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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT of HEREFORD



ISSUED JUNE, 1955

Adams & Sons' Printers) Ltd., Hereford.



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HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

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Medical Officer of Health :

R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,
Public Health Department,
21, East Street,
Hereford.

17th May, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hereford Rural
District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1954.

The birth-rate was 13.9 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 13.5 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 16.3 and 13.2 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 34 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Clerk to the Council—

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

Medical Officer of Health—

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.
(Part-time).

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

DONALD FODEN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Cert.
Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

P. A. THOMAS, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., M.R.I.P.H.H.

One-half of the salary of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Sanitary Inspectors is contributed from grants.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1921	1931	1951	1954
Area in acres	65,669	65,669	65,669	65,669
Population (Census) ...	13,894	13,448	17,489	—
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	—	—	—	16,980
*Structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census) ...	2,970	3,146	4,015	4,167
Private Families (Census) ...	3,012	3,207	4,018	—
No. of Parishes	39	39	39	39
Rateable value, 31st March... £	135,217	52,172	67,937	71,097
A Penny Rate produces ...	£429	£207	£280	£292
„ „ „ Housing (1919 Act) ...	—	£206	£301	£311

**The information as to structurally separate dwellings occupied for 1954 has been supplied by the Rating Officer.*

		Total M. F.				
Live Births—	Legitimate	221	112	109	Birth rate 13.9 (adjusted 16.3)	
	Illegitimate	16	3	13		
Still Births	...	...	5	1	4	Rate 0.29 per 1,000 Total population.
Deaths	230	104	126	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :						
All Infants per 1,000 live births		...	...	...	...	34
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		...				32
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		...				63
Deaths from Puerperal Causes		...	...	...	...	0
„	Malignant Neoplasms (all ages)	...	...	...	...	22
„	Diseases (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
„	Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0

Physical Features and General Character

The Rural District of Hereford is situate in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford. It is bounded on the north by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, on the north-east by the Bromyard Rural District, on the south by the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District, and on the west by the Dore and Bredwardine and Weobley Rural Districts. The middle of the district is low-lying.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye. In the low-lying portions, following the courses of the rivers, is alluvial deposit.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation.

The subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

The population at the Census of 1951 showed an increase of 4,041 persons in the Rural District, and varied in the thirty-nine Parishes within the Area from 19 in Dinmore to 2,972 in Credenhill.

Industries

The industries are largely of an agricultural nature, hops and fruit are largely grown, there is extensive breeding of Herefordshire cattle, together with nurseries and market gardens. Tile works are situated in Withington parish and several light engineering works at Lower Bullingham, Clehonger, and Much Dewchurch. Other industries include cider manufacturing, grist mills, motor and agricultural engineering, saw mills, joinery, and building.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE

Professional Nursing in the Home—

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Messrs. Ellis and Turner, of Gloucester.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers were made in 1909, they were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans in 1912; New Buildings in 1918, they were amended during 1954; and Food Bye-Laws in 1950. The Council has adopted Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 requiring the registration of dealers in old metal and marine stores.

HOSPITALS

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are now under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of the following Hospital beds, to which patients can be admitted in case of need:

	<i>Beds</i>
General Hospital	154
County Hospital	335
Burghill Mental Hospital	580
Holme Lacy Mental Hospital... ..	106
Victoria Eye Hospital	20
Ledbury Cottage Hospital	13
Leominster Cottage Hospital	16
Ross Cottage Hospital... ..	15
Kington Cottage Hospital	10
Tupsley Hospital	31
Burghill Isolation Hospital	43
Bromyard Hospital for Chronic Sick	84
Alton Street Hospital, Ross, for Chronic Sick and Adult Mental Defectives	163
Kingswood Hall, Kington. Chronic Sick block only ...	22
Old Priory, Leominster. Chronic Sick block only ...	38

Ambulance Facilities

Five Motor Ambulances and three "Utilicon" Ambulances for sitting or stretcher cases operated by the Herefordshire Joint Ambulance Committee as agents for the local health authority are stationed at County Ambulance Headquarters, Canal Road, Hereford (*Telephone* : 4451/2/3), and are available for the removal of any cases on Medical Authority, on application to the Ambulance Headquarters at the above address.

