter of shaft or boring, or of each ; total depth 400ft. ...	76-ft. at 15in. Dia. 195ft. at 12in. Dia.
Depth or depths at which water was found ; above Ordnance Datum	129ft. at 10in. Dia. 183.24 & 41.24
Estimated Quantity of Water required in Gallons per day	72,000 gall. per day.
Yield of Water in gallons per diem, as ascertained by continuous pumping during 17 days or otherwise, 13th February, 1956—1st March, 1956 ...	Minimum 84,600 galls. per day
Level of water <i>above Ordnance Datum</i> at commencement of pumping ...	215.24 O.D.
Level of Water <i>above Ordnance Datum</i> at cessation of pumping	minus 29.76 O.D.
Time taken for water to return to original rest level after pumping ceased	3 hours.
Limit of deviation from vertical as specified in inches per 100 feet ...	4ins. per 100-ft.
Deviation as ascertained by measurement	$\frac{3}{4}$ in. per 400-ft.
Distances of the well or borehole from any other known wells or boreholes in the neighbourhood	1½ miles.

Strata pierced are listed below :—

				<i>Thickness of each Stratum</i>		<i>Total depths from the surface</i>
				Feet	Inches	Feet
Sandy Soil	...	...	...	6	0	(0)
						(6)
Keuper Sandstone	...	...	...	19	0	(6)
						(25)
Enville clay	...	...	...	25	0	(25)
						(50)
Enville Sandstone	...	...	...	35	0	(50)
						(85)
Marl	...	...	...	55	0	(85)
						(140)
Sandstone belt	...	...	...	1	0	(140)
						(141)
Marl	...	...	...	51	0	(141)
						(192)
Enville sandstone	...	...	...	104	0	(192)
						(296)
Enville marl	...	...	...	8	0	(296)
						(304)
Enville sandstone	...	...	...	34	0	(304)
						(338)
Enville marl	...	...	...	8	0	(338)
						(346)
Sandstone with twin layers of marl	...	...	...	54	0	(346)
						(400)

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES ANALYSIS RESULTS

Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

	<i>Radford</i>	<i>Shrewley</i>	<i>Whitnash</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	0	0.022	0.014
Albuminoid Ammonia	0	0.016	0.016
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	28.0	18.0	27.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ...	Nil	Nil	5.6
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours ...	0.42	0	0.10
Total solids dried at 100°C	625	440	450
Hardness {	Temporary	100	120
	Permanent	90	310
	Total ...	500	430
Nitrite ...	Absent	Trace	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 except in the case of private wells.

(v) 3,563 houses out of a total of 5,908 comprising about 60% of the total are supplied with water from the public mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Plans have been prepared for the following schemes.

(1) *Hatton and Shrewley.*—The Council is now considering the submission of a modified scheme, and has sought the views of representatives of the parishes concerned.

(2) *Radford Semele and Offchurch.*—Work on the Radford Scheme began in mid-1954 and in spite of severe frosts and rain during the winter the scheme was completed in May, 1955.

The smaller Offchurch section was, however, omitted.

In view of repeated assertions that serious sewage pollution of the River Leam existed at Offchurch which might adversely affect Leamington borough's water intake, a joint survey was carried out on the spot with the surveyor and officers of the County Council and a number of samples were taken. A further meeting of officers was held to consider the results of the analysis which did not substantiate the assertions which had been made. No action was therefore taken.

D. HOUSING.

1. The following is a summary of the work carried out under the various Housing Acts during the year, 1955 :—

(a) *Clearance of Unfit Houses.*

14 houses were demolished and 2 houses were closed. One Clearance Order concerning eight houses at Whitnash was made by the Council and confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

(b) *Unfit Houses Rendered Fit.*

37 houses were rendered fit as a result of formal or informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

(c) *Housing Survey.*

A survey of the district was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, as a result of which it was considered that 412 houses, including a number already covered by operative Clearance and Demolition Orders, should be demolished during the next five years.

(d) *Certificates of Disrepair.*

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year, and one certificate was granted under Sec. 26 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

2. *Overcrowding.*—This does not now seem to be serious in any part of the district, and no action under Part IV of the Housing Act, 1936 has been found necessary.

3. The following table, excluding the last column, shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme which was prepared in 1945. The last column shows the progress up to December, 1955.

