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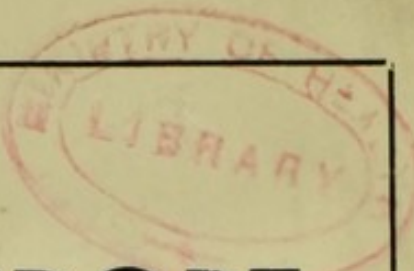
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT.

1937

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.

AREA MEDICAL OFFICE,
LEOMINSTER.

14th June, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bromyard Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my third Annual Report which I have based on the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1650.

The new Building Byelaws should prove useful in controlling the erection of new houses.

Two urgent matters that I wish to bring to your notice are your water supply and the need for systematic inspection of the working-class houses.

With reference to the former some permanent chlorinating plant is an urgent necessity.

The vital statistics for the year are quite satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

DAVID G. ANDERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed October, 1935).

Area Medical Office, 4, Church Street, Leominster.

(Tel. No. : Leominster 95).

Sanitary Inspector:

JAMES D. BARRS, C.R.S.I.

(Appointed 1912),

Victoria Chambers, Bromyard.

Clerical Staff—Area Medical Office:

J. J. ADAMS.

DUTIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health, who is restricted from private practice, is Medical Officer of Health for six other County Districts and Assistant County Medical Officer. In his latter capacity he is in clinical charge of the Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. He also carries out the medical inspection of the school children at the two public elementary schools and of the boys at the Grammar School. The greatest possible co-ordination between county and district work is thus secured. Also there is continuity between the services for different ages.

The Sanitary Inspector is part-time only, having several other offices under the Council and is not restricted from private work. This officer is not available on the telephone.

The clerk at the Area Medical Office is available for both district and county work.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area—in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Population—Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,570
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,522
Number of Private Families (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	413
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	471
Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	406
Rateable Value—£8,271.									
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£31 9s. 2d.									

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The area consists of a small market town dependent entirely on the surrounding agricultural area. Wages and rent levels are low, being determined largely by the levels in the adjoining rural district.

PREVALENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

There is much less unemployment in the town, due mainly to three factors (a) the munition works at Hereford, (b) increased road improvements, and (c) improvement at the Tileries close to the town.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.			
Live Births	Legitimate	25	13	12	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the est. resident population	...	...
	Illegitimate	2	1	1		...	17.74
		—	—	—			
		27	14	13			
		—	—	—			
Stillbirths	...	Nil			Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	Nil
Deaths	...	20	12	8	Death Rate per 1,000 of the est. resident population	...	...
	...	...	...	...		...	13.14
						Standardised Death Rate	10.90

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	DEATHS.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total ...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	74
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	80
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil

Deaths.—From Cancer (all ages)	7
From Measles (all ages)	Nil
From Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
From Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	Nil

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment Nil

**Chief Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1937, compared
with those for the Bromyard Urban District.**

		Rate per 1,000 pop.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Maternal Mort. per 1,000 total births.		
		Live Births.	Deaths, all causes.	Deaths under 1 yr. of age.	Puer. Sepsis	Others.
England and Wales	...	14.9	12.4	58	0.94	2.17
Bromyard Urban District	...	17.74	*13.14	74	Nil	Nil

* The Standardised Death Rate is 10.90.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.—See beginning of report.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford. These examinations are carried out free of charge to the County Districts, which is of great value. All results are communicated both to the private practitioner and the area medical officer of health so that action may be taken as promptly as possible. Special examinations, such as virulence tests in Diphtheria are carried out at Birmingham or Bristol University Laboratories.

The following examinations were made at the County Laboratory during the year:—

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For Diphtheria	... ..	0	11	11
For Tuberculosis	... ..	0	5	5
Other Examinations	... ..	0	1	1

Ambulance Facilities.

There have been no alterations during the year. No complaints as to inability to obtain an ambulance have been received. There is, however, no ambulance maintained in either the Urban or Rural Districts of Bromyard.

Nursing in the Home.

This is carried out as regards non-infectious diseases by the nursing association, which employs two nurse-midwives. The area covered includes a large number of parishes in the rural district. The nurses also assist at the child welfare centre.

There is no provision for the nursing in the home of cases of infectious disease.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary is now held at Froome Bank, Bromyard, the Medical Officer attending at 11.30 a.m. on alternate Thursdays.

The Child Welfare Centre is also at Froome Bank (in other rooms) and is held on alternate Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Venereal Diseases clinic is at the Public Assistance Institution, Hereford.