Trained attendants are on duty day and night to accompany the Ambulances.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	County Hospital and B.R.C.S. Red Cross Hut, Blackfriars Street, Hereford.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

One female person was found to be living in insanitary conditions in consequence of her being aged and physically incapacitated, and an Order was made by a County Magistrate for her removal to a suitable hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

There is a combined water supply to some of the houses in the parishes of Allensmore, Bolstone, Clehonger, Credenhill, Dormington, Eaton Bishop, Fownhope, Lugwardine, Much Birch, Little Birch, Much Dewchurch, Stoke Edith, Sutton and Westhide, and a supply for domestic services only is obtained for houses in Lugwardine and Bartestree from the River Lugg. Shallow wells or springs provide supplies elsewhere. Many of these are not actually on the premises. In the parishes of Aconbury, Little Birch, Much Birch and Little Dewchurch, many houses are particularly badly off for water. A scheme for a joint supply for the first three parishes, prepared in 1925, was not proceeded with. The question was reopened during 1936, and further considered in 1937 and 1938. An enquiry was held, but no decision reached. A scheme for a supply of water to houses at Shucknall Hill in the parish of Weston Beggard was completed in 1938 with great benefit to the users. The Hereford City supply is laid on to parts of Burghill including the Mental Hospital, Breinton, Lower Bullingham, Grafton, Holmer, and Pipe and Lyde. Under the provisions of the Hereford Corporation Act, 1936, powers are now available whereby the City water supply may be extended into the Rural Areas. The necessary agreements have been entered into by the two Councils, and many occupiers are enjoying the benefits now available.

Deep bores have been put down to supply the Council Houses in the parishes of Much Birch, Much Dewchurch, Little Dewchurch, Burghill, Dormington, Fownhope, Marden, Sutton, Stoke Edith, Pipe and Lyde, Preston Wynne, Withington, Weston Beggard, and Wellington. If the tests as to quality and quantity are satisfactory the use of any surplus water to supply other houses in the area would in some cases provide a long-felt want.

A very comprehensive report prepared by Major A. H. S. Waters, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Consulting Engineer, dealing with the question of the provision of piped supplies for the whole area is under consideration by the Council.

The water samples examined during 1954 are as under :—

		<i>Examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical	...	25	10	15
Bacteriological	...	241	109	132

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There is no general system of sewers in the area.

There are two or three areas in the district where housing development took place in pre-war years on the assumption that it would later be possible to connect up to main sewers, but on the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 this provision had to be abandoned. The need for such service still exists. A scheme of Sewage Disposal for the Parish of Fownhope was prepared and is still under consideration.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

None in the district.

SCAVENGING

A system of refuse collection is now in force in the area, whereby all household refuse is collected once per month, and from those houses situated on the fringe of the City area once per fortnight ; the refuse so collected being disposed of by tipping.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One case of infestation was discovered, and the house concerned was disinfested.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

The 11 cases occurred in 11 houses and in 5 parishes ; 6 cases were removed to Hospital. There was no death.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

One case was notified during the year, and infection was believed to have been contracted abroad.

MEASLES

The number of cases notified was very much smaller than in 1953.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

Only one case was notified, and made a satisfactory recovery.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Household disinfection is carried out with Formalin lamps and spray. The number of rooms disinfected was 15 and the number of lots of bedding, etc., 15.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—
5. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
6. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
7. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4
9. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
10. Diabetes	2	—
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	16
12. Coronary disease, angina	18	16
13. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
14. Other heart disease	22	38
15. Other circulatory disease	2	5
16. Influenza	—	—
17. Pneumonia	7	11
18. Bronchitis... ..	4	2
19. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
21. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	1	—
22. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
23. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
24. Congenital malformations	1	1
25. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	16
26. Motor vehicle accidents	3	—
27. All other accidents	—	4
28. Suicide	1	1
TOTAL ...	104	126

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1954

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

4 hours	Prematurity
10 hours	Prematurity and White Asphyxia
1 day	Prematurity
3 days	Prematurity
1 week	Severe Meningocoele
2 weeks	Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida
5 months	Broncho-Pneumonia
11 months	Gastro-Enteritis

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

The Blind Persons Acts are administered by the Herefordshire County Association for the Blind, on behalf of the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven cases, no deaths.

