

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Droitwich R.D.C.

Contributors

Droitwich (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1937

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ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1937,

FOR THE

DROITWICH RURAL
DISTRICT.

BY

KEITH S. RODEN,

M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

TO THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1937, in accordance with the directions issued by the Minister of Health in Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	51,453
Estimated Resident Population, 1937	11,000
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937)	3500
Rateable Value	£50,080
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£192 14s. 5d.

The District is mainly agricultural, although a number of workers at the Salt Union Works, Stoke Works, reside within the area.

Live Births.				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	178	79	99			
Illegitimate	3	—	3			
Total	181	79	102			

Birth-rate per 1000 of Estimated Population 16.454

Still Births.				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	....	....	....	4	2	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total				4	2	2

Deaths.				Total.	M.	F.
All Causes	....	....	....	160	90	70

Death-rate per 1000 of the Estimated Population 14.545

Number of Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	....	....	....	7	5	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total				7	5	2

Death-rate of Infants under one year per 1000 Live Births,
38.67.

Disease.				Total.	M.	F.
Cancer	....	....	....	17	7	10
Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	....	....	....	1	—	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health KEITH S. RODEN, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector OSWALD SHARPE, Cert. S.I.B.,
A.R.San.I.

There is no change in the services provided by the Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing, Clinics, and Hospitals, which are satisfactory.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—There have not been any new sources of water supply, nor any important extensions of mains. Minor cases of contamination of water supplies, namely wells, have been dealt with.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The Council have had under consideration the provision of sewerage facilities for the Parishes of Dodderhill, Upton Warren, Ombersley and Hartlebury.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was necessary during the year.

Gloset Accommodation.—The Council had no conversion scheme in operation during the year.

Public Cleansing.—The work of removing Dry Domestic Refuse in the Parishes of Dodderhill, Ombersley, Hartlebury, and North Claines has been carried out satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—The report of the Sanitary Inspector on the work carried out during the year is attached.

Shops.—No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year.

Smoke Abatement.—No action was necessary during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There is one privately owned swimming bath in the area. No action was necessary during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc. One Council house and two other houses were found to be infested. Disinsection, by spraying, was carried out by the Local Authority.

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply at the several schools in the area was satisfactory.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	190
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	226
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	122
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	138

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	52

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	29
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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 (informal)	45
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners....	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners....	0
(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	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(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 tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	85
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	85
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein....	566
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	45
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	269
(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	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The premises of Milk Producers were visited during the year and the samples taken quarterly proved satisfactory.

Meat and other Foods.—There are four licensed slaughter-houses in the area which have been satisfactorily conducted. Very little meat is killed in the area, the bulk being bought in the Wholesale Markets.

Adulteration, etc.—No action has been taken during the year under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, or the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations 1923 and 1927.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—This work is carried out by the County Analyst, but no routine sampling is carried out by the Council's Officers.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.—The following Table shows the incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year :—

Disease.	Total No. of Cases.		Total Deaths
	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital	
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	6	—
Diphtheria	19	16	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	9
Erysipelas	1	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following Table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	7	5	1	2	3	—	—

My thanks are due to Mr. D. Johnston Green, the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Oswald Sharpe, the Sanitary Inspector, and their Staffs for the help they have given me in compiling this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KEITH S. RODEN, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

8th July, 1938.

My thanks are due to Mr. D. Johnston Green, the Clerk to
the Honorable the President of the Senate, for the copy of the
report of the Committee on the subject of the proposed
amendment to the Constitution, which I have the honor to
acknowledge.

Your obedient servant,

KEITH B. MOORE, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

8th June 1898

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

I beg to submit a Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ending the 31st December, 1937.

Following the death of Mr. P. F. Kett early in September, the district ceased to be divided into two areas, the Northern and Southern districts, and the whole of the Rural district was placed under one Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor. An additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed to assist with the work of the department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shows the incidence of infectious disease in the several parishes :—

Parish.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.
North Claines	3	2
Crowle	—	—
Dodderhill	—	—
Doverdale	—	—
Elmbridge	—	—
Elmley Lovett	1	—
Hadzor	—	—
Hampton Lovett	—	—
Hanbury	1	—
Hartlebury	3	14
Himbleton	—	1
Hindlip	—	—
Huddington	—	—
Martin Hussingtree	—	—
Oddingley	—	—
Ombersley	1	1
St. Martin (County)	—	—
Salwarpe	—	—
Stock and Bradley	—	—
Tibberton	—	—
Upton Warren	—	—
Warndon	—	—
Westwood	—	—
Total Number of Cases	9	18

No. of Privy or pail conversions including additional water-closets	....	....	....	....	....	11
No. of defective water-closets remedied	....	....	....	....	....	1
No. of additional water-closets put in	....	....	....	....	....	8
No. of dirty houses dealt with	....	....	....	....	....	3
No. of verminous persons dealt with	....	....	....	....	....	2
No. of verminous houses dealt with	....	....	....	....	....	3

Although every endeavour has been made throughout the year to recondition cottages and raise the standard of housing in the district, progress continues to be very slow. The owners are reluctant to incur any large expenditure on the type of property which is let at a low rental, and a further difficulty encountered is that the number of builders available within the area is limited and builders from adjoining areas are mainly engaged on the erection of new properties or the reconditioning of existing property in their own locality.

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

Following on the enumeration made in 1936, all houses were measured in February, 1937, to ascertain the permitted number and to correct the information as to overcrowding.

