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Bromyard Rural District Herefordshire

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Joint

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1958.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1958).

*J. T. ARNETT (Chairman of the Rating Committee)	Stoke Lacy
H. A. BAYLISS (Vice-Chairman of the Water Committee)	Little Cowarne
*Major M. A. BELLVILLE	Tedstone Delamere
T. G. BEMAND	Grendon Bishop
T. E. BOLIVER	Bredenbury
*Miss D. A. BOUCHER	Cradley
*F. CALE	Cradley
*G. L. CORKE (Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee)	Wolferlow
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S. B. GREEN	Whitbourne
W. E. GREENHOUGH	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
*Capt. L. R. HIBBERT (Chairman of the Water Committee; Chairman of the Commons Management Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)	Stanford Bishop
*H. C. C. HODGES	Avenbury
*J. F. HYDE	Ocle Pychard
J. F. JORDEN	Winslow
M. E. KANNREUTHER	Bishop's Frome
Brigadier S. S. LAVENDER	Wacton
S. LEIGHTON	Collington
*R. MAUND	Much Cowarne
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*J. C. PAGE	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
*T. PARKER	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
*W. D. PORTER	Acton Beauchamp
*J. L. POWELL (Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)	Edwyn Ralph
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Col. J. A. M. RICE-EVANS	Upper Sapey
*Miss M. SHEPHERD	Whitbourne
*Mrs. E. V. Thomas	Norton
*S. A. WALLIS	Cradley
*Rev. W. G. WALTON (Chairman of the Council)	Bishop's Frome
* Members of the Housing and Health Committee.	

Clerk to the Council - J. B. SENIOR, Solicitor.

Deputy Clerk - A. C. BISHOP.

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Medical Officer of Health,

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LEOMINSTER.

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N. E. WORSDALL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

NEW ROAD,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone : Bromyard 3197).

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

C. A. PREECE.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector :

ELSIE M. BAYLISS.

*To the Chairman and Members of
The Bromyard Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1958.

In the statistical section most of the rates are based on small figures and are not significant. The birth and death rates have been adjusted to allow for the extra large number of elderly people who live in the district—and when this has been done it is found that over the last five years there has been consistently a higher birth rate than would be expected by comparison with the country as a whole.

The figure is the highest of the four rural districts of which I am Medical Officer and is going to mean a considerable pressure of population in about 25 years' time.

Under the heading of Infectious Diseases, 1958 shows reduced figures other than for Scarlet Fever and Dysentery. The Dysentery outbreak occurred in Bredenbury and was due to the presence of infection in a food handler. As the figures mean little by themselves if unrelated to events elsewhere, I have included a summary of similar notifications for the seven urban and rural authorities of North Herefordshire.

It is important to note that there was no new notification of Tuberculosis during the year. There can be little doubt that the intense effort of the past 10 years in contact tracing and follow-up, and the improvement in drug treatment to render patients non-infectious has reduced this one-time scourge to a very minor role in the public health world.

I am grateful to Mr. Worsdall for the section on Water Supply, Housing, etc. In particular, I would draw attention to the fact that there are more houses in the district without water supply than with one; it is to the credit of the Council that the decision to go ahead with the Teme intake scheme has been taken.

Under Housing, I should like to draw attention to the summary of work under Housing Improvement Grants which shows how, up to the end of 1958, no fewer than 99 houses had been put in proper order at a cost, in grants, of just over £30,000, that is say, at about £320 per house.

I would like to thank Mr. Worsdall for his helpfulness in introducing me to the district and for his great co-operation in some of the problems that have arisen during the year.

G. D. K. NEEDHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	61,114
Estimated mid-year home population	7,050
Average number of persons per acre	·11
Number of inhabited houses	2,243
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	·04
Average number of persons per house	3·13
Rateable Value	£31,144
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£123

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	54	51	105
Illegitimate ...	7	3	10
	—	—	—
	61	54	115
	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 est. mid-year home population :

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	16·3	16·8	16·1	15·0	17·7
„ „ (Adjusted)	18·2	18·8	18·1	16·9	20·0
England and Wales ...	16·4	16·1	15·7	15·0	15·2

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS :

Per cent. of total Live Births—Bromyard R.D. ...	8·7
England and Wales ...	4·9

STILL BIRTHS :

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	2	1	3
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1
	—	—	—
	3	1	4
	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births :

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Bromyard R.D. ...	33·6	32·5	41·7	44·6	30·8
England and Wales ...	21·6	22·4	23·0	23·1	24·0

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS :

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	56	52	108
Illegitimate ...	8	3	11
	—	—	—
	64	55	119
	—	—	—

INFANT DEATH RATES.

