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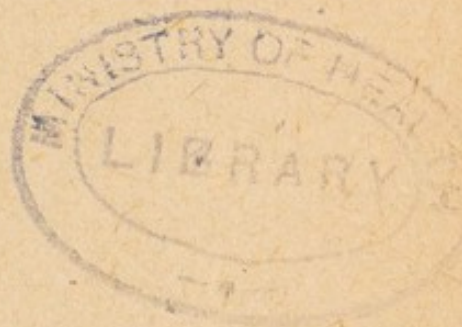


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# Borough of Ludlow



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

for the Year

**1955**

# **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:**

**JAMES L. GREGORY,**

M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & HY., F.R.I.P.H.H.

## **SANITARY INSPECTOR:**

**H. V. JAMES,**

M.I.M.E., CERT. R.S.I.

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## **CONTENTS OF REPORT**

**Section A ... STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

**Section B ... GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH  
SERVICES.**

**Section C ... SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE  
BOROUGH.**

**Section C ... HOUSING.**

**Section E ... INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF  
FOOD SUPPLY.**

**Section F. ... PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL  
OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

**CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR**

# BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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LUDLOW,

1st May, 1956.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ending on the 31st December, 1955.

The estimated number of the population of the Borough as at mid-year 1955 was 6,500. This is the same as the number for mid-year 1954.

The Birth-rate was 13.7 and the Death-rate 10.1. The Birth-rate is lower than that for the country and the Death-rate is also lower.

There was no serious epidemic of any of the notifiable infectious diseases during the year, but cases of Measles and Whooping Cough were reported among the children. None of the cases proved fatal. No case of Diphtheria was notified and this is now the thirteenth year in which there have been no cases of this disease.

One case of Typhoid Fever was notified in the month of May, and the patient died. The patient had been infected from a relative who was a "carrier," and steps were at once taken to ensure that no other person could be infected. It is always of the utmost importance when any case of this disease is reported that the source of infection is found, then steps can be taken to prevent any further cases being infected.

During the year there was one fatal accident due to a motor vehicle. In the previous year there were no such fatal accidents.

Deaths from Cancer number twelve and this number gives a lower death-rate from this disease than the rate for the country as a whole (1.846 per 1,000 as against 2.056).

JAMES L. GREGORY,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

### VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

|               |              |     |     | M. | F. | Total |
|---------------|--------------|-----|-----|----|----|-------|
| LIVE BIRTHS : | Legitimate   | ... | ... | 41 | 43 | 84    |
|               | Illegitimate | ... | ... | 1  | 4  | 5     |
|               |              |     |     | —  | —  | —     |
|               | Totals       | ... | ... | 42 | 47 | 89    |

**Birth-rate per 1,000 of population**      -      **13.7**

|                |              |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| STILL BIRTHS : | Legitimate   | ... | ... | —   | —   | —   |
|                | Illegitimate | ... | ... | —   | —   | —   |
|                |              |     |     | —   | —   | —   |
|                | Totals       | ... | ... | Nil | Nil | Nil |
|                |              |     |     | —   | —   | —   |

**Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births**      -      **Nil**

|        |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| DEATHS | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 | 50 | 84 |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|

**Death-rate per 1,000 of population**      -      **10.1**

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

|     |                      |     |                         | Number of Deaths | Rate per 1,000 live births |
|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) | Legitimate infants   | per | 1,000                   |                  |                            |
|     | legitimate births    | ... | ...                     | 3                | 35.7                       |
| (b) | Illegitimate infants | per | 1,000                   |                  |                            |
|     | illegitimate births  | ... | ...                     | —                | —                          |
| (c) | All infants          | per | 1,000 total live births | 3                | 33.7                       |

The following were the rates for England and Wales :

|                          |     |     |     |      |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Birth-rate               | ... | ... | ... | 15.0 |
| Death-rate               | ... | ... | ... | 11.7 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate | ... | ... | ... | 24.9 |
| Still Birth-rate         | ... | ... | ... | 23.1 |

## SECTION A

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS

|                                                              |     |     |     |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area (in acres)                                              | ... | ... | ... | 1,068   |
| Registrar-General's estimate of the population<br>(mid-1955) | ... | ... | ... | 6,500   |
| Number of inhabited houses                                   | ... | ... | ... | 2,018   |
| Rateable Value of the District                               | ... | ... | ... | £41,289 |
| Estimated product of 1d. Rate                                | ... | ... | ... | £161    |

---

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population as at 30th June, 1955, is 6,500. This is the same figure which was given for the previous year.

