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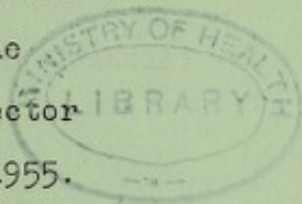
HEALTH  
G-3AUG56  
C.R. 57

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire  
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Joint  
ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and of the  
Sanitary Inspector  
for the year 1955.  
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1915

PROXY AND VOUCHER  
RECEIPT

Joint  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
National Office of Health  
and of the  
Sanitary Inspector  
for the year 1915.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1955)

P.D. Arrowsmith. (Chairman of the Finance and General  
Purposes Committee)

D.H. Evans. (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman  
of the Water Supply Committee)

J. Oliver.

M.J. Peto, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.,

Mrs. E.C. Powell.

R.L. Price.

H. Robinson. (Chairman of the Highways, Buildings,  
Public Health and Lighting Committee)

G.T. Ross.

F.J. Wall.

W.G. Walton. (Chairman of the Council)

F.M. Wilkes.

Clerk to the Council .. L.A. Flint.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1955)

F. D. Arrowood, M.A. (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee)

G. H. Evans, M.A. (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Water Supply Committee)

J. Oliver

M. J. Soto, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.S. (Dentist)

Mr. E. G. Tovey

R. J. White

H. Robinson, M.A. (Chairman of the Highway, Buildings, Public Health and Lighting Committee)

S. T. Ross

T. J. Wall

W. G. Water, M.A. (Chairman of the Council)

T. M. Wilson

Clerk to the Council: L. A. Firth



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

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

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1955 which, as usual, has been prepared jointly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good, and though nineteen cases of Whooping Cough were notified, no deaths occurred. It will be observed that two new cases of Tuberculosis were reported, one of them being on account of disease in the lungs. The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year was eleven. This is practically the same as it was ten years ago. During that period the variation from year to year has been quite slight. The lowest recorded was eight, in 1948; the highest thirteen, in 1950. It is to be expected that in the course of coming years there will be a progressive fall in the occurrence of tuberculosis in the community, when the cumulative effect of better housing, of B.C.G. Vaccination of children against tuberculosis, and of the detection of unsuspected chronic cases and early cases by the increasingly efficient service operated through the Chest Clinic and the family doctors, reduces the number of new cases reported annually.

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council were required to prepare, by August 30th 1955, a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation. A preliminary survey carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and myself resulted in the Ministry being informed that there are sixty houses that appeared to be suitable for inclusion in that category. A detailed inspection of these and of other houses will need to be undertaken, as and when possible, so that accurate data may be available to enable appropriate action to be taken under Section II of the Housing Act 1936. The Council's undertaking to deal with sixteen of these unfit houses during the ensuing five-year period did not altogether meet with the approval of the Ministry; and it was suggested by a representative of the Ministry that the Council should endeavour to deal with all of the unfit dwellings in the district during the five years.

A notable event of 1955 was the Council's decision to appoint Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the treatment of the raw sewage from the district. Until the treatment plant provided in connection with our Council house project came into full operation recently, practically



the whole of the sewage from the district was discharged untreated into the river Frome. Though the Council deplored this practice, yet the cost of constructing treatment works without grant aid led to the rejection of plans that had been prepared in outline years ago. Even now it is difficult to see how a small community such as ours can bear the financial burden that a modern treatment works will impose on the ratepayers; and it says a lot for the moral courage of the Council that instructions have been given to the Consulting Engineers to do ahead and prepare detailed plans for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Reference has been made in the text to the unreliable character of the chlorinating plant at the Water Works. This development was the result of increasing age and prolonged and constant use. During the year, therefore, the Council considered the possibility of replacing this undependable appliance with one of modern design, and instructions were given for suitable firms to be approached.

Flooding from excessive rainfall of the character experienced during the early summer, is fortunately a rare occurrence. On the occasion to which I am referring, considerable damage was caused in Sherford Street, the Knapp, and Nodens Lane. Much discomfort was also experienced by householders who were taken unawares by the tremendous flow of water. Active consideration was immediately given by the Council to measures to help those people who were in distress; and to try to prevent similar damage arising should flooding recur in the future.

