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DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Heaford*

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956





DORE AND BREWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Circular 19/56 of the Ministry of Health.

The prevalence of acute infectious disease was very low throughout the year. There were fewer deaths registered than in the previous year and there was an increase in the number of births registered. Compared with the previous year there were fewer infant deaths.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council; Mr. D.J. Francis, Public Health Inspector; and Mr. D.O. Williams, Assistant Finance and Rating Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has always been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

22nd August, 1957.





DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

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Mr. David J. Francis, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND ASSISTANT  
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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The District is entirely agricultural in character. There is much fine scenery, especially in the west where the Black Mountains form an impressive boundary.

Area (in acres)	... 84,532
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.56)	... 2,492
Rateable Value	... £46,119
Product of a Penny Rate	... £183.7.2d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	... 8,320

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

Crude live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	... 17.2
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	... 18.6
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births (live and still)	... 27.2
Crude Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	... 8.4
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	... 8.5
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	... 1.08
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	... 1.01

Deaths from Maternal Causes

Heading No.30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total Births</u>
		Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	... 14.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	... 15.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	... Nil



### Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 8320. The average number of persons per occupied house is 3.21 and the estimated number of persons per acre is 0.098. The average number of occupied dwellings per acre is 0.03. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, is 73.

### Births

The total number of live births registered during the year was 143 (70 male and 73 female), giving a crude birth rate of 17.2 per 1000 of the estimated population. The corrected live birth rate, using the comparability factor of 1.08, was 18.6 per 1000 population. The number of illegitimate births was 11 (3 male and 8 female). The live births which occurred out of wedlock were 7.7% of the total live births. The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1956 is 15.7 per 1000 population.

### Stillbirths

Four stillbirths were registered during the year. The stillbirth rate was 27.2 per 1000 total (live and still) births. The stillbirth rate for the year for England and Wales is 23.0 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

### Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the area was 70 (43 male and 27 female), after the deduction of deaths of non-residents occurring within the District and the addition of deaths of residents occurring outside the area. The crude death rate is 8.4 per 1000 population. When the rate is adjusted the corrected death rate for the Rural District is 8.5 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year under review is 11.7 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.27. In 1955 there were 109 deaths registered in the Rural District.

The most frequent cause of death was heart disease (headings Nos. 18, 19 & 20), accounting for 22 deaths (13 male and 9 female), giving an adjusted death rate from all forms of heart disease of 2.67 per 1000 estimated population.

### Cancer Deaths

All forms of cancer (headings Nos. 10, 11, 13 and 14) caused 14 deaths and gives an adjusted death rate from this cause of 1.70 per 1000 population. In 1955 there were 20 deaths attributed to all forms of cancer.

### Infantile Deaths

The number of infants under one year of age who died was 2 (male). The infant mortality rate for the Rural District is, therefore, 14.0 per 1000 live births and this rate for the year for England and Wales is 23.8 per 1000 live births. One of these babies died under the age of 4 weeks. The neo natal mortality rate for the Rural District is 7.0 per 1000 live births and this rate for England and Wales for 1956 is 16.9 per 1000 live births.

Deaths due to Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea

No deaths were attributed to gastritis, enteritis or diarrhoea.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Pneumonia caused three deaths and was the only acute notifiable disease causing death. The adjusted death rate for the Rural District for pneumonia is, therefore, 0.36 per 1000 population. In 1955 five deaths were caused by this disease.

Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis. The death rate for England and Wales for the year from this cause is 0.121 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Female.	Per-sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln.
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	-	1	1	0.121
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	1	3	0.364
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2	0.243
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	4	8	0.970
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	8	2	10	1.214
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	5	1	6	0.728
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1	0.121
20.	Other heart disease.	7	8	15	1.820
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	1	1	0.121
23.	Pneumonia.	2	1	3	0.364
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-	1	0.121
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.243
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	-	2	0.243
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.121
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	1	2	0.243
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	6	2	8	0.970
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	-	1	1	0.121
34.	All other accidents.	1	1	2	0.243
35.	Suicide.	-	1	1	0.121
All Causes		43	27	70	8.492



SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The usual clinical laboratory investigations are made at the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Swabs	...	10
Faeces	...	44
Milk (Methylene Blue test)	...	20
Milk (Phosphatase Test)	...	10
Milk (Biological)	...	10
Water (Bacteriological)	...	64

In addition, one sample of water and one of sewage effluent were sent for examination by chemical methods.

Hospitals

The needs of the population are met by the hospitals in the City of Hereford. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease is available at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital, and the County Hospital, Hereford.

Ambulances

The ambulances in the City of Hereford are used to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the District.

