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11  
RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

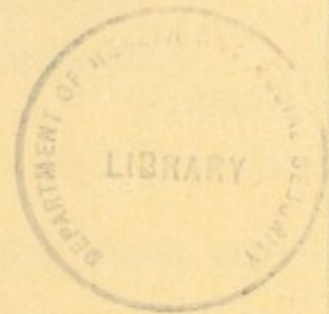
1971

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD-POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.



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*which includes the*

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



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# HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

*Medical Officer of Health :*

**R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,**  
**Public Health Department,**  
**1 Ledbury Road,**  
**Hereford.**

2nd June, 1972.

*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 1971.

The birth-rate was 16.5 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 10.6 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 18.3 and 8.8 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 19.0 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

*Medical Officer of Health—*

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

*Chief Public Health Inspector—*

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,  
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods

*Additional Public Health Inspector—*

S. D. COCHRANE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

*Clerk/Typist—*

Miss G. C. Bayford.

*Clerk of the Council—*

E. N. SHELDON, F.I.M.T.A., F.R.V.A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	65,669
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	19,040
Structurally separate dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	5,931
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	39
Rateable value, 31st March, 1971	...	...	...	...	...	£619,224
A Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	...	£2,440
" " " " Housing (1919) Act	...	...	...	...	...	£2,498

#### Vital Statistics :—

Deaths	...	...	Total 202.	Male 98.	Female 104
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	...	...	...	10.6
" " " " " " " " (Adjusted)	...	...	...	...	8.8
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	Total 300.	Male 163.	Female 137
" " Illegitimate	...	...	" 14.	" 7.	" 7
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	...	...	...	16.5
" " " " " " " " (Adjusted)	...	...	...	...	18.3
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	4.0
Still Births	...	...	Total 4.	Male 4.	Female 0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	13.0
Live and Still Births	...	...	Total 318.	Male 174.	Female 144
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—total	...	...	...	...	19.0
" " " " " " " " legitimate	...	...	...	...	20.0
" " " " " " " " illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0
Neo Natal	...	...	...	...	13.0
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	10.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	22.0
Maternal Deaths...	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	0

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### 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 Chief Nursing Officer.

### Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water and other samples are carried out by Messrs. G. Rudd Thompson and Partners Ltd., Newport, Mon.

### Hospitals

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

### Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are available through the Herefordshire County Council Ambulance Service, whose services may be obtained through County Ambulance H.Q., Grafton, Hereford (telephone 4451). The service is available to all registered medical practitioners and in certain cases to registered midwives. Attendance at accidents and sudden street illnesses can be obtained by the public by following the instructions given on the dial of the telephone.

Stretcher ambulances and sitting case vehicles are available at any time and are manned by trained personnel.

The H.Q. Station is supplemented by Sub-stations distributed throughout the County.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	General Hospital

### 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.

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. whilst the middle of the district is low-lying.

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.

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.

### Legislation in Force

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers made 1909 were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans made 1912 were amended during 1955; Food Bye-Laws were made in 1950; and Bye-Laws with respect to swimming baths and bathing pools during 1961, and Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 has been adopted.

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a) Total number of outbreaks ...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Number of cases ...	...	...	...	...	0
(c) Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	...	0
(d) Organisms or other agents responsible :—					—
(d) Foods involved ...	...	...	...	...	—

Although during the year 1971, 10 samples of milk have been submitted for examination for the presence of *Brucella Abortus*, all with negative results, the scheme for the eradication of this disease is welcome.

There seems little doubt that there is a general increase in the country of infection in cattle with *Salmonellae*—chiefly *Salmonella Dublin* and *Salmonella Typhi Murium*—and there have been a number of cases in this area during the year of infection on farms and it has been necessary to issue Heat Treatment Orders.

The desirability of legislation being introduced requiring all milk—whether intended for liquid consumption or for manufacture—to be efficiently heat treated cannot be stressed too strongly.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1971

DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED													
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-over
Scarlet Fever	M.	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	94	2	13	8	15	9	44	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	99	3	8	8	8	20	50	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—



**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1971**

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc. ... ..	1	—
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	2	1
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	3
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	2	5
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	1
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	—	—
8. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	—	1
9. Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	2	—
10. Leukaemia ... ..	—	—
11. Other Malignant Neoplasms ... ..	3	7
12. Diabetes Mellitus ... ..	1	2
13. Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	—
14. Mental Disorders ... ..	1	3
15. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	3
16. Hypertensive Disease ... ..	3	1
17. Ischaemic Heart Disease ... ..	22	18
18. Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	2	6
19. Cerebrovascular Disease ... ..	11	11
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	8
21. Asthma ... ..	—	1
22. Pneumonia ... ..	7	17
23. Bronchitis and Emphysema ... ..	5	1
24. Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	3	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26. Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	2	—
27. Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	—
28. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	1	—
29. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	—	1
30. Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	—	1
31. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	5	2
32. All Other Accidents ... ..	—	5
33. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	1	1
34. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	1	—
35. Congenital Anomalies ... ..	—	2
36. Other Tuberculosis ... ..	1	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>104</b>

