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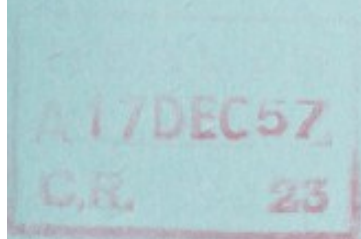
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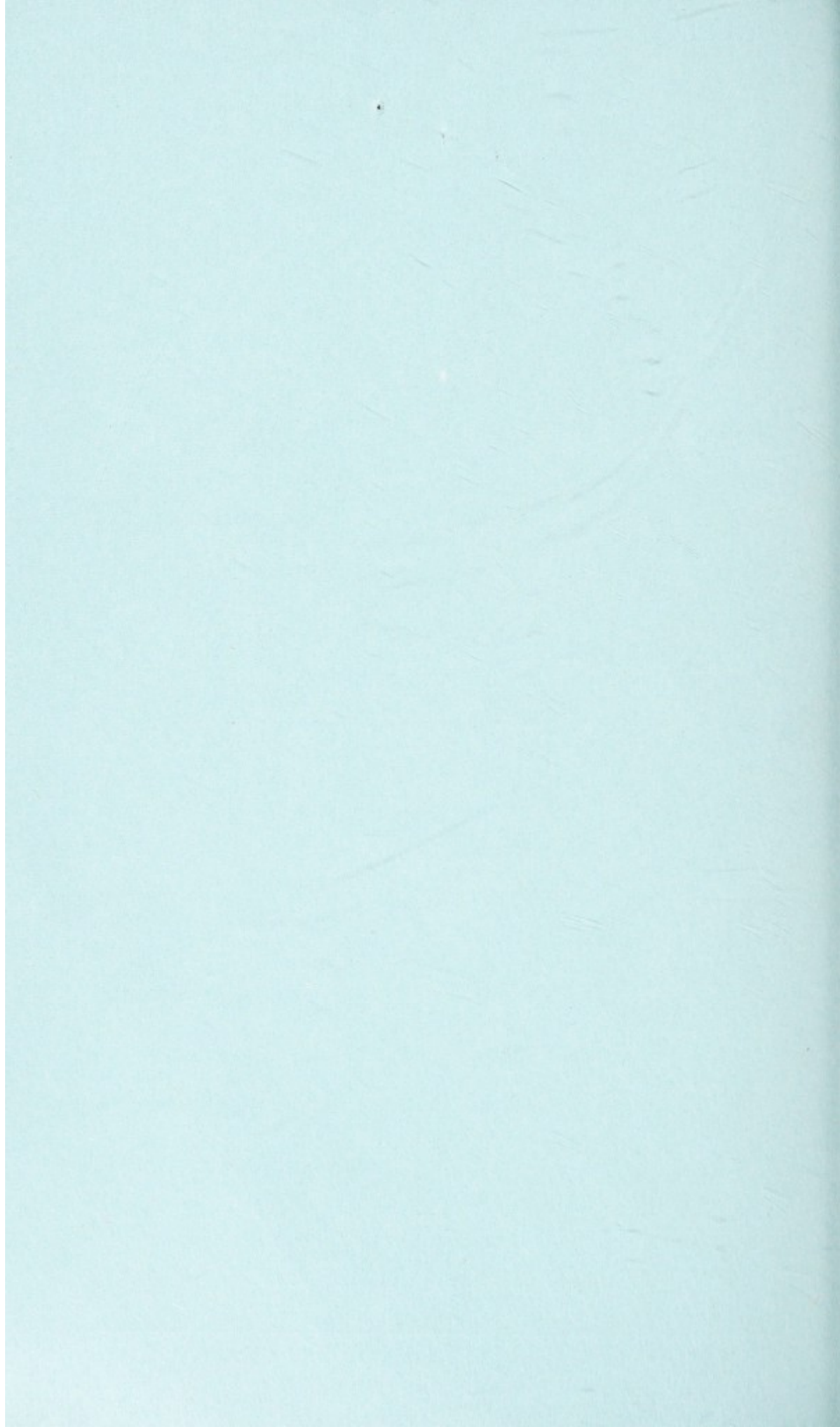


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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE DISTRICT, 1956.



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W. E. RICHARDSON, ESQ., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*  
S. F. PACKMAN, ESQ.

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**Members of the Housing and General Purposes Committee :**

*Chairman :* L. R. HYDE, ESQ., M.B.E.