		<i>T.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>P.</i>	Completed (Dec. 1955)
Bishops Tachbrook ...	10	—	76	72	
Whitnash ...	10	—	40	98	
Radford Semele ...	10	4	72	31	
Offchurch ...	—	—	16	—	
Hunningham ...	—	—	18	—	
Eathorpe ...	—	—	8	—	
Weston-under- Wetherly ...	—	—	8	8	
Cublington ...	10	—	103	130	
Baginton ...	—	—	24	28	
Stoneleigh ...	—	2	36	26	
Ashow ...	—	—	4	—	
Old Milverton ...	—	—	6	—	
Leek Wootton ...	—	—	22	—	
Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne	—	—	52	28	
Norton Lindsey ...	—	—	8	—	
Budbrooke ...	—	—	18	—	
Hatton ...	—	—	30	—	

Shrewley	...	...	—	2	8	10
Lowsonford	...	...	—	2	15	12
Rowington	...	...	—	—	20	—
Lapworth	...	...	—	—	16	22
Lapworth (Wharf Lane)	...	—	—	—	12	—
Baddesley Clinton	...	—	—	—	8	8
Beausale	...	...	—	2	12	12
			—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	40	12	632	485
			—	—	—	—

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

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—The general condition of many houses is so poor as to be unfit for human habitation. The Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954, required the Council to make a general survey of the unfit houses in their area and the return to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, by the end of August, 1955, shewed as stated, 412 houses to be in danger of demolition.

Seaton's Field, Burton Green.

Notwithstanding the proceedings taken last year, no improvements in the sanitary conditions of this caravan site resulted. In fact, inspections revealed a steady growth of the numbers of families in temporary accommodation here and consequent aggravation of the nuisances arising from lack of paving and drainage and from unsatisfactory disposal of refuse and nightsoil. The site has been badly laid out over a heavy clay subsoil and allowed to become overcrowded so that in time a large part of the area has become hopelessly foul and 'sewage sick'. Conditions have for some time been seriously prejudicial to health and further proceedings against the owner for statutory nuisance will be inevitable during the ensuing year. There seems no longer to be any question of remedy by works of paving and drainage and nothing short of a total clearance and resting of the site can be recommended.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff have continued their work along the usual lines. These include the necessary licences for the sale of milk, registration of premises for the sale of ice-cream or the preservation of meat, etc., and visits

to slaughterhouses to inspect carcase meat. The last named item occupies an amount of time (314 visits) which is very great in relation to the work done because of the outlying position of the several small slaughterhouses and has caused other important work to fall into arrears. It has been necessary to recommend to the Committee the refusal of a few applications to store ice-cream or preserve meats but generally there is compliance with your bye-laws and co-operation with the inspectorate.

The standard of retail food shops will compare well with most rural areas but there have, of course, been some black spots. Attention was paid to the lack of facilities at one cafe, but at a personal visit to the proprietor assurances were received that the business had been discontinued. The matter will be kept under observation as also will unsatisfactory conditions at two retail food shops. One has previously been the subject of legal proceedings by this council and the other, where substantial improvements have been promised, has fallen consistently short of a reasonable standard both in regard to equipment and to hygienic practice.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1948.

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1948	...	—	—	24	1	5	—	1
1949	...	—	3	18	—	6	2	1
1950	...	—	1	6	—	33	1	—
1951	...	—	1	4	1	52	4	1
1952	...	—	—	27	—	17	—	—
1953	...	—	—	29	—	38	4	—
1954	...	—	—	10	—	18	—	—
1955	...	—	—	20	4	22	—	—

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

Pneumonia.—There was little change in the incidence of notifiable forms of pneumonia. All forms of Pneumonia, bronchitis and inflammation of the lungs, however, jointly accounted for roughly one quarter of the total deaths.

Paratyphoid "B."—Four notifications were received. Three patients were nurses at the Central Hospital. First two fell ill in March, 1955, but the source was not then known. In May, 1955 a third case arose within the hospital. Fresh bacteriological investigations were made and revealed a symptomless carrier. This was an elderly female patient of dirty habits who had at times been in the care of the nurses concerned. Appropriate precautions were taken and no further cases arose among the Staff of the hospital.

Immunisation.—This year's figures show a slight improvement as regards Diphtheria Immunization. Vaccines are now available for combined or separate inoculation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. Altogether 254 children were immunised against whooping cough under the County Council's amended scheme in accordance with Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. This is an increase of 32 over last year.

Diphtheria Immunization.

		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Children immunized						
under 5 years	...	170	142	145	248	269
Children immunized						
5 to 15 years	...	43	17	16	37	27
Children receiving						
Reinforcing (or						
Booster) doses	...	249	258	129	295	301

Scarlet Fever.—There were 20 notified cases of which only one received hospital treatment. The total is rather above the recent average, but the disease seems to have been of a mild type. The majority of the notified cases concerned children below the age of school attendance.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	5	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
55-65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	19	7	1	2	7	10	—	—	3	2	—	—

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

		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Cases	...	11	20	20	23	18	27	12
Deaths	...	7	6	7	4	3	6	2
		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases	...	22	11	26	19	22	22	26
Deaths	...	4	4	4	7	7	6	6
		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
Cases	...	26	28	28	30	33	46	
Deaths	...	2	3	1	5	7	5	

During the years 46 persons affected by tuberculosis have been notified, 43 of which were of pulmonary and 3 of other forms of tuberculosis. 27 of the total arose in persons between the ages of 20 and 45 years. 17 of the total were transfers into the district.

