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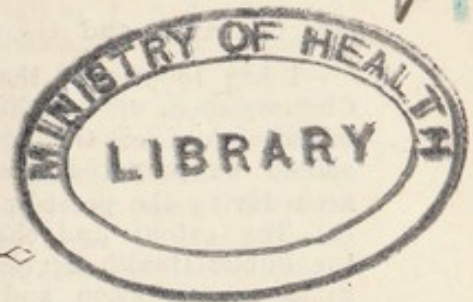
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Ludlow Rural District.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

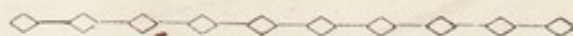
Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1925.



# Ludlow Rural District Council.



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Circumstances of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1925. The memorandum of the Ministry of Health directs that a "Survey" Report should be prepared dealing with (a) the measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the Public Health. (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health Services of the area. (c) Any further action of importance in the organisation and development of the Public Health Services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	66,350
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,870
Population (1925 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,965
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,027
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,059
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	

The district lies on the south-west border of the County, with a considerable portion on the Western and Northern slopes of the Cleve Hills. On the Eastern border it rises to a height of 1,750 feet O.D., falling towards the South and West, when it is 380 feet O.D.

The surface is in most parts irregular, and the gradients are severe. The natural drainage is good, and is by the Corve, Ony, Teme, and several smaller streams to the South, where the Teme joins the Severn.

The population in most parishes is thinly scattered, with an average density of one person to 6½ acres. The most populous centres are the Cleve Hill, where many quarrymen employed at the three Stone Quarries reside, and Craven Arms, a railway centre of some importance, where large Cattle, Sheep, and Horse Sales are held. The district is essentially agricultural in character, with a considerable number of residential estates scattered through it.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for the years 1920—1924:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	Average of 5 years
Birth Rate	19.3	22.5	19.2	21.9	17.0	20.0
Death Rate	9.4	11.8	13.0	11.9	10.9	10.8
Infantile Mortality Rate	81	35	81	55	58	62

The Birth Rate for the five years under review in the above table shows on the average a decline of three points in comparison to the pre-war rates. The general Death Rate has slightly improved over the same period and the Infantile Mortality Rate shows marked improvement, it having declined nearly one-fourth.

## STATISTICS FOR 1925.

The number of births registered during the year was 182 (100 males and 82 females). The birth-rate is 20.3, a very similar figure to the average of the previous five years. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 18.3. Eighteen of the births were illegitimate, which is equal to 9.8 per cent.



There were 105 deaths during the year belonging to the district, and the death-rate is 11.7 per thousand of the population. This is slightly above the average of the district, but below the rate for England and Wales for 1925. The causes of death were: Measles 3, Whooping Cough 1, Influenza 1, Encephalitis Lethargica 2, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 3, Cancer 15, Cerebral Hæmorrhage 6, Heart Disease 12, Arterio-Sclerosis 1, Bronchitis 9, Pneumonia 7, other Respiratory Diseases 1, Gastric Ulcer 1, Appendicitis 1, Nephritis 4, Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth 5, Suicide 2, other Deaths from Violence 6, other Defined Diseases 20, Causes ill-defined or unknown 4. The deaths from Respiratory Diseases and from Violence were above the average, but there are no other special features in the returns.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**—Seven deaths of Infants under twelve months were recorded, the causes to which they were assigned were: Broncho-Pneumonia 2, Pyloric Stenosis 1, Congenital Cystic Hygroma 1, Marasmus 1, Icterus Neonatorum 1, and Prematurity 1. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 38, as compared with an average of 62 for the previous five years and a rate of 75 for England and Wales for the year. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants. The steady decline of the infant death-rate is due chiefly to the Child Welfare work that has been organised by the County Council in recent years throughout the district, which includes an improved service of midwives in the outlying parishes.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.  
HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY  
OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

1. Tuberculosis: 1. Shirlett Sanatorium, subsidised by County Council.  
2. Prees Heath Sanatorium, provided by County Council.  
3. Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry, subsidised by County Council.
2. Maternity: 1. At Much Wenlock Hospital subsidised by  
2. At Nursing Home, Shrewsbury County Council.
3. Children: Home for Ailing Babies, Wellington.
4. Fever: Cases from the district are received by the Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, under an agreement made by the Local Authority with the Hospital Board.
5. Smallpox: Ludlow Smallpox Hospital, provided by the County Council.
6. Others: Shropshire Eye, Ear and Throat, subsidised by County Council for special cases, Ophthalmia Neonatorum and School cases.

The Ludlow Smallpox Hospital is the only one in the district; it has two wards of four beds each and nurses and staff accommodation. Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children has been arranged for by the County Council at the Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton.

**AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—(a) For infectious cases. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases. The Ludlow Borough Council maintain an ambulance presented by the British Red Cross Society, which is available for both classes of cases. As thorough disinfection is carried out by the Borough Staff after the conveyance of infectious cases, there seems to be no objection to this procedure.

**CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**—The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, School Clinic, Tuberculosis Dispensary and Dental Clinic, which are held at premises situated at Dinham, Ludlow, are available for the Rural District. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is run by a Local Committee, the County Council providing the premises, Nurse and Medical Officer. The remainder of the services are organised and supported financially by the County Council. The V.D. Centre is at Shrewsbury, and there is no day nursery. Orthopædic Clinics are held also at Craven Arms.

**Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**—Mr. G. P. Rogers is Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat. He combines these duties with that of Surveyor for the district. A contribution is received from the Ministry to the salary of the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.



Professional Nursing in the Home.—(a) General. In some half-dozen or more parishes a District Nurse is maintained by a Voluntary Nursing Association and undertakes general nursing of cases in the area, but in many of the parishes there are no such facilities for those unable to afford a private nurse. (b) For infectious cases, the County Council provide a Nurse in epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza. She also undertakes the home nursing of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum when necessary. The salary is paid entirely by the County Council.

MIDWIVES.—The Local Authority do not employ or subsidise any Midwives in the area, but the County Council are providing them in all parishes where they are most needed. There are at present about sixteen resident and practising in the district.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.—Bye-laws are in force in regard to Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops; New Streets and Buildings; Cleansing of Ashpits, Earth Closets, etc.; and also for Nuisances, 1903.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The only public water supply in the district is at Craven Arms. The new well completed last year is giving a constant supply to the town, and is in every way satisfactory. A number of wells serving groups of houses have been examined during the period under review and reports made to the Council. Amongst them are the May-pole, which supplies the School at Clee Hill. This has been covered in and protected from surface contamination. It is one of the few supplies in that area that can be relied on in dry weather. The Butley Moor Well, which I reported on, should be dealt with on similar lines. Both protection against surface washings and storage are required here, and would benefit a considerable population round Knowbury. The higher parts of this area on the Clee Hill are still very inadequately supplied, and a scheme for a public supply to it and the adjoining parts of Cleobury Mortimer and Burford Rural Districts would be of great benefit to the parish. A group of cottages at Broadstone are supplied by a dip-well, to which the approach is very bad, and an extension of the main of the Estate supply to them is very desirable.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No pollution of the rivers or streams of such a nature as to deteriorate them takes place in the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—No system of public sewers has been initiated during the period under review, but a large number of improvements in house drainage have been carried out. The outfall of the public sewer at Craven Arms has been under the consideration of the Council, with a view to better distribution on the land. Regular supervision by the Council's foreman is, I think, necessary. The increased amount of water available in the town will no doubt result in an increase in the volume of sewage. The land in extent and nature of subsoil is quite capable of dealing efficiently with a considerable addition.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The last census of the closet accommodation, made in 1919, gave the number of water closets at Craven Arms as 214 and 150 privies. Few conversions have taken place since, but about 20 new houses have been provided with water closets. In other parishes there are few water closets; the majority of houses are provided with earth-closets, and bye-laws are in force for the regular emptying of them by the tenants. They are, as a rule, a safe distance from the houses, and seldom are a source of complaint.

SCAVENGING.—The only area where a public system is necessary is at Craven Arms, and here a weekly collection of ashes and refuse is carried out by contract. It is disposed of on a tip outside the town, which is provided by the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The Sanitary Inspector has provided a report on the Sanitary Work done during the year, and it is attached to this Report. It is obviously very incomplete, due, no doubt, to the want of a proper system of note taking, and to the large amount of time that is absorbed by his work as Surveyor.



**SCHOOLS.**—The following Schools were closed during the year on account of the prevalence of epidemics: For Influenza, Abdon, Munslow, Clee Hill, Culmington, and Bitterley; and for Measles, Stanton Lacy and Bromfield.

### HOUSING.

1. General Housing Conditions.—The population is, according to the estimate for the year made by the Registrar-General, fairly stationary. During the last five years 32 houses have been built, sixteen of which the Council erected. The position remains very nearly the same as when the estimate was made previously. The need for cottages is caused by the lack of building over a considerable period, the gradual decay of houses due to age, the absence of sufficient houses to meet the present needs of the population at Craven Arms. The general standard of housing throughout the area is, I consider, very fair, but additional cottages of three bedroom type are required at Clee Hill to meet the overcrowding that exists in this area.

