

**Contributors**

Dore and Bredwardine (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1937

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vjnxhu6g>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer Of Health**

FOR THE

**DORE AND BREDWARDINE  
RURAL DISTRICT.**

---

**1937**

---

*ISSUED JUNE, 1938.*





# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer Of Health**

FOR THE

**DORE AND BREDWARDINE  
RURAL DISTRICT**

---

**1937**


---

*ISSUED JUNE, 1938.*

---

JAKEMANS LTD., HEREFORD.





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29164400>

**Dore and Bredwardine Rural District  
Council**

---

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

---

*Medical Officer of Health :*

LEO FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health's Clerk :*

MR. P. G. HANCOX.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ALTON STREET,  
ROSS-ON-WYE.

TELEPHONE No. : Ross 214.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

MR. DAVID J. FRANCIS, C.R.S.I.

URISHAY HOUSE, PETERCHURCH.

TELEPHONE No. : Peterchurch 41.

## **Dore and Bredwardine Rural District Council**

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
ALTON STREET.  
ROSS-ON-WYE.

*June, 1938.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Dore and Bredwardine Rural  
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith is my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector for the same period.

The most prominent feature of the year was the high incidence of Scarlet Fever. This is discussed in the appropriate section of the Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

LEO FAY,  
Medical Officer of Health.



# DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

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

Area (in acres) : 86,043.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937 :  
7,273.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate  
Books : 2,154.

Rateable Value : £21,925.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £102 19s. 0d.

#### Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	99	50	49	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 15.0
	Illegitimate	10	4	6	
Stillbirths	... ..	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 26.79
Deaths	... ..	110	58	52	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popu- lation—Crude 15.1 Modified by the Areal Comparability Factor (0.77) : 11.6

#### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(HEADINGS 29 AND 30 OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ... ..	1	8.93
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes ...	2	17.86
Total ... ..	3	26.79

#### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	73
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	71
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	22
„ „ Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil.



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

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Bacteriological examinations and clinical analyses, with few exceptions, are performed by Dr. Lowe, at the County Laboratory, Hereford. The following are the numbers for the year :

Swabs examined for K. L. B.	...	22
Swabs examined for Streptococci	...	2
Sputa	... ..	7
Blood	... ..	1
Urine	... ..	1

It is now possible to submit all samples of water to bacteriological analysis in addition to chemical analysis. This is a much needed improvement, and is a valuable measure in the control of water borne disease. The necessity for such bacteriological control of water supplies is indicated in the number of samples which were found to be below the standard of safety.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Red Cross Society of Hereford provide ambulance facilities for cases other than those of infectious disease. These latter are removed by the Hereford Rural District Council Isolation Hospital.

### **Nursing in the Home.**

Home Nursing is carried out by five district nurses who are resident in the larger villages.

### **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

PETERCHURCH.—The Peterchurch Infant Welfare Centre is held on a Thursday afternoon, once monthly, at Urishay House, Peterchurch. The records shew an average attendance of 10 per session during 1937.

PONTRILAS.—The Pontrilas Infant Welfare Centre is also held on a Thursday afternoon, once monthly, and the records shew an average attendance of 8 per session during 1937.

### **Hospitals.**

There is no hospital in the district ; the majority of the cases requiring treatment being removed to Hereford.

## **SECTION C. : SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water.**

Owing to the pervious nature of the subsoil, a dry summer is liable to cause a shortage of water in several places. Piped supplies, however, are common in the larger villages and the two new schemes at Clifford and Longtown supply 120 houses.



Thirty-eight samples of water were submitted to analysis during the year (21 chemical and 17 bacteriological).

The chemical results shewed that 13 samples were satisfactory and 8 otherwise, whilst the bacteriological results shewed 7 samples to be satisfactory and 10 otherwise.

The above figures shew the necessity for a constant and close supervision of public water supplies. A pure and wholesome supply of water is one of the fundamentals of Public Health and the public is entitled to a rigorous enforcement of the necessary standards of purity.

#### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

41 House drains were laid or relaid during the year, and most of the new properties erected were equipped with septic tanks which are the best substitute for proper sewerage, which is impracticable in purely rural areas.

#### **Rivers and Streams.**

Complaints were received during 1937, of the pollution of a water course running through private land, by sewage from several houses. On investigation, the complaints were not substantiated.

#### **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year, 17 additional water closets have been provided and 3 were repaired, ventilated or provided with cisterns. 21 privies were converted to pail closets; 9 privies were converted to water closets, and 6 were repaired.

#### **Public Cleansing.**

Cusop Parish and Hay Urban District Council have a combined refuse collection. Complaints occasionally arise concerning unauthorised dumping of indestructible waste, but the cost of a systematic collection of such waste is prohibitive in such a sparsely populated area. 7 privies and ashpits were cleansed and deposits of offensive refuse were removed on 11 occasions during the year.

#### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

See Report of the Sanitary Inspector herewith appended.