*Vice-Chairman :* S. T. GITTINS, ESQ.

MESSRS. C. S. ANTON, M. W. ALLDAY, A. W. BUDD, C. D. COOPER, SIR HAROLD GLOVER, MESSRS. PETER HARRIS, J. R. POINTER, S. E. POWICK, J. WILLIAMSON, D. BROOKES, W. E. RICHARDSON, S. F. PACKMAN.

*Co-opted members for advice on housing :*  
MRS. D. L. PARKER AND MRS. B. L. BIRCH.

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**Health Officers of the Council :**

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# RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
RURAL DISTRICT OFFICES,  
DROITWICH.

*October, 1957.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Statistical Report on the health of the Rural District for 1956. Detailed information is available under the appropriate sections, and I only intend here to review certain important topics.

The general health of the population of the district remained good during the year. This can be seen from the fact that the death rate (8.7 per 1,000) was considerably lower than that for England and Wales, and the standardised birth rate somewhat higher (see page 3). Infant Deaths were comparatively few, and there were no maternal deaths. An analysis of the causes of death shows that the majority were due to diseases of the Circulatory system, but cancer and respiratory diseases were responsible for many of the others. In this respect a definite relationship has now been established between smoking and lung cancer about which full publicity has been given by the press. Adults are very foolish to continue this pernicious habit and I must remind parents that they are responsible for preventing their children falling into such habits when they leave school. Once begun, the habit is not easy to break.

There was a small outbreak of measles amongst schoolchildren early in the year, but otherwise very few cases of infectious disease were notified (see page 23). There were no notifications of Poliomyelitis and very few new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred. The Ministry of Health introduced a pilot scheme for the vaccination of children between the ages of 2—9 years against Poliomyelitis in March, 1956. Initially this was not a great success, but there is no doubt now that the Vaccine has proved to be successful and the general public are most anxious to have their children protected against this disease. B.C.G. Vaccination against Pulmonary Tuberculosis was again offered for 13-year-old schoolchildren with success.

The Dudley Miniature Mass Radiography Unit visited various parts of the Rural District from July—September, 1956 and did some good work. The response was poor in some areas considering the population, but a number of cases were detected, and referred to the Chest Clinics for treatment. This resulted in a case incidence of 2.6 per 1,000 population (see page 25).

The Slum Clearance Survey was completed in June. This showed that there were at least 197 properties which were unfit for human habitation and a further 441 in need of major repairs. There seemed to be a general reluctance to tackle this urgent social problem, but it must be stressed that it is one which vitally affects the health and happiness of a large section of the community. The problem will continue to grow, unless dealt with steadily Year by Year. The need to continue building Council houses has been appreciated, and although virtually no work was carried out during the year plans have been approved for dwellings at Ombersley, Wychbold and Cutnall Green. The principle of allocating a number of these houses for slum clearance subsidy has also been accepted. It is hoped that by offering existing tenants these houses, and placing the slum clearance cases in older property, the problem of increased rents will be overcome. The introduction of a differential rents scheme has already proved invaluable in many cases.

May I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your continued advice and support. I should also like to thank Mr. Fry for his assistance in preparing this Report and the Staff of his Department for their kind co-operation during the Year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	....	....	....	....	51,453
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Books	....	....	....	....	4,179
Rateable Value (December 31st, 1956)	....	....	....	....	£180,378
Sum presented by one penny rate 1956-7	....	....	....	....	£718
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1956)	....	....	....	....	13,360
<i>Live Births.</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	....	89	99		188
Illegitimate	....	6	4		10
Crude birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....	14.8
Standardised birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....	16.6
Birth-rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	15.7
<i>Still Births</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	....	3	2		5
Illegitimate	....	—	—		—
Still birth-rate per 1,000—Total live and still births	....	....	....	....	24.6
Still birth-rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	23.0
<i>Deaths</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
From all causes	....	61	56		117
Crude death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....	8.7
Standardised death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....	8.7
Death-rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	11.7
<i>Deaths of Infants under one year of age</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	....	2	1		3
Illegitimate	....	—	—		—
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	....	15.2
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	23.8
<i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	....	2	—		2
Illegitimate	....	—	—		—
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	....	10.1
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	16.9

# CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	5
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
Other heart disease	6	11
Other circulatory disease	1	1
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	2	7
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined disease	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	5	—
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	61	56
	—	—

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### (a) *Ambulance Service.*

This service is provided by the County Council. Ambulance stations which serve the Droitwich Rural District are situated at Worcester, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. The list below shows the parishes covered by each ambulance station for non-emergency cases. In all cases of emergency the ambulance should be summoned in the usual way—that is, by asking the Telephone operator for “Ambulance” or by dialling “999.”

