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BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1957



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BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

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Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S., D.T.M. & H.Y.
(died 15th October, 1957)

Public Health Inspector

H. V. JAMES, Cert. S.I.B., M.I.M.E.

Public Health Laboratory Service

Bacteriologist : DR. C. A. JONES

Public Health Laboratory

Royal Salop Infirmary

Shrewsbury

Telephone : Shrewsbury 4389

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1957

LUDLOW,
OCTOBER, 1958.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Ludlow Corporation.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ending on the 31st December, 1957.

There was an increase of 80 in the population of the Borough this year.

The Birth Rate was a little higher than last year but is still below the figure for England and Wales. There was a fall in the Death Rate this year and this rate compares very favourably with the Death Rate for England and Wales as a whole. The only rather disquieting part of the Vital Statistics is the high Infant Mortality Rate—which is higher than last year and over double the figure for England and Wales. Four of the deaths were due to prematurity and congenital malformations the causes of which are still not fully understood.

Apart from an epidemic of measles the incidence of all notifiable infectious diseases, including tuberculosis was low. Although six cases of poliomyelitis were notified, only three were of the paralytic type and none were fatal : in this the Borough was more fortunate than some of its neighbouring Rural Districts.

Little progress was made this year in the re-housing of the large number of people who live in sub-standard houses and it says much for the constitution of Ludlovians that the Vital Statistics and number of notifications of Infectious Diseases are so satisfactory, when so many live under unfavourable conditions.

There was only one death from cancer of the lung this year, whereas there were four deaths from this cause last year : this is in contrast to the national figures, which show a marked increase in the incidence of this disease each year. Let us hope that the recent warnings about the connection between this disease and smoking have been heeded.

Schemes for the necessary improvements to the Sewage Disposal Works, and for the erection of a water storage tower have progressed slowly during the year.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. James, the Public Health Inspector, for his help in preparing this Report and I wish to offer him my grateful thanks.

ELIZABETH CAPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW
VITAL STATISTICS—1957

					M.	F.	Total
Live Births —Legitimate	...	...	...	...	49	51	100
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Totals	...	...	...	...	<u>50</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>102</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of oppulation=15.6

Still Births —Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and Still Births=28.6

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	33	36	69
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----

Death Rate per 1,000 of population=10.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

					No of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
(b) From other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—

					No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	5	50
(b) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	—	—
(c) All Infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	49.0

The following were the rates for England and Wales—

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Still Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.0

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS AND NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,068
Registrar-General's estimate of the population as at mid-1957	6,570
Number of inhabited houses	2,091
Rateable Value of the Borough	£64,693
Estimated product of Id. Rate	£250

The Registrar General's estimated figure of the population on the 30th June, 1957, is 6,570. This is an increase of 80 over last year.

Births

The total number of live births was 102 (males 50, females 52) and of these 2 were illegitimate. This gives a birth rate, both crude and standardised of 15.5. The birth rate last year was 13.8

Still Births

There were 3 still births (1 male, 2 female) giving a still birth rate of 28.6. There were no illegitimate still births. The Still Birth Rate in 1956 was 32.3.

Infant Mortality

Five infants died under the age of one year, four of the deaths occurring within the first month of life. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 49.0. The Infant Mortality Rate last year was 33.3.

Although this figure compares very unfavourably with the Infant Mortality Rate of England and Wales, as such small numbers are involved, deviation from the national average at times may not be as significant as would be the case in larger populations, but even so it is an unhealthy sign.

DEATHS

There were 69 deaths (males 33, females 36) giving a crude Death Rate of 10.5 and a standardised Death Rate of 8.93. The corresponding figures for last year were 12.9 and 10.9.

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of heart and circulation ...	15	15	30
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	6	11
Malignant disease	4	6	10
Bronchitis	3		3
Pneumonia	1		1
Diabetes		2	2
Gastritis and diarrhoea		1	1
Congenital malformations		1	1
Motor accident	—	—	—
Other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Pregnancy and childbirth	—	—	—
Other causes	4	4	8
	<u>33</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>69</u>

The total number of deaths in 1956 was 84. Again disease of the heart and circulation, and vascular lesions of the nervous system account for over half of the deaths, and cancer this year caused 10 deaths compared with 11 last year. This year there was only one death from cancer of the lung, compared with 4 deaths from this disease last year.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

Staff

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Dr. Gregory on the 15th October, after a prolonged period of ill health. He had rendered good and faithful service to the Borough for many years.

