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**Contributors**

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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire  
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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

on the  
State of the Public Health  
for the year 1953.  
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Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.      I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,  
D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector.      A.A. MAXWELL, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.Ex.E.,  
M.I.P.C., Dip.(Eng).  
R.T.C.(Glas).,

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1953 is presented herewith.

An outbreak of Measles occurred in the early months of the year at a time when this disease was prevalent throughout the greater part of North Herefordshire. In all, 80 cases were notified; the majority being between 5 and 9 years old. The illness was, in general, mild, and no fatalities occurred.

One case of paralytic Poliomyelitis was reported.

This year, as last year, there was one notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The incidence of this disease in our midst is, happily, low; and the total number of established cases on the Register (10) - which includes persons who move into the district suffering from Tuberculosis - is almost stationary.

Renewed interest in the provision of a sewage treatment plant to bring to an end the discharge of raw sewage into the River Frome; and the attention being given to this source of river pollution by the Wye River Board have raised hopes of concrete action being taken. The high cost of such public works however and the anomalies that make it unlikely that the scheme prepared by the Consulting Engineers will be grant-aided, may delay the project, and lead to temporary works being constructed.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness to the Chairman (Councillor H. Robinson) and Members of the Committee for the interest consistently taken throughout the year in our day to day work, and for the encouragement given to us.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.  
Telephone No. Leominster 95.

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# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	213
Population .. .. .	1,658
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to the Rate Books) ..	520
Rateable Value (at 31.3.54) .. .. .	£9,721
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£40

## EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) .. .. .	23	9	14
(Illegitimate) .. .. .	N11	-	-
Total .. .. .	23	9	14
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate) .. .. .	1	1	-
DEATHS .. .. .	20	15	5
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES .. .. .	N11		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate) .. .. .	1	-	1

## COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	13.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	15.5
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	0.60
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	0.35
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	12.1
Death Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..	43.5
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	26.8

## PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	2	17	15	40	6	-	-	-	80
Pneumonia	-	1	-	2	2	1	-	-	6

## TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1953 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of four males and six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year two cases were transferred to the Register from other districts and one new case was notified on account of pulmonary tuberculosis. During the same period one person suffering from tuberculosis left the district.



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children who were primarily immunised against diphtheria in the 12 months ended 31st December, 1953, and those who were given a reinforcing injection :-

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
8	12	5	25	48

I am indebted to Mr. A.A. Maxwell, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The supply from the springs at Buckenhill remained fairly constant until the last two months of the year, when a drop in the flow caused concern. To help remedy this, the Council renewed over 400 yards of the gravitation main with 6" Spun Asbestos pipes to replace the stoneware pipes that had been installed over fifty years ago. It was amazing that the supply had been so good. Examination of the pipes lifted showed them to be damaged and not even jointed. The level of the main resembled hump-back bridges.

To keep the supply efficient, steps must be taken :-

- (a) to collect two springs at present running to waste. During periods of drought a flow of 1,000 gallons per hour has been gauged. The gauging taken shows that in normal weather the flow increases to 1,500 gallons per hour. It must be realised that the dry weather flow amounts to 24,000 gallons per day, which means with the other springs there is available in the driest weather, allowing for defects and leakages, at least 50,000 gallons and
- (b) to prevent any shortage by conserving the water as near the source as possible, and to reduce the expense of pumping, the construction of a new impounding tank is an urgent necessity. The capacity of the present tank does not allow for the flow in a normal period. Thousands of gallons therefore overflow every month.

Plans are now made for the supply to the Bannut Tree Estate to be by a 3" main; and, to obviate complaints from the West Hill area, the adjoining houses will be connected to this supply which comes from the tower tank.

I regret to state that the automatic pumping plant is not yet completed, but representations are being made continually to the Contractors. It appears that the supply of certain equipment from the manufacturers is the cause of the trouble.

Samples taken of the supply during the year yielded no adverse reports.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

It is pleasant to report that prices and tenders are now in the hands of the Ministry for a new sewage disposal plant which will deal with all the new houses on the Bannut Tree Estate and the existing houses on Ballhurst. This scheme has entailed the laying of a new sewer along the Milvern Lane, across Porthouse Meadow to the Railway Bridge, where the pipes will be carried over, above the railway, to the site of the works at Three Mills.