#### *Bromsgrove Ambulance Station.*

Upton Warren                      Northern part of Parish of Dodderhill.

#### *Kidderminster Ambulance Station.*

Hartlebury.

#### *Redditch Ambulance Station.*

Stock and Bradley.

#### *Worcester Ambulance Station.*

Elmley Lovett	Hanbury	Salwarpe
Elmbridge	Himbleton	Tibberton
Hampton Lovett	Hindlip	Warndon
Doverdale	Huddington	Westwood
North Claines	Martin Hussingtree	
Crowle	Oddingley	
Hadzor	Ombersley	

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the isolation hospitals. The hospital car service, manned in most cases by volunteers is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

#### (b) *Hospitals.*

The district is served by general hospitals situated in Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

The isolation hospital, which serves the area is situated at Newtown, Worcester.

Maternity hospitals which serve the district are situated at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

(c) *Home Nursing and Health Visiting.*

This service is provided by the County Council, and in most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse/Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. The following nurses are working the Rural District :—

Nurse Wilson, Nurse's House, Fernhill Heath. *Telephone No.* Fernhill Heath 304.

Nurse Coles, The Bungalows, Courts Close, Hanbury. *Telephone No.* 209.

Nurse Adler, Rose Cottage, Cutnall Green. *Telephone No.* Cutnall Green 233.

Mrs. Ross, 4 Grove Cottages, Whittington. *Telephone No.* Worcester 5095 (Parish of Crowle).

Nurse Powell, 14 Appletree Walk, Ombersley. *Telephone No.* Ombersley 341.

Nurse Dudley, 27 Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury. *Telephone No.* Hartlebury 200.

(d) *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.*

The district is served by the following Clinics :—

ANTI-NATAL CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturday at 10.0 a.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open on 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month at 2.0 p.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove. Open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open every Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10.0 a.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury. Open on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hanbury. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle. Open on 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Cutnall Green. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath. Open on 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

(e) *Vaccination and Immunisation.*

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria is carried out free of charge at any of the County Council's Clinics or by the patient's own doctor.

During 1956 the following inoculations were done :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	145
Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year	154

VACCINATION.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	141
Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

These Acts place on district medical officers of health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of aged persons who are in need of care and attention. A temporary Order was obtained to remove an old man from property in Hartlebury early in 1956, and he was admitted to Blakebrook Hospital. As he had no-one to care for him and the house was in a poor state of repair, it was felt inadvisable for him to return, and application was made to Stourport Magistrates Court for a permanent Order. This was granted.

SECTION C.

*SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.*

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Rural District is divided so that 30,278 acres fall within the statutory limits of supply of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company leaving 20,165 acres to be served in detail by the Council. Following the issue of the Circular 52/56 by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on regrouping of water undertakings conferences were convened by Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council and Birmingham City Council for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of regrouping, and these discussions are still going on. In March, 1950, the Ministry of Health published a report on a Water Supply Survey of the West Midland Area undertaken by one of the Ministry's Engineering Inspectors and the suggestions made in the report so far as Droitwich Rural District is concerned are :

1. The area now within the East Worcestershire Waterworks area except the Parish of Ombersley plus the Parish of Salwarpe, would go into the proposed East and South-East Worcestershire Water Area.

2. The Parish of Hartlebury would go into the proposed North-West Worcestershire Water Area.
3. The Parish of Ombersley and the remainder of the Rural District would go into the proposed Worcester and Malvern Water Area. While this scheme may have merit from the point of view of general regrouping, it cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory to have three different water undertakers operating within the Rural District in each case on the fringe of their distribution areas. It is hoped that a satisfactory solution will be found, but that in the meantime the Council will continue the policy of extending piped water to all villages and hamlets within the Rural District. The only major task which now confronts the Council in this respect is the Southern Parishes Scheme.

