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Presteigne Urban
District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer
.....of Health.....

Incorporating the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

for the

Years 1950 and 1951

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Presteigne Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

(Incorporating Report of the Sanitary Inspector)

Warden Court,
Presteigne.
November, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Presteigne Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

In presenting my report on the health of the Urban District for the years 1950 and 1951. I much regret the delay involved. The reason is that statistics have only recently been fully completed, thanks to the co-operation of the new Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Kenneth-Duncan.

I have much pleasure in recording the excellent progress on the Silia Housing Estate.

A study of the Ministry's Housing return shows that Presteigne has one of the highest ratios of permanent houses completed per hundred of population of any district in the British Isles. The Ministry have been requested to inform us of the exact position statistically and a reply is awaited. I feel that more local publicity should be given to this excellent achievement.

This progress in new building has very much alleviated the problem of over-crowding in the district, but a start should, I feel, be made on the urgent problem of the many houses in the district which are unfit for habitation. I appreciate the difficulties which owners of low-rent properties have to face in the high cost of renovations and repairs, but certain houses in the district are now in a very bad state indeed, and I feel the Council should take strenuous action to remedy this state of affairs.

With regard to the water supply, the analyses from the Public Health Laboratory continue satisfactory, and the supply is adequate, although there have been temporary failures due to engineering difficulties which have, I hope, been overcome.

The advisability of increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir is, I understand, under consideration.

Sewage and Refuse disposal are dealt with in the body of the report.

In general the health of the district has been good during the period involved, and there have been no major epidemics.

May I again thank the new Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation since he took office.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. JAMES WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health R. James Walker, M.B., B.Ch.,
(Cantab).

Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector T. Kenneth-Duncan, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.S.A., (Scot.), M.R.S.I., Dip.
R.T.C.Mun.Eng.

Section A

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	2718
Population	...	...	...	1257
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	475
Rateable value of the area	...	...	...	£4457
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	£16/10/0

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	1950			1951		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Live births (legitimate)	10	17	27	11	15	26
(illegitimate)		1	1		1	1
Still births	1	1	2	—	—	—
Deaths (all causes)	13	8	21	7	9	16
Deaths of infants under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile mortality rate	0'00			0'00		
Birth rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)	23'2			21'5		
Still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	66'6			0'00		
Death rate (per 1,000 of Pop.)	17'4			12'7		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1950			1951		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Cancer	—	1	1	—	1	1
All Infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	—	3	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2	1	—	1
Influenza	2	—	2	—	2	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	1	2	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	4	4	8
Heart disease	2	6	8	—	—	—
Coronary Disease, Angina	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	—	1	1	—	1
Other defined or ill defined diseases	2	—	2	—	—	—
Total—All Causes	13	8	21	7	9	16

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory in Hereford provides the necessary facilities for the area.

CLINICS. The Child Welfare Centre under the auspices of the County Council is held on the first Tuesday in each month at the Shirehall, Broad Street.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

WATER. The supply and distribution of water to the town is in the hands of a private company, The Presteigne Water Co., Ltd. Collection takes place at the Company's wells and it is then treated by chlorination and pumped to the reservoir on the Warden. The supply is adequate and satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The sewerage disposal systems consist of two different principles. The older system which discharges into the Lugg consists of two sedimentation tanks and a filtering chamber. The plant and fittings are very old and to ensure maximum working efficiency they require very frequent maintenance and careful attention. They have been overhauled within the scope of this report and the effluents are now more satisfactory than previously.

The other system in operation for the Kington road side of the town is disposal by land filtration. Whilst this again is an old method of disposal of sewerage it has proved by constant attention to the channels and gutters to work reasonably satisfactorily.

Trouble has been experienced with part of the sewerage system in Broad Street and the Council have plans in hand to re-lay part of this main sewer.

RIVERS and STREAMS. A complaint was investigated regarding pollution in the Lugg from the outfall works but when the overhauls of the system had been carried out this was eliminated. No further cases were reported during the period.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. A weekly collection of house and trade refuse takes place by contractor and this has proved economical and satisfactory.

REFUSE TIP. Disposal of refuse is carried out by controlled tipping. It is to be regretted that the tip face is very deep this having caused an outbreak of fire on one occasion.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

INSPECTIONS. During the two years 292 visits of inspection were made.

	1950	1951
Number of inspections under		
Public Health and Housing Acts	130	161
Number of inspections under		
the Factories Act, 1937	21	14
Number of inspections in connection		
with Water supplies	53	25
Premises and Clothing disinfected	4	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: PART I OF THE ACT.
1. Inspections for purposes as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of			NOTICES ISSUED	
		Inspect'ns 1950 1951	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	Informal	1950 1951
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	11	19 12	—	—	17 28	3 4
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	2 2	—	—	17 26	3 4
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—		
Total ...	13	21 14	—	—		

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	4	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(a) unsuitable or defective...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	5	—	—	—

Section D.

HOUSING. During the two years covered by the report progress on the Silia housing site was good and the Contractors averaged one house per month. The number of houses completed by the Local Authority is as follows :—

1950—11 (Local Authority)	1951—10 (Local Authority)
1 (Private Enterprise)	1 (Private Enterprise)

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. Good building sites in the Urban District are difficult to obtain and this, allied to the fact that owners appear unwilling to sell, has restricted private developers.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

DURING THE PERIOD.

	1950	1951
1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health & Housing Acts	79	100
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	87	120
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	50	70

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

DURING THE PERIOD.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

	1950	1951
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30	58
Number remedied by informal action	26	50
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices :		
(a) By Owners	3	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil	Nil

Section E.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Fifty inspections were carried out in 1950 of premises where meat and other foods are sold to the public. Sixty-one inspections were carried out in 1951.

The standard of hygiene of premises and personell maintained in the town was good and the owners proved amendable to any suggestions made during the inspections. Thespirit of co-operation that has been established between the local authority and the trades-people has been well maintained.

Section F.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1950	1951
Chicken Pox	6	6
Acute Pneumonia ...	2	2
Measles	1	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	1

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