Dr. William Hall, the Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, became the acting Medical Officer of Health and the Borough was indeed fortunate to have the benefit of his wide knowledge and experience.

The names and qualifications of the other officers are given at the beginning of the Report.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary deals with all samples requiring bacteriological examination: samples of water and milk are taken regularly and other samples are sent as required.

Chemical examinations of the water supplies and of the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works are made by the Public Analyst at the Laboratory at Chester.

There continues to be the fullest cooperation between these Laboratories and the Public Health Department and for this we are most grateful.

Ambulance Service

There are now 3 ambulances and 2 sitting case ambulances stationed at Ludlow under the control of the Central Ambulance Depot, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury: the telephone number of which is Shrewsbury 6631.

Home Nursing

There is still one full-time Home Nurse in Ludlow and also two District Nurse-Midwives who serve Ludlow Borough and some of the surrounding districts.

Home Help Service

The demand for this service increases each year and it is not easy to obtain the services of sufficient suitable workers. There are 11 Home Helps now, some of whom only work part-time. The full charge for a home help is still 3/3d. per hour but this can be reduced when necessary.

Thanks to the Home Nursing and Home Help Services many old people and those with chronic sickness can remain in their own homes, and also the stresses and strains of acute illness or a confinement may be eased.

Infant Welfare Centre (Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow)

The Centre is open on Mondays from 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., a doctor being in attendance during the afternoon session only. School children attend during these hours also as they do not attend a separate clinic.

A speech Therapy Clinic is held here each Thursday.

Dental treatment for all children and for expectant mothers is given by appointment.

The Family Planning Clinic is held on the first Wednesday afternoon in February, April, June, September and November, and it is restricted to patients referred by a general practitioner.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, at the following times :

Males	...	Tuesdays and Fridays	...	6 to 8 p.m.
Females	...	Mondays	...	3.30 to 5.30 p.m.
		Thursdays	...	5 to 7 p.m.

Hospital Accommodation

This is unchanged and so far there is no scheme in hand for the provision of a Children's Ward in the Ludlow and District Hospital.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

Water Supplies

The two natural water supplies were generally adequate. Seasonal shortages however, necessitated the purchase of 14 million gallons from the Birmingham Corporation's Elan Valley supply. There were no extensions to existing mains as all development during the year took place in areas already served by public mains.

All water is chlorinated before entering the distribution mains and of 26 samples submitted for bacteriological examination, 25 were found to be satisfactory. The Analysis of a repeat sample on the one occasion, however, was satisfactory. A Chemical examination of each supply was also made with a satisfactory result in each case. Details are as follows :

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Fountain Spring, Whitcliffe

DATE—3.9.57.

	In parts per million of water
Total solid matter in solution	200.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	0.38
Chlorine in Chlorides	13.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.36
Free and saline ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	0.04
Lead, copper, zinc	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment	Nil
Temporary hardness	140.0
Permanent hardness	22.0
pH value	7.7

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. This is a moderately hard water.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc.

Burway Supply

DATE—3.9.57.

Total solid matter in suspension	...	...	...	...	340.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	...	...	...	...	5.0
Chlorine in chlorides	...	...	...	...	25.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 800 F.	...	...	...	...	0.12
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.02
Lead, copper, zinc	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	200.0
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	...	50.0
pH value	...	...	...	...	7.2

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. The water is a hard one.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc.

Public Analyst.

Only one of the 2,091 houses has a private supply, 1,915 houses having a direct supply and 175 houses being supplied from stand-pipes.

The scheme for an elevated service reservoir and relief main in East Hamlet (mentioned in last year's report) has not yet been started.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Of the 2,091 houses within the Borough, 2,036 are connected to the Main Sewers, 32 have private disposal plant and the remaining 23 have chemical or pail closets with satisfactory means of disposal. 3 conversions to private disposal plant from pail closets were made during the year. The main sewers were extended in Sheet Road by 95 yards of 6 inch sewer, to deal with housing development in that area.