#### EXTENSION OF WATER MAINS DURING THE YEAR.

The outstanding job of the year in this respect was the completion of the Hartlebury Major Scheme. Water is purchased in bulk from Stourport Urban District Council and pumped at Charlton Pumping Station into the village of Hartlebury. The capital cost of the scheme was higher than anticipated due to the considerable amount of rock found. A further difficulty was the failure of the Contractor for the pumping station to complete his contract and the work had to be finished by direct labour. In September a private supplier (Mr. Sadler) gave notice to his 170 consumers that he would terminate his supply in December. To meet this, an extension scheme was quickly prepared and approved by the Ministry in the record time of ten days. In addition the Council undertook to lay services at a charge equal to the actual cost of the work. The direct labour gang entered fully into the spirit of the work and by an all-round team effort a supply from the Council's extended mains was provided to every property before expiry of the private undertaker's notice.

Under guarantee by the Council the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company commenced laying mains from Risingbridge to Woodcote in December to cover an area where well supplies have been poor for many years both in quality and quantity.

A third mains scheme was completed during the year at Tibberton where the direct labour organisation extended the mains from the housing site borehole to cover the majority of the village.

As regards improvements to existing supplies, an improvement in pressure was given at the Ombersley Road area of the Parish of North Claines and at the Droitwich Road Pumping Station by enlargement of the feed mains to these points. This was carried out by Worcester City Council as part of a new agreement reached during the year. These new conditions will now enable the Council to give a supply to the Hindlip Estate. Another major improvement was the provision of additional storage in the Ombersley Supply. This job was carried out by direct labour.

## PROJECTED SCHEME.

Early in the year, in February in fact, the Minister in Circular 11/56, put a 6 month embargo on capital schemes of water supply and sewerage unless they were urgent on public health grounds. Complying with this meant that physical progress on mains extension proposals was retarded. The Council decided, however, to continue preparation of schemes up to approval stage, and in this respect progress was made with the Salwarpe Scheme. Instructions were also given to commence the planning of Hindlip, Himbleton and Crossway Green schemes. The first two of these progressed normally, but as regards Crossway Green, circulars to property owners on the route of the proposed mains showed that support for the scheme was very disappointing. Of the 91 owners who received circulars only 44 promised to connect to the mains, 16 said they would not connect and 31 did not bother to reply even though a stamped addressed envelope was sent to them for the purpose.

Late in the year the Council asked for a report on extensions to the Ombersley supply to serve the Uphampton, Holt Fleet and Oldfield areas. Negotiations were also opened by the owners to interest the Council in sponsoring a scheme for supplying the farms and cottages on the Westwood Estate.

## MAINTENANCE..

During the year a special report on maintenance of the Council's water undertaking was followed by setting up a mobile section equipped with a suitable vehicle to deal with water and sewerage maintenance. This enabled proper attention to be given to pumping stations and other mechanical equipment and to deal with emergencies. The normal waste detection, meter repair service and maintenance of the mains continued as before.

In the Council's area of supply there are now :—

- 17 miles of main.
- 6 pumping stations having 10 pumps.
- 4 reservoirs with total capacity 4,400 gallons.
- 16 bulk supply meters.
- 165 consumer meters and
- 1232 domestic supplies.

## PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Results of chemical and bacteriological examinations of private supplies taken during the year are given below. Where the supplies are unfit, advice is given to property owners on how to improve them where this is possible and where it is not possible advice is given on how to make the supply safe from the bacteriological point of view.

<i>Address.</i>	<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Tolladine Lock Cottage, Wardon	Well	Unfit
Bridge Cottages, Pershore Lane, Hindlip	(Tap Water)	Fit.
House, Neight Hill, Himbleton	Well	Unfit.
New House, Himbleton	Well	Unfit.
Cottages, Chatley, Ombersley	Well	Unfit

<i>Address</i>	<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Result</i>
Froxmere Court, Crowle	Well	Unfit
Dodds Corner	Well	Unfit
Hawford Lock, Bevere	Well	Fit
Top Barn, Hadzor	Well	Unfit
Church Farm, Oddingley	Well	Unfit
The Anchorage, Hadley	Well	Unfit
Manor Farm, Hadzor	Well	Unfit
Priest Cottage, Huddington	New Well	Unfit
St. Anthony, Hadzor	Well	Unfit
Cottages, Uphampton	Well	Unfit
Church Farm, Oddingley	Well	Fit
Netherwood Cottage, Oddingley	Well	Unfit
Inn Cottages, Hartlebury	Well	Fit
House, Neight Hill, Himbleton	Well	Unfit
Wynyards, Lineholt	Well	Unfit
Inn Cottages, Inn Lane, Hartlebury	Well	Fit
Layton, Borley, Ombersley	Well	Unfit
Impney Farm, Droitwich	Well	Unfit
The Haw Thornes, Boreley Lane, Ombersley	Well	Unfit
Eagle and Son, Hanbury Wharf	Well	Unfit
Waterlade Cafe, Hartlebury	Well	Unfit
Oldfield Farm, Ombersley	Well	Unfit
Court Villa, Tibberton	Well	Unfit
Jubilee Cottages, Salwarpe	Well	Unfit
Eggthorne Cottages, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
Church Farm, Oddingley	Well	Unfit
Eggthorne Cottages, Loggerheads, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
Philomel, Sytchampton Lane	Well	Unfit