**Tuberculosis**

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number on register 31.12.70	14	12	8	8	22	20
New cases notified ...	1	1	1	—	2	1
Cases transferred to area...	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	13	9	8	24	21
Cases removed ...	1	—	1	1	2	1
Number on register 31.12.71	14	13	8	7	22	20

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Inspections made during the year:—	<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations ... ..	1079
Nuisances ... ..	264
Infectious Diseases ... ..	68
Water Supplies ... ..	200
Dairies & Milk Supplies ... ..	8
Food & Food Premises ... ..	359
Schools ... ..	3
Hop Pickers' Quarters ... ..	19
Factories with Mechanical Power ... ..	20
Factories without Mechanical Power ... ..	2
Other Premises under Factories Acts ... ..	12
Work Places ... ..	2
Petroleum Acts & Regulations ... ..	36
Damage by Pests Act ... ..	62
Temporary & Movable Dwellings ... ..	150
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	428
Scrap Metal Dealers ... ..	—
Clean Air Act ... ..	14
Civic Amenities Act ... ..	130
Noise Abatement ... ..	7
Animal Boarding Establishments Act ... ..	12
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act ... ..	42
Pet Animals Act ... ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	31
Outworkers ... ..	—

**Housing**

Attention has been directed to dealing with unfit houses and action with regard thereto has been as follows :—

(a) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.					
1. After informal action...	...	...	...	...	92
2. After formal notice under :					
(i) Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	0
(ii) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	0
(b) UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	...	...	...	...	12
(c) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	...	...	...	...	0

The number of applications for Improvement Grants under the relevant provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1964 and 1969, were as follows:—

		<i>Discretionary</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Number of applications received	...	38	41
(a) Applications granted	...	29	41
(b) „ rejected	...	6	—
(c) „ pending	...	3	—

No improvement areas under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, have been prescribed by the Council but since the inception of this Act nine applications have been received from tenants for the improvement of houses outside such areas, and nine improvement notices have been served.

Eight Qualification Certificates were issued during the year.

The number of new houses erected during the year are set out below :—

Houses built privately	...	...	...	...	82
Houses built by Council	...	...	...	...	60
				Total	142

Houses owned by the Council now number 812, and are situate in the following parishes : Birch, Much (50), Breinton (8), Burghill (20), Clehonger (159) Credenhill (38), Dewchurch, Little (54), Dewchurch, Much (44), Dormington (10), Eaton Bishop (30),

Fownhope (97), Hampton Bishop (1), Haywood (5), Holme Lacy (18), Holmer (2), Lugwardine (22), Marden (33), Mordiford (47), Moreton-on-Lugg (44), Pipe and Lyde (8), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (6), Stretton Sugwas (36), Sutton (14), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10) and Withington (30).

The erection at Fownhope of 23 bungalows and 8 flatlets for old persons, with Community Centre and Warden's Flat have been completed during the year, together with 28 other units of accommodation.

### Water Supplies

As from the 1st April, 1960, all publicly owned piped water supplies became vested in the Herefordshire Water Board and a mains supply has been afforded to houses in the parishes of Allensmore, Bartestree, Breinton, Burghill and Tillington, Lower Bullingham, Callow, Clehonger, Credenhill, Little and Much Dewchurch, Dewsall, Dinedor, Dormington, Eaton Bishop, Fownhope, Grafton, Hampton Bishop, Haywood, Holme Lacy, Holmer and Shelwick, Kenchester, Lugwardine, Marden, Mordiford, Pipe and Lyde, Preston Wynne, Stoke Edith, Stretton Sugwas, Sutton, Weston Beggard, Westhide and Withington.

Apart from a few smaller units of supply all other sources of supply are subjected to filtration and chlorination and 90 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which 74 were reported upon as being satisfactory and 16 as unsatisfactory. There is no evidence to believe that any of the supplies are liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Where adverse bacteriological reports are received information is immediately transmitted to the Board Engineer so that he can take appropriate remedial action.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is 3,018.

In addition to the above mentioned samples, one sample has been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 38 for Bacteriological Examination from private sources with the following results:—

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical ... ..	1	0
Bacteriological ... ..	17	21

### Dairies and Milk Supplies.

There are 24 distributors on the register who retail Designated Milk.

In addition there are a number of distributors registered in other areas who retail milk in this administrative district, together with a further number of persons, who are also producers and who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### Food and Food Premises.

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows—

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	56
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
Canteens	...	...	...	...	26
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	34
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	58

The above premises fulfil the requirements of Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Sixty premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	58
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year inspections of food premises have continued to ascertain that hygienic practices were being maintained. Three hundred and fifty-nine inspections were carried out, of which eighty-four related to registered premises.

Forty-eight samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Provisional Grades:—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	40
„ Grade II	...	...	8
„ Grade III	...	...	—
„ Grade IV	...	...	—

There are on licensed slaughterhouses or egg pasteurising plants.

There is one poultry processing establishment, to which fifty-four visits were made during the year, 3,884 broilers, 3,087 chickens, 50 geese and 687 turkeys were examined and 58 birds were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

In addition 64 lbs. Beef, 169 lbs. Sausages, 120 lbs. Peas and 150 lbs. Chips were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

All unfit food was destroyed by incineration.

