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Dore & Bredwardine Rural District
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the Year

1947

Staff of the Public Health Department

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1947, which is submitted under Article 17 subsection 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Circular 170/47 of the Ministry of Health.

The Report deals generally with matters affecting the health of the population and contains no special comment inserted specifically on the instructions of the Council.

Whilst the incidence of acute notifiable disease showed some increase on the figures for the previous year, I am glad to state that the area remained free from any serious outbreak of the dangerous infectious diseases. The birth rate was high and the crude death rate was only slightly above that for England and Wales.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Council has given me in the discharge of my duties during the year.

Also I wish to acknowledge the assistance given me in the preparation of this report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council, Miss Sayce, Financial Officer, and Mr. D. J. Francis, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HOGG,

Area Medical Officer of Health.

12th August, 1948.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The District is almost entirely agricultural in character. There is much fine scenery especially in the west where the Black Mountains form an impressive boundary and a fertile field for the naturalist and the landscape painter. The area has preserved its original charm and beauty, but appears to be less well known than other parts of the County for the influx of summer visitors is not large.

AREA (in Acres)	86,043
Number of Inhabited Houses on 31/12/47	2,155
Rateable Value	£2,464
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£102
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	7,658

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:—

LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population	22.2
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)	17.3
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	12.9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

		Deaths	Total Births Rate per 1,000
Heading No. 29 ...	Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Heading No. 30 ...	Other Maternal Causes	1	5.8

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	35.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	32.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	71.4

POPULATION:—

The Registrar General's Estimate of the Resident population is 7,658, which is an increase of 217 upon the previous year. The population has shown little change over a number of years, the population at the 1931 census being 7,898. The estimated average number of persons per occupied house is 3.6, and the estimated number of persons per acre is 0.089. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of births over deaths is 71; this figure is identical with that of the previous year.

BIRTHS:—

The total number of live births registered during the year is 170 (85 males and 85 females), giving a birth rate of 22.2 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. This shows a small increase upon the similar figure for the previous year which was 21.6 per 1,000. The number of illegitimate births was 14 (5 males and 9 females); this figure is four less than that of the year 1946. The births occurring out of wedlock form 8.2% of the total live births, a reduction on the figure of the previous year which was 11.2%.

STILL BIRTHS:—

The number of Still Births registered was unchanged from the figure of the previous year, that is 3. This gives a rate of 0.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population which compares with a rate for the year for England and Wales of 0.5 per 1,000 civilian population. If the number of still births is considered in relation to the total number of births, it is found that the still birth rate is 17.3 per 1,000 total births. Two of the still births were related to female children and one to a male child.

DEATHS:—

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the area, after deduction of deaths of non-residents and addition of deaths of residents occurring outside the area, was 99. This number is formed of 47 deaths of males and 52 deaths of females, and on the basis of the estimated resident population the crude death rate is 12.9 per 1,000 population. This figure shows a slight rise on that of the previous year (12.1).

The crude death rate at 12.9 per 1,000 population is somewhat higher than the death rate for England and Wales which is 12.0 per 1,000 population for the year 1947.

A table showing the principal causes of death according to sex is given below.

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX DURING YEAR 1947

Heading No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Persons
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	2	4
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	1	2
16.	Cancer of all Other Sites ...	4	3	7
17.	Diabetes ...	—	1	1
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	5	8	13
19.	Heart Diseases ...	17	14	31
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	2	4	6
21.	Bronchitis ...	1	2	3
22.	Pneumonia ...	1	5	6
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis ...	1	—	1
30.	Other Maternal Causes ...	—	1	1
31.	Premature Birth ...	1	—	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury and Infantile Diseases ...	1	2	3
33.	Suicide ...	1	—	1
35.	Other Violent Causes ...	3	—	3
36.	All Other Causes ...	5	9	14
All Causes ...		47	52	99

It is not possible at the present time to give a death rate corrected for the increase of aged persons in the population.