## 2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

### CROWLE.

The outstanding event in this field was the completion of the Crowle scheme with its gravitational works of horizontal sedimentation tanks. The contractors did an excellent job and the massed concrete of the disposal works is of first-class quality. A disappointing feature, especially to the Council, was the very limited amount of voluntary connection of properties to the sewers after the relatively high capital cost of the scheme to the ratepayers. After long debate the Council agreed to provide free connections outside the curtilage of the properties, where this could be done at reasonable cost, and to provide a limited number of lateral sewers. Some delay took place before sanction was obtained for this. However, the picture is much brighter now, especially as private enterprise building appears to be possible. The Council's houses in the Parish and a number of private houses have been connected and the flow to the works has increased appreciably.

## TIBBERTON.

As a result of representations by the Parish Council, a Sub-committee was appointed to consider the drainage of the village of Tibberton. Conditions were found to be bad and as a result of the introduction of a piped water supply, conditions were likely to get worse. The Sub-committee agreed with the Parish Council that enlargement of the works serving the council houses would meet the need if sewers were laid in the village street to the blacksmith's shop and in Fore draught Lane. A rough estimate of the cost of the scheme was reported to be £6,520. The Council endorsed the recommendations and decided to proceed with the scheme.

## EXTENSION OF THE HARTLEBURY SEWERS....

To serve the properties in Inn Lane, a 9 inch diminishing to 6 inch sewer was laid. A very considerable amount of rock was encountered in the excavation, and as the sewer was deep in places the work took a very long time to complete. A great quantity of ground water was found at the lower end of Inn Lane. The sewer was brought into operation during the first month of the year and a check at the pumping station showed that the flow had increased far more than anticipated. Eventually, it was found that ground water was finding its way into the new sewer in large quantities. Despite many efforts, it was found impossible to get the contractors back on the job and eventually a section of about 100 yards of the sewer was relaid by the direct labour organisation.

## DODDERHILL SEWERAGE.

A start was made on this scheme during the year, but serious trouble arose when water tests made by the Department to the 3,000 yards of sewer then laid were unsatisfactory and were consequently rejected by the consulting engineer.

## HANBURY SEWERAGE.

As a result of complaints supported by the Parish Council, the Council asked for a preliminary report on the cost of a sewerage scheme for the village area.

## SYTCHAMPTON DITCH.

Following formal action under the Public Health Acts, improvements were made to the septic tanks discharging to this ditch by the property owners concerned. The Council then had the ditch cleaned out and the Highway Authority has now resumed responsibility for it.

## MAINTENANCE OF SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

In conjunction with the Councils waterworks, maintenance of sewers and works was put on to a proper basis during the year by setting up a mobile team equipped with a Bedford Pick-up.

The Council now has the following sewers and works in the rural district :—

Length of sewers	....	....	....	14 miles
Ditto pumping mains	....	....	....	1½ miles
Number of screens	....	....	....	5
Ditto settling tanks	....	....	....	13
Ditto filters	....	....	....	10
Ditto sludge beds	....	....	....	12
Ditto humus tanks	....	....	....	10
Ditto pumping stations	....	....	....	9
Ditto pumps—Electric	10)			
Petrol	2)			13
Diesel	1)			

#### CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The service continued satisfactorily during the year. Pits are emptied for ratepayers at a charge of £1 a visit. The actual cost is charged for business premises and for services outside the district an establishment charge is added.

The machine is also used for collection of nightsoil in the Parish of North Claines which had a sewerage scheme constructed in 1938 by special parish rate.

### 3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service is operated with two, nine cubic yard side-loading vehicles and one, eleven cubic yard, rear-loading moving floor vehicle. The largest vehicle is used entirely on village collections.

