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Contributors

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CLUN AND BISHOPS CASTLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1969



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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1969



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officers of Health

P. C. MOORE, B.SC., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G. (*Temporary Medical Officer of Health from 9th September 1968 to 30th September 1969*)

J. C. HINCHLIFFE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (*Appointed 1st October 1969*)

Public Health Inspectors

H. Bramwell, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Inspector and Surveyor.

R. W. Easton, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.

Public Health Laboratory Service

Bacteriologist: Dr. A. C. JONES

Public Health Laboratory,

Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury

CLUN AND BISHOPS CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE PINES,
BISHOPS CASTLE.

To the Chairman and Members of Clun and Bishops Castle District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the report on the health of Clun and Bishops Castle District in 1969.

During this year South West Salop United Districts were divided into Clun and Bishops Castle district and Atcham district.

Clun and Bishops Castle district comprises a large area with few centres of population. From the statistics it is one of the few areas to show a population reduction.

Included within the list of notifiable diseases was a case of paralytic poliomyelitis. At the time this necessitated setting up a polio vaccination clinic to vaccinate contacts. Fortunately there were no secondary cases and the poliomyelitis victim is progressing well. The end of the year saw the onslaught of an influenza epidemic with its high toll of morbidity and not inconsiderable mortality, which was not confined to the elderly.

A contagion of this type makes persons living alone very vulnerable and emphasises how necessary it is that such persons should have friends and helpful neighbours to ensure against isolation during illness. The Welfare departments project to monitor and maintain friendly supervision in such cases is to be welcomed and assured of our full co-operation.

The good work of rehousing persons from unfit houses was continued and is expected to proceed at the rate of 20-30 dwellings per year.

The prime need of the district is for improved sewage disposal and it is encouraging to see the Council's keen interest rewarded by progress in relation to the schemes for Brockton, Worthen and Bedstone and Bucknell.

In conclusion I would like to thank Mr. Bramwell and Staff for very willing co-operation at all times.

JOHN HINCHLIFFE.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

England and Wales

16.3
13
18
12
23
11.9

Live birth Rate
Stillbirth Rate
Infant Mortality Rate
Neonatal Mortality Rate
Perinatal Mortality Rate
Death Rate

*Clun and
Bishops Castle*

13.8 (standardised)
—
—
—
—
11.1 (standardised)

AREA (in acres inclusive of water)	133,469
RATEABLE VALUE (at 1st April 1969)	£180,095
ESTIMATED PRODUCT OF 1d. RATE (at 1st April 1969) ...	£688
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	3,606
ESTIMATED POPULATION (Mid 1969)... ..	9,880
Births	
LIVE BIRTHS: Legitimate	114
Illegitimate	4
Total	118
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS as % of Total Live Births ...	3.4
LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population—	
Crude	11.9
Standardised	13.8
STILL BIRTHS: Legitimate	—
Illegitimate	—
Total	—
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births	—
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	118
Infant Deaths	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR—	
Total	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—
Legitimate	—
Rate per 1,000 legitimate births	—
Illegitimate	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
DEATHS UNDER 4 WEEKS	—
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 live births ...	—
DEATHS UNDER 1 WEEK	—
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 live births	—
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week and stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	—

Maternal Mortality		
DEATHS (including abortion)		—
RATE per 1,000 live and still births ...		—
Deaths		
TOTAL DEATHS from all causes		132
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population—		
Crude		13.4
Standardised		11.1

The total number of the population in the District as at the 30th June 1969, is estimated by the Registrar-General as 9,880. This figure is 110 below the figure given for 1968.

The following are the estimates of the population for the District in 1969 and the figures for the years 1967 and 1968 are also given for comparison purposes.