The nearest Orthopædic Clinic is at Hereford.

Hospitals.

There are no public or voluntary hospitals in the district. There are sick wards at the Bromyard Public Assistance Institution near the town. For most purposes the Hereford and Worcester voluntary hospitals are utilised.

The Infectious Disease Hospital is at Stretton Sugwas and the Smallpox Hospital at Bromyard. Both these hospitals are used under an agreement made with the Hereford Rural District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water during the year was adequate for all purposes. The whole of the Urban District and 7 houses and 4 farms in the Rural District are now supplied. Chemical analysis in previous years had proved satisfactory. In February it was decided to institute a bacteriological control, samples to be taken every two months. The first sample was taken on the second of March and proved unsatisfactory and this was confirmed by further samples, one sample taken after a dry spell was satisfactory but subsequent samples in wet weather were again unsatisfactory. The results were reported to the Council and suggestions made as to safeguarding the supply. Samples taken from the various wells at Buckenhill gave varying results and chlorination was decided upon. This is still being carried out and advice has been sought as to a chlorination plant, and quotations have been obtained and are under consideration.

In all 24 bacteriological and 4 chemical analysis were carried out during the year.

The mains were extended in the Clover Road and at Lower Westfields a larger main was laid for new housing.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

It was stated in the report for 1936 that application had been made for sanction to a loan. Formal application, however, was delayed and in October there was a Ministry of Health Inquiry. Subsequently a consulting engineer was asked to proceed with a scheme and formal application was made for sanction to the loan.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is given below, and includes his comments on certain matters.

REPORT under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

INSPECTIONS UNDER.	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices Served.	Statutory Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Housing (1936) Act	17	7	—	7
Housing (Public Health) Acts	50	—	—	—
Workshops and Factories ...	35	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	15	—	—	—
Bakehouses	24	2	—	2
Slaughterhouses	112	8	—	8
Schools	20	1	—	1
Water Supplies	12	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases ...	13	—	—	—
Nuisances (Complaints) ...	16	5	—	5
Miscellaneous Visits ...	17	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases inquired into	4
Number of visits in connection with notifications	13
Premises (other than Schools) fumigated	3
Schools fumigated	Nil
Lots of Clothing, etc., disinfected	3

MODE OF DISINFECTION.

- (a) HOUSES—Formalin lamps and liquid spraying.
 (b) BEDDING—As for houses.

HOUSE DRAINS.

New drains laid.

New Houses	} 27				
Old Houses					
Drains relaid					—
Cleansed, trapped or ventilated					40
New sinks and drainage provided.					
New Houses		6			
Old Houses		Nil			6
Drains examined or tested					52
Inspection chambers built					—

WATER CLOSETS.

Additional provided.

New Houses	...	...	...	...	6
Old Houses	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL					8

Repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	6
Provided with cisterns	...	...	...	8

Common useage of closets, usually in the ratio of 1 to 2 houses, prevails in many cases.

PRIVIES.

Converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Converted to pail or chemical closets	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

PAIL CLOSETS.

Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Disposal of contents from pail or privy closets.—Buried or dug into gardens. No collection by local authority.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number in district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

None of the bakeries provide wrapped bread.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112

There is no public abattoir.

DAIRIES.

(Other than in connection with cowsheds).

Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Premises deleted from register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

FACORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bakers	4	Monumental Masons ...	1
Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights	3	Motor Garages	4
Builders and Contractors ...	4	Tailors	1
Cabinet Makers	2	Printers	2
Coach Builders	1	Jewellers, etc.	1
Dressmakers	3	Carpenters	3
Harness Makers and Saddlers	1	Boot Repairers, etc. ...	4
		Gas Works	1
		Machinists	4
Inspections of factories			Nil
Inspections of workshops			35
Defects found			Nil

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

		Found to be infested.	Disinfested.
(1) (a) Council Houses		0	0
(b) Other Houses		0	0
	TOTAL ...	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
(2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bugs. Liquid Spraying.—Zaldecide and Lawvercide.			
(3) Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses. Liquid spraying of furniture, bedding, etc. No steam disinfector available.			
(4) Whether work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority or by a contractor. Local Authority.			

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Total	6
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts:—	
(i) By Local Authority	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	—

ACTION WITH REGARD TO EXISTING HOUSES.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	29
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	60

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	5
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	5
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	7
3. Action taken under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) As to Ministry of Health's Circular 1650, Proceedings taken	—
4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	5
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	5
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	23

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding during the year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after local authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding	—

OVERCROWDING.