#### **Shops.**

No action has been taken under the Shops Act, 1934.

#### **Smoke Abatement.**

The question does not arise.

#### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no (a) public (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public, in the district.

#### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action was required.



## Schools.

During the year, 14 schools were closed on account of the prevalence of infectious and other complaints and 5 schools were disinfected.

### School Closures.

SCHOOL.	DATE.	CAUSE.
Wormbridge ... ..	4/1/37—15/1/37	Measles, Coughs and Colds.
Abbeydore ... ..	1/1/37—19/1/37	Measles.
Madley ... ..	19/1/37—29/1/37	Influenza.
Michaelchurch Eskley ...	27/1/37—12/2/37	Measles.
Clifford ... ..	27/1/37—5/3/37	Influenza and Measles.
Longtown ... ..	28/1/37—5/2/37	Influenza.
Cusop ... ..	2/2/37—26/2/37	Influenza.
Walterstone ... ..	4/2/37—19/2/37	Influenza.
Orcop ... ..	15/2/37—19/2/37	Influenza.
Kentchurch ... ..	1/3/37—12/3/37	Influenza.
Vowchurch & Turnastone	20/4/37—11/5/37	Measles.
Walterstone ... ..	28/4/37—18/5/37	Measles.
Longtown ... ..	5/7/37—16/7/37	Measles.
Peterchurch ... ..	4/10/37—15/10/37	Scarlet Fever.
Orcop ... ..	25/10/37—29/10/37	Sore Throats.
Wormbridge ... ..	1/11/37—19/11/37	Whooping Cough.
Bredwardine Endowed	10/11/37—26/11/37	Chicken Pox.
Kingstone and Thruxton	11/11/37—26/11/37	Mumps.
Kentchurch ... ..	15/12/37—21/12/37	Coughs and Colds.

### Hop-Pickers' Quarters.

There is only one hop farm in the district where quarters are required for hop-pickers. Considerable improvement has been carried out at this farm recently.

## SECTION D. : HOUSING.

### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	446
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	446
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	140
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	142
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	44



## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	44
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

## 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners					Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied					3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners					Nil.
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	2
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil.

## 4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	26
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	3



(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	4
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	25
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.

Ten new houses were erected during 1937, all by private enterprise and two houses were demolished under the Housing Act, 1936. Six houses have been subjected to Demolition Orders but the orders have not been put into operation pending the provision of alternative accommodation.

Only three houses were reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, during 1937, bringing the total number up to 32. The average cost per house was £143 3s. 2d., and the average grant was £94. It is regrettable that this valuable Act was not operated to a greater extent during 1937 as it is the ideal method of preserving the old country cottages and yet maintaining a decent standard of housing. If the drift to the towns is to be stopped, one of the first essentials is to provide working class houses in the rural areas which approximate to modern standards of hygiene and comfort. The time when the agricultural worker was forced to be content with four walls and a leaking roof has gone, never to return.

### **Overcrowding.**

The number of houses which are legally overcrowded is only four. This figure is most misleading as gross and intolerable overcrowding can and does occur, and yet owing to the permitted inclusion of the living room as a bedroom, such cases are within the law. It is to be hoped that the proposed Housing Bill, 1938, will be the means of providing some badly needed additional cottages in the district.

## **SECTION E. : INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **Milk Supply.**

There are now 401 producers of milk on the Register. 5 Contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, were found and the defects were remedied in each case.

During the year, 74 samples of milk were submitted to bacteriological examination by the County Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

There are 8 registered slaughterhouses in the district, one of which has been cleansed and repaired during the year. 308 visits were made to slaughter houses and butcher shops and 14 cwt. of meat was voluntarily surrendered.

10 lbs. of canned goods and 8 lbs. of cooked foods were seized as unsound food.



### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	210	4	25	1000	200
Number inspected ...	210	4	25	1000	200
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	—	—	14	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.5 %	25	—	1.4 %	3 %
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :—</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	2	—	—	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	7.5 %	50 %	—	—	10 %

### SECTION F. : PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1937 was characterised by a record number of notifications of Scarlet Fever. 30 cases were notified, chiefly in Dorstone, Peterchurch, Kingstone and Orcop. Practically all the cases were exceedingly mild, many of them being notified only when desquamation or peeling occurred. Complications were rare and the abnormal mildness of the disease undoubtedly led to many cases being missed entirely. This rendered administrative control much more difficult and it should be repeated again that whenever more than one case of sore throat, with or without a rash, arises in the same household, medical aid should be sought as the cause is probably the Scarlet Fever germ.

It was found necessary to remove to hospital only six cases and there was no evidence that this policy of home isolation resulted in more cases than would have occurred if every case had been hospitalized.