	1967	1968	1969	Decrease
Estimated Population ...	10,050	9,990	9,880	110

SECTION B

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

(a) CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

Stone House, Bishop's Castle 2nd and 4th Fridays

(b) FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

The Shrewsbury and District Branch of the Family Planning Association operate clinics in the County Council's Health Centre at Murivance, Shrewsbury, as follows:—Mondays 1.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m. (Bank Holidays excepted) 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays each month, 6.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m. (Bank Holidays excepted); 2nd Wednesday each month, 2.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m. (For Oral Contraceptive and Appointments). 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays each month, 11.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m. (For advice on Intra-Uterine devices by appointment only)

(c) CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

Moral Welfare Workers employed by the Hereford and Lichfield Diocesan Associations (to whom the County Council pay annual grants of £800 and £900 respectively) cover the District, being based as follows:—

Miss M. Barfoot, 87 Spring Meadow, Sutton Hill, Telford (Dawley 6531).

Miss P. Barnes, Lyme Cottage, Eardisland, Leominster (Pembrige 274).

Mrs. C. V. Jones, 25 Talbot Chambers, Market Street, Shrewsbury (Shrewsbury 4900).

The County Council also gives substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

There are four distribution points in the area from which supplies of National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin A and D tablets) can be obtained. These points have been set up at a variety of places, including Child Health Centres, Post Offices, local shops and private houses.

Midwifery and Home Nursing

The County Council employs a total of 3 midwives in the District. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties. In addition, two full-time District Nurses are employed.

Health Visiting

Two full-time and one part-time Health Visitor are employed by the County Council in the District in addition to District Nurse-Midwives who are qualified Health Visitors and undertake this work as part of their duties.

Ambulance Service

The Central Ambulance Depot is at Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, and the telephone number is Shrewsbury 6331. A new full-time Ambulance Depot was opened at Craven Arms on 25th December, 1965, replacing the former Sub-Depots at Ludlow and Bishop's Castle. At the end of the year 1969 there were 16 ambulances at Shrewsbury, and 7 dual purpose vehicles. 5 ambulances and 2 dual purpose vehicles were based at Craven Arms.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children, school children, and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and measles and to children of thirteen-years and over against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

Travellers to countries where Yellow Fever is endemic are given protection but a fee of 25s. is charged for this service. Vaccination sessions, for which patients are given appointments, are held at the Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury on the first and third Mondays in the month at 3 p.m.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of Tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after-care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air Shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Chest Radiology Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may be provided in necessitous cases.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Welfare Officers and Health Visitors, the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

Domestic Help

The cases in the Clun and Bishops Castle Rural District are served from the Ludlow Home Help Office which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The table below gives particulars of the cases provided with help during the year ended 31st December, 1969.—

Ludlow Office	Type of Case				
	Aged and Chronic Sick 127	Maternity 2	Temporary Illness 3	Tuberculosis 1	Other —

Hospital Service

Complementary to the Health Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Hospital and Specialist Services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board under the provisions of Part II of the Act.

The District is reasonably well supplied with hospitals under the Nos. 15 and 16 Hospital Management Committees, and by Consultants based on the principal hospitals but who hold Specialist Clinics at many of the smaller hospitals in the area.

For the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis a Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11 a.m. at the Child Health Centre, Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, it is for convenience, held at the County Council's Centre.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This Clinic is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, and is provided by the Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee as part of the hospital and specialist services. The Medical Officers in charge are Dr. J. P. G. Rogerson and Dr. E. M. McCarter. The Clinic also serves the neighbouring Counties of Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire.

The times of sessions at the Venereal Diseases Clinic are now as follows:—

Males:	Tuesdays and Fridays	...	...	...	...	6-8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays	...	...	...	...	3.30-5.30 p.m.
	Thursdays	...	...	...	...	5-7 p.m.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Chester.

Good laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. A. C. Jones, of the Shrewsbury Laboratory, and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

The West Shropshire Water Board did not start work on the South Clun Comprehensive Scheme during 1969 in spite of all their previous assertions that they would do so. Shortages were experienced in the dry autumn at Edgton, Hopesay, Hopton Castle and Wentnor, all areas which will ultimately be served by the comprehensive scheme. Water had to be carried to these places as a public health service financed by this Council. Strong representations made to the water board were answered by promises that the work would start about April 1970 and the contract would be of about two years' duration.

A total of 32 samples of water were taken from private supplies during the year and submitted for bacteriological testing. The results were as follows:

Private Mains	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory	4	Unsatisfactory	11
Wells, streams and pumps	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory	2	Unsatisfactory	15

One sample was taken for chemical analysis from a private supply and this proved unsatisfactory due to drainage entering the system, works to remedy this are being carried out.