The position is similar to that existing in the 1936 Report.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—Routine inspections of dairies.

Examination for bacterial content.—None by Local Authority.

Examination for Tubercle Bacilli—None by Local Authority.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The licence to produce Pasteurised milk was not renewed this year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No condemnations during the year.

J. D. BARRS.

Victoria Chambers,
Bromyard.

C.R.S.I.

HOUSING.

Full statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. With the acquisition of the Ballhurst Estate and the fixing of the subsidy, building to relieve overcrowding should be considered.

There are a large number of houses in the district which should be inspected with a view to action under the Housing Act, and your Sanitary Inspector should carry out these inspections more frequently. This matter has been stressed in the opening letter of my reports for 1935 and 1936 and my predecessor's (Dr. Penman) report for 1934.

SCHOOLS.

During the year the Junior School was twice closed by the School Medical Officer.

From 22nd to 29th January for Influenza, and from 15th November to 3rd December for Chickenpox.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

There were seven cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year, and these are shown in the following table:—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.

Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Cases and ad. to over. H'p. Dts.	T'tl
	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	2	1

Scarlet Fever.

The three cases were sporadic and all had been to areas in which Scarlet Fever was occurring.

Influenza.

In common with the rest of the country there was an epidemic of this disease in the early part of the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

During 1937 two cases from the District were admitted to the Credenhill Isolation Hospital under the agreement. No cases have been refused admission but, on occasion we have had to wait while it was ascertained whether there was a vacant bed.

The present arrangement is that the Hospital is owned and worked by the Hereford Rural District, which also rents the old Bromyard Isolation Hospital as a Smallpox Hospital. The Urban and Rural Districts of Bromyard retain between them four beds. The retaining fee is £15 per bed. The Council is only entitled to have the number of patients in hospital for which beds are retained. The only two diseases other than Smallpox in the agreement are Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, moreover they must not be complicated on admission by either having been in contact with or, even more important, by being actual sufferers from some other infectious disease. The hospital authorities have always, but, as an act of grace, taken in other infections such as Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and the like. They have, also, not insisted on the number of patients being limited and as many as six cases have been in hospital from one District at one time. No attempt has been made to obtain extra payment for these cases, maintenance charges being the same as for those cases covered by the retaining fee.

The facts are quite definite as regards the present arrangements.

(a) The number of beds available under the agreement for each authority is inadequate.

(b) The diseases treated under the agreement are too limited. The inability to obtain accommodation for complicated cases of measles, whooping cough and influenza was mentioned in last year's report.

The use of a common hospital has proved its worth in more beds being available for a given authority at a given time than would have been the case if provision had been made in a small hospital for that authority only.

The importance of having definite arrangements for the treatment of all infectious diseases cannot be overstressed. Delay through having to find or improvise accommodation may seriously jeopardise the chances of recovery of the patient.

Tuberculosis:

At the end of 1937 there were thirteen cases on the Register. No cases were added and four were removed.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

There were no deaths of non-notified cases during the year.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, ETC.

The administration of these acts and regulations is carried out by the County Council through the police.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There are no laboratories carrying out such work in the district. The bacteriological and other examination of food stuffs in cases of suspected food poisoning would be dealt with under the Ministry of Health's scheme.

NUTRITION.

Teaching by talks in the Infant Welfare Centres (in addition to individual advice) has been carried out. At school medical inspections the teachers are requested to give their views on the feeding of the children and general questions, such as the need for iodised salt in the prevention of goitre, are discussed.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks are given by the Medical Officer of Health at clubs, Women's Institutes, etc., on request.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The County Council carry out all the work under this heading. Your Medical Officer of Health as Assistant County Medical Officer arranges for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

In the Annual Report for 1936 it was advised that hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease other than Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever was required and this would apply to cases where complications involving the eyes arose.

The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum dealt with are summarised below.

Notified.	CASES.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At home.	In hospital.				
Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1937.