### **Nuisances**

No Abatement Notices were served during 1971—all nuisances being satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

### **Infectious Diseases**

Nine cases of infectious diseases, consisting of four cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases of Dysentery and 2 cases of Infective Jaundice were investigated.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs**

No infestations discovered.

### **National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951**

No action necessary.

### **Registered Common Lodging Houses**

None in the area.

### **Sewerage and Drainage**

The Council has continued to give earnest consideration to the provision of sewerage schemes and on its instructions the Consulting Engineers carried out a survey of the whole area and submitted a report defining those areas where schemes would be practicable. These proposals have been agreed in principle and consideration is now being given to the order of precedence in which the various schemes should be placed.

The scheme for part of Withington and the major portions of the parishes of Lugwardine and Bartestree should shortly be commenced and that for part of Burghill and further parts of Kenchester and Credenhill is being carried out. Attention is also being given to proposed schemes at Moreton-on-Lugg, Wellington, Hampton Bishop, part of Mordiford, Holme Lacy and Dinedor and that for part of Holmer and a further part of Allensmore.

Consideration is also being given to the provision of a cesspit emptying service having regard to the fact that it will be impossible from economical and physical reasons to provide sewerage schemes for the whole of the Council's administrative area.

Sewerage schemes for the village of Fownhope, for King's Acre Road and certain other properties in the parish of Breinton, a portion of Kenchester and major areas of the parishes of Stretton Sugwas and Credenhill together with those for parts of the parishes of Allensmore and Clehonger and one for the centre of Little Dewchurch village have been completed.

**Factories**

There are 47 factories within the district, 45 with and 2 without mechanical power.

**1. Inspections :**

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	20	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	2	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	12	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	34	—	—

**2. Defects found :**

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	8	8	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	11	11	—	—

**3. Outwork—One.**



**Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act**

	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Primary Inspections</i>	<i>Employees</i>
Offices ... ..	4	—	5
Retail Shops ... ..	13	1	24
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses	3	1	23
Catering Establishments and Canteens open to the Public ... ..	3	—	17
Fuel Storage Depots ... ..	—	—	—
	23	2	69

Total Inspections ... .. 42

Accidents Notified ... .. 0

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.**

One Inspector/Operator, together with two operators are employed, but their services are shared jointly with the Bromyard, Ledbury and Ross and Whitchurch R.D.'s. The table set out hereunder records work in this area during 1971 :—

	<i>Non-Agric.</i>	<i>Agric.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Inspections ... ..	138	630	768
Number of Infestations including Re-In- festations ... ..	218	566	784
Number of Treatments ... ..	218	566	784

Contracts held in the four areas at the 31st December, 1971, amounted to £3,418.

**Temporary and Moveable Dwellings**

Following approval by the County Planning Authority licences in accordance with the Model Standards have been issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, as follows :—

*Multiple sites :—*

Issued for a limited period ...	1
Issued without time limit ...	6

*Individual sites :—*

Issued for a limited period ...	8
Issued without time limit ...	6

In addition, there are several moveable dwellings in respect of which licences are not required under the provisions of the First Schedule of the Act, but which are, nevertheless, subject to the provisions of the Council's Byelaws, and a number of caravans are known to be stored at various premises but are unoccupied.

Considerable trouble is experienced in dealing with the nomadic type of caravan dweller who persists in siting his caravan on the verges of public highways and bridle roads.

### **Refuse Collection.**

Three freighters, with three loader-drivers and five loaders are employed and collections are carried out once in every week throughout the area including, under agreement with the County Council, the cleansing of and removal of refuse from various lay-bys. Part of the area is dealt with by a Contractor.

With these regular collections there is no excuse for the indiscriminate tipping of refuse in old quarries and on wasteland in the area but it must be stressed that it is not always local people who are responsible for this reprehensible practice.

During 1971, 1,286 loads of refuse were collected by the Council's freighter and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal.

The Council have inaugurated the paper sack method for the storage and collection of household refuse.

Proceedings under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 were instituted in the Petty Sessional Court against a person, who had abandoned a motorcar on the side of the highway. A conviction was recorded and a fine of £15 was imposed.

### **Scrap Metal Dealers.**

Seventeen persons are now registered under the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964, as dealers in old metal, and close liaison in dealing with these persons is maintained with C.I.D. Officers of the West Mercia Constabulary.

Unfortunately many of these persons are nomadic in character and this creates additional difficulties in exercising the full control that is desirable.

**Petroleum Acts.**

The number of petroleum installations licensed by the Council is ninety-three.

During the year supervisory work together with the appropriate air pressure tests on tanks and pipelines was carried out at several new installations and at certain existing installations which were enlarged.

**Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire.**

There are twenty-three premises consisting of 11 Flats, 2 Hospitals, 1 Hostel, 2 Schools, 5 Hotels, 1 Convent and 1 Home for Elderly Persons to which Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936, applies, and where the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire must be provided and maintained.

These premises are visited regularly and the assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer with the consent of the Chief Fire Officer for the County, in this matter must be appreciated and acknowledged.

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,  
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

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25th May, 1971.

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