This opportunity is taken of reminding the Council that their existing agreement with the Hereford Rural District Council for removal of infectious cases to Hospital is confined to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria ; excepting Smallpox, for which special arrangements are made. It should be appreciated that this agreement does



not cover such a disease as Typhoid, for instance, and this point must be borne in mind when the existing agreement is reconsidered. The average cost per case of patients removed to the Hereford Rural District Council Isolation Hospital during 1937, from this district was £12 9s. 6d. which is equivalent to a weekly charge of £2 14s. 6d.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	*Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	30	6	—
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	2	1	—

\* In addition to the above notifiable cases removed to Hospital, one case of Measles was admitted to Hospital from the hop-pickers' quarters at a Hop Farm.

### Analysis of Total Notified Cases According to Age.

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.												To- tals.
	Un- der 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over.	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	1	13	9	3	2	1	—	—	30
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
TOTALS ...	—	—	1	—	1	14	9	4	3	1	1	2	36

### Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1936, there were 20 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register. During the year, 5 fresh cases were notified (2 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary) and 12 cases were removed from the Register on account of death, recovery or change of residence, leaving 13 cases on the Register at the end of 1937.

## New Cases and Mortality During 1937.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25— ... ..	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	—
35— ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
45— ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	—

## Causes of Death.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Influenza ... ..	3	2	5
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	3	2	5
Other tuberculosis ... ..	1	1	2
Cancer ... ..	10	12	22
Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage ... ..	1	3	4
Heart disease ... ..	16	10	26
Aneurysm ... ..	—	1	1
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	2	1	3
Bronchitis ... ..	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	—	1	1
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	—	2	2
Peptic ulcer ... ..	1	—	1
Appendicitis ... ..	3	—	3
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	—	1
Other liver diseases ... ..	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases ... ..	2	—	2
Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	1	1	2
Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	1	1
Other puerperal diseases ... ..	—	2	2
Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc. ... ..	3	3	6
Senility ... ..	1	4	5
Violence other than suicide ... ..	3	1	4
Other defined diseases ... ..	4	2	6
ALL CAUSES ... ..	58	52	110



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

<i>Nature of Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of In- spections.</i>	<i>Informal Notices served.</i>	<i>Statutory Notices served.</i>	<i>Notices Complied with.</i>
Housing Regulations ...	424	32	2	32
Milk and Dairies Order ...	398	5	—	5
Factories ...	8	1	—	1
Workshops ...	33	1	—	1
Bakehouses ...	28	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses & Butchers' Shops	308	1	—	1
Schools ...	12	2	—	2
Water Supplies ...	65	2	—	2
Infectious Disease ...	87	—	—	—
Nuisances ...	50	40	4	40
Petrol Pumps and Oil Stores ...	36	—	—	—
Hop and Fruit-pickers' Quarters	65	2	—	2
Housing (Rural Workers) Act ...	56	—	—	—
General Inspections ...	1392	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>2962</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>86</b>

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Number of investigations carried out	..	..	87
Patients removed to Hospital	..	..	8
Houses disinfected and cleansed	..	..	65
Lots of bedding and clothing disinfected	..	..	65
Schools disinfected	..	..	5
Public Vehicles disinfected	..	..	Nil.

## HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

Number of inspections under the Act whilst work was in progress	..	..	..	56
---	----	----	----	----

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected	..	..	10
Number of houses made fit for human habitation	..	..	44
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	6
Number of houses in which overcrowding was abated	..	..	4

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of new wells sunk	..	..	2
Number of wells cleaned and repaired	..	..	6
Number of wells closed	..	..	Nil.
Samples of water sent for analysis	..	..	38

## HOUSE DRAINS.

Number of drains laid or relaid	..	..	41
Number of drains cleansed, trapped or ventilated	..	..	5
Defective waste pipes rectified	..	..	3
Insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	..	..	7

## WATER CLOSETS.

Additional water closets provided	..	..	17
Repaired, ventilated or provided with cisterns	..	..	3



# PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.

Number of privies converted to pail closets	..	21
Number of privies converted to water closets	..	9
Number of privies repaired	.. ..	6

# PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Privies and ashpits cleansed	.. ..	7
Removals of offensive refuse	.. ..	11

# SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number registered	.. ..	8
Number cleansed and repaired	.. ..	1

# DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of persons registered during the year	..	8
Total number on the Register	.. ..	401
Contraventions of Milk and Dairies Order remedied	..	5

# MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	.. ..	74
Accredited producers	.. ..	7
"Tuberculin Tested" milk producers	.. ..	4

# PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS.

Unsound meat seized (voluntary surrender)	..	14 cwt.
Unsound canned goods seized	.. ..	10 lbs.
Unsound cooked foods seized	.. ..	8 lbs.

# CLERICAL WORK.

Letters written	.. ..	255
Informal notices served	.. ..	86
Statutory notices served	.. ..	6
Notices complied with	.. ..	86
Notices re Lime-washing, Milk and Dairies Order	..	45

D. J. FRANCIS,  
Sanitary Inspector.

URISHAY HOUSE,  
PETERCHURCH,  
January, 1938.