#### **Births**

The total live births numbered 89 (males 42, females 47) and of this number five were illegitimate. The crude birth-rate was 13.7 and the corrected birth-rate was the same (comparability factor—1.00)

#### **Infantile Mortality**

A total number of three infants died under the age of one year and this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 33.7 per 1,000 births. This rate is lower than it was in the previous year.

#### **Still Births**

There were no Still Births during the year.

#### **Deaths**

Deaths numbered 84 and this gives a Crude Death-rate of 12.9 per 1,000 of the population. The comparability factor was 0.78 and the corrected Death-rate is 10.1. This rate is slightly lower than it was in the previous year. A table showing the causes of the deaths in the Borough will be found at the end of this Report.

#### **Maternal Mortality**

No deaths were reported from causes associated with child-birth. This is the ninth year in which no such deaths have been reported.

### **Neo-Natal Deaths**

These are the deaths of infants before they reach the age of four weeks. There were no such deaths in the Borough during the year (the rate for England and Wales is 17.3 per 1,000 live births).

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## **SECTION B**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **Staff**

The names and qualifications of the officers are given at the beginning of the Report. There have been no changes during the year. The Sanitary Inspector also holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

#### **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory is at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and bacteriological examinations of water, milk, ice cream, etc., are carried out there. Examinations of specimens from cases of Infectious Diseases are also carried out at the Laboratory and reported on. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. C. A. Jones and his Staff for the work carried out during the year.

The Chemical Laboratory is at Chester and specimens of water which require a chemical examination are sent there.

#### **Nursing Services in the Home**

The County Council are required under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to make provision for the nursing of persons who require such nursing in their homes.

Of the seven full-time Home Nurses in the County one is employed at Ludlow.

#### **Home Help Service**

This service is maintained by the County Council and there are two whole-time Home Helps in Ludlow and eight part-time ones. During the year 1954 a total of 52 cases were attended in Ludlow. Of this number 11 were aged persons and 16 were suffering from chronic sickness.

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

Children may be immunised against this disease either by their own doctor or at the Welfare Centres or School Clinics. There have been no cases of the disease in Ludlow since the year 1942.

## **Clinics**

The School Clinic and Welfare Centre are at Dinham, Ludlow. The Chest Clinic is at Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury. A Birth Control Clinic is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Welfare Centre, Dinham.

## **Hospital Accommodation**

The hospital centre is at Shrewsbury and details of the Hospitals there have been given in previous Reports. Sometimes the question is raised as to whether the hospital at Ludlow could be enlarged so that more cases could be admitted to it than at present. The Shrewsbury Group Hospital Committee have stated that the provision of a children's wing at the hospital has been considered and this matter will be kept before the Management Committee. In addition to the patients having to be taken by ambulance to hospital at Shrewsbury, there is also the difficulty that many people have of visiting their sick relatives or friends in hospital. This visiting is of perhaps special importance in the case of parents who have children in hospital. It would therefore be a good step forward if some beds could be provided for children at the Ludlow Hospital in the near future.

It should be remembered that there are several reasons now which have changed the whole of the plans as to what is best in the provision of hospitals. One of these is of course that patients are taken now by motor-ambulance much quicker than was possible in the past when there were only horse-drawn vehicles. This fact rather lessens the need for Cottage Hospitals in small towns or villages. Another reason is that now there are many special departments in the larger hospitals and it would not be possible to provide for all of these in a small hospital. In the same way it would be difficult to have doctors who were specialists in all the different branches of medicine and surgery to live in the smaller towns.

