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**Contributors**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

on the

**STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH**

**for the Year**

**1948**

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Resigned on 31st May, 1948) M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed on 1st June, 1948)
Clerk	...	...	MISS S. DENSHAM
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	None appointed

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.

Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

Throughout the year the Council has been without the services of a Sanitary Inspector, any urgent work being carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the Bromyard Rural District. It is to be hoped that, with the appointment of a Sanitary Inspector to the Council, a housing survey will be undertaken in order to ascertain the present needs, and plan for the future housing requirements.

M. J. PLEYDELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,666
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	501
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£9,141
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£35 0 0

## EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Total	Males	Females
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	...	31	22	9
(Illegitimate)	...	...	1	—	1
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	32	22	10
DEATHS	...	...	28	12	16
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	...	...	1	0	1

## COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1948:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	19.2
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	17.9
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	16.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	10.8
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	31.2
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	34.0

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continue to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

### CLINICS

There are no clinics provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: In Frome Bank, Bromyard on alternate Thursdays, at 1.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. During the year a Speech Therapist has been appointed to undertake treatment of those children suffering from speech defect. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.



## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply for the Town is obtained from six shallow wells at Buckenhill, whose yield varies from 60,000 to 100,000 gallons daily. This supply was supplemented during a part of the year by water drawn from the river Frome, which was filtered and chlorinated by a War Department Water Purification Trailer; this plant being kindly loaned by the Army Authorities. It is capable of pumping 3,000 gallons an hour of treated water, but, although it has proved very useful, it requires more attention and maintenance than would be economical for a permanent fixture.

The water is chlorinated at the pumping station and pumped up to reservoirs at York Road and Flaggoners Green of 100,000 gallons and 40,000 gallons capacity respectively. Bacteriological Examination of samples of the Town water supply after chlorination were found to be satisfactory, while examination of samples of raw water were from the six shallow wells, showed that four were polluted and two were satisfactory.

The whole of the district is supplied either direct or by stand pipes in the streets. There are also four farms and eleven houses in the Rural District supplied by the town supply.

### SEWERAGE

The sewage from the town is discharged untreated into the river Frome, the principle outfall being situated at "Forburries" with a flow of about 40,000 gallons a day. The proposed sewage disposal scheme formulated in 1937 has remained in abeyance. Treatment of the town sewage is necessary, especially in light of the fact that the houses near the Worcester Bridge are flooded by the river Frome.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

Except for the matter of pollution described under the previous heading there is nothing calling for comment.

### HOUSE REFUSE

The collection of house refuse is carried out once a week by a private contractor with an open motor lorry. There is no standardization of refuse receptacles.

### CONVERSION OF PAIL OR PIT CLOSETS INTO W.C.s

A number of houses in the town are provided only with pail or pit closets. The Council are desirous for W.C.s to be substituted in place of the insanitary pail closets, the emptying of which is very objectionable to women tenants. Owners have been directed to carry out the proposed conversion as soon as circumstances, such as labour and materials, will permit.

### SANITARY INSPECTIONS

INSPECTIONS under				No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied with
Housing Acts	...	...	...	25	12	1	13
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	3	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	37	12	—	12
Water	...	...	...	5	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Food Shops	...	...	...	19	2	—	2



## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

### INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	6	37	5	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ... ..	—	—	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	—	—	—	—

## CAMPING SITES

There are no registered camping sites in the area.

## BED BUGS

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING

Number of new houses built during the year:

(a) By the Council ... ..	8
(b) Privately ... ..	3
Total ... ..	11

The post-war housing scheme on the Ballhurst Estate has now been completed, and the Council owns 60 houses. The Council has approved a scheme for the erection of 52 houses on the Bannut Tree Meadow Site and expect to commence on this work shortly.

The housing situation remains a problem. As noted in the last annual report, much of the property in Bromyard has reached the age at which it requires urgent replacement. With the appointment of a Sanitary Inspector, a housing survey should be undertaken to ascertain the present and future needs, both for structural replacements and to help in ameliorating the present degree of overcrowding.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	15
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... ..	25
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, fit for human habitation ... ..	15
Action under Statutory Powers during the year ... ..	Nil



## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK

Visits to dairies	...	...	9
Milk samples taken	...	...	1
Informal notices to cleanse	...	...	3

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat is inspected at the Hereford Abattoir. Transport and handling of the meat was satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM

Six premises are registered under the Food and Drugs act, 1938.

### FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The following foods were examined, found unsound and destroyed:—

Various goods	...	...	35 tins	Blown or Damaged
Smoked Bacon	...	...	28 lbs.	Bone taint
Wet fish	...	...	91 lbs.	Decomposition
Corned Beef	...	...	6 lbs.	Decomposition
Bread crumblets	...	...	22 lbs.	Contamination
Shredded Beef Suet	...	...	35 lbs.	Contamination

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year four cases of Whooping Cough, one of Pneumonia, two cases of Cerebro-spinal fever, and nine cases of food poisoning were notified. The outbreak of food poisoning was due to *Salmonella bovis morbificans*, and originated outside the district. Advice was given to the persons affected concerning the preparation and handling of food, and it is satisfactory to note that no secondary cases occurred.

### ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													Total	
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	
Whooping Cough .....	1	1						1							4
Pneumonia .....															1
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....						1				1					2
Food Poisoning .....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	9

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year an attempt was made to increase the number of infants and children immunised against diphtheria. Health Education measures included the exhibition of a number of immunisation posters at suitable places in the town, a display set in the library, and the film "Defeat Diphtheria, 1945" which was screened at the Regal Cinema. In addition, advisory letters on the beneficial effects of immunisation accompanied by consent cards were sent to parents of non-immunised children attending school. As a result, a high percentage of children now attending school have been immunised against diphtheria.

As from July 5th, 1948, the duties relating to diphtheria immunisation were transferred to the Hereford County Council. The following figures are presented with the consent of the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since January, 1934).

Age at 31. 12. 48	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15	Estimated mid-year child population 1948		
									Under 5	5-14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1948	47	46	45	44	39- 43	34- 38				
	2	34	15	14	22	131	135	353	164	271	435

These figures indicate that 53% of the child population 0—4 years have been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 46.8% at the end of 1947. 98.2% of the child population 5—14 years has been immunised against diphtheria, this figure not being comparable with the previous year; while 81% of the children under 15 years of age has been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

## TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1948, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of two males and six females, who normally reside in the Council's district.

During the year one new case was notified, on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one person recovered, and one was removed from the Register. During the same period, two deaths of persons suffering from the disease occurred.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

DISEASE	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis ... ..	0	2	2
Cancer (all forms) ... ..	2	2	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ... ..	1	3	4
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries ... ..	6	5	11
Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Diseases of the Digestive system ... ..	0	1	1
Nephritis ... ..	1	0	1
Congenital conditions (at birth) ... ..	0	1	1
Violence ... ..	0	1	1
All other causes ... ..	1	1	2