The commonest cause of death was heart disease, 31 deaths being attributed to this cause, whilst next most frequent cause of death was intracranial vascular lesions (apoplexy) which was attributed as the cause of death in 13 instances. This is usual and is general throughout the country. Together these causes accounted for 44 deaths in a total of 99.

INFANT MORTALITY:—

There were six deaths of infants under one year of age (3 males and 3 females). All were legitimate infants except for one death of a male infant. The total infantile mortality rate is 35.3 per 1,000 live births, somewhat lower than the corresponding figure for England and Wales which is 41 per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for legitimate infants is still better at 32.1 per 1,000 legitimate live births. Nevertheless, whilst these figures are good, they show a slight rise upon the same figures for the District in the previous year.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA OF PERSONS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE:

There were no deaths of persons under two years of age attributed to diarrhoea. In the previous year, there was also a complete absence of deaths from this cause in children aged under two years.

MATERNAL DEATHS:—

One maternal death was recorded as due to causes other than puerperal sepsis so that the maternal mortality rate was 5.8 per 1,000 live births. This shows an increase on the corresponding figure for 1946 when the rate was nil.

CANCER DEATHS:—

There were nine deaths ascribed to cancer, five being male deaths and four female deaths. This gives a cancer death rate of 1.2 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Facilities for clinical and sanitary laboratory investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at the County Offices, Hereford, under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones. This is of great value to the Department in the investigation of many matters affecting Public Health.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out by the Laboratory at the request of your Department:—

SPECIMENS EXAMINED						
Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	42
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water—Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water—Chemical Examination	...	...	...	...	...	2

HOSPITALS:—

The needs of the population are met by the Hospitals in the City of Hereford. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Council at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital of the Hereford Rural District Council.

AMBULANCE:—

The ambulances of the various organisations in the City of Hereford are used to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the District. Transport of cases of infectious disease is provided by the Council with the Hereford Rural District Council's ambulance stationed at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital.

NURSING:—

Home nursing and midwifery services in the home are provided by District Nurses who cover the whole of the area.

CLINICS:—

An infant welfare clinic is held once a month at the Coffee Rooms, Pontrilas.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER:—

As the area is a large Rural District, the water supplies are provided by small separate sources. Many dwellings depend upon private wells, most being of a shallow type. In addition there are a number of small private piped schemes and piped schemes provided by the Rural District Council in the parishes of Longtown, Clifford and Dorstone. During the year, the Council acquired the management of the water scheme installed at the former Madley R.A.F. establishment.

This system uses water from the River Wye, which is chemically treated and then chlorinated. The pumping station lies outside of the boundary of the Rural

District, being situated within the Hereford Rural District. It provides water of a potable quality for the use of persons who are living in the former R.A.F. buildings, and in addition, seven other dwelling houses are supplied.

The piped schemes in the parishes of Clifford, Dorstone and Longtown, utilise springs arising upon high ground and feed the systems by gravitation. No purification plant is necessary at any of these schemes, each of which supplies a portion of the parish.

The following table gives the number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains:—

Parish					Number of Domestic Supplies
Clifford	...	...	...	...	92
Dorstone	...	...	...	...	41
Longtown	...	...	...	...	58
Madley	...	...	...	...	7

The water of the Clifford scheme is somewhat peaty but none of the waters used for domestic supply within the area appear to have any appreciable effect upon metals, and water mains are usually of galvanised iron. There is one stand pipe in use on the Clifford scheme, and one on the Dorstone scheme.

During the year, shortage of water was experienced in Clifford parish and an additional storage tank of 20,000 gallons capacity was installed. For a time, it appeared to improve the supplies but subsequent shortage showed that there was a significant fall in the amount of water collected from certain of the springs.

In addition to these piped schemes provided by the Local Authority there are a number of other small piped schemes owned by private owners. A list of the more important of these was given in the Annual Report for the year 1938.