## **Mortuary**

This Mortuary is at East Hamlet Hospital and during the year certain necessary repairs were required and also some new equipment. Both the Borough and Rural District Councils were asked to bear some of this expense and decided to do so. The total amount was £124 8s. 0d., and the share to be paid by the Borough was £41 9s. 4d.

## SECTION C

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH**

The matters dealt with in this part of the Report include water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, refuse collection, rodent control, and the inspections of factories and workshops

**Water Supplies**

The supplies were generally adequate during the year, except for some seasonal shortage as in other years. A total amount of fourteen and a half million gallons of water was taken from the Elan Aqueduct Supply during the year and this amount was greater than what was taken in the previous year. The increase in the amount taken was partly due to a breakdown of the standby pump.

A total of 240 yards of new 2in. iron main was laid during the year to serve the new Dodmore Housing Estate.

**Purity of Supplies**

Twelve samples from each of the town's supplies were taken during the year and submitted for testing and these were all found to be satisfactory. The water from each supply is chlorinated before entering the distributing mains.

Samples from each supply were taken in October, 1955, and the following are the results of the chemical examination of these samples.

Laboratory, Goss Street,

Chester, 18th October, 1955

**SAMPLE FROM HIGH LEVEL SUPPLY :**

| (Unchlorinated)                              |     |     | <i>Parts per million</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Total solid matter in solution               | ... | ... | 200.0                    |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates                         | ... | ... | 0.4                      |
| Nitrites                                     | ... | ... | —                        |
| Chlorine in Chlorides                        | ... | ... | 12.0                     |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours |     |     |                          |
| at 80 Fahr.                                  | ... | ... | 0.08                     |
| Free and Saline Ammonia                      | ... | ... | 0.02                     |
| Albuminoid Ammonia                           | ... | ... | 0.01                     |
| Lead. Copper. Zinc.                          | ... | ... | Nil                      |
| Microscopical Examination of the sediment    | ... | ... | Trace of Sand            |
| Temporary Hardness                           | ... | ... | 150.0                    |
| Permanent Hardness                           | ... | ... | 20.0                     |
| pH Value                                     | ... | ... | 7.4                      |

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.SC., F.R.I.C., *Public Analyst.*

## SAMPLE FROM LOW LEVEL SUPPLY :

| (Unchlorinated Burway Supply)                |     |     |     | Parts per million |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Total solid matter in solution               | ... | ... | ... | 300.0             |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates                         | ... | ... | ... | 1.0               |
| Nitrites                                     | ... | ... | ... | —                 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides                        | ... | ... | ... | 24.0              |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours |     |     |     |                   |
| at 80 Fahr.                                  | ... | ... | ... | 0.04              |
| Free and Saline Ammonia                      | ... | ... | ... | 0.02              |
| Albuminoid Ammonia                           | ... | ... | ... | 0.01              |
| Lead. Copper. Zinc.                          | ... | ... | ... | Nil               |
| Microscopical examination of sediment        | ... | ... | ... | Nil               |
| Temporary Hardness                           | ... | ... | ... | 190.0             |
| Permanent Hardness                           | ... | ... | ... | 90.0              |
| pH Value                                     | ... | ... | ... | 7.2               |

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.SC., F.R.I.C.,

*Public Analyst.*

In February it was decided to ask the Consulting Engineer (A. H. S. Waters) to submit a scheme for an elevated service reservoir and relief main in East Hamlet, as this is now considered necessary due to actual and proposed development in this area. A report on this matter has now been received and adopted (February, 1956). The necessary documents and plans are now being prepared by the Consulting Engineer.

The Surveyor (Mr. H. V. James) reports that out of a total of 2,018 houses in the town there are 1,842 houses which have the water laid on from the main supplies. A further 175 houses get water from stand-pipes.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

A total of 1,966 houses are connected to the main sewers and of the remaining 52 houses there are 26 with private schemes of sewage disposal and the other 26 have either pail or earth closets. During the year a length of 130 yards of 6in. sewer was laid to serve the new Dodmore Estate.