The service covers the whole of the district, a weekly collection being given in the compact village areas, fortnightly in some other centres of development, and monthly elsewhere. The number of loads collected during the year amounted to 1553.

Disposal is by controlled tipping at a central tip. During the year the Council decided to purchase the freehold of 15 acres at the site of the tip, and this should provide a means of disposal of refuse for many years to come. One of the conditions of planning consent to the use of the land as a tip, is that a belt of trees shall be planted near the road to act as a screen. The financial details are for the year ended 31st March, 1957 :—

Houses from which refuse is collected	....	4071
Number on weekly collections	....	2323
Number of fortnightly and monthly collection		1748

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.**

**REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1957.**

Section.	(1) <i>Local Authority</i>	(2) <i>Dwelling Houses (inc Council Houses)</i>	(3) <i>All other (including business Premises)</i>	(4) <i>Total Cols. (1) (2) &amp; (3)</i>	(5) <i>Agricul- tural</i>
1. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District Notes 1 & 2 ....	13	4346	209	4558	353
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification ....	Nil	21	2	23	Nil
(b) Survey under Act	12	812	151	976	134
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	8	15	14	37	4
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ....	95	1142	185	1422	172
4. Number of properties inspected in Sect. II which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats ( Major ....	3	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
( Minor ....	2	202	9	213	3
(b) Mice ( Major ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
( Minor ....	Nil	14	Nil	14	Nil
4. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. ....	5	216	9	230	3
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ....	30	216	9	255	8
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(a) Treatment )					
(b) Structural Work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Number of "Block control schemes carried out ....		2			

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

A total of 54 new dwellings were erected in the district during the year. It is disappointing to report that none of these were completed by the Council whose programme was delayed mainly by difficulties in the acquisition of sites. Nevertheless, plans progressed for local authority building of two houses and a shop at Wychbold, for houses at Sale Green, old people's bungalows at Hartlebury, farm workers cottages at Salwarpe and "general needs" houses at Cutnall Green and Ombersley. Also the Council decided to investigate the idea of a block of flatlets with communal facilities for old people.

A start was made with improvements to bring the pre-war houses up-to-date by adding bathrooms, hot water supplies and flush closets. Schemes were prepared for the Upton Warren and Crowle houses.

Following a general government approval the Council decided to sell houses to tenants but the response can only be described as very disappointing. To encourage people to build their own houses, the Council purchased a site at Hartlebury and after laying essential services, sold the land off in plots to persons needing accommodation in that area. Demand was good.

### SLUM CLEARANCE.

The most important step forward in the field of housing was the Council's acceptance of a five-year slum clearance programme, which was undertaken following a survey of 945 doubtful houses in the Rural District. Of those 197 were found to be beyond repair at reasonable expense, 46 of them being occupied by one person only per house. In 39 cases no rent was paid for the dwelling and in 101 cases the rent was below 6/- a week. The Council also considered purchase of two areas of special difficulty, namely Causeway Meadows in the Parish of Dodderhill and The Racks in the Parish of Ombersley.

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The continued use of improvement grants has made a very useful contribution to the improved standard of housing in the district. Details are :—

Application received during the year	....	21
Applications approved	....	19
Number of dwellings involved	....	19
Applications refused or withdrawn	....	2
Total amount of grant-aided work	....	£15390
Total amount of grant approved	....	£6003
Average amount per dwelling	....	£316

### ELMLEY LOVETT EX P.O.W. CAMP.

Arrangements have now been made with the Ministry to clear this site as soon as possible. It was proposed to use the site for caravans after clearance, but this idea was not supported by the County Planning Committee. The site will be returned to the ground landlord in due course.

## MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

During the year maintenance of the Council's houses was put on an improved basis. A card system for reporting defects has been started from which job sheets are prepared and the work costed. A maintenance team consisting of a carpenter, plumber, bricklayer, handyman and three painters has been equipped with a Bedford Workabus to carry out general minor repairs and external decoration. The free issue of distemper for internal decoration has been extended to include emulsion paint.

The dwellings now owned by the Council are :—

Two-bedroom Houses and Flats	....	....	130
Three-Bedroom Houses and Flats	....	....	315
Four-bedroom Houses and Flats	....	....	8
			<hr/> 453 <hr/>

## DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES AND ESTIMATED SLUM CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.