The scheme will take over 60 houses from the existing system so the pollution at Forburries should decrease slightly. The Council recognise the need of sewage disposal plants but do not agree with the elaborate schemes suggested by Consultants which would cost in the region of £50,000. The grants to Rural Districts for these schemes often appear to create anomalies when we consider that some Rural Districts in the country have towns of over 10,000 population getting grants for the schemes as they are part of a Rural District, yet in the case of Bromyard with a population in the region of 2,000, because it is an Urban District, it will receive no financial aid. With the rate burden getting higher each year, how can small areas with high assessments and low rate income progress?

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The one camping site in the area is frequently used by Fairs and Circuses. The conditions under which these people live, make the inspection of their accommodation a pleasure and in my experience the Health Inspector is welcome, and is looked on, not as an intruder but as a friend.

It is regretted that more touring caravans do not use this site, as the owner is willing (if the need arises) to provide up-to-date amenities for these visitors. The Council feel that if they could attract more holiday makers with caravans, the community as a whole would benefit.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council undertake the removal of household refuse by direct labour and since the duties were taken over a regular collection has been maintained with a year free from serious complaints.

The cleansing of the highways within the town is carried out daily and the street gullies are disinfected after cleansing.

The Public Conveniences are cleansed daily, but I regret to report that despite the efforts of the Council employees we find that some persons of both sexes do not have the respect for public property that they ought to have and deface inside walls.

## RAG, FLOCK and OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises requiring registration under this Act.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trades in the District.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The efforts of your operator produced the following results:-

The approximate kill -	at Refuse Tip .. .. .	150
	Sewers .. .. .	200
	Business Premises and Private	
	Houses .. .. .	200



# FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

## INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	30	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	30	-	-

## CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	2	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences - relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	4	-	1	-



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices	..	..	..	60
Ditto complied with	..	..	..	54
Letters sent out	..	..	..	64
Complaints received	..	..	..	12
Ditto confirmed	..	..	..	10
Nuisances found	..	..	..	8

## GENERAL SUMMARY

Total number of Inspections	..	..	..	420
Total number of Re-inspections made	..	..	..	206

## DRAINAGE

New Drainage	..	..	..	16
Repairs to existing drainage	..	..	..	6
Smoke, water etc. tests	..	..	..	28

## DWELLING HOUSES

Ordinary	..	..	..	41
Infectious Disease and contaots	..	..	..	12
Overcrowding	..	..	..	3

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

New Bins	..	..	..	7
Accumulations of Refuse	..	..	..	3
Tips	..	..	..	52
Rodent Control Surveys	..	..	..	26

## WATER SUPPLY

Inspection of Springs	..	..	..	12
Gauging	..	..	..	8
Testing Flow	..	..	..	8
Examinations of Reservoirs	..	..	..	52

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Fairs etc.	..	..	..	9
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## FOOD PREMISES

Dairies, Cafes and Butchers's Shops	..	..	..	61
Bakehouses	..	..	..	10

## HOUSING

Fifteen houses were erected by the Local Authority during the year.

Two houses were erected by private persons.

The price of the Gregory houses was fixed and the tenders for roads, sewers and water mains were in the Quantity Surveyor's hands.

At the end of the year tenders were received for a sewage disposal plant to serve all the Council houses in Ballhurst and Bannutt Tree Estate and they are now before the Ministry for approval.



# INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 67
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 81
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. .. .. 16

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

### Proceedings under the Public Health Act:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs 26
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of notices :-
  - (a) By Owners .. .. 20
  - (b) By Local Authority .. .. Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### BAKEHOUSES

The five bakehouses in the area are regularly inspected and the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM

All ice cream sold in the area is pre-packed and no complaints have been received.

### FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES

Difficulties in the past with the trade have now been overcome and Manufacturers have co-operated excellently to ensure that the food is produced in a hygienic manner.

### PUBLIC HOUSES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The improvements reported last year have continued, but in one case the cooking facilities of one establishment still gives cause for concern. Interviews with the management brings hope that during the coming year the desired improvements will be carried out without resorting to formal action.

### FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION & DESTROYED

3 Cwt.	Soft Fruit	..	..	Decomposed
9 lbs.	Ham	..	..	Bone Taint
4 tins	Imported Ham	..	..	Punctured Tins
217 tins	Fruit, Beans, Soups etc.			Blown, punctured or rusty tins.



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