Samples of the effluent were taken in January, 1955, and in August, 1955. The report on the former sample was unsatisfactory and certain works were carried out with a view to getting a more satisfactory report. The Media was cleansed in Filters Nos. 2 and 3. Sludge Beds were enlarged and relaid and extra scum boards were supplied to the Sedimentation Tanks. Channels in the irrigation area were also cleansed.

The analysis of the effluent which was taken in August was more satisfactory but the suspended matter was still higher than it should be. The following is a copy of the Report :

SAMPLE OF EFFLUENT TAKEN AT LUDLOW SEWAGE WORKS,

3RD AUGUST, 1955.

|                                                     |     |     |     | <i>Parts per million</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Suspended Solids                                    | ... | ... | ... | 36.0                     |
| Ash                                                 | ... | ... | ... | 16—44%                   |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand                           |     |     |     |                          |
| (5 days at 20 Cent.—dilution 1/10)                  | ... | ... | ... | 11.5                     |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours—settled                  | ... | ... | ... | 11.5                     |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours—shaken                   | ... | ... | ... | 13.7                     |
| Oxygen absorbed in 3 minutes                        | ... | ... | ... | —                        |
| Free Ammonia as N.                                  | ... | ... | ... | 22.3                     |
| Nitrite as N.                                       | ... | ... | ... | —                        |
| Nitrate as N.                                       | ... | ... | ... | 7.2                      |
| pH                                                  | ... | ... | ... | 7.24                     |
| Alkalinity to Methyl Orange (as CaCo <sub>3</sub> ) | ... | ... | ... | 320                      |
| Nitrate as N.                                       | ... | ... | ... | —                        |
| Chloride as CL                                      | ... | ... | ... | 72                       |

The effluent is well purified but the suspended matter is a little too high.

(Signed) A. D. BUCKLEY, B.SC.,

*Analyst.*

In July, 1955, the Severn River Board stated that in their opinion both the Pumping Plant and Disposal Works were inadequate to deal with the amount of sewage concerned and in October the Council engaged persons to advise and report on the works necessary to remedy these matters.

## **Refuse Collection**

Collections are made weekly from all domestic premises. In the summer additional visits are made to Hotels, Cafes, and other premises as required.

There has again been some trouble at the refuse tip owing to fires with a resultant smoke nuisance resulting from this. Steps were taken to put matters right, but some difficulty has been met with. The use of incinerators to destroy refuse is sometimes tried and indeed is carried out in some large towns, but it is an expensive business for small towns to undertake. Controlled tipping is perhaps the best method to employ, but to carry this out it is first of all necessary to find a suitable place for tipping. It is also very important that the refuse should be covered with soil every 48 hours and should be deposited in the right manner.

The cost of refuse collection appears to be increasing each year but is not so great perhaps in a town as in a large rural area, as the mileage to be covered by the vehicles used is less in a town. Another important point is that each house should have a dust-bin of a suitable size as this will greatly lessen the time taken to make a collection. Many houses still use any old box, which often overflows or in some cases the box falls to pieces. Local authorities can insist on a suitable dust-bin being supplied for each house and indeed some councils buy dust-bins in considerable quantities and supply them to any householder who requires one. The cost of these can be paid for through the Rates. A dust-bin should last about five years, so that the annual charge for one would be about five shillings per annum.

## Salvage

The collection of waste paper from business premises and shops has continued throughout the year, and in the month of May the collection of waste paper from domestic premises was re-started. The total weight of paper which was collected amounted to 64 tons.

## Rodent Control

The number of premises visited was as follows :

|                   |    |     |              |    |
|-------------------|----|-----|--------------|----|
| Private Dwellings | 16 | ... | Total visits | 42 |
| Business Premises | 15 | ... | Total visits | 48 |

Council properties were also visited and test-baited and were found to be fairly clear of rats. The Refuse Tip was also visited.

