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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1954.

EDMOND W. BROWN DISTRICT

Heretofore

Joint

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1924.

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.J
M.I.P.C., Dip.(Eng).
R.T.C.(Glas).,

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1954 which has been prepared jointly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good and, apart from the cases of Scarlet Fever, there were no major outbreaks of notifiable disease in spite of the cold and wet summer and autumn. The thirty cases of Scarlet Fever occurred mainly in the spring quarter, but isolated instances of the disease were reported in each of the four quarters. As this fever is of occasional occurrence everywhere in Britain, and as it is closely connected with the common sore throat and with other not uncommon ailments such as otorrhoea and impitigo, there is no possibility of its being stamped out completely. Modern drugs can assist in bringing a localised outbreak under control, but the elimination of sporadic cases and of associated secondary ones is not feasible in view of the widespread distribution of the germ and its association with other non-notifiable illnesses among adults as well as children. As the majority of the cases that occurred in 1954 were in the 5 to 9 years age group, investigation was carried out at the Infants School, children were examined, those with unhealthy throats etc. were excluded temporarily and test swabs were submitted to the laboratory. A gradual decline in the numbers of cases arising was observed.

The principal event of 1954 was the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which requires the Council to prepare a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation and that cannot be made fit at reasonable expense. Provisional figures for our first five years plan for erecting houses to provide accommodation for people whose unfit houses we undertake to demolish within that period must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government before 31st August, 1955. With a view to the provision of the required data, a rapid survey of housing conditions is to be undertaken by your officers.

It was with pleasure that we learned of the Government's decision to terminate meat rationing in July 1954. This decision involved the abandonment of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food and the re-introduction of the licensing of existing private slaughter-houses. In view of the Government's declared policy of restoring centralised slaughtering some time in the future and to authorise the provision of major abattoir facilities in comparatively few centres throughout the country, cognisance had to be taken of this by the Council when re-licensing existing private slaughter-houses, because costly improvements at them might lead to claims for compensation against the Council from the owners when the official policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities was effected.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in acknowledging once again our indebtedness to the Chairman and Members for the encouragement that has been given to us throughout the year

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No. Leominster 2595.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	213
Population	1,670
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Books)	530
Rateable Value	£9,959
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£40

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) ..	21	7	14
(Illegitimate) ..	-	-	-
Total ..	21	7	14
STILL BIRTHS	Nil		
DEATHS	18	10	8
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES ..	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate) ..	1	1	-

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	12.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.2
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births) ..	Nil
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	24.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..	47.6
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	25.5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply from the Buckenhill Springs continues to provide an adequate flow for the town, but during the year arrangements were made to incorporate additional springs in order to increase the dry-weather yield substantially.

Plans are in course of preparation for the construction of two new storage tanks. One will be situated at the Three Mills and the other at Flaggoners Green.

An automatic pumping plant is now installed and is proving of great value.

Samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The end of the year saw the completion of the first purification plant in the Urban area. This plant is serving the old Ballhurst Estate and the new Bannut Tree Estate.

No progress has been made with regard to the Fourberries where the effluent still runs untreated into the river. The River Board are viewing the matter with concern and have approached the Council regarding the provision of a sewage disposal works.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The camping site used by the travelling fairs has caused no nuisance in the past year, but the need for a proper caravan site cannot be over-stressed in view of the number of caravans passing through Bromyard at present. No proper facilities have yet been provided. Even from an economic point of view the Council should have a caravan site under their control as this is sure to attract visitors to the town and surrounding district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Little can be added to what has been stated in previous years, except that the residents of the district do not realise that they could reduce their costs if more refuse was burned instead of being left for collection by the Council.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

During the year the Council re-licenced one slaughter-house which had been improved to the requirements of this Department. One other small slaughter-house was renovated for use by the owner. In both cases the premises are kept in a clean condition.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The efforts of the Operator produced the following results:-

Approximate kill :-	at Refuse Tip	140
	in Sewers	175
	Business premises	
	and private houses ..	80

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	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	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	4	-	1	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices	70
Ditto complied with	64
Letters sent out	90
Complaints received	20
Ditto confirmed	16
Nuisances found	7

GENERAL SUMMARY

Total number of Inspections	394
Total number of Re-inspection made	214

DRAINAGE

New Drainage	8
Repairs to existing drainage	27
Smoke, water etc. tests	35

DWELLING HOUSES

Ordinary	68
Infectious Disease and contacts	18
Overcrowding	4

REFUSE DISPOSAL

New Bins	5
Accumulations of Refuse	1
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.	5
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FOOD PREMISES

Dairies, Cafes and Butcher's Shops	50
Bakehouses	12

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year.

The inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts resulted in certain properties being scheduled and in due course they will be dealt with in the statutory manner.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	72
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	93
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	28

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	40
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of notices :-	
(a) By Owners	32
(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.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT

STATEMENT OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

90	Bullocks	33	Heifers	960	Sheep & Lambs
93	Calves	179	Pigs		

In addition 1,750 Hams were examined.

