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BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1958



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

ANNUAL REPORT

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

WILLIAM HALL, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.OBST. R.C.O.G.,
D.P.H. (temporary, until 31st March)

ELIZABETH CAPPER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(appointed 1st April)

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
1958**

LUDLOW,
OCTOBER, 1958.

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

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department during 1958.

There was only an increase of 20 in the population this year, a very slight rise in the Birth Rate, but a definite though small rise in the Death Rate.

I am very pleased to be able to report that no children under the age of one year died during 1958 : this in marked contrast to the very high Infant Mortality Rate last year.

The steady increase in Cancer of the lung in the country is reflected in our figures here—this year 7 people died from this disease, last year one died from it and in 1956 4 died from it. I think we should all think very seriously about the possible dangers of smoking and atmospheric pollution, especially as it is considered that there is a direct correlation between atmospheric pollution and cancer of the oesophagus and stomach. In Ludlow the chief cause of atmospheric pollution is domestic smoke.

The general health has remained very good and the only cause for concern during the year was the outbreak of food poisoning : it emphasises the need for the greatest care in ensuring perfect hygienic conditions and also correct methods whenever food is handled or processed.

The schemes for the essential improvements to the Sewage Disposal Works, and for the erection of a Water Tower have not progressed sufficiently for any work to be commenced in either case.

Conditions at the Refuse Tip were improved considerably during the year, but this method of uncontrolled tipping is always liable to cause some nuisance from flies, rats and fire occasionally in spite of regular attention.

Again I am sorry to report that it has not been possible to commence any Slum-clearance Scheme but hope that this will be started in the near future when the Sheet Road Housing Scheme is further advanced.

We have 240 applicants on our Housing List but our Housing Problem is much greater than this, for many who live in the houses which have been provisionally scheduled as suitable for inclusion in a Slum Clearance Scheme have not applied for Council Houses, but

they also would have to be re-housed. It is indeed regrettable that many houses have been allowed to fall in to almost derelict states during the years—in some cases nothing has been spent on their upkeep for 20, 30 or even 40 years, so that now they could not qualify for improvement grants, and many are beyond repair.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues in all the departments of the Council for their help during the past year and I would make special mention of the help and co-operation received from Mr. James, the Public Health Inspector, who has also assisted me to prepare this report.

ELIZABETH CAPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	59	45	104
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.8		
Still Births	1	1	2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	18.9		
Total Live and Still Births	106		
Infant Deaths	0		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	0		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births :			
legitimate	0		
illegitimate	0		
Neonatal	0		
Illegitimate Live Births —per cent of total live births	1.9		
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)	0		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	0		
Deaths from all causes	58	69	127
Death rate per 1,000 population	19.3		
Standardised Death Rate	13.9		

The following are the rates for England and Wales :—

Birth Rate	16.4
Death Rate	11.7
Still Birth Rate	21.6
Infant Mortality Rate	22.5

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS AND NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	1,068
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,092
Rateable Value of District...	...	...	...	...	...	£65,025
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...					6,590

In spite of the fact that there were more deaths than births in the Borough there was an increase of 20 in the population, according to the Registrar-General's estimation. Thus the population of the Borough has increased by 100 during the last two years.

Births

There were 104 live births this year, of which 2 were illegitimate. The birth rate, both crude and standardised, this year was 15.8, which is a very slight increase on the rate for last year (15.5).

Still Births

There were two still births during the year, giving a Still Birth Rate of 18.9; this is an improvement on last year's rate of 28.6. There were no illegitimate Still Births.

Infant Mortality

It is very pleasing to report that no children under the age of one year died during 1958.

Deaths

There were 127 deaths during the year (males 58, females 69), giving a crude death rate of 19.3 and a standardised rate of 13.9. The corresponding figures for last year were 10.5 and 8.93.

The following table gives the causes of death.

Cause	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Disease of heart and circulation ...	22	34	56
Vascular lesions of central nervous system	11	14	25
Malignant Disease (including lung) ...	2	11	13
Malignant Disease of lung ...	6	1	7
Leukæmia ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ...	1	—	1

Cause	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach	2	—	2
Nephritis	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accident	—	—	—
All Other Accidents... ..	4	—	4
Suicide	1	1	2
Other	2	3	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	58	69	127
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Yet again diseases of heart circulation, and vascular lesion of the central nervous system account for one half the deaths: this year they caused 64% of the total.