Parish	Pop'n Census		Applications	Total	Slum Clearance	Grand Total
	1951	Local	Outside District			
Dodderhill	1207	25	27	52	18	70
Hartlebury	2349	41	6	47	47	94
Omersley	2130	70	4	74	34	108
North Claines	2783				14)	
Hindlip	219	48	25	73	1) 19	92
Martin Hussingtree	216				4)	
Elmbridge	321				5)	
Hampton Lovett	240	13	2	15	1) 14	29
Elmley Lovett	355				8)	
Himbleton	323				6)	
Hanbury	804	10	3	13	25) 34	47
Stock and Bradley	203				3)	
Crowle & Sale Green	502				8)	
Tibberton	262	8	3	11	3) 14	25
Oddingley	169				3)	
Upton Warren	254	—	—	—	2	2
Doverdale	100	—	—	—	2	2
Huddington	80	—	—	—	3	3
Warndon	108	—	—	—	6	6
Hadzor	194	—	—	—	—	—
Salwarpe	270	—	—	—	4	4
	13089	215	70	285	197	482

- NOTES :
1. Applications for Council Houses were revised in March, 1956.
  2. Slum clearance requirements are based on the present survey now complete.
  3. It is suggested for the purpose of acquiring housing sites that the following parishes could be grouped.
    - (i) North Claines, Hindlip and Martin Hussingtree.
    - (ii) Elmbridge, Hampton Lovett and Elmley Lovett.
    - (iii) Himbleton, Hanbury and Stock and Bradley.
    - (iv) Crowle, Sale Green, Tibberton and Oddingley.

## SITES PERMITTED FOR GENUINE TRAILER CARAVANS.

The following is a list of the Caravan Sites for which approval has been granted by the County Planning Authority within Droitwich Rural District.

### *Facilities.*

*Mutton Hall, Boreley*, on the east bank of the Severn,  
opposite the Lenchford Hotel

Operator : Mr. Stone .... 12 (E.R.)

No permanent occupation.

*Mill House, Hawford*, 4 miles north of Worcester on  
Ombersley Road.

Operator : Mr. Walker .... 12 (E.B.R.)

No permanent occupation.

*Winnal Farm*, east bank of Severn near Stourport.

Operator : Mr. Butler .... 32 (C.R.)

No permanent occupation

*Dunhampton*, rear of Roberts' Garage on main Kidder-  
minster Road.

Operator : Mr. H. Roberts .... 20 (B.E.L.R.C.)

No permanent occupation.

*Eagle and Sun P.H., Hanbury Wharf*, near Droitwich.

Operator : Mr. Hedley .... 15 (B.E.R.C.)

Residential site.

*Bricks Farm, Holt Fleet.*

Operator : Mrs. Brick .... 97 (B.R.E.)

No permanent occupation.

*Chateau Impney*, on main Birmingham-Worcester Road,  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of Droitwich.

Operator : Chateau Impney .... 32 (B.C.D.R.L.W.)

Residential Site.

*Wharf Hotel, Holt Fleet*, on left side of main road approaching bridge  
from Ombersley.

Operator : Messrs. Flower and Sons .... 38 (D.L.)

Stratford-on-Avon.

No permanent occupation.

### FACILITIES :—

- B. Convenient Bus Service.
- C. Car parking arrangements on site.
- D. Sewage disposal facilities on Site.
- E. Electricity on Site.
- L. Sanitary Block on Site.
- R. Residential caretaker/owner on Site.
- S. Shop on Site.
- W. Mains water on Site.

## FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the work carried out in factories in the Rural District during the year.

# PART I OF THE ACT.

## 1. *Inspection for purposes of provision as to health.*

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>M/c. line No.</i> (2)	<i>Number of Register</i> (3)	<i>Number of</i>		<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (6)
			<i>Inspection</i> (4)	<i>Written Notices</i> (5)	
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	1	1	9	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	2	40	42	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	3	47	51	—	—
Total .....		88	102	Nil	Nil

## 2. *Cases in which Defects were found.*

Particulars	M/c. line	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecution in- stituted
		Found	Remed'd	Referred		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	H.M. Inspect (5)	H.M. Inspect (6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ....	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3) ....	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient....	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ....	10	3	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including off- ences relating to Out- work) ....	12	—	—	—	—	—
Total ....		3	3	—	2	—

3. Following inspections of the two factories, Means of Escape in case of Fire Certificates were issued to the Hanbury Wharf Brick Co. Ltd., and Farnols, Stoke Works.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Food and Drugs Act, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, became operative on 1st January, 1956. The Act consolidated legislation previously embodied in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 and certain sections of the Slaughter houses Act, 1954, and the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954. The Regulations lay down requirements in respect of cleanliness of food premises, apparatus and equipment, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and the action to be taken where they suffer from or are carriers of certain infections. Visits were made to many food premises in the district with a view to explaining the position to the management, and explanatory leaflets and posters were distributed. In one case conditions were found to be far from satisfactory, and a warning letter was sent on the authority of the Council. A subsequent visit showed considerable improvement.