Meat found to be Unfit for Human Consumption and Destroyed:-

126	lbs.	..	..	Tuberculosis
60	"	..	..	Oedema
360	"	..	..	Septic Matritis
254	"	(Frozen Imported)		Decomposed
6	"	..	..	Distomatosis
4	"	..	..	Melanosis
14	"	..	..	Tumours
14	"	..	..	Excessive Bruising
172	"	..	..	Gutoedema
4,862	"	Ham & Bacon		Due to Chemical Impurities during curing.

Total Weight .. 2 Tons, 12 Cwts, 3 Stones, 6 lbs.

In addition, 300 tins of various foodstuffs were destroyed. The main cause was blown tins.

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	-	-	4	20	4	-	2	-	30
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1954 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of five males and six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year one case was transferred to the Register from another district.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26
Vaccination and Immunisation.

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year :-

Purpose of Injection	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination.									Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	15	10	-	2	-	6	-	-	33	37
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	14	10	2	1	-	-	-	-	27	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-

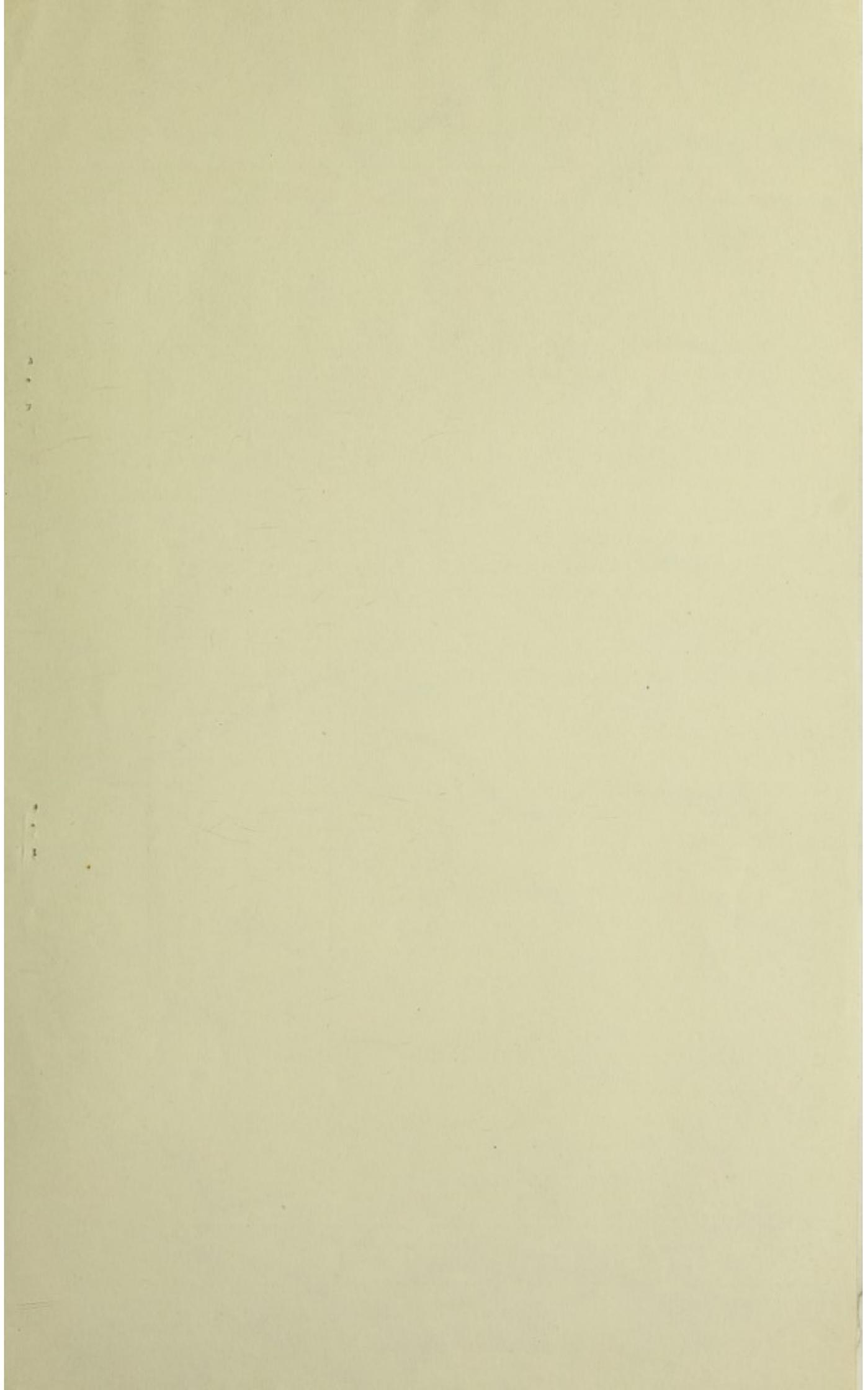
Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	2	2
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	1	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	3	2	5
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-	-
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis	-	-	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	-	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

All causes

18



STATE OF TEXAS

Description	Value	Fees	Total
1. ...			
2. ...			
3. ...			
4. ...			
5. ...			
6. ...			
7. ...			
8. ...			
9. ...			
10. ...			
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36. ...			