Malignant disease was the cause of 15.7% of the deaths and of these just over one third were caused by cancer of the lung. Six men and one woman died from cancer of the lung this year—last year only one died and in 1957 only four died from this disease.

It is indeed regrettable that there were two deaths from drowning last year, and two from suicide—both occurring whilst the balance of the mind was disturbed. There was one death as a result of an accident in the home.

It is interesting to note that there were as many deaths in people over the age of 85 years as in the 45–64 year age group (21 deaths), slightly more in the 65–74 year age group (27), and that nearly half the deaths occurred in the 75–84 year age group (54).

Three persons died at the ages of 95 years, 96 years, and 97 years respectively.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Staff

The Borough was indeed fortunate to be able to retain the services of Dr. William Hall as acting Medical Officer of Health for the first quarter of the year.

Dr. Elizabeth Capper was appointed Medical Officer of Health as from April 1st, 1958, this appointment being combined with her existing duties as Assistant County Medical Officer in South West Shropshire.

The other Officers were unchanged, and their names are given at the beginning of the Report.

Laboratory Facilities

These are unchanged, and the laboratories continue to give us full co-operation. We were most grateful to Dr. Jones for his help in finding the cause of the outbreak of food poisoning.

Ambulance Service

The 3 ambulances and 2 sitting-case cars stationed in Ludlow are under the control of the Central Ambulance Depot, Shrewsbury—telephone number Shrewsbury 6631—and only in cases of emergency should a local call be made.

Home Nursing

There has been no change in the nursing staff undertaking domiciliary duties in the Borough.

Home Help Service

The demand for this service continues to increase, for apart from short-term help needed during acute illness and confinements, an increasing number of old people are being helped to live more comfortably, and apart from giving actual help with the housework the Home Helps ease the loneliness of some of the old people.

Meals on Wheels Service

The Women's Voluntary Services have continued to organise this service in a most efficient and friendly way and it is of two fold benefit for apart from providing a nourishing meal it also forms a personal contact with the old people, many of whom are alone or infirm, and who really need some unobtrusive supervision, and also at times help in obtaining medical and other assistance.

Infant Welfare Centre (Cliftonville, Dinham)

The Centre is open from 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m., 1.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m. on Mondays, both for babies and school children, and a doctor is in attendance in the afternoons only.

The Speech Therapy Clinic has continued to be held on Thursdays.

Dental treatment may be obtained at the Centre for children and for expectant and nursing mothers and appointments may be requested either by letter or by telephoning Ludlow 411.

The Family Planning Clinic has continued to be held quarterly but the attendance has been very poor.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This is still held at Belmont, Shrewsbury.

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 Accomodation

This is unchanged. We are fortunate that consultants come to Ludlow to hold Out-Patient Clinics and so save many people the time and trouble, and also the expense of journeys to Shrewsbury or Hereford.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The natural supplies were generally adequate except for seasonal shortages, which necessitated the purchase of 10 million gallons from Birmingham Corporation—a considerable reduction on recent years. 200 yards of new 3 inch main was laid in connection with the development of the Sheet Road Housing Estate.

All water is chlorinated before entering the distribution mains and of 28 samples submitted 27 were found to be satisfactory. A repeat sample was found to be satisfactory.

Chemical examination of each supply was made in October with the following results:—

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Fountain Spring, Whitliffe

DATE.—8th Oct., 1958.

	In parts per million of water
Total solid matter in solution	220.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	1.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	14.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.16
Free and saline ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	0.02
Lead, copper, zinc	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment	Nil
Temporary hardness	130.0
Permanent hardness	28.0
pH value	7.2

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

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

Burway Supply

Total solid matter in suspension	380.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	3.0
Chlorine in chlorides	23.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.40

Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Lead, copper, zinc	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	...	145.0
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	...	...	89.0
pH value	...	...	...	...	...	7.1

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

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

Only one house in the Borough has a private water supply, and 173 houses are served only by stand-pipes.

No progress regarding the construction of the East Hamlet service reservoir was made during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Of the 2,092 houses in the Borough, 2,034 are connected to the Main Sewers, 35 have private disposal plants and the remaining 23 have chemical or pail closets with satisfactory means of disposal.

