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Ludlow Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1937.

J. C. Austen & Son, Printers, Ludlow

Ludlow Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting my Thirty-first Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	106,000
Registrar-General's estimate of Population, 1937	13,680
Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book)	3,866
Rateable Value	£71,458
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£282

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The district comprises forty-five Parishes. The population is for the greater part thinly scattered with one person to six-and-a-half acres. The chief industries of the area—Agriculture, Quarrying and Transport—maintain the improvement noted in the previous years and the work at the quarries has been well maintained.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year.

Live Births—

	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	180	95	85	**Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated population ... ... 14·2**
Illegitimate	15	7	8	
	195	102	93	

Still Births, 5. Rate per 1000 total Births	25
Deaths, 173. Rate per 1000 estimated population ...	12·6
Deaths from Puerperal causes	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—	
All Infants per 1000 live births	51
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...	50
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitmate live births ...	66
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age) ...	0

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population, 13·680, is 260 less than the estimate of last year.

THE BIRTH-RATE (14·2) is slightly below the rate of last year (14·4). The rate for England and Wales for the year was 14·9. Fifteen births were illegitimate, equal to 7·6 per cent. of the total.

THE DEATH-RATE (12·6) is very similar to that of last year (12·1), and when modified by the Registrar's Comparability Factor (0·87) which makes it comparable with the country as a whole, or with other areas, the death-rate of which has been similarly treated with its own figure, the corrected death-rate of Ludlow Rural District is 10·9 compared with 12·4 for England and Wales for the year.

The chief causes of death were: Influenza 2; Cancer 37; Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 4; other Tuberculosis 1; Diabetes 6; Cerebral Hæmorrhage 9; Heart Disease 32; Aneurism 2; other Circulatory Diseases 10; Bronchitis 7; Pneumonia 4; Peptic Ulcer 1; Liver Disease 3; other Digestive Diseases 5; Nephritis 6; Congenital Debility and Premature Birth 10; Senility 11; Suicide 0; other violence 7; other defined diseases 16; and cause ill-defined 1.

The death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis for the year was 0·28 per 1000 of the population, and Cancer 2·6; both these rates showed a slight increase over last year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (51) is based on 10 deaths of Infants under twelve months of age due to the following causes: Premature Birth 2; Atalestasis 2; Malaena 2; Pneumonia 1; Marasmus 1; Anæmia 2. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 58.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. The only Public Health Officers of the Authority are Mr. George Graham, the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Building Surveyor and Meat Inspector, and holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. A contribution is made to the salary of the officer and the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Under an arrangement made by the Salop County