Clinics

A County Council Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon at the Instructional Site, Kingstone.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

No burials were carried out by the Council under this Section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Two investigations were made under this section during the year. Formal action was commenced in each case, but not completed before the end of the year.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeology

The whole of the area is formed of Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System, here represented by Upper and Lower Old Red Sandstone and Marls.

Water

The water supplies in the Rural District are of various types. Many dwellings depend upon shallow wells. There are small piped schemes, both private and public, utilising springs. In the Madley and Kingstone area a scheme uses purified river water. The supplies are not adequate for the needs of the area and shortage of water was experienced at Abbeydore, Kilpeck, Pontrilas, Vowchurch and Walterstone. Water shortage in the Rural District has been mentioned in my Annual Reports for many years. The water in supply at Pontrilas and Vowchurch was not of good potable quality.

Piped water supplies are provided by the Council in the parishes of Clifford, Dorstone and Longtown. These utilise springs on high ground, and gravitate to the supply area, no treatment being applied. Domestic supplies are all afforded by separate services except for three standpipes in the Clifford Scheme and one on the Dorstone Scheme. The water of the Clifford Scheme is rather peaty and occasionally shows a small bacterial content. This supply is not adequate for the parish.

The Council continued to manage the water scheme installed at the former R.A.F. Establishment at Madley until 1st October, when the pumping station vested in the Hereford Rural District Council, but under agreement they provide a bulk supply for the Dore and Bredwardine Rural District. This water is used for a piped supply in Madley and Kingstone.

During the year no extensions of public water mains were constructed.

The following table gives the number of dwellings supplied from public water mains:-

Clifford	...	99
Dorstone	...	45
Longtown	...	71
Kingstone	...	224
Madley	...	112

In Ousop parish 54 dwellings are supplied from the water mains of the Hay-on-Wye Urban District Council.

The number of samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination was 64 and 23 of those were not of good potable quality. There is no evidence that any water in use in the Rural District for domestic purposes has any appreciable solvent action upon metals.

During the year 4 wells were cleansed and repaired and 10 new water supplies were provided. Repairs to the collecting areas were carried out to the Council's Water Works at Dorstone and Clifford.

187 inspections were made in connection with water supplies.



#### Drainage and Sewerage

The number of new drains constructed in connection with dwelling houses was 103. The number of existing drains repaired or reconstructed was 31. The number of drain tests carried out by the Public Health Inspector was 138.

#### Rivers and Streams

The Rural District contains a number of rivers. The river Wye in the north forms part of the boundary of the area from Hay to Bredwardine. The Rural District is traversed by the Monnow, the Dore, the Escley Brook and Dulas Brook - all are clean rivers.

#### Closet Accommodation

The principal type of Closet in use within the Area is the pail closet, but the number of water closets steadily increases each year. Efforts to secure conversion continued throughout the year. Four privies were converted to pail closets and 10 privies were converted to water closets and 4 pail closets were converted to water closets. The number of water closets constructed during the year was 52.

#### Public Cleansing

The Council provides a system of domestic refuse collection in the Rural District with the exception of Cusop parish. The collection is carried out under contract every six weeks. Refuse disposal is by tipping. It is estimated that more than 80% of the dwellings are included in this collection. In Cusop parish a regular system of domestic refuse collection is made monthly by the Hay-on-Wye Urban District Council. A weekly domestic refuse collection is made in the occupied part of the former Madley R.A.F. Establishment.

The Council does not carry out cleansing of cesspools and privies other than those on its own property. Twentysix cesspools were cleansed.

#### Shops and Offices

No formal action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936. Forty inspections of shop premises were made during the year.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Area.

#### Camping Sites

Camping forms no public health problem at the present time in the Rural District. Two sites were used for camping purposes during 1956 and were quite satisfactory. The maximum number of campers within the area on any one day was estimated as 45 persons. No licences were issued by the Council with respect to Camping Sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. D.J. Francis, Public Health 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	...	10
Bakehouses	...	30
Camping Sites	...	6
Caravans	...	4
Dairies	...	116
Drainage	...	165
Drain Tests	...	138
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	2
Filthy and Verminous Persons	...	2
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	11
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	30
Food Poisoning	...	2
Food Handling Byelaws	...	32
Food Premises	...	32
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	24
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	343
Houses (Other)	...	301
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	18
Ice Cream(Registered Premises)	...	12
Infectious Disease	...	18
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	63
Offensive Smells	...	6
Outworkers' Premises	...	1
Petroleum Stores	...	30
Schools	...	12
Sewage Disposal Works	...	142
Sewers	...	100
Shops	...	40
Sanitary Conveniences	...	70
Slaughterhouses	...	72
Unsound Food	...	35
Water Supply	...	187
Water Courses	...	53
Work Places	...	435