## Factories and Workshops Acts

The Inspector reports that there are 77 Factories on the Register and of these 68 have power installed and 9 have no power. One hundred and twelve inspections were made.

| Premises                                               |     | Number on Register | Defects found | Defects remedied |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Factories with Power                                   | ... | 9                  | 3             | 3                |
| Factories with Power                                   | ... | 68                 | 3             | 3                |
| Other Premises in which Sect. 7 of the Act is enforced |     | —                  | —             | —                |

## SECTION D HOUSING

|                                                   |     |     |       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Total number of inhabited houses                  | ... | ... | 2,018 |
| Number of houses owned by the Council             | ... | ... | 409   |
| Number of flats controlled by the Council         | ... | ... | 26    |
| Houses completed in 1955 : (a) Council Houses...  |     |     | Nil   |
| (b) Private Houses...                             |     |     | 7     |
| Houses under construction as at 31st Dec., 1955 : |     |     |       |
| (a) Council Houses...                             |     |     | 29    |
| (b) Private Houses...                             |     |     | 5     |
| Improvement Grants applied for                    | ... | ... | 9     |
| Improvement Grants approved                       | ... | ... | 8     |
| Number of applications for Council Houses         | ... | ... | 376   |
| Number of Houses Closed as Unfit                  | ... | ... | 8     |

In the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Circular 48/55, dated 29th September, 1955, Councils were asked to submit returns relating to the demolition, closing, and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts each Quarter instead of yearly. The Ministry of Health in their Circular 17/55, para. 4, stated that "in consequence the inclusion of details on housing matters in the Reports of Medical Officers of Health may henceforth be discontinued."

In this year's Report, therefore, only a brief statement is given with regard to housing.

### New Houses

No new Council Houses were completed during the year, and at the end of 1955 a total of 29 houses was under construction at Dodmore No. 2 Site. Of these houses five were three bed-roomed houses for families of five persons, and twenty-four were also three bed-roomed houses for families of four persons.

At Sheet Road (Stage I) it is planned to commence the building of 56 houses in 1956. There will be the following houses in this number :

|                          |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 3 Bed-room for 5 persons | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| 3 Bed-room for 4 persons | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| 2 Bed-room for 4 persons | ... | ... | ... | 26 |

### Applications for Council Houses

Of the 376 applications, the families in 97 of them have no home of their own, 75 have only sub-standard houses, 75 have fair housing conditions, and 129 are from families who live outside the Borough.

## Caravan Site

There is one licensed caravan site at The Cliff, Dinham. The number of caravans allowed on this site is 30. The Inspector reports that visits have been paid during the year and that conditions were found to be satisfactory. Main water supply is available. The sanitary arrangements are satisfactory and the drainage.

## SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY

### Meat Inspection

As reported in the Report for 1954 a total of five slaughter houses were licensed in the town and of these three are in regular use. The premises are visited on the days on which slaughtering is being carried out and the Inspector states that conditions are generally satisfactory. Adequate arrangements have been made for the removal of the hides, waste matters, etc. In the case of meat shops where there are no slaughter-houses available, the meat required can be supplied from the large abattoir at Craven Arms, which is now operated by the Shropshire Fatstock Society, Ltd. This abattoir has been enlarged in the last year or so and has been greatly improved in many ways. The following are the figures regarding Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part at the slaughter-houses in the town :

|                   |     | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>& Lambs | Pigs |
|-------------------|-----|--------|------|--------|------------------|------|
| Number killed ... | ... | 307    | 50   | 44     | 1,757            | 876  |
| Number inspected  | ... | 278    | 45   | 40     | 1,581            | 832  |

### *All diseases except Tuberculosis*

|                                        |    |     |   |      |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|-----|---|------|----|
| Whole carcasses condemned...           | —  | —   | — | —    | —  |
| Organ or other part con-<br>demned ... | 22 | 15  | — | 39   | 16 |
| Percentage affected ...                | 8% | 36% | — | 2.5% | 2% |

*Tuberculosis Only*

|                                           |      |     |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------------------|------|-----|---|---|----|
| Whole carcase condemned...                | —    | —   | — | — | —  |
| Organ or other part condemned ... ..      | 4    | 5   | — | — | 8  |
| Percentage affected with Tuberculosis ... | 1.5% | 11% | — | — | 1% |

*Cysticercosis*

No whole carcasses or organs were condemned for this condition.