The scheme for New Pumping and Disposal Plant (mentioned in last year's report) was further considered during the year and the Council's Consultants in March were instructed to proceed with the preparations of plans, etc.

Except for the continued overloading at the pumping station, the disposal works continue to receive attention and were maintained as far as possible in a reasonably good condition.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Weekly collections continue to be made from all domestic premises with additional visits to Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants during the holiday season as required. No change in the method of disposal has been made but conditions at the tip have been much improved especially with regard to the incidence of fires and the consequent nuisances of smoke, etc. In addition the tip is periodically treated for rat and fly infestation.

48 tons of waste paper were sold as salvage during the year.

Rodent Control

Periodical surveys were made of main sewers, refuse tip and other Council properties and necessary treatment was carried out. Other premises treated were as follows :

Private dwellings	...	...	15
Business premises	...	...	11

Factories and Workshops Acts, 1937 and 1948

Lists of the factories within the Borough have been checked with H.M. Inspector of Factories : there are 63 factories with power and 10 without power.

Inspections by the Public Health Inspector were as follows :

	Number on register	Inspec- tion	Written notices	Prose- cution
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	10	16	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is not enforced by the Local Authority	63	94	4	—
	—	—	—	—
	73	110	5	—
	==	==	==	==

Cases in which Defects were found :

	Number of cases in which defects were found	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	4	4
Inadequate ventilation	1	1
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective	1	3

Many other visits were paid by the Public Health Inspector in conjunction with his other duties as Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,091
Number of Houses owned by the Council	...	...	...	...	447
Number of Flats controlled by the Council...	...	...	...	...	12
Houses completed in 1957					
(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Private Houses	...	...	...	...	26
Houses under construction as at 31.12.57					
(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Private Houses	...	...	...	...	3
Improvement Grants applied for and granted	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	140
Number of Houses closed as unfit	...	...	...	...	Nil

New Houses

The Dodmore No. 2 Estate of 29 Houses was completed during the year. Progress was made in the preparation of Plans and Lay-out for Stage 1 of 50 Houses comprising of 12 three-bedroomed houses, 26 two-bedroomed bungalows and 12 one-bedroomed bungalows.

Housing Applications

Of the 140 applicants 38 have no homes of their own, 35 have homes within the Borough but wish to move, 38 live in sub-standard houses and 29 are living outside the Borough.

Caravan Site

Visits have been made frequently to the licensed caravan site and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory and in accordance with the licence.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY

Meat

Four premises are licensed as slaughter houses, and of these, two are in habitual use. The premises are maintained in good condition, and adequate arrangements continue to be made for the removal of hides, waste matter, etc. The following table gives particulars of the carcasses inspected :

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	156	1	3	724	303
Number inspected	143	1	3	671	280
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerici :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some parts or organs were condemned...	16	—	—	13	7
Percentage of number inspec- ted with diseases other than tuberculosis or cysticerici ...	11%	—	—	2%	2.5%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some parts or organs were condemned...	2	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number ins- pected affected with tuber- culosis	1.4%	—	—	—	1.4%
Cysticercosis :					
Number of carcasses infected and condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Meat which is unfit for human consumption is rendered un-
saleable by means of a dye and buried in agricultural ground.

Milk

There is one milk producer in the Borough who pasteurised all his milk.

Particulars of milk retailers are as follows : Raw milk, 1 ; T.T. Pasteurised, 3 ; T.T.I. Sterilised, 1.

The two dairies are well kept and received 12 visits and the Pasteurisation plant received 6 visits. Satisfactory conditions were existing on each occasion.

Ice Cream

There are a number of retailers of proprietary brands and all but two sell pre-wrapped ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough and no samples were taken.

Food Premises

The number and types of Food Premises in the Borough are as follows :

Butchers' shops	...	...	11	Fried fish shops	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	13	Restaurants, cafes and			
Food shops	...	...	50	snack bars	...	...	15

Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and included in the above figures=12.