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (9)	—	1
2. Syphilis (11)	1	—
3. Cancer, Malignant Disease (13)	5	2
4. Heart Disease (16)	2	3
5. Other Circulatory Diseases (18)	1	1
6. Pneumonia (all forms) (20)	1	—
7. Other Diseases of the Liver, etc. (26)	—	1
8. Acute and Chronic Nephritis (28)	1	—
9. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. (31)	1	—
Total 20 ...	12	8

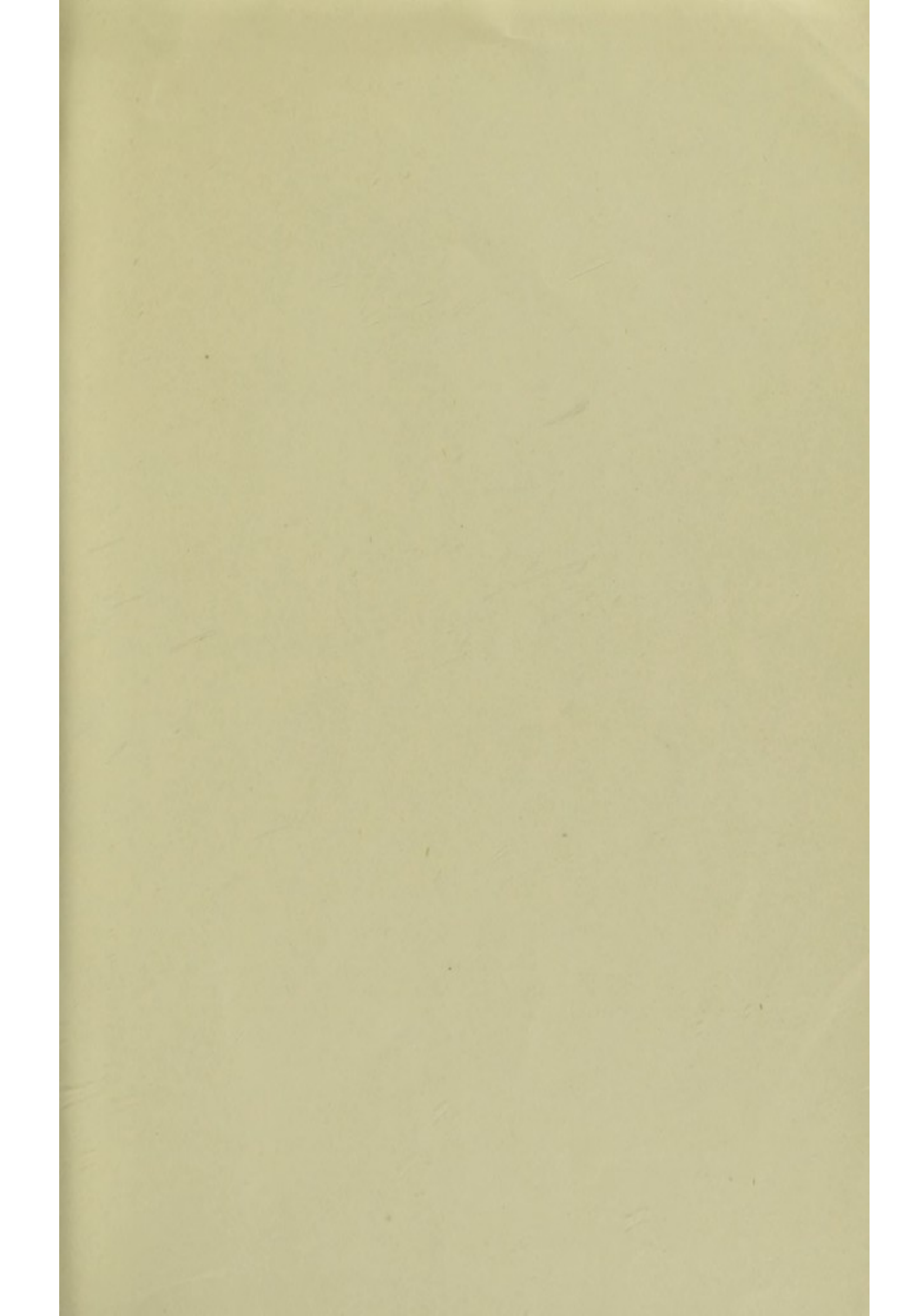
(The figures in brackets refer to the Registrar-General's Short List).

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were two deaths of infants under one year of age, both legitimate and both males. One aged 6 days from cerebral hæmorrhage following a difficult labour, and one aged 5 weeks due to marasmus.

BYELAWS ADOPTED DURING THE YEAR.

The Byelaws with relation to New Buildings were adopted during the year and are now in force. No byelaws regarding these have been in force for some years. The series adopted was the model skeleton form and more comprehensive byelaws will have to be considered.



V. WEEKS, Bromyard.