NEONATAL MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
		—	—	—
		2	1	3
		—	—	—

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births :

Bromyard R.D.	...	26.0
England and Wales	...	16.2

PERINATAL MORTALITY :

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under one week old

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	1	0	1
		—	—	—
		5	2	7
		—	—	—

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births :

Bromyard R.D.	...	60.8
England and Wales	...	35.1

INFANT MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under one year of age (including those under four weeks)

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
		—	—	—
		2	1	3
		—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births :

Bromyard R.D.—

		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Total	...	26.0	33.6	17.4	37.4	31.7
Legitimate	...	28.5	33.6	17.4	29.4	16.8
Illegitimate	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	200.0	285.5

England and Wales—

		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Total	...	22.5	23.1	23.7	24.9	25.4
Legitimate	...	22.3	22.8	23.5	24.6	25.1
Illegitimate	...	27.8	30.0	28.7	31.7	32.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Total number of Maternal Deaths ... Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births :

Bromyard R.D. ... Nil

England and Wales ... 0.35

DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes	38	35	73

Death Rate per 1,000 est. mid-year home population :

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Bromyard R.D. Crude)	10.3	15.7	12.9	14.0	15.6
„ „ (Adjusted)	7.9	11.8	9.6	11.7	13.1
England and Wales ...	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.3

CANCER.

	Males	Females	Total
Total Deaths from Malignant Disease	8	4	12

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 est. mid-year home population :

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Bromyard R.D. ...	1.70	2.27	2.53	1.82	1.97
England and Wales ...	2.12	2.09	2.08	2.10	2.03

CARDIO-VASCULAR DISEASE.

	Males	Females	Total
Total Deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease ...	19	25	44

Cardio-Vascular Death Rate per 1,000 est. mid-year home population :

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Bromyard R.D. ...	6.24	7.65	7.15	7.00	9.58
England and Wales ...	6.07	5.84	6.00	5.99	5.83

RESPIRATORY DISEASE (excluding Tuberculosis).

	Males	Females	Total
Total Deaths from Respiratory Disease	5	1	6

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 est. mid-year home population :

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Bromyard R.D. ...	0.85	2.97	0.98	2.24	1.69
England and Wales ...	1.37	1.38	1.35	1.32	1.15

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	0	4
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	0	2
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	10	14
Coronary disease, angina	4	2	6
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	9	7	16
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Bronchitis	5	0	5
Congenital malformations	2	0	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
Suicide	1	0	1
	—	—	—
TOTAL	38	35	73
	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BROMYARD
DURING THE YEAR 1958.

DISEASES	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	14	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	29
Scarlet Fever	1	—	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	4	13
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	5
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS
BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT.

DISEASE		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Whooping Cough	...	1	30	21	53	16
Measles	...	29	65	140	107	3
Scarlet Fever	...	13	6	2	6	20
Erysipelas	...	—	2	4	2	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	5	8	2	3	3
Dysentery	...	9	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	...	2	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	1	—	1	2
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	...	—	4	2	3	4
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	...	—	1	—	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	...	—	1	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	...	—	2	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE
DURING THE YEAR 1958.

DISEASES	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough ...	4	14	13	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	39
Measles ...	118	69	22	25	2	-	-	-	4	-	2	16	258
Scarlet Fever ...	3	2	4	1	1	1	4	-	-	2	5	5	28
Erysipelas ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Pneumonia ...	3	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	14
Dysentery ...	4	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Food Poisoning ...	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Paratyphoid Fever ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	7
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS
NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE.