**Milk**

The supervision of milk supplies at farms is under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Local Authority has to deal with dairies where milk is sold. In the Borough there are six Retailers of milk: Raw milk 1, Sterilized 1, Pasteurized 3, and T.T. Pasteurised 1. There are two dairies in the Borough and a total of 15 visits were paid to these places during the year. Six visits were paid to a Pasteurization Plant which was started in the month of August. The Inspector reports that no samples of milk were taken during the year.

**Ice Cream**

There are 32 retailers of ice cream and 30 of these sell pre-wrapped ice cream. Eight samples were taken during the year and the reports in every case were satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the town.

**Food Premises**

The Inspector reports that the number and type of food premises in the town are as follows:

|                        |    |                             |    |
|------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|
| Butchers' Shops ... .. | 11 | Restaurants, Cafes, etc.... | 14 |
| Bake-houses ... ..     | 13 | Licensed Premises ...       | 33 |
| Food Shops ... ..      | 50 | Premises registered under   |    |
| Fried Fish Shops... .. | 2  | Section 14 Food and         |    |
|                        |    | Drugs Act, 1938 ...         | 8  |

### Unsound Food

All Cafes, Snack-bars, Restaurants, and Shops where food is sold were visited periodically. On several occasions advice and suggestions as to clean food production were given and acted upon.

The following foodstuffs were condemned :

|             |     |     |          |               |     |           |
|-------------|-----|-----|----------|---------------|-----|-----------|
| Milk        | ... | ... | 68 tins  | Cake Mixtures | ... | 12 tins & |
| Vegetables, |     |     |          |               |     | 5 packets |
| Soups, etc. | ... | ... | 198 tins | Cheese        | ... | 82 lbs.   |
| Meat        | ... | ... | 80 tins  | Butter        | ... | 4 lbs.    |
| Fish        | ... | ... | 44 tins  | Margarine     | ... | 3 lbs.    |
| Fruit       | ... | ... | 224 tins | Pickles       | ... | 6 bottles |
| Bacon       | ... | ... | 12 lbs.  | Fresh Fruit   | ... | 274 kilos |

The above were disposed of by burying or incineration.

---

## SECTION F

### PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year :

| Disease                  | Cases notified | Deaths |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Measles                  | 101            | —      |
| Whooping Cough           | 81             | —      |
| Pneumonia                | 5              | 3      |
| Typhoid Fever            | 1              | 1      |
| Food Poisoning           | 2              | —      |
| Erysipelas               | 1              | —      |
| Tuberculosis : Pulmonary | 3              | 1      |
| Non-pulmonary            | —              | —      |

From the above figures it will be seen that both Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent during the year, but there was no large number of other diseases notified. Measles was last present in large numbers in 1953 and 1951 but there have not been many cases of Whooping Cough for several years.

## **Typhoid Fever**

The case of this disease was at the end of May, and the patient was a woman aged 56 years. She had been ill for about three weeks and was removed to Hospital on the 30th May, and died the same day. Investigations were carried out on the 1st June, as to the possible source of infection, and it was found that the home conditions were satisfactory and that the water supply also was good and the milk supply as well. Specimens were taken from the four members of the family who were living in the house and although the reports on specimens from three of the persons were negative, it was found that the fourth person was a carrier of the *Salm. typhi*. This member of the family was moved to Hospital at Copthorne, Shrewsbury, and later to another Institution. At the end of the year she was still a carrier of the *Salm. typhi* and there can be little doubt that it was from her that the other case was infected. The older woman may have been a carrier for a considerable time, but there was no history of her ever having had the disease during her life-time. The early finding of the source of infection in this case may probably have been the means of avoiding many further cases of this disease, and I would like to thank Dr. C. A. Jones, the Bacteriologist, and his Staff for their valuable co-operation in this matter.

## **Acute Poliomyelitis**

No cases of this disease were notified during the year in the town. The last cases notified were in the year 1950, in which year the incidence of the disease was high in the whole country. During the previous ten years (i.e., before 1950) no cases were notified.