Generally speaking, the area is not adequately supplied with water, and shortage of water in parts of the area does occur during the summer months. Such shortages appear to be more frequent in piped schemes not vested in the Local Authority. In addition there are numerous private wells which serve as supplies for one or two dwellings, not without some success as regards the quantity of water available.

Owing to the very large number of water supplies in use throughout the Rural District, it is very difficult to exercise control of the quality of the water consumed for potable and other purposes. All of the piped supplies provided by the Local Authority supply water of a good potable quality. The small piped schemes in the hands of private owners are generally speaking of reasonable potable quality. The quality of the water yielded by the numerous individual wells and springs is of variable quality.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:—

There are no public sewers within the Rural District. In the parishes of Kingstone and Madley a system of sewers constructed during the recent War in connection for the R.A.F. establishment remained unchanged. These sewers mainly receive drainage from parts of this installation. During the year, the Council took over from the Air Ministry the management of the disposal works erected in conjunction with these sewers. These works are of considerable size, and contain settlement tanks, rotary biological filters and sludge tanks. The flow of sewage at present being dealt with is a small fraction of the maximum volume with which the works can properly treat.

Two small sewage disposal installations were constructed in connection with the Council Housing Schemes in Ewyas Harold and Peterchurch. These each deal with the sewage from a small group of dwellings and consist of Tuke and Bell installations of a settlement tank and a filter operated automatically by syphon. Both of these installations have functioned very satisfactorily and have abated nuisance which was prone to recur.

The number of drain tests carried out by the Sanitary Inspector was forty-four. As a result of informal action, one new drain was provided and seven existing drains were reconstructed or repaired. Eight new drains were constructed in connection with the erection of new Council houses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:—

The Rural District contains and is bounded by a number of rivers. The River Wye in the north forms part of the boundary of the area as it flows from Hay to Clifford and then on to Bredwardine. This stretch is a very beautiful part of the Wye.

In the west the River Monnow rises above Craswall and follows a roughly south-easterly course. It passes Llanveynoe, Longtown and Walterstone, turns eastward to Monmouth Cap where it is joined by its tributary the River Dore, which has flowed down the Golden Valley. The Monnow then pursues a winding course until Kentchurch is reached where it leaves the boundary of the District on its way down to Monmouth. The course of the River Monnow within the District measures several miles.

The Eskley Brook has its source above Michaelchurch and flows in a direction parallel to the upper course of the Monnow which it joins below Longtown. Still further to the east, the small Dulas Brook follows a similar course and joins the River Dore at Pontrilas. The River Dore originates above Peterchurch and is famous in legend. It follows a similar south-easterly course to Vowchurch and passes Abbeydore. After its union with the Dulas Brook it joins the Monnow in the vicinity of Kentchurch.

So far as these rivers are related to the District, they form a group of rural streams, unsuitable for navigation and entirely unpolluted. One small brook in Kingstone was found to be showing evidence of pollution by a trade effluent; this matter is receiving the attention of your Officers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:—

The principal type of closet in use within the area is the pail closet, but the privy is found only slightly less frequently. Efforts to secure conversions continued throughout the year, and 16 privies were converted to pail closets. A further twelve privies were converted to water closets and five pail closets were converted to water closets. There remains ample field for further conversions for a period of many years, owing to the few piped water schemes available.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:—

The Council does not undertake the collection and disposal of domestic or trade refuse, nor does it carry out the cleansing of cesspools and privies. Some difficulty with regard to the indiscriminate disposal of domestic refuse arose in the former Madley R.A.F. Station. Here a relatively large number of persons dwell in the former R.A.F. premises and a significant amount of refuse arises.

There are no public wash-houses within the District.

SHOPS AND OFFICES:—

No action was necessary under the Shops Act, 1934, or under the Public Health Act, 1936, but 28 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:—

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public on payment within the area.