DISEASE	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Whooping Cough ...	39	192	87	104	310
Measles ...	258	144	561	649	24
Scarlet Fever ...	28	71	42	33	79
Erysipelas ...	2	7	8	6	6
Acute Pneumonia ...	14	49	20	20	23
Dysentery ...	16	38	7	6	15
Food Poisoning ...	5	10	—	—	4
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	3	2	3	4
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	7	33	19	28	25
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary ...	3	4	6	9	1
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	—	12	1	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic ...	—	14	—	3	1
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—	1	1

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES

Notifications	North Herefordshire	England and Wales
Whooping Cough ...	1.00	0.74
Measles ...	6.70	5.08
Scarlet Fever ...	0.72	0.86
Erysipelas ...	0.05	0.07
Acute Pneumonia ...	0.36	0.49
Dysentery ...	0.41	0.84
Food Poisoning...	0.13	0.20
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.003
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.03	0.004
*Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6.09	14.26
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	0.18	0.59
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary ...	0.08	0.08
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0.00	0.44

* per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1957	29	19	9	7
Moved into district	—	2	—	—
Moved out of district	1	—	—	—
Recovered	2	—	—	—
Number on Register at 31st December, 1958	26	21	9	7

Year	New Notifications	Total Cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1953	4	54	Nil	4
1954	4	57	Nil	2
1955	5	57	2	1
1956	5	60	Nil	2
1957	5	64	Nil	1
1958	Nil	63	Nil	2

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946—Section 26.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given below have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year :

Immunisation against	Age of Child			Total	Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1	1—4	5—14		
Diphtheria	39	37	15	91	143
Whooping Cough ...	40	40	—	80	—

Numbers of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year :

Vaccination against Smallpox	Age of Child					Total	Revac- cinations
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15 & over		
	76	2	0	1	2	81	5

WATER SUPPLIES.

Ninety-six samples of water were taken for one sort of examination or another, with following results. :-

1. COUNCIL OWNED SOURCES		SATIS	UNSATIS	TOTAL
Bacteriological	...	39	4	41
Chemical	...	1	-	1
Copper content test	...	-	-	2

2. PRIVATE SOURCES

Bacteriological	...	15	33	48
Chemical	...	-	2	2
				96

**Houses with water laid on inside house, Dec., 1957 1069

Exisiting houses to which water has been made available inside house during year ...	3
--	---

New houses provided during year with approved water supply ...	7
--	---

Total number of dwellings with water laid to house	1079
--	------

Houses with no water supply within the house ...	1164
--	------

2243

**Once again it is pointed out that of the 1069 houses with water laid on inside, many have very unsatisfactory systems both from the points of view of quality and quantity. Some are supplied direct from streams, others have rain water only, many have shallow wells and rain water storage.

The month of September, 1958, was eventful in that the village water scheme at Bishop's Frome was inaugurated and the Rural District Council became a Water Undertaker for the first time. A month or so later the scheme at Bredenbury was put in hand and is planned for completion in mid-1959.

As satisfactory as the progress was at Bishop's Frome and Bredenbury, perhaps the most encouraging was the sudden advance made in the preparations for the District Scheme. The Ministry allowed the Council to plan in detail a section of the original comprehensive scheme comprising intake works, main storage, and supply mains to Whitbourne, Bringsty, Norton, Pencombe and areas up to Cradley. These areas are, in the main, those where the water problem is worst and where, if a satisfactory supply were made available, private development might well take place.

The schemes mentioned above, completed, in progress and planned, will be taken over by the proposed Herefordshire Water Board, but the Rural Council will have the satisfaction of handing on at least the foundations of a comprehensive scheme.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Houses with water borne sanitation	...	...	801
Houses with dry sanitation	...	...	1442
Houses known to have no drainage system	...	...	495

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Once again the figures show more work, this year the increase being most marked :-

			Mileage	Properties	Loads
1953	...	...	5560	16675	172
1954	...	...	6421	17371	182
1955	...	...	6487	18082	185
1956	...	...	7228	19591	202½
1957	...	...	7432½	19989	198
1958	...	...	8508	22758	243

There is a continual trickle of householders asking for the collector's services, especially for the removal of tins and bottles.