These figures accord with the recent trends noted in last year's report *i.e.* for the total of notified cases to rise (notwith-

standing a fall in the percentage of deaths per hundred) and for a substantial part of this incidence to fall upon the age groups which represent the prime of the working and reproductive periods of life. Much of the increase doubtless represents the improved efficiency of case finding and contact examination. Nevertheless, one cannot certainly say that factory working conditions and crowded public transport are without influence upon this matter.

Sanatorium.—During the year 18 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium and 20 were discharged.

MILK SUPPLIES.

During 1955 the County Council's sampling officers took 11 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk and 18 samples of Accredited or ungraded milk for Biological examination. One positive was obtained from the latter group. In the course of the resulting investigation 10 cows were examined by a Veterinary Surgeon and 2 diagnostic milk samples taken. One cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

It was not necessary for any action to be taken by the Medical Officer of Health on your behalf to restrict the sale of any milk as the sale of the product was for the purpose of pasteurization.

The following table is compiled from information supplied by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health.

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

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1955.

<i>Designation of Milk.</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Positive</i>
Pasteurised	—	—
"Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)"	—	—
"Tuberculin Tested"	11	—
Non-Designated	18	1

Results of Investigations of Tubercle-Infected Milk Supplies during the year 1955.

<i>Number of</i>	<i>Cases found on routine sampling in the County</i>	<i>Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities</i>
1. Investigations	1	Nil
2. Cows examined	10	Nil
3. Milk samples for diagnos- tic purposes	2	Nil
4. Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order ...	1	Nil
5. Cows removed from herds during investigations and which may have been infected	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Nine cases were reported from various sources as requiring attention under Section 47 of the above Act. Happily no application had to be made to the justices although one of the cases had a sad ending.

Case 1.—Mrs. B—. An elderly lady lived near Leek Wootton alone and had to enter hospital after a stroke. It became necessary to return her home. Arrangements were made to nurse her in a downstairs room with a neighbour sending in cooked meals and a married daughter visiting regularly to attend to laundry, etc. Later the old lady broke her leg and a married couple were found to live in the cottage to help to care for her until her eventual death. Her daughter was in a service tenancy and unable to take her permanently.

Case 2.—Miss E. D—, of Whitnash. Aged 71 years. Entered hospital for operation upon serious lung disease. Discharged herself home against medical advice and in a very weak condition. Lived in condemned cottage in clearance area and became in need of attention. Home help was arranged but she died suddenly.

Case 3.—Mrs. D— (aged 77 years) of Whitnash. This widow sold up her home some years before and went to live in a small caravan. She became senile and got into a state of serious nuisance which she was incapable of clearing. After strong pressure by the local authority, welfare officer and family, she agreed to enter Part III accommodation voluntarily and sell up her caravan home.

Case 4.—Mr. H—. Old man aged 89 years, living at Hatton Hill and partially bedridden. This was found to be mainly a nursing problem and it was arranged for extra sheets to be supplied by the National Assistance Board.

Case 5.—Miss H—, of Little Shrewley. An old family retainer living with help of money provided by former employers became unable to manage by herself. A nephew offered her a home and the employer offered to lease and manage her house.

Case 6.—Mrs. H—, of Cubbington. Age over 80 years. Became senile and tended to wander. Relations were unable to manage her and, as she had some private means, admission to an old persons home was arranged.

Case 7.—Mr. A. W. M—, aged 86 of Radford Semele. A retired market gardener, he lived in a small bungalow set in a walled garden. His wife died 13 years before and he became a recluse. The bungalow was shut up and he lived in the potting shed where he had a small kitchen range. He would not allow villagers or tradespeople to pass his gate. He was under treatment for chronic kidney disease, but latterly would not allow the district nurses to his shed but received their attentions in the open garden. After the milkman reported that the milk and letters had not been taken in for two days, the police summoned the M.O.H. and an entry was made. The man was found weak and unconscious lying on a stone floor near the door with no fire lit. As it was a severe spell of wintry weather he soon died of exposure and a Coroner's Inquest found accordingly.

Case 8.—Mrs. P—, of Leek Wootton. Living alone, became in a bad state. Her bed was moved downstairs and the District Nurse visited regularly. She needed fuller care and was in danger from mis-handling oil stoves. Removal to an old persons home (private) was arranged as she had some means.

Case 9.—Mrs. E. P— (77) of Radford Semele. This case was reported in detail last year. She has not again returned home, although notice of intending discharge from hospital was several times given. It is understood that a transfer to Part III accommodation has been arranged.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1955.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council have two cesspool emptiers and four refuse collection vehicles in service with a staff of seven drivers and 19 loaders.