CAMPING SITES:—

The District contains much wonderful scenery, for the Black Mountains form the western boundary, and the area is a land of silver rivers and border castles, rich in legend and in historical associations. Nevertheless, it does not appear to be so attractive to campers as some other areas, and camping constitutes no significant public health problem at the present time.

Three sites were used for camping purposes during 1947. The maximum number of campers present within the area on any one day is estimated at 120 persons, which is an increase on the number of the previous year. No licences were issued by the Council with respect to camping sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Two harvest camps were provided and maintained by the County Agricultural Executive Committee. These were very satisfactory and required the minimum of supervision.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:—

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed bugs. When such infestations have been discovered it is the usual practise of the Council to call upon the Sanitary Inspector to spray the premises with the insecticide known as Zaldicide. Whilst this method is probably not quite so certain as the use of hydrogen cyanide, it is attended by little risk to life. Hydrogen cyanide is a very poisonous gas and great care and skill is necessary in its use for disinfection purposes, if this is to be done without endangering life.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:—

I am indebted to Mr. D. J. Francis, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following tabular statement furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

INSPECTIONS:—

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	4
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	...	...	...	22
Bakèhouses	...	...	...	...	19
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	120
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	265
Drainage	...	...	...	...	44
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	32
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	2
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	14
Fruit and Hop-pickers' quarters	...	...	...	...	20
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	44
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1976
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	47
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	21
Schools	...	...	...	...	14
Shops (Shops Act, 1934)	...	...	...	...	28
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	31
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	66
Housing (Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	...	...	...	...	328
Housing (other)	...	...	...	...	111

NOTICES ISSUED:—

Informal	...	...	...	...	48
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory under other Acts	...	...	...	...	1

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED:—

Drains and Gullies Cleared	...	...	...	...	22
Drains Repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Drains Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
New Drains Provided	...	...	...	...	8
Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	106
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	16
Pail Closets Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	5
Privies Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	12
New Inspection Chambers Provided	...	...	...	...	18
Inspection Chambers Repaired	...	...	...	...	3
New Sinks Provided	...	...	...	...	21
Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Fittings Provided	...	...	...	...	189

Soil Pipes Repaired	...	...	...	22
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	44
Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	4
Cowsheds and Dairies Reconstructed	...	...	...	22
Cowsheds and Dairies Improved	...	...	...	10
Defective Floors Repaired	...	...	...	3
Defective Eaves Gutters Repaired	...	...	...	22
Rain Water Pipes Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	26
Defective Brickwork Repaired	...	...	...	6
Defective Coppers Remedied	...	...	...	2
Filthy and Verminous Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Defects Remedied	...	...	...	32

FACTORIES ACT, 1937:—

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year was four, which is an increase of one on the number so registered in the previous year. There were 14 inspections of these premises made, one sanitary defect was reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories, arising from inadequate sanitary accommodation. This defect was remedied after service of an informal notice.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Written Inspections	Occupiers notices	prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	14	1	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises)	1	2	—	—
TOTAL	5	16	1	—

DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
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 ...	—	1	0	1	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	1	0	1	0

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The year brought little improvement in the housing conditions of the inhabitants, for the Council's scheme for the erection of new dwellings made slow progress. Building material and labour continued to be in short supply and the difficulty of selecting suitable sites with adequate water supplies remained unchanged, so, although the Council gave a great deal of time to housing matters, the actual progress made was very disappointing.

MADLEY R.A.F.:—

During the year, the Council took over the management of a number of sites of the former R.A.F. establishment at Madley and Kingstone. The buildings on these sites had been occupied in Autumn, 1946 by families having no accommodation, in addition other families moved into the buildings on sites not managed by the Council. Some of these buildings were in reasonably sound condition but others were showing signs of considerable deterioration. It is estimated that a minimum of 700 persons were accommodated at the end of the year in sites under Council management. The inclement weather in the early part of the year caused considerable damage to the buildings and the sanitary installations, and conditions deteriorated to such an extent, that the Council appointed a manager for this site. Since the appointment of Mr. Peers as manager, considerable improvement has taken place. Whilst these buildings are being used necessarily for housing purposes they are not suitable for this purpose as they are defective in essential amenities. The most serious defects are remoteness from water supplies and sanitary accommodation, the absence of proper cooking facilities and of washing accommodation, lack of proper storage for food and inadequate drainage. Nevertheless, by the application of their inventive faculties, the tenants in one way or another took steps to overcome these defects.