The following Table shows the corrected information at the end of February, 1937 :—

No. of Dwelling-houses overcrowded	....	....	....	130
No. of Families dwelling therein	....	....	....	130
No. of Persons dwelling therein	....	....	....	835

The following Table shows the position as to overcrowding on the 31st December, 1937 :—

No. of Dwelling-houses overcrowded	....	....	....	85
No. of Families dwelling therein	....	....	....	85
No. of Persons dwelling therein	....	....	....	566
No. of new cases of Overcrowding	....	....	....	5
No. of cases of Overcrowding relieved	....	....	....	45
No. of Persons concerned in such cases	....	....	....	269

RE-HOUSING.

Negotiations are in hand for the purchase of sites for the erection of houses to re-house overcrowded families and families dwelling in those houses in respect of which Demolition Orders have become operative.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

In all cases where the property inspected is not in all respects fit for habitation and the same is suitable for consideration under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, the owners' attention is especially drawn to the scheme for reconditioning such property.

Additional publicity has been given by the distribution and display of the pamphlets and posters issued by the Ministry of Health.

At the close of the period under review five cottages had been reconditioned under the scheme and work was in progress in the case of a further three cottages.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of Registered Dairy Farms	163
No. of Registered Producers	163
No. of Registered Retailers	69
No. of Milking Cows	approximately 2581

The tendency amongst milk producers to improve the standard of cowsheds and dairies with a view to obtaining licences for the production of graded milk continues, and the number of producers of Accredited Milk has increased during the year.

The following Table shews the number of licences issued on the 1st January, 1938, as compared with previous years :—

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
No. of Production and Bottling Licences	2	4	4	4
No. of Production Licences	—	19	23	25

It is gratifying to note that over 10% of the Accredited Milk Producers in the County are within this area.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

No. of Licensed Slaughter-houses	4
No. of Licensed Slaughtermen	7
No. of cases of Slaughtering on un-licensed premises	35
No. of Inspections	42
No. of Defects found	7

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage and sewage disposal works owned by the Council have received regular supervision throughout the period under review.

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the combined Parishes of Dodderhill and Upton Warren has been prepared and considered by the Council, and submitted to the County Council. Owing to the high cost and the amount of the contribution offered by the County Council, the matter has been deferred for the present.

The Council have considered a report on the sewerage for Ombersley Village with a view to erecting future houses, for rehousing purposes, on a site which could be served by a sewerage scheme.

The Council's Engineer has been requested to report on a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Hartlebury, and this will be considered at an early date.

During the year the Ministry of Health held an inquiry on the proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Fernhill Heath, and it is hoped that this scheme will be commenced in the near future.

WATER SUPPLY.

The scheme for the provision of a public water supply in North Claines Parish was also the subject of a Ministry of Health inquiry during the year.

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company's water main is available in the Parishes of Dodderhill and Upton Warren, the water supply in the remainder of the district is derived from wells.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with in relation to water supply during the year 1937 :—

No. of wells sunk	....	....	....	....	....	47
No. of wells cleansed and repaired	....	....	....	....	....	7
No. of wells closed	....	....	....	....	....	2
No. of houses supplied from Waterworks	....	....	....	....	....	127
No. of samples submitted for analysis	....	....	....	....	....	19
No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	....	....	....	....	....	7

SCAVENGING.

A system of collection of dry domestic refuse is in operation in the Parishes of Dodderhill, Ombersley and Hartlebury. This work is carried out under the supervision of this department, the Council contract for the hire of a motor lorry and employ their own labour.

A system of scavenging is also in operation in the Parish of North Claines, the whole of the work in this Parish being carried out by contract.

The following is a summary of the work done during the period under review :

No. of Houses from which refuse was removed	....2040
No. of Privies cleansed	.... 290
No. of Ashpits cleansed	.... 202
No. of portable receptacles cleansed	....1838
No. of portable receptacles provided	.... 150
No. of Houses from which refuse is removed at	
(a) Weekly intervals	.... 444
(b) Fortnightly intervals	.... 940
(c) Monthly intervals	.... 445

The question of collecting dry domestic refuse in the remainder of the district has been considered by the Council, and during the year a tip has been provided in the Parish of Tibberton.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans for 155 new buildings were deposited and dealt with during the year. The number of new houses erected and completed by private enterprise being 174.

Since the Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Order, 1933, came into operation in June, 1935, the development of more than 1700 acres of land had been considered, and the Council had granted permission for the development of 700 acres by the 31st December, 1937.

Every effort has been made throughout the year to minimise the delay in dealing with the plans submitted by working in close co-operation with the County Planning Department and the Highway Authority in those cases where the development was affected by either the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act or the Trunk Roads Act.

In addition to dealing with the interim development, extensive areas in the Parishes of North Claines, Ombersley and Dodderhill have been tentatively zoned.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their help and willing assistance throughout the period under review.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

OSWALD SHARPE, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I.,

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

RURAL COUNCIL OFFICES,

DROITWICH.

26TH FEBRUARY, 1938.

In addition to dealing with the general development, extensive
work in the fields of North Africa, Italy, and the Middle East
has been particularly noted.
In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to
express my thanks to the donors of the fund for their
help and willing assistance throughout the past and future.

I am, Sir, Very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

John H. H. H. H.

JOHN H. H. H. H.

JOHN H. H. H. H.

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