180 yards new 9 inch soil sewer was laid in connection with the Sheet Road Housing Scheme.

No progress regarding the new Sewage Works Scheme, Pumping Plant, etc., referred to in last year's report has been made. Plant is maintained in as good as condition as possible but conditions at the disposal works have deteriorated.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collections are made weekly from all domestic premises with additional visits to Hotels, Cafés, etc. as required during the holiday season.

The incidence of Fires at the Tip has been much reduced and with additional covering material being available, conditions have improved. Regular treatment is carried out for rat destruction and fly disinfestation. 63 tons of Salvaged Waste Paper was sold during the year.

Rodent Control

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

Private Dwellings	15
Business Premises	8

Factories and Workshops Acts, 1937 and 1948

Our lists of factories have been checked with H.M. Inspector of Factories ; there are now 9 factories without mechanical power and 64 with mechanical power.

Visits have been paid as follows :—

	Number on Inspec- register tions	Writ- ten notices	Prose- cution
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	18	2 —
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	64	101	3 —

Cases in which defects were found :

PARTICULARS

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	5	5	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :					
Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	2	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	2	1	—	1	—

SECTION D**HOUSING**

Number of Inhabitated houses	...	...	...	...	2,092
Number of Houses owned by Council	...	...	...	...	447
Number of Housing Units controlled by Council	...	...	...	...	11
Houses completed in 1958 :					
(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Private Houses	...	...	...	...	14
Houses under construction as at 31/12/58 :					
(a) Council	...	...	...	...	35
(b) Private	...	...	...	...	12
Improvement grants applied for and granted	...	...	...	...	4
Number of applicants for Council Houses...	...	...	...	...	240
Number of Houses closed as unfit	...	...	...	...	Nil

New Houses

Stage I on the Sheet Road Housing Scheme, comprising 50 houses and/or bungalows was commenced in May and at the end of the year 35 were under construction, although none had been completed.

Housing Applications

The 240 applications can be classified as follows :—

No homes of their own	...	...	...	...	50
Occupying houses in the Borough but desiring a change...	...	...	...	...	61
Occupying sub-standard houses in the Borough	...	...	...	...	57
Living outside the Borough...	...	...	...	...	72

Caravan Site

Frequent visits have been made 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 slaughterhouses but only two are used. These two premises which are used regularly each week are maintained in a satisfactory condition. Adequate arrangements for the collection of hides, offal, etc. continue.

Particulars of the Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)					
Butcher A	105	—	—	546	238
Butcher B	51	—	—	206	84
TOTAL	156	—	—	752	322
No. Inspected	156	—	—	752	322

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B. AND
CYSTERCERCI :

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned	18	—	—	19	8
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or cystercerci	12%	—	—	2.5%	2.6%

T.B. ONLY :

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses part or organs con- demned	2	—	—	—	6
% affected with T.B.	1.4%	—	—	—	2%

CYSTERCERCOSIS :

Carcasses affected and con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
--	---	---	---	---	---

Unfit meat is disposed of as set out in previous reports.

Milk

In the Borough ONE Producer pasteurizes all milk produced. Particulars of the milk retailers are as follows:—

Sterilized ... 1 ; T.T ... 2 ; T.T. Pasteurized ... 3.

6 visits were made to the Pasteurization Plant and 10 to the 2 dairies. Satisfactory conditions were found to exist.

Ice Cream

39 retailers all retail proprietary brands and all but 2 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	...	12	Restaurants, Cafés and		
Food Shops	...	51	Snack Bars	...	13

Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and included in the above figures are:— 18

Frequent visits were paid during the year to all the restaurants, cafés, snack bars and shops where open food was for sale. From time to time advice was given regarding the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

Conditions in one bakehouse were found to be such that removal to other premises had to be insisted upon, and in another the threat of legal proceedings brought about considerable improvements.

Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs were condemned:—

				lb. oz.
Rice Pudding	2	tins	Cooked Shoulder	36 14
Cheese	14	ozs.	Beef	24
Soup	5	tins	Tinned Meat	14 10
Fruit	180	tins	Tomato Juice	11 3½
Fish	21	tins	Tinned Pork	12 6
Tomatoes	98	tins	Jellied Veal	2
Vegetables	16	tins	Gammon	6
Tinned Milk	20½	pints	Dutch Ham	7 8
Cream (12 oz.)	2	tins	Cooked Ham	12 9
Jam	10	lbs.	Shoulder Bacon	17 4
Kippers	28	lbs.	Tinned Shoulder Ham	90 8
Sausage	10	lbs.	Jellied Veal. Tinned	6
Fruit (Pears)	40	lbs.		

SECTION F

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year were as follows :—

	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough	64	36
Measles	117	96
Pneumonia	4	3
Acute poliomyelitis	6	0
Tuberculosis :		
respiratory	3	4
meninges	0	0
other	1	3
Erysipelas	1	1
Food poisoning	0	17

There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases.

A measles epidemic was at its height at the beginning of the year but had practically died down at the end of the first quarter and there were very few cases after that and none at all in the second half of the year ; but a smaller epidemic of whooping cough appeared near the end of the year.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during 1958.

New cases of tuberculosis continue to be found, seven new cases being notified during the year whereas four were notified in the previous year. Again all the people affected were adults, five being in the 25-44 year age group and two in the 45-64 year age group.

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred in July and the disease in all cases was of sudden onset and was very acute for a day or two, but fortunately caused no fatalities. During the outbreak 15 cases were notified and 5 other cases were discovered during investigations but unconfirmed reports received later indicated that more had been affected but the disease had been less acute in these cases. The cause of the outbreak was a technical error in the method of food processing at one shop.

Two other cases of food poisoning were notified later in the year which were quite unrelated and no cause was found for either of these.

Prevention of Infectious Disease

Parents are still not availing themselves of the opportunity to protect their children to the best of their ability against small pox, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. This is obvious from the following tables.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

	Under 1 year	1—4 years	5—14 years
Primary—			
By County Council Medical Officers...	13	8	—
By General Practitioners	19	5	—
	—	—	—
	32	13	—
	==	==	==
Booster Dose—			
By County Council Medical Officers...	...	...	17
By General Practitioners ... ..	...	...	8
			—
			25
			==

WHOOPING COUGH

	Under 1 year	1—4 years	5—14 years
Primary—			
By County Council Medical Officers...	21	1	—
By General Practitioners	20	5	—
	—	—	—
	41	6	—
	==	==	==
Booster Dose—			
By County Council Medical Officers...	...	...	—
By General Practitioners ... ..	...	...	2
			—
			2
			==

SMALL POX

	Under 1 year	1—4 years	5—14 years	14 yrs. +
Primary—				
By County Council Medical Officers	10	—	—	—
By General Practitioners ...	33	1	2	3
	—	—	—	—
	43	1	2	3
	==	==	==	==
Re-vaccination—				
By General Practitioner ...			3	13

TETANUS

	Under 1 year	1—4 years	5—14 years	14 yrs. +
By General Practitioner ...	4	2	—	—

Thus only about one third of the children in the Borough have been protected against these diseases by the time they reach their first birthday—we must try to raise this figure to at least three-quarters if the danger of serious epidemics is to be averted. The artificial immunity to diphtheria and small pox wanes gradually and a satisfactory level can only be maintained by giving a booster diphtheria injection about 5 years after the primary immunisation and by having re-vaccination every 7 years. All possible help and advice can be obtained about these measures from the General Practitioners in the town or from the Infant Welfare Clinic.

In contrast the response to the offer of poliomyelitis vaccination has continued to be very satisfactory and when adults up to the age of 25 years of age and all expectant mothers were included and evening clinics for these were held the attendance was extremely good, although the response in the country as a whole, and in many other parts of Shropshire was very poor.

The response to the offer of vaccination against tuberculosis for the 13 year old children was also very satisfactory and 90 children received this protection during the year.

Number of children accepting B.C.G. vaccination ...	...	...	...	...	137
Number of children refusing B.C.G. vaccination .	.	.	.	.	10
Number skin tested ...	...	...	...	...	123
Number found to be positive ...	...	...	...	...	17
Number found to be negative ...	...	...	...	...	101
Number given B.C.G. vaccination ...	...	...	...	...	90
Number still negative after vaccination ...	...	...	...	...	0