However, it must be remembered that the majority of these buildings are temporary structures of limited life and that ultimately the present tenants will require to be provided with permanent dwellings. A few of the buildings appear to be capable of alteration and adaptation to permanent dwellings; such work could constitute a first stage in the solution of the problem.

The number of buildings occupied as separate dwellings on the sites managed by the Council was 188 at the end of the year.

Many of the unoccupied buildings and their contents suffered severe damage as the result of the actions by various persons. Disappearance of fittings and damage caused the Council considerable disturbance as it was most difficult to control, and the cost of such losses and damage must be quite a large sum.

A number of tenants of these buildings enjoyed an electricity supply throughout the year.

CUSOP CAMP:—

Towards the end of 1946, a number of persons occupied a few abandoned army hutments situated at the Moors, Cusop. This site was small, and although the Council undertook to manage this site it was found impossible to collect rent from the tenants. Consequently the Council took action to secure possession and dismantle the buildings.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DWELLINGS:—

The erection of dwellings by the Council was continued in the parishes of Kilpeck, Orcop, Ewyas Harold and Peterchurch, two houses being completed and occupied in the first three of these parishes, at the end of the year. This brought the number of occupied dwellings owned by the Council to 30, this figure being 1.3 per cent. of the occupied dwellings within the District. In addition, at the end of the year the number of Council Houses in course of erection but incomplete was two at Kilpeck, four at Peterchurch, six at Ewyas Harold and two at Orcop.

The number of dwellings erected by private persons within the area, which were completed and occupied before the close of the year was three, two of these

being situated in Peterchurch parish and the third was erected in Kingstone. At the close of the year, there were no incomplete dwellings in course of erection by private individuals.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

1. (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	328
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	363
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932	109
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	121
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
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	38

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 ...	38
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(i) by owners	2
(ii) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(i) by owners	2
(ii) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

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

At the beginning of the year, 42 dwellings were known to be overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936. These overcrowded houses were occupied by 60 families but during the year 18 dwellings ceased to be overcrowded, but two new cases developed, so that at the end of December

26 dwellings continued to be overcrowded. It is difficult under present conditions in an area such as this for the Department to be aware of all overcrowded dwellings. The District is not small and compact but extensive and the housing density is very low. There seems to be also a certain amount of movement of population at the present time, and it is difficult to maintain an accurate knowledge of overcrowded dwellings. Nevertheless, whilst the figures for overcrowded dwellings may not be absolutely accurate but may underestimate the true position, it is not unreasonable to infer that the position as regards overcrowding improved somewhat during the period.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK:—

At the end of the year there were 391 purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Of this number, 356 registrations related to wholesale purveyors and the remaining 35 registrations related to retail purveyors. The number of inspections of cowsheds and dairies made was 265, and as a result of these inspections 22 cowsheds and dairies were reconstructed, and minor improvements were secured in a further ten such premises. The number of purveyors registered showed an increase on the number for the previous year.

In the continuous efforts by the sanitary inspector to secure improvements in the quality of the milk produced, two samples of water used on registered premises were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, but both were found to be of satisfactory potable quality.

There are no plants for the pasteurization of milk situated within the District and no licences or supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurized milk were issued by the Council. There was no evidence that any acute infectious disease was caused by the consumption of milk sold within the area. No pasteurized or heat treated milk appears to be sold.