Approximately 2,044 of the 3,606 houses in the district are now supplied direct from public mains, a further 394 are connected to estate owned mains.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The proposal to construct a refuse incinerator at Craven Arms has now been dropped by the Ludlow Rural District Council and instead they are expecting to obtain permission to establish a large controlled tip on land near Onibury. This may prove of some help to us when the Clun-gunford tip is full.

This Council now only uses three tips namely King Grove, Clunton, Grimmer near Worthen and Clun-gunford.

The volume of refuse collected is still increasing annually and it is proposed to have a second 18 cubic yard fore and aft tipper to replace the small Karrier Bantam vehicle which was taken over from Bishop's Castle Borough when the two councils were amalgamated. An extra general labourer is to be employed and part of his time is to be spent as a third crew member when collections are carried out in Clun and Bishop's Castle. He will also act as a relief collector in times of sickness and holidays.

Throughout 1969 the service has operated quite well but there has been difficulty in turning out two crews on several occasions due to sickness and holidays. This should be obviated when the extra labourer is employed.

Sewerage Schemes

The existing small disposal plants, 23 in number are mostly working well although maintenance has to be of a very high order and de-sludging frequent if a reasonable effluent is to be obtained from the older units which are much too small when compared with present day standards. The Council now have four small extended aeration plants in use and they are operating satisfactorily.

Local investigations were carried out by an inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the Council's proposals to install main drainage schemes serving Chirbury and Worthen respectively, the latter to include Marton, Bin Weston, Brockton, Aston Pigott and Aston Rogers.

The Council persisted in their efforts to obtain permission to carry out the small Kinsley Road scheme and following the visit of a small deputation to the Ministry in London permission was granted for the scheme to proceed and it will be carried out in 1970.

The Bucknell and Bedstone scheme is also still awaiting permission to proceed.

The Newcastle scheme is not yet ready for a local investigation to be held due to difficulties in agreeing the line to be taken by the effluent pipe from the disposal works to the river.

A scheme to serve Lydbury North has been prepared in outline and submitted to the Ministry for comment.

Reports on samples of sewage effluents throughout the district were satisfactory in 15 instances and unsatisfactory in 12.

The two larger works serving Bishop's Castle and Clun respectively have operated satisfactorily through the year, the only problem being the disposal of dried sludge which accumulates at the works.

Public Health Inspectors' Visits

Housing Inspections and Maintenance	...	...	...	396
Housing Applications	...	...	...	51
Nuisances	...	...	...	40
Water supplies and samples	...	...	...	56
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	113
Refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	97
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	60
Rodent Control	...	...	...	62
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	...	74
Meat and food inspections	...	...	...	202
Factories and Food Premises	...	...	...	70
Other miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	51

Improvement Grants

The 1969 Housing Act increasing the maximum amount of grants came into operation and the number of applications increased considerably in the last three months of the year.

During the year a total of 52 grants were approved, 31 of which were standard grants.

Rodent Control

The position here shows little change from the pattern of the last three years, no new effective poison has been found to replace warfarin and throughout the district the old acute poisons still have to be used. The Anti-coagulant poison, Racumin 57, did help in some places but areas of resistance to this poison have already been proved. The containment band around the warfarin resistant areas is still actively treated by the Ministry of Agriculture staff although occasional small breaches of the defences have occurred and resistant rats have been discovered outside the band.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies

The three private slaughterhouses in the district have continued to operate at about the same level throughout the year and all carcasses have been inspected. Particulars are as follows:

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	281	Nil	1	1706	403
Number <i>not</i> inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	62	Nil	Nil	89	28
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Cysticerci					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

This Council is not a Food & Drugs Authority and sampling under that act is carried out by the Salop County Council who have kindly provided the following details:

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Milk

Pasteurised	8
Channel Islands Pasteurised	7
Untreated Farm Bottled	15
Sterilised	
Bulk untreated ex farm	22
	—
	52
	==

One Untreated Farm Bottled sample was slightly low in fat and a warning letter was sent to the producer concerned. The remaining samples were satisfactory.