Structural improvements were also carried out at a bakery in one of the villages.

#### *Milk.*

The Rural District Council are not responsible for the supervision of milk production which is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. They are responsible for the supervision of milk distribution however, and seventeen retailers were supplying milk in the area during 1956. Some of these distributors operate from premises outside the district in which case Supplementary licences are issued, instead of Principal Licences. The licences covered the following designations :—

Number of Retailers	....	....	....	17
Designation "Pasteurised"	....	....	....	15
"Sterilised"	....	....	....	3
"T.T. Pasteurised"	....	....	....	8
"T.T.—(Raw Milk)"	....	....	....	9

There are four Pasteurising plants in the district but "Pasteurisers" licences are issued by the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority.

#### *Ice-Cream.*

Thirty-six premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of Ice-cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There are no large-scale producers in the district, but two premises use the cold-mix process. The remaining premises sell the pre-packed product only.

#### *Meat Inspection.*

Routine Inspection of all animals slaughtered at Ombersley Slaughter House was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. The amount of meat dealt with is shown below.

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Includ- ing Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ....	66	8	632	129
Number inspected ....	66	8	632	129
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	2	Nil	4	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ....	3%	Nil	0.6%	0.8%
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>				
Whole carcases condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	1	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ....	3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Cysticercosis ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## Condemnation of Unfit Food.

- 1 Beast—Generalised Tuberculosis.
- 1 Pig's Head—Tuberculosis.
- 1 Beast's Liver—Tuberculosis.
- 3 Sheep's Liver—Distoma Hepaticum.
- 1 Beast's Kidney—Uraemia.
- 1 Pig's Liver—Hepatitis.
- 1 Beast's Liver—Multiple Abscesses.
- 1 Sheep's Liver—Multiple Abscesses.

## SECTION F.

### INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Two tables are shown opposite indicating the incidence of Infectious disease in relation to Age and distribution in the Parishes of the Rural District.

#### *Tuberculosis, 1956.*

Particulars of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis are shown on page 20.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	1

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register are as follows :

	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on the Register at 1st January, 1956	45	32	4	7
Additions to the Register during the year	4	4	1	—
Deductions from the Register during the year	6	8	3	2
Cases on the Register at 31st December, 1956	43	28	2	5

*Visit of the Dudley Mass Radiography Unit (July—Sept., 1956).*

Unit Location.	Group.	Number of cases Examined.
Hartlebury	Industry (25 M.U.)	965
	General Public	123
		1,088
Summerfield	Industry	468
		468
Ombersley	General Public	115
	Scholars and Staff (St. Gilbert's School)	26
		141
Fernhill Heath	General Public	122
		122
Wychbold	Industry (B.B.C.)	14
	General Public	93
	Doctor's Cases	1
		108
	Total	1,927
Number recalled for large films		49
Number believed to be suffering from active diseases		5
CASE INCIDENCE		2.6 per 1000

THE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING 1956 IS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

	Under One year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
1. Scarlatina	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
2. Measles	1	7	7	10	5	42	2	—	—	—	—	—	74
3. Whooping Cough	—	2	1	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
4. Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5. Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	7
6. Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
7. Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
8. Dysentary	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	1	9	9	13	9	52	3	—	1	—	1	2	100

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES DURING THE YEAR.

Parish	Scarlatina	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Acute Prim. Pneu.	Influenzal Pneumonia	Meningococcal Meningitis	Dysentery
Bradley Green	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Claines	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1
Crowle	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cutnall Green	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dodderhill	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Doverdale	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmbridge	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Elmley Lovett	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hadzor	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hampton Lovett	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hartlebury	1	—	6	—	1	—	—	—
Oddingley	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ombersley	—	65	—	—	2	—	1	1
Upton Warren	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	74	12	1	7	1	1	3