Notices Issued

Informal	...	108
Statutory re housing	...	2
Statutory under other Acts	...	2

Summary of Defects Remedied

Ashbins provided	...	12
Accumulations removed	...	4
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	26
Ditches cleared	...	5
Domestic Baths provided	...	42



Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

Drains and Gullies cleared	...	127
Drains repaired	...	25
Drains reconstructed	...	6
New drains provided	...	103
Defective floors repaired	...	10
Defective roofs repaired	...	35
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	12
Defective brickwork repaired	...	10
Defective Coppers remedied	...	8
Disinfections after infectious Disease	...	18
Disinfestations	...	2
Defective Windows repaired	...	24
Defective Chimneys repaired	...	26
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	11
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	33
Closets repaired	...	33
Dairies reconstructed	...	6
Dairies improved	...	2
Filthy and Verminous Persons cleansed	...	2
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed	...	2
New Gullies provided	...	168
Inspection chambers repaired	...	22
Old Drains sealed	...	12
Paving repaired	...	1
Privies converted to water closets	...	10
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	20
Staircases repaired	...	4
New sinks provided	...	42
Soil pipes repaired	...	16
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	42
Stoves repaired	...	5
Moveable Dwellings removed	...	1
Urinals repaired	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	2
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	4
Water supplies provided	...	10
Miscellaneous Defects remedied	...	1121

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council has appointed a part time Rodent Officer, and his work during 1956 is recorded in the following table:-

	Premises Inspected.	Total Infestations		No. of properties treated.	Statutory Notices.
		Mice.	Rats.		
		Major	Minor		
Local Authorities' Properties.	4	-	-	1	-
Dwelling Houses.	924	5	-	63	-
Agricultural Properties.	639	-	-	138	-
All other (including business) premises.	181	4	-	8	-
Total	1748	9	-	210	-

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1956 for the Rural District of Dore and Bredwardine, in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	11	11	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	25	30	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	11	453	-	-
Total	47	494	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Outworkers

One outworker, engaged in making wearing apparel, is registered with the Local Authority.

SECTION D. - HOUSING

Buildings in the former R.A.F. Establishment at Madley and Kingstone continued to be occupied throughout the year as temporary dwellings. At the end of the year 117 were occupied. In addition, there were 29 temporary dwellings in the management of another Authority. It is estimated that about 400 persons are housed in this accommodation.



The Council's building programme for the provision of new dwellings continued to make progress. The number of new Council houses occupied during the year was 25 (Kingstone 4, Madley 12 and Peterchurch 9). A further 88 Council dwellings were under construction at the end of the year. These are situated at Kingstone.

Private persons completed 6 dwellings and 4 were under construction at the end of the year.

At the close of the year there remained 247 applications for houses before the Council. Inadequacy of water supplies prevented the construction of houses at Ewyas Harold. The absence of water supplies continues to be a serious obstacle to the Council's efforts to provide adequate housing.

#### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	644
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	5
3.	Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	54

#### Houses demolished or closed during the Year

1.	Housing Act 1936		
(a)	Demolished as a result of informal procedure (Section 11)	...	Nil
(b)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	...	Nil
(c)	Parts of building closed (Section 12)	...	Nil
2.	Housing Act 1949		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3(1) and 3(2)	...	Nil
3.	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2).	...	Nil

#### Houses repaired during the Year

1.	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	...	39
2.	Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice:		
	Houses in which defects were remedied		
(a)	By Owners	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil

3. Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9,10,11 and 16):  
Houses made fit
  - (a) By Owners ... 2
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 1
4. Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954  
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ... Nil

#### Housing Act 1936, - Part IV - Overcrowding

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... 8
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... Nil
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 3
- (d) Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after steps by Local Authority for abatement ... Nil

At the beginning of the year, there were 11 dwellings known to be overcrowded - some improvement was, therefore, achieved.

#### Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949. Section 20

Nine grants were made by the Council for the improvement of dwellings during the year.

### SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk

Eleven distributors of milk are registered with the Council under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

There are no plants for pasteurisation or sterilisation of milk situated within the Rural District. Four distributors were granted supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurised milk, one was licensed for the sale of sterilised milk, and two licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk.

The number of samples of milk sent to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue test was 20, and 10 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for phosphatase test. All samples of pasteurised milk complied with the standard but one sample of tuberculin tested milk of seven samples submitted, failed to comply with the standard. Ten milk samples sent for biological test were reported as free from tuberculosis and brucellosis.

#### Ice Cream

The sale of this food within the Rural District is limited. During the year two registrations for storage and sale of ice cream were granted, bringing the total number of such registrations to twelve. The number of inspections made of registered premises was twenty-six.