The disease becomes most common in July, August, September, and October, and then tends to lessen towards the end of the year. The fact that it is more common in this country in the warmer months of the year suggests that there may be some connection between water supplies carrying the disease, as water supplies are most likely to become infected in various ways during the hot weather. Flies are most numerous in the hot months and it may be that they act as carriers of the virus causing Poliomyelitis. So far, however, nothing very definite has been proved as to how this

disease is spread. Another matter is that during the summer months there are more people coming to this country from abroad and they come from places where the disease is prevalent.

It has now been decided to offer vaccination against this disease for children who were born between 1st January, 1947, and the 31st December, 1954. This is to be carried out by the Health Departments of County Boroughs and County Councils. The consent of the parents is required in each case.

## Diphtheria

No cases of this disease were notified during the year. The last cases in Ludlow M.B. were in 1942, so that for thirteen years there have been no cases.

Diphtheria has been almost eradicated from among the child population of this country. The cases for England and Wales in 1955 numbered 161 among the whole population and the deaths numbered eleven. In 1939 notifications of this disease in the country numbered 47,341 and the fatal cases were 2,171, so that it can be seen from these figures what a saving of children's lives has been accomplished by their protection against this disease. Parents are still advised to have their children immunised and this may be done either by their own doctors at home or at the School Clinics and Welfare Centres of the County Council.

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## Tuberculosis

Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and no cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The deaths from Tuberculosis were as follows :

| Deaths             |     |     |     | Death-rates     |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Pulmonary T.B.     | ... | ... | 1   | 0.153 per 1,000 |
| Non-pulmonary T.B. | ... | ... | Nil | 0,000 per 1,000 |
| Total              |     |     |     | 0.153 per 1,000 |

The death-rate for England and Wales from both Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.146 per 1,000.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the Borough at the end of the year was as follows :

| Males   |             | Females |             | Total |
|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| Pulmon. | Non-pulmon. | Pulmon. | Non-pulmon. |       |
| 12      | 15          | 24      | 10 ...      | 61    |

### Whooping Cough

A total of 81 cases of this disease was notified during the year. In the first two quarters there were 78 cases.

### Measles

There were 32 cases in the second quarter of the year and 69 in the third, making a total of 101 cases in the whole year. The disease was common in the country generally.

### Food Poisoning

Two cases were notified and both were in the same family. The food concerned was not identified nor was any organism found which was the cause of the illnesses.

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## CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1955

| Cause of Death                       | Number of Deaths |        |       |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|
|                                      | Male             | Female | Total |
| Diseases of Heart and Circulation... | 12               | 17     | 29    |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System   | 9                | 13     | 22    |
| Cancer ... ..                        | 7                | 5      | 12    |
| Accidents ... ..                     | 2                | 2      | 4     |
| Pneumonia ... ..                     | —                | 3      | 3     |
| Bronchitis ... ..                    | 1                | 1      | 2     |
| Influenza ... ..                     | —                | 2      | 2     |
| Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...         | —                | 1      | 1     |
| Non-pulmonary ...                    | —                | —      | —     |
| Other Causes ... ..                  | 3                | 6      | 9     |
|                                      | —                | —      | —     |
| Totals ... ..                        | 34               | 50     | 84    |
|                                      | —                | —      | —     |

It will be observed from the above figures that of the total deaths 63 out of the 84 were due to the first three conditions mentioned. This equals 75% of the total. In the previous year 70% of all the deaths were due to these causes.

The death-rate for the year was 10.1, as compared with a rate of 10.9 in 1954, and 15.3 in 1953.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 12 and this gives a death-rate of 1.846 per 1,000. (The death-rate for the whole country was 2.056.) Two of the deaths from Cancer were due to Cancer of the lungs or bronchus. Both were in males.

Of the deaths from accidents one (a female death) was due to a motor vehicle accident. The three others were from other kinds of accidents.

It will be noticed that there were no deaths at all from the Infectious Diseases which used to cause the deaths of many children, i.e., Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Whooping Cough.