Some extra clearances are made from waste bins along the Commons after fine weekends and at the Contractor's discretion, no payment being made. With the gradual increase in the number of visitors to the Commons, the problem of litter collection and disposal may have to be tackled in a more positive manner.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The statistical return is printed below :-

Type of Property	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	(i) Local Authority	(ii) Dwelling Houses (includ. Council Houses)	(iii) All other (includ. Business Premises)	Total of Col. (i), (ii) and (iii)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authorities' District	36	1709	32	1777	534
2. Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	3	21	—	24	—
(b) Survey under the Act	36	29	14	79	63
(c)	—	—	—	—	—
3. Not applicable	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of properties in- spected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
Rats Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	11	14	—	25	29
5. Number of infested prop- erties (in Sect. 4) treated by the L.A.	11	14	—	25	—
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	33	18	—	51	—

The Council's own installations have received frequent attention, but the inspection of farms has dropped off. As mentioned last year the Council has come round to reviewing their arrangements for rat catching, especially since the A.E.C. stopped undertaking contract work on farms. Although the situation is far from clear there are certain indications that a new policy may be worked out in 1959.

It should be noted that having become aware of the losses due to rat infestation farmers are able to meet the problem with the aid of Warfarin without enlisting the services of a professional rat catcher.

HOP PICKING ACCOMMODATION.

There was a further steady decrease in the numbers of pickers housed at farms, much to the delight of most people concerned.

Details are :-

Number of Hop Farms	...	...	70
Farms housing pickers	...	...	28
Farms with local pickers only	...	...	42
Farms picking by hand only	...	...	29
Farms picking by machine only	...	...	41
Approximate number of pickers housed	...	...	719
Estimated children	...	...	70
Estimated travellers	...	...	200

HOUSING.

Last year mention was made of disappointing progress by private developers, of no progress by the Council, and of a falling off in the rate at which Category 5 Houses were being dealt with. The same remarks apply equally to 1958.

Although absence of piped water, and in some cases electricity, played a part, the main stumbling block to the Council was the continued high interest rate.

It is pleasing to note the spread of mains electricity to the "dark" areas.

Statistics are :-

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES BY PRIVATE ENTERPRIZE

Number of dwellings completed	...	...	7
Number of dwellings in course of erection at the end of the year	...	...	8

SLUM CLEARANCE

Number of houses subject to Time and Place Notices	...	...	7
Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were served	...	...	2
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were sealed	...	...	-
Number of houses on which Undertakings not relet were accepted	...	...	13
Number of houses on which Undertakings to repair were accepted	...	...	-

The position regarding Category 5 Houses is now :-

Number of houses in Category 5 dealt with at the end of 1957	...	...	...	...	191
Deleted from all records	...			12	
Placed in higher category	...			4	
				<hr/> 16	<hr/> 16
Total Category 5 to be dealt with at the end of 1958					<hr/> 175

With reference to Improvement Grants, the figures for 1958 suggest some falling off but in actual fact the tempo was well maintained and quite obviously there were as many applications on the "escalator" as ever before.

There is a standing sub-committee appointed to visit all properties the subject of improvement grants; unfortunately that is the last official sight the members of the Council have of the project, which is rather a pity since the radical change some of these cottages undergo is remarkable.

Your officer spends a great deal of time in discussing schemes with owners, especially where there is a doubt as to entitlement to grant. The work is often tedious and frequently calls for great patience, but the results are usually amply rewarding.

The figures for the year under review and grand total for whole period since the original Act was passed in 1949, are :-

	1958 only	Total to Dec. '58
Number of houses in respect of which full applications were made	25	121
Number of houses in respect of which grants were offered	21	112
Number of houses in respect of which applications were refused or withdrawn	—	3
Number of houses in respect of which improvement works were completed	28	99
Total value of works approved for grant	£10,925/18/0	£70,227/12/0
Total grant offered in respect of above works	£5,241/17/6	£31,184/2/1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK REGULATIONS :

Number of Retailers licensed for T.T. Milk	...	4
Number of Retailers licensed for Sterilised Milk...		—
Number of Retailers licensed for Pasteurised Milk		4
Number of samples taken for biological examination		2
Number of samples found to be positive	...	Nil
Number of samples taken for other tests	...	Nil
Number of samples found to be unsatisfactory	...	Nil
Number of visits occasioned by milk duties	...	17

(b) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT :

Number of Public Houses	...	25
Number of Food Shops	...	29
Number of premises registered for sale of Ice Cream		21

Modernisation at two Public Houses was completed during the year

(c) SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS :

Number of Licensed Slaughtermen at 31st Dec., 1958 7

There was no slaughtering in the Rural area during 1958.