ICE CREAM:—

There was no sale or manufacture of this food within the area at any time during the year, and no effort was required by the Department in connection with it. The reason for this is probably that there are no large groups of population, but the continued occupation of the Madley R.A.F. site may form an attraction for itinerant vendors. A watch must therefore be kept, for ice cream is not a food which lends itself to sale from barrows, without special precautions, in the interest of health.

WATER CRESS:—

The sale of water cress appears to be insignificant as it grows naturally in the area. No action was required in connection with sales.

SHELL FISH:—

Apart from the sale of occasional jars of cooked cockles, there is no sale of shell fish within the District.

MEAT:—

There are no slaughterhouses now in use within the District, as all fresh meat is supplied from Central Abattoirs. The inspection of meat is limited to that exposed for sale in butchers' shops and the sanitary inspector makes inspections of the meat exhibited for sale; 120 such inspections were made. As a result of these inspections, 84 lbs. of beef were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

FOOD POISONING:—

No notifications of food poisoning or of suspected food poisoning were received at any time during the year. Whilst this would appear to be very satisfactory, it may be that an odd few such cases did occur but were not recognised.

UNSOUND FOOD:—

The following table shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:—

Miscellaneous Tinned Vegetables 8

FOOD	QUANTITY	CAUSE OF UNSOUNDNESS
Potatoes ...	5½ tons	Decomposition
Plums ...	680 lbs.	"
Plaice ...	100 lbs.	"
Tinned Fish ...	34 tins	Blown Tins
Baked Beans ...	26 tins	Blown Tins
Beef ...	84 lbs.	Bone Taint
Miscellaneous Tinned Vegetables	8 tins	Blown Tins
Lime Pulp ...	1 barrel (340 lbs.)	Contamination with Lubricating Oil

SECTION F.— PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of notifications of acute infectious disease received was 146 which is an increase on the figure of the year 1946, when the notifications received amounted to 32. The following table shows the incidence of various acute infectious diseases according to quarter, confirmed civilian cases only being shown:—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR ACCORDING TO QUARTER

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
Measles ...	58	12	26	4	100
Whooping Cough ...	12	1	3	16	32
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	2	3
Diphtheria ...	—	1	—	1	2
Erysipelas ...	—	1	1	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia ...	2	—	1	2	5

MEASLES:—

It will be seen that the most prevalent infectious disease was measles which gave rise to 100 notifications, the maximum incidence occurring in the first quarter of the year. There was a considerable decrease in prevalence during the second quarter and this was followed by a rise in the third quarter to just below half of that in the first quarter. The disease had almost disappeared in the last quarter. The patients were chiefly children under fifteen years of age, 94 notifications arising from such infections. The age group showing maximum incidence (51 cases) was the 5-10 years group. Only seven cases were notified in respect of children under two years of age. The infection was not particularly severe; there were no deaths and no cases were admitted to hospital. The incidence of infection in the sexes was equal, there being 51 notifications respecting males and 49 respecting females. Whilst the prevalence of measles was higher than in 1946 (5 cases) and 1944 (10 cases), it must be remembered that these years showed particular freedom from this disease. In 1945, there were 51 cases and there was an exceptionally heavy incidence in 1941 when 217 notifications were received.

WHOOPIING COUGH:—

This disease gave rise to 32 notifications during the year. The incidence can be regarded as somewhat higher than usual, as this figure has been exceeded only once, for in 1941, 59 notifications were received. Usually the incidence is very low as the figures for the previous years show, 1946 (8 cases), 1945 (7 cases), 1944 (7 cases) and 1943 (16 cases). The disease attained almost equal incidence in the first and last quarters of the year, but the second and third quarters showed almost

complete freedom from the disease. Similar to measles the disease appeared to be confined to children under 15 years of age (31 cases), the maximum incidence (14 cases) occurring in the age group 5-10 years, whilst the age group showing the next highest incidence (5 cases) was the infants' group under one year of age. The incidence of the disease according to sex showed a slight increase in females (18 cases) compared with males (14 cases). The disease was relatively mild, no admissions to hospital were necessary and there were no deaths.