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

a. Total	...	...	...	...	...	6
b. With State assistance under Housing Acts.						
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	0
(ii.) By Other Bodies or Persons	...	...	...	...	...	5
1. Unfit Dwelling-Houses.						
Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	38
(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	38
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.						
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	2
3. Action under Statutory Powers.						
A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act of 1925	...	...	...	...	...	0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.						
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	1
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	...	...	...	...	...	0
C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.						
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3)						
(4) Nil.						
(5)						

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

4. MILK SUPPLY.—There is a very considerable quantity of milk produced in the district, and a good part of it exported to the large towns and to the Borough of Ludlow. The supply within the district is satisfactory, and the milk is of good quality. Action was taken by the County Council in regard to the export of tuberculous milk under the Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act, 1915. The animal proved by bacteriological examination to be giving tuberculous milk was slaughtered and examined by the Veterinary



Inspector. Disease was present in the udder, lungs, and head and the carcase was therefore destroyed. There are 24 Cowkeepers and Milk Sellers on the register. They have been visited half-yearly and the sheds are reported in good condition.

6. MEAT.—Mr. Rogers the Sanitary Inspector has been appointed Meat Inspector. No meat was condemned during the year.

#### PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

	1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered ..	4	4	4
Licensed ...	5	6	6
	—	—	—
	9	10	10
	—	—	—

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the period 1920—1924 the following table shows the notifications received:—

Disease.	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	Deaths 1920-1924
Diphtheria ...	3	13	5	7	3	4
Scarlet Fever ...	21	41	21	5	3	2
Erysipelas ...	2		2	2	1	0
Pneumonia ...	9	8	4	10	9	
Puerperal Fever ...	1	2	1			
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1			1		1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			1	1	5	
Encephalitis Lethargica				1	1	
Tuberculosis:						
Pulmonary ...	4	13	4	11	6	
Non-pulmonary ...	3	6	4	7	3	
	44	83	42	45	31	

During the year under review there has been no serious outbreak of Diphtheria, but four cases were removed to Hospital owing to want of efficient isolation or nursing at home. There were four deaths.

The type of cases of Scarlet Fever has been mild, and some cases escaped notification as a result. Two were removed to Hospital, and two fatal cases occurred.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council in the case of persons unable to meet the expense. Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Birmingham University Laboratory. During 1925 the following were sent:—

Throat Swabs .....	Dip. Bac. present 2.	absent 10	12
Sputum .....	Tub. Bac. present 2.	absent 26	28
			—
			40

There is no provision for the disinfection of verminous persons or their belongings; the cases are infrequent, and are dealt with at home.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	8	1	0
Pneumonia ...	3	0	7
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	0	1
Puerperal Fever ...	2	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	0	2

SCARLET FEVER.—From April to December cases were notified in various parishes. There was apparently no connection between any but the first three, which were in one house. The district was very free from epidemics, both of notifiable and non-notifiable infectious disease, during the year.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1925.

Age Incidence.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
20						1		
25					1			
35		1						
45	1	1				1		
55								
Total ...	1	2			1	2		

During the year only three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, as compared with an average of seven during the previous five years, and none of Non-Pulmonary. One Pulmonary case received Sanatorium treatment and three died during the year, giving a death-rate of .3 per thousand of the population. During the past five years there was an average of four deaths from Pulmonary and two from Non-Pulmonary each year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.



The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st December, 1925, in the Ludlow Rural Sanitary District:—

(a) Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey ... ..	16
(a) Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.	
Number of legal notices sent ... ..	Nil.
Number of informal notices sent ... ..	Nil.
Number of such notices complied with ... ..	Nil.
Number of letters written ... ..	32

#### PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES.

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	16
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply ... ..	1
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended ... ..	—
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction ... ..	—
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition ... ..	—
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds ... ..	1
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance ... ..	—
(h) Houses overcrowded ... ..	—
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) ... ..	12
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis ... ..	4
Privies connected to water closets ... ..	—
Privies converted to earth closets ... ..	—
Plans for new houses passed ... ..	7
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ... ..	—
Houses connected to public water supply ... ..	—
Repairs to public pumps and wells ... ..	—
New public wells ... ..	—
Private wells re-constructed or improved ... ..	—
Houses connected to public sewerage ... ..	—
Lengths of new sewers laid ... ..	—
Lengths of new water mains laid ... ..	—
Proceedings before Magistrates ... ..	—
Remarks:	

(Signed) G. P. ROGERS,

Inspector.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUDLOW on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

##### FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	4
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises) ... ..	—
Total ... ..	4

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ... Nil.

A. E. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1st, 1926.