AGE— PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	4	—	1	—	—	—	—

In no case was there wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

On the 31st December, 1954, there were on the Register the following cases :

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
50	35	13	18

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was suspended from dairy work during the year.

FACTORIES

There are 56 factories within the district, all with mechanical power.

1. Inspections :

Premises	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power ...	40	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	80	4	—
TOTALS ...	120	8	—

2. Defects found :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects</i>			<i>Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	15	15	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	6	6	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	11	11	—	—
TOTAL ...	38	38	—	—

3. Outwork in unwholesome premises—Nil.

HOP-PICKERS

The By-laws in connection with accommodation for persons engaged in the gathering of Hops, Fruit and Vegetables made in 1909 have been rescinded, and new By-laws made by the Council on the 26th June, 1937, were confirmed by the Minister of Health and came into operation on the 20th August, 1937.

About 1,500 pickers came from outside Herefordshire, chiefly South Wales and Staffordshire, to 13 farms; barns, stables, cowsheds and other outbuildings are utilised for their accommodation, though on an increasing number of farms there are specially erected buildings. A new type of trough closet, so constructed as to be water flushed, has been installed on several farms.

At some farms in the district, arrangements are made whereby it is possible for the pickers to purchase a portion of their food and other supplies from canteens on the premises. In addition mobile food shops visit many of the farms concerned. Efficient scavenging of the area surrounding the quarters is a problem of some magnitude, but serious efforts are made on most farms for this to be done. The secret of success appears to be obtaining the services of men who are interested in this work and their ability to encourage the pickers to co-operate with them. Unless continued supervision is exercised breakdowns are bound to occur. The hop farms were visited by Dr. J. Cauchi, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health.

TENTS, VANS, ETC.

A copy of the By-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures adopted in 1912 will be found at the end of the 1912 Report, together with a shortened form set out in more understandable terms than the official phraseology of the actual By-laws. The use of caravans to provide housing accommodation for their owners is increasing—some of the vehicles are of very sound construction and really well fitted. During the year under review the Council decided to adopt new By-laws.

SCHOOLS

Details of the schools in the area with regard to water supplies, sanitary arrangements, etc., are set out on page 19 of the 1938 report.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Since 1919, 1,058 new houses have been built, as follows :—

1919	...	2	1931	...	19	1943	...	0
1920	...	2	1932	...	13	1944	...	2
1921	...	50	1933	...	21	1945	...	5
1922	...	39	1934	...	56	1946	...	14
1923	...	13	1935	...	64	1947	...	12
1924	...	12	1936	...	54	1948	...	25
1925	...	30	1937	...	66	1949	...	26
1926	...	13	1938	...	56	1950	...	18
1927	...	10	1939	...	38	1951	...	57
1928	...	10	1940	...	9	1952	...	109
1929	...	12	1941	...	5	1953	...	65
1930	...	9	1942	...	1	1954	...	121

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (PART II)

Fifteen applications for assistance under the provisions of the above Act were received during 1954, thirteen were approved, one was disallowed, and one application was pending at the end of the year.

NEW HOUSES

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—							
	(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	72
	(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	7

(1) Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	335
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	804
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	306
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	465
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	223

(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	39
--	--	----

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	0
(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	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	2
(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	... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	2
(3) Houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking by Owner	... ..	1

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	... ..	0
(2) Number of Closing Orders as above determined	... ..	0
<i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.</i>		
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made in lieu of Demolition Orders	... ..	2

HOUSING CONDITIONS

General Observations.

The standard of houses fell during the war years by reason of the fact that few repairs were carried out and the number of borderline houses have thus increased. A great portion of the cottages are of timber frame and brick noggin construction and, when repairs are carried out in good time, they may be well preserved, but if this type of house is neglected it is often found that the cost of the repairs necessary to make them fit for habitation is prohibitive.