All cafes', snack-bars, restaurants and shops where food is sold were visited periodically. Advice and suggestions as to clean food production, particularly with respect to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, were given and acted upon.

Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs were condemned :

Soup	...	...	7 tins	Flour	...	341 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	171 tins	Butter	...	6 lbs.
Fish	...	...	28 lbs.	Margarine	...	5½ lbs.
Cooked Hams	...	...	61½ lbs.	Sauce	...	4 bottles
Bacon	...	...	95½ lbs.	Jam	...	14 lbs.
Tinned Meat	...	...	69½ lbs.	Tinned Veggies.	...	22 tins
Custard Powder	...	...	6 packets	Cheese	...	2 lbs. 4 ozs.
Tinned Tomatoes...	...	...	152 tins	Fruit (Apples)	...	240 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	8 lbs.	Tinned Milk	...	54¾ packets
Mushrooms	...	...	39 lbs.	Fish Paste	...	1 jar
Tinned Fish	...	...	19 tins			

SECTION F

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year :

Measles	117
Whooping cough ...	64
Pneumonia	4
Acute poliomyelitis:	
paralytic	3
non-paralytic ...	3
Tuberculosis	
respiratory	3
meninges	—
other	1
Erysipelas	1

There were no deaths from infectious diseases.

Apart from cases of measles and whooping cough the number of notifications of infectious diseases continued to be low. About 20 cases of whooping cough occurred during each of the first three quarters of the year and then the disease died down, but the last quarter saw the commencement of an epidemic of measles.

This year there were 6 cases of anterior poliomyelitis. All the non-paralytic cases were children and the paralytic ones were adult, two of whom made complete recovery and the third is still undergoing treatment.

There were 4 fewer cases of tuberculosis than last year and all occurred in the adult population, two of them being in the 45-64 year age group.

Fortunately these numbers are small but they show how, if chronic tuberculous disease in the middle-aged and elderly person is not recognised, such people may become an unsuspecting source of infection.

Prevention of Infectious Disease

Apart from general measures to increase the body's resistance to all infectious disease, protection can be obtained against several diseases now by immunisation and vaccination.

As in former years immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and vaccination against smallpox can be obtained either from a general practitioner or at the Infant Welfare Centre.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis, which had been given to a limited extent only in 1956 was offered eventually to all children between 6 months and 15 years of age by the end of 1957 and Ludlow parents have been extremely anxious to avail themselves of this vaccination for their children.

Protection Against Tuberculosis

A scheme for the vaccinations of 13 year old children against tuberculosis was introduced in 1957 and of the 163 children eligible, only 23 refused to avail themselves of this. Of the remaining, 31 were found by preliminary skin testing not to require vaccination. They had already been in contact with the tuberculosis germ and had manufactured their own immunity to it. To ensure that this was indeed the case and that they did not actually suffer from the disease, arrangements were made for them and their families to have an X-ray examination. The result was satisfactory in all cases.

104 children were vaccinated.

Although this does not give 100% protection against the disease it markedly reduces the risk of infection and does give 100% protection against tuberculous meningitis and miliary tuberculosis.

The following tables show the number of children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough this year: in both cases less than 50% of the children have received this protection during the first year of life, and an insufficient number have received the booster dose against diphtheria after 5 years. The number of children vaccinated against smallpox is equally low and these figures are not good enough to give an effective control over these diseases. We must not forget these older but essential prophylactics because of the newer and more recently publicised ones. Information and advice about these measures can be obtained from a general medical practitioner or the Infant Welfare Centre.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisation

	Under 1	1—4	5—14
By County Council Medical Officers...	12	4	2
By General Practitioners	37	17	3
	—	—	—
Totals	49	21	5
	==	==	==

Booster Doses

	Under 1	1—4	5—14
By County Council Medical Officers...	—	—	35
By General Practitioners	—	—	38
	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	73
	==	==	==

WHOOPIING COUGH**Primary Immunisation**

	Under 1	1—4	5—14
By County Council Medical Officers...	9	3	—
By General Practitioners	36	14	3
	—	—	—
Totals	45	17	3
	—	—	—