The possibility of extending the boundaries of the Urban District under the Town Development Act, 1952, is a matter of considerable importance to the town, in view of the need to encourage the introduction of more light industries; and of the likelihood that we may be asked to agree to an increase in our population by accepting some of the Birmingham 'over-spill'. It should be recorded here therefore that, during the year, the Council devoted time and thought to considering what had best be done to further the interests of Bromyard as a small country town.

Homes for old people have, in view of the pressing needs of the young, received all too little attention from many local authorities. That cannot be said of us. As the Council's efforts earlier in the year to try and persuade the County Council, as Welfare Authority, to provide a Home for Old People in Bromyard had not achieved the desired result, the Council investigated the possibility of themselves erecting a number of one and two roomed bungalows designed specially for old persons. It is expected that further action will be taken during the current year to determine if this project could be a practicable proposition in view of the known difficulty of finding sites situated conveniently close to the centre of the town.



A novel suggestion that received support from the Council was that the Health Authority should provide each child with a written record of the inoculations that he or she had received during infancy and school life. Because protective materials for a fairly wide range of diseases, (which, among others, includes Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, Smallpox, Tetanus, Typhoid, Tuberculosis and Poliomyelitis) are now available and in use, it seemed to the Council that it would be but common sense for a record to be available in every home so that, irrespective of change of residence from county to county or city to city, a family doctor anywhere would be able to see what inoculations a child had had, should illness arise. Though both the County Council and the Ministry of Health were invited to put this suggestion into operation, it seemed to them that, largely on the score of cost, the time was not opportune. Nevertheless, as the proposal is essentially sound and is of undeniable practical importance, it may be possible for the Council to bring it forward again in a few years' time.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I would like to acknowledge our appreciation of the keen interest taken by the Chairman and Members of the Committee in our day to day activities. We find this to be not only an encouragement to us, but an incentive as well.

I. F. MACKENZIE

Medical Officer of Health.

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

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

##### CLINICS

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

Child Welfare Centre: On alternate Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Church Institute, Bromyard.

Children are referred to the Ear Nose and Throat, Eye Paediatric and Chest Clinics in Hereford, as and when required.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	213
Population ... ..	1,660
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to the Rate Books)	534
Rateable Value ... ..	£9,942
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) ...	26	16	10
(Illegitimate) ...	2	1	1
Total ...	<u>28</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>
STILL BIRTHS ... ..	Nil		
DEATHS ... ..	19	6	13
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES ...	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE ... ..	Nil		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	16.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales ... ..	15.0
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	Nil
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales ... ..	23.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	11.4
Death Rate for England and Wales ... ..	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ... ..	24.9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLY

Despite the low rainfall of 1955, the water supply has remained adequate, but the need for an Impounding Tank and a Storage Reservoir at Flaggoners Green must be stressed again. Plans have been prepared and submitted to the Regional Engineer of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, but nothing definite has yet been decided.

Additional connections were made to the supply at Buckenhill to increase the amount of water available. The automatic pump has continued to work very efficiently. The chlorination apparatus, on the other hand, is of an obsolete pattern and cannot be expected to continue to function in a reliable manner for much longer.

Samples of the water submitted for analysis have showed that the quality is satisfactory.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Some difficulties arose at the Disposal Works during the year. The works were designed for 200 houses, but the entry of large quantities of storm water on several occasions caused inefficient functioning of the purification process. The scheme for dealing with the storm water must be started soon if the works are to operate efficiently at all times.

The erection of a fence around the Disposal Works, though sanctioned by the Council, has not yet been done. The danger arising from trespass by children is self-evident in view of the depth of the open treatment tanks.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

The amount of refuse collected in the area has not decreased, and it is doubtful if publicity to the effect that 'Burning Refuse Saves Rates' is likely to achieve any good result. Though it is generally known that the service is provided for household refuse only, some persons try to persuade the collectors to remove garden waste as well.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Careful supervision has been maintained, and regular cleansing (usually twice daily) is carried out. In spite of this, there were some complaints during the year.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No trouble has been caused by travelling fairs and circuses. As mentioned in last year's report, there is clearly a need for a caravan site, and again I would like to say that the provision of one would be of financial benefit, not only to the Council, but also to the traders in the town.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The two slaughter-houses in the area have been conducted in a very satisfactory manner, and no complaints were received or made. The statement of animals slaughtered is set out in detail elsewhere in the report.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The efforts of the Operator produced the following results:-