SCARLET FEVER:—

The District remained free from scarlet fever throughout the first half of the year, but one case occurred in the third quarter and a further two cases in the last quarter. Two of the patients were two years of age whilst the third patient was a school child over five years of age. The disease was mild and all patients were nursed at home. Two of the patients were females. There did not appear to be any connection between the cases.

DIPHTHERIA:—

Unfortunately two cases of diphtheria were notified, one in the second quarter of the year, in a male aged three years who had not previously received prophylactic treatment, and the other, in a female aged 41 years who had never been immunised, notified in the last quarter of the year. Both patients were treated in hospital and made complete recovery.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS:—

During 1947, the incidence of infantile paralysis throughout the country showed a considerable increase especially in the third quarter of the year. In this Rural District only one case was notified which is roughly in accordance with the national incidence. The patient was a male school child of twelve years of age, and after a short stay in hospital made an excellent recovery.

The incidence of other acute notifiable disease was insignificant. The efficiency of notification is good and I am satisfied that the notifications received give a reasonably accurate ascertainment of the notifiable disease in the District. Some infectious disease may occur which is not notified as a doctor may not be consulted. This does seem to occur in connection with measles and whooping cough.

DEATHS FROM ACUTE NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:—

The acute notifiable infectious diseases accounted for six deaths attributed to pneumonia. Five of these deaths related to females. The crude death rate from pneumonia is therefore is 0.78 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE ACCORDING TO AGE

			Under												
Disease			1	1-	2-	3-	4-	4-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65	Year
Measles	...	...	2	5	6	4	4	51	15	7	4	2	—	—	100
Pneumonia	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	5	3	2	3	2	14	2	1	—	—	—	—	32
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	...	...	9	8	10	8	6	66	18	8	5	2	5	1	146

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:—

This work continued although the responsibility for the immunisation of children under five years of age was transferred to the Herefordshire County Council. The actual arrangements for the work continued unchanged, being carried out by the public health medical staff and by the medical practitioners within the area.

During the year, 109 children under five years of age completed courses of diphtheria prophylactic. Thirteen children aged over five years and under 15 years of age also received a complete course of injections, giving a total of 122 children completing treatment during the year. These figures are an improvement on the totals for the previous year, when only 61 children received a complete course of treatment.

At the end of the year, the register showed that 246 children under five years of age had received treatment out of an estimated population of this age of 740, so that only 33.24 per cent. appeared to be protected. It is interesting to note that under five years of age, the numbers receiving treatment increased as the ages of the children increased.

The number of children aged over five years and under fifteen years who had received treatment shown in the register was 810 out of an estimated possible number of 1,240. Expressed in another way 65.32 per cent. of this age group had received treatment.

If these figures are combined, from an estimated total of 1,980 persons under fifteen years of age, 1,056 or 53.3 per cent. had received treatment by the end of the year.

The following table shows the state of immunity of the child population of the District.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.								
Age at 31/12/47 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-42	10 to 14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number Immunised	—	47	59	67	73	353	457	1056
Estimated mid-year child population 1947	Children under 5 740					Children 5-14 1,240		1,980

SCABIES:—

There were no cases of scabies notified to the Department and it seems that the importance of the disease as a public health problem in the District is small. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that the disease is not compulsorily notifiable and therefore ascertainment is somewhat uncertain.

TUBERCULOSIS:—

At the end of 1946 there were 44 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 32 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary. During the year 1947, 19 cases were added to the Register, 17 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary; of these, 11 pulmonary and one non-pulmonary were with respect to new cases. During the year nine cases were removed from the Register, seven pulmonary and two non-pulmonary, and on the 31st December, 1947, 54 cases remained on the Register, 42 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1947

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1+	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5+	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15+	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25+	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35+	...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45+	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55+	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	7	4	1	—	—	2	—	—