Shell Fish

The sale of occasional jars or tins of preserved shell fish appears to form the sale of shellfish within the Rural District. No action was necessary with regard to this food.

Meat

There are four licensed slaughterhouses within the Rural District; these are small but are in a reasonable condition. All carcasses and offals are inspected by the public health inspectors.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses
Number killed (if known)	66	-	-	336	48	-
Number inspected	66	-	-	336	48	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	7	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	22	-	-	29	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	33.3	-	-	10.7	6.25	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.5	-	-	-	2.08	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The inspection of meat after slaughter has been carried out without any difficulty. Meat unfit for human consumption is sprayed with fluoresceine, and buried or used for animal feeding.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Slaughter of Animals  
Amendment Act, 1954

One Slaughterman was licensed by the Council for the slaughter of animals other than horses.

Food Poisoning

One notification of food poisoning was received during the year; this arose in the fourth quarter - the infection being caused by *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. It was not possible to trace the origin of infection.

Food and Drug Act, 1938. Section 14

Six premises are registered with the Council under this section, one being concerned with fruit and vegetable preservation. The number of inspections of these registered premises carried out in the year was 32. All the premises were maintained in a satisfactory state.

Unsound Food

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
6 Tins	Fish	Blown Tins
7 Tins	Apricots	" "
132 lbs.	Liver (Sheep)	Fluke.
20 lbs.	Beef	Trauma
300 lbs.	Mutton	"
10 lbs.	Pig Head	Tuberculosis
23 lbs.	Sheep liver	Fluke
16 lbs.	Minced Beef	Decomposition

Byelaws as to Handling, etc., of Food

The number of inspections made was 32 and no infringements were found.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

These Regulations came into force on 1st January, and a survey was made by the Public Health Inspectors of premises to which the Regulations applied. In the course of this, 62 informal notices were served upon occupiers and at the end of the year, 29 had complied with the notices.



SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of acute notifiable disease in the Rural District during 1956 was less than in the previous year, as only 84 notifications (exclusive of food poisoning) were received. The notification rate of acute infectious disease was, therefore, 10.1 notifications per 1000 estimated population, and the reduction was chiefly the result of diminished prevalence of measles.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Year.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	2	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1
Whooping Cough	11	4	-	-	15
Pneumonia	5	3	2	2	12
Measles	6	23	18	2	49
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	24	31	21	8	84

Whooping Cough

Altogether 15 notifications were received, all in the first half of the year. The morbidity rate was 1.8 per 1000 estimated population. All patients were under 10 years of age and recovered; the incidence was greater in males than in females, the ratio being 1.5. Eight families were infected, two each gave rise to three cases, and three others each gave rise to two cases. The cases were not confined to any particular parish or area, and in only one instance could a history of contact with a case be obtained.

Measles

The number of notifications of measles received was 49 - in the previous year 87 cases were notified. The period of maximum incidence was from April until the end of September. The number of males affected was almost double the number of females, the ratio being 32/17. The number of households involved was 31 spread over 9 parishes. In ten dwellings more than one case occurred. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 13 cases. The age group giving the greatest number of cases was the over five and under ten years. The disease was mild and there were no deaths. The measles morbidity rate for 1956 for the Rural District was 5.9 per 1000 estimated population.

Pneumonia

The number of cases of pneumonia notified was 12, a reduction of 3 on the figure for 1955. The notification rate is 1.44 notifications per 1000 estimated population. Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease causing death, three deaths being attributed to this cause, giving a corrected local death rate from pneumonia of 0.36 per 1000 estimated population.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Only one case of acute poliomyelitis occurred, the patient being a child aged 12 years. Unfortunately some paralysis resulted.

Other Diseases

One notification of Dysentery was received; this was of the Sonne's type and the infection had been acquired outside of the Rural District.

One notification of erysipelas received.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	65+	All Ages.
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	15
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
Measles	1	10	6	24	7	1	-	-	-	49
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	6	4	12
Puerperal )										
Pyrexia )	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acute )										
Poliomyelitis )										
(Paralytic) )	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	2	12	13	34	9	1	2	7	4	84

The Rural District was entirely free from diphtheria and enteric fevers throughout the year. The efficiency of notification is good and my thanks are due to the medical practitioners of the area for their co-operation.



Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 59 cases of tuberculosis (46 respiratory and 13 non-respiratory disease) on the Register. During the year one case of respiratory disease and one of non-respiratory disease were added, these being new infections. Six cases were removed from the Register during the year (5 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory disease). Four of these patients were regarded as being recovered. At the end of the year 55 cases of active disease remained on the Register, 42 of these being cases of respiratory disease.

For the second successive year no deaths were attributed to tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis.  
New cases and mortality during 1956

Age Groups.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

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