Approximate kill:-	at Refuse Tip .. ..	105
	in sewers .. ..	200
	Business premises and private houses ..	75



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	32	1	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	3	3	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices served	...	86
Ditto complied with	...	80
Letters sent	...	116
Complaints received	...	54
Ditto confirmed	...	32
Nuisances found	...	16

GENERAL SUMMARY

Total number of Inspections	...	428
Total number of Re-inspections	...	243

DRAINAGE

New drainage installed	...	12
Repairs to existing drainage	...	31
Smoke and Water tests	...	47



DWELLING HOUSES

Ordinary inspections	...	...	...	134
Infectious disease	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding	...	...	...	7

REFUSE DISPOSAL

New Bins	...	...	...	12
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	...	2
Tips	...	...	...	64
Rodent Control Surveys	...	...	...	26

WATER SUPPLIES

Inspection of Springs	...	...	...	12
Gauging	...	...	...	20
Testing Flow	...	...	...	24
Examination of Reservoirs	...	...	...	68

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Fairs etc.	...	...	...	4
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FOOD PREMISES

Grocers, Dairies, Cafes and Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	67
Bakehouses	...	...	...	12

HOUSING

New houses erected and occupied:-

By Local Authority	..	8
By private persons	..	1

A survey of dwelling houses was commenced, and it was found that the standard of a good number of houses is low. Appropriate action under the Housing Acts will be taken to secure improvement or, where applicable, to re-house the occupants and apply to the Council for the serving of Demolition Orders.

The need for bungalows for old people is now apparent, and also provision for those persons living in the almshouses which, in respect of lighting, ventilation, and conveniences, can only be regarded as primitive.

The completion of the Council's programme of 54 dwellings should ease the housing situation considerably but, there still remain people who, despite advice, accept expensive furnished apartments and then complain.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 54
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 134
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation .. 31



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 .. 32
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of notices:-
  - (a) By Owners ... .. 24
  - (b) By Local Authority ... .. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) BAKEHOUSES

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

(b) ICE-CREAM

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

(c) FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES

The cooperation of the trade in carrying out improvements, and in producing food under good hygienic conditions is to be commended.

(d) PUBLIC HOUSES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The conditions existing in all the catering establishments in the area are of a high standard, with one exception. Despite difficulties, some progress is being made as a result of our representations and advice.

(e) STATEMENT OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

148 Bullocks	54 Heifers	982 Sheep and Lambs
84 Calves	256 Pigs	

The total for the year was 1,524 carcasses.

In 1954 the total was 1,355 carcasses.

(f) MEAT FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND DESTROYED

1,190 lbs.	...	Tuberculosis.
274 lbs.	...	Septic Matritis.
183 lbs.	...	Oedema.
94 lbs.	...	Distomatosis.
28 lbs.	...	Melanosis.
65 lbs.	...	Malnutrition.
314 lbs.	...	Excessive Bruising.
102 lbs.	...	Gutoedema.



(g) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Cans of various foodstuffs numbering 471 in all, were examined and destroyed, the main defects being either blown or rusty 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	15-24	25 & Over	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	2	5	1	11	-	-	19
Measles	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1955 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of five males and six females, who normally reside within the district.

During the year, two new cases were notified, one Pulmonary and the other Non-Pulmonary.

In the same period, one person recovered and another left the 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.	3 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	7	7	-	6	-	20	24
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	7	5	-	-	-	12	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	14	-	1	-	1	16	1



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

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	-	2	2
Diabetes ... ..	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	3	4
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	1	-	1
Other heart disease ... ..	3	3	6
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	-	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1	1
Accidents ... ..	-	1	1
<b>All causes</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>

LAWSON HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, SECTION 35  
VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Number of children in the district who were treated during the year -

Disease	1950-51		1951-52		1952-53	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	1	1	1	1	1	1
Polio	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1

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