Three of the refuse vehicles are of the large capacity compressor type and the fourth is a side loader. The collection is, as far as possible, once per fortnight, and is carried out by a staff of 20 men. The labour position has improved but it is still not possible to include farms and other isolated premises in the service, owing to increased demands from the expanding urban parts of the district.

The collection of nightsoil is once per week and cesspools are emptied upon request. One vehicle operates the nightsoil service and the other undertakes the emptying of cesspools. Appropriate charges are made for the latter service. The two machines are now fully staffed by five men. Towards the end of the year it was possible to extend the nightsoil collection to Norton Lindsey and Shrewley Common.

A van is provided for the foreman, who also does occasional light transport for other departments.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping. The principal tip used is at Cubbington, but a smaller one at Hampton-on-the-Hill was opened during the year. The tip at Oakley Wood was levelled, covered and closed during the year.

A Bray Hydraloader has been purchased and is used to keep the tips level and tidy. This machine has proved invaluable in dealing with the large tip at Cubbington. A small tractor with a bulldozer blade is also occasionally used for work on the tips. The driver of these machines acts as reserve driver for the refuse vehicles in the absence of the regular men through illness and holidays.

Temporary Housing.

The problem is considerably reduced. Regarding "Squatters", as each family has found other accommodation the hut vacated has been demolished.

It is anticipated that the coming year, 1956, will see the end of this problem.

Regarding the collection of huts, referred to in my previous report known as Seaton's Field, legal action has been taken and as a result the Court made a Nuisance Order. Plans for certain works were submitted but planning permission was refused. The applicant appealed to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and the appeal was held in January, 1955.

The Minister upheld the Council's decision and further legal action is now being considered.

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 :—

Baginton, Barford, Bishops Tachbrook, Cubbington, Sherbourne, Stoneleigh, Whitnash, Radford Semele.

The Radford Semele Scheme is completed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections have been made of food premises including shops and canteens.

Bylaws under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in operation.

Attention has been paid to all premises selling Ice Cream. There are two manufacturers in the area.

Meat Inspection.

The regular inspection of meat has been carried out during the year at the three licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and the details are as set out below :—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	173	—	14	1,356	448	—
Number inspected	173	—	14	1,356	448	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was con- demned ...	60	—	—	73	22	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	34.7%	—	—	5.4%	4.9%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condemned	17	—	—	—	17	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	9.8%	—	—	—	3.8%	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Quantities of Meat Condemned :

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Affected with Tuberculosis	2	2	19
Affected with Other Diseases	7	2	6
Total	10	0	25

Miscellaneous.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the supervision of repairs to the Council's houses, the supervision of Street Lighting, and the licensing of and supervision of petrol installations under the Petroleum Acts.

A total of 239 houses were erected during the year, 36 of which were built on behalf of the Council. New houses are being erected in some numbers. Plans for 472 were approved in 1955.

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 SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTORS'
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1955

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	978	3	317	305
Dairies, Milk Shops and Cow- sheds	2	—	—	—
Bakehouses	3	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops	314	—	1	1
Food Preparation Premises ...	12	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	10	1	1	1
House Drainage	88	1	18	15
Water Supply	70	—	17	12
Pigsties	6	2	1	3
Smoke Nuisances	1	—	1	1
Factories	23	—	—	—
Shops	14	—	2	2
Pools, Ditches, etc.	24	—	14	11
Dangerous Buildings... ..	2	—	1	1
Infectious Diseases	47	—	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	83	—	—	—
Petroleum Acts	13	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Matters	43	—	—	—
Totals	1733	7	373	352

TABLE II.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

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	19,730	285	14.5	7	25	156	7.9
1949	19,420	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
1952	19,350	299	15.5	8	27	159	8.2
1953	19,280	311	16.0	4	12.9	297	15.4
1954	19,600	316	16.1	10	31.6	323	16.5
1955	20,570	338	16.4	9	26.6	343	16.7

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

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

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	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	20	.....	13	6	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Typhus Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever	4	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	1	1
Pneumonia	22	1	.....	2	3	4	6	6	.....
Malaria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	3	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	28	2	16	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	179	2	60	114	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26	1	.....	3	7	8	5	2	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	9	.....	2	1	1	4	1	.....	.....
Totals	296	6	91	138	17	19	16	9	2

TABLE IV.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	1	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	1
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	7	2
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	13	15
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—
16 Diabetes	2	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	19	26
18 Coronary disease, angina	18	14
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	1
20 Other heart disease	15	20
21 Other circulatory disease	7	11
22 Influenza	1	—
23 Pneumonia	34	37
24 Bronchitis... ..	10	3
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	1	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	18
33 Motor vehicle accidents	3	—
34 All other accidents	3	2
35 Suicide	4	2
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	177	166