The Council, who own 56 pre-war houses, have formulated a programme for the provision of new houses in the area, and decided that the allotments should be distributed as far as possible over the whole district.

The following houses have been constructed since the war :—
Burghill (20), Clehonger (8), Dormington (6), Eaton Bishop (8), Fownhope (38), Holme Lacy (18), Lugwardine (22), Marden (18), Mordiford (32), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (4), Stretton Sugwas (18), Sutton (8), Wellington (18), Withington (24).

The Council were allotted eight brick huts with asbestos roofs at the former R.A.F. Camp at Madley, in the Dore and Bredwardine Rural District, and these have been adapted to provide 29 bungalows, each of which has a bathroom and w.c., water is laid on, and all have main drainage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The number of milk distributors in the area is 44, of whom sixteen are retailers of Pasteurised Milk, and fifteen retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year four persons who were contacts of infectious disease were voluntarily suspended from engaging in dairy work.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The number of known food premises in the area is 124, consisting of 44 butchers and general food shops, 2 bakehouses, 69 catering establishments and 9 canteens. Sixteen food shops are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the storage and retail sale of ice cream, three butchers are registered for the manufacture of sausages and one person for the preparation of fish and chips. Two hundred and five inspections of food premises were carried out, of which 51 related to registered food premises.

The articles of food condemned during the year—particulars of which are on Page 20—were disposed of by incineration.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

(a)	Total number of outbreaks ...	...	...	...	4
(b)	Number of cases ...	...	...	...	9
(c)	Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible : Salmonella Typhi-Murium				
(e)	Foods involved: No residue of any suspected food available for examination.				

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act for adulteration is administered by the County Police.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

As required by Article XVII (18) of the Sanitary Officer's (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections under	No. of Inspec- tions	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing Acts ...	804	108	—	39
Housing Regulations ...	465	—	—	—
Housing — Conditions of Applicants for Council Houses }	72	—	—	—
Nuisances... ..	432	173	3	175
Infectious Diseases ...	151	78	—	78
Water Supplies ...	559	255	—	255
Dairies and Milk Supplies ...	107	26	—	26
Food and Food Premises ...	234	90	—	90
Schools ...	13	1	—	1
Hop Pickers' Quarters ...	107	80	—	80
Factories with Mechanical Power	40	15	—	15
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	—	—	—	—
Other Premises under the Fac- tories Acts ...	80	23	—	23
Workplaces ...	14	3	—	3
Petroleum Acts and Regulations	60	30	—	30
Damage by Pests Act ...	29	16	—	16
Temporary and Movable Dwell- ings ...	149	52	—	52
Refuse Collection and Disposal...	82	6	—	6
Outworkers ...	1	—	—	—
Shops Act ...	45	—	—	—
Pet Animals Act ...	—	—	—	—
Scrap Metal Dealers ...	—	—	—	—

Housing.

During the year 49 houses were erected by private persons and 72 by the Council. Thirty-nine houses were repaired under the provisions of the Public Health and/or Housing Acts as a result of informal intimations to the owners or agents concerned. Statutory Notices requiring repairs were served during the year in respect of two houses, both of which were repaired without further action. Two houses were demolished as a result of the service of Demolition Orders, Closing Orders in lieu of Demolition Orders were made in respect of two houses, and one house was closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owner.

A survey of houses in the area is revealing the extent to which many houses have deteriorated during and since the war, and the inability in many instances of owners to carry out repairs at an economical cost, having regard to the restricted rentals received. Such survey makes it also apparent that a very considerable amount of work in this section of Public Health duties will have to be carried out in the years ahead.

Nuisances.

One Statutory Notice was served during the year, requiring the abatement of a nuisance arising from unsatisfactory means of drainage disposal. All other nuisances were satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

Infectious Diseases.

Twenty-nine cases of infectious diseases were investigated and 15 rooms and 15 lots of bedding were fumigated.

Water Supplies.