Other Foods

Rhubarb and Ginger Preserve ... 1	Stabilised Wheat Germ 1
Food Flavouring 1	Steak and Kidney Pies 1
Pasties 1	Corn Oil 1
Cheese 1	Dried Creamed Potatoes 1
Cough Elixir 1	Beef Sausages 1
Fish Cakes 1	Pork Pies 1
Dried Milk 1	Health Drink 1
Sterilised Cream 1	Salad Cream 1

The informal sample of Rhubarb and Ginger Preserve was found to be deficient in soluble solids and fruit. The Analyst requested that a further sample be obtained to see that variation was not caused by unavoidable maldistribution of fruit tissue. The Sampling Officer has been unable to obtain a further sample of this commodity due to it being out of stock.

All other samples were satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Area) Order, 1960

	Samples Obtained	Phosphatase Test	Methylene Blue Test		
		Passed	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	45	45	42	1	2
Channel Islands Pasteurised	25	25	23		2
Untreated Farm Bottled	23	—	16	4	3
Farm Bottled	6	—	4	2	—

Warning letters were sent to the Dealers concerned regarding the above Methylene Blue failures and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed regarding failures in respect of Untreated Farm Bottled samples.

The following Food Premises are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Category	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Cafes and Hotels	30	30	30	30
Licensed Premises	35	35	35	35
Grocers' Shops	37	37	37	37
Greengrocers' Shops... ..	3	3	3	3
Butchers' Shops	7	7	7	7
Bakehouses	4	4	4	4
Sweet Confectionery... ..	18	14	14	14
Fishmongers' Shops	3	3	3	3
	137	133	133	133

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

H. BRAMWELL

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION D

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:

Disease	Number
Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	5
Whooping Cough	—
Pneumonia	—
Poliomyelitis:	
Paralytic	1
Non-paralytic	—
Food Poisoning	3
Erysipelas	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Dysentery	—
Meningococcal Infection	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Tuberculosis:	
Pulmonary	1
Non-pulmonary	1
Typhoid	—
Infective Hepatitis	1
Totals	13

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during the year was 13—7 more than the number notified in the previous year.

No case of diphtheria was notified. Children can be immunised against diphtheria and poliomyelitis, either by the family doctors or at the Schools or Infant Welfare Centres by the Medical Officers of the County Health Department. The last case of diphtheria notified was in the year 1949.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the numbers of notified cases of tuberculosis on the Register as at the 31st December 1969:

Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
8	9	3	3	11	12

New Case Notified

The new pulmonary case is now deceased.

The new non-pulmonary case had been notified previously and so the figures on the Register remain unchanged from those of the previous year.

Deaths

There was one death from Tuberculosis during the year.

CANCER

The total number of deaths from cancer, including leukaemia, in the District was 16. This gives a death rate of 1.62 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the total deaths from this disease, 4 were in the lungs or bronchus (3 male and 1 female).

APPENDIX I

CAUSES OF DEATH

B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm—Buccal Cavity	...	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm—Oesophagus	...	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm—Intestine	...	5
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm—Bronchus	...	4
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	...	2
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	2
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease...	...	6
B27	Hypertensive Disease	...	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	45
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	11
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	...	26
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	1
B32	Pneumonia	...	13
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema...	...	3
B34	Peptic Ulcer	...	3
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases—Genito-Urinary	...	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	3
BE48	All Other Accidents	...	2
All Causes			132

The total number of deaths was 1 less than in the previous year, and the crude death-rate is 13.4 per 1,000 of the population.

The three chief causes of death were as in previous years, Heart and Circulatory diseases, Cerebro-Vascular diseases and Malignant diseases.

There were only 3 deaths from motor vehicle accidents and 2 deaths from other accidents.

It will be noticed also that there were no deaths from the infectious diseases (diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever), which used to be the cause of death among young children, and there have been no deaths from poliomyelitis.

APPENDIX II

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. 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	11	8	—	—
Factories not included, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	31	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Total	48	39	—	—

2. Defects :—

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)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

3. Outwork—Nil.