Twenty-six new wells have been sunk during the year. Twenty-five samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 241 samples for Bacteriological Examination, with the following results :—

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical ...	...	...	...	10	15
Bacteriological ...	...	...	...	109	132

Dairies and Milk Supplies.

Forty-two samples of T.T. and Pasteurised Milk were submitted for examination with the following results :—

Satisfactory ...	...	36
Unsatisfactory ...	...	6

There are on the register 16 distributors of milk, of whom seven are distributors of both T.T. milk and Pasteurised milk, whilst one retails only T.T. milk and six retail only Pasteurised milk. In addition, so far as is known, there are 28 producers of milk, who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, who are also distributors in the area of milk for retail sale. Of this latter number seven are known to be retailing T.T. milk, and three purchase and retail Pasteurised milk as well as ungraded milk.

Five samples of ungraded milk were submitted for biological examination, none of which revealed the presence of Tubercle Bacilli or Brucella Abortus.

Food and Food Premises.

Two Pigs' heads, 4 lungs, and 1 liver ; 4 Bovine lungs and 3 livers ; 14 Sheeps' lungs and 7 livers ; and 60 lbs. of Salmon and Lobster Paste were condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption.

Sixteen premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, 25 samples were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following grades :—

<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
25	—	—	—	25

Four premises are registered for use in the preparation or manufacture of sausages, preserved food, etc., one slaughter house is licensed and one knacker's yard is registered within the area.

Factories.

There are 56 factories in the area, and 40 inspections were carried out under the provisions of the Factories Acts, together with a further 80 inspections of other premises which fall within the provisions of the said Acts. Thirty-eight defects were discovered and remedied by informal action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

One Inspector/Operator is employed, but his services are shared jointly with the Ross and Whitchurch R.D. and the Ledbury R.D. The table set out hereunder records his work in this area during 1954 :—

	Premises In- spected	No. of In- spec- tions	Total Infes- tations	RATS		Writ- ten In- formal Notices	Statu- tory Notices
				Major	Minor		
Local Authorities' Properties ...	3	24	3	2	1	—	—
Dwelling Houses ...	144	216	57	2	55	—	—
Business Premises ...	16	28	7	1	6	—	—
Agricultural Properties ...	123	173	50	6	44	1	—
TOTALS ...	286	441	117	11	106	1	—

The operational work carried out was on property belonging to the Local Authority—no treatments are carried out on a contract basis or otherwise at private properties.

No Statutory Action was necessary during the year under review.

Temporary and Movable Dwellings.

These present a problem of some magnitude, and one not likely to be diminished until the general housing shortage becomes less acute.

Refuse Collection.

There is in operation a system whereby refuse is collected in each of the 39 parishes in this district once in every four-weekly period, and in certain areas near Hereford City such collection is effected once in each fortnight.

During 1954, 701 loads of refuse—approximately the equivalent of 3,505 cubic yards—were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal. A total of 12,600 miles was involved.

Licensed Houses.

During 1953 a detailed survey of all licensed premises was carried out. In the vast majority of premises surveyed it was necessary to direct the attention of the owners to various defects that required remedying with regard to sanitary accommodation,

drainage, cellarage and washing facilities. Such defects have been remedied at 10 premises during 1954, and work is in progress or contemplated at other licensed houses.

Petroleum.

Following a fire in an electrically operated petrol pump in the area, a survey of all petrol pumps was undertaken.

Thirty-six pumps were examined, of which 25 were found to be electrically operated. Of this latter number only 12 were satisfactory, leaving a balance of 13 pumps which were so defective with regard to electrical wiring as to constitute a fire risk.

The owners of such pumps were immediately instructed to remedy such defects, and all the necessary work has been completed.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

A survey of 53 premises was carried out to ascertain if provision had been made for means of escape in case of fire, as required by Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

It was discovered that 33 premises came within the provisions of the above-mentioned Section, and at 15 such premises efficient means of escape were not provided. The owners of these premises were informed, the necessary provision has been made in certain cases, and work is proceeding on the remainder.

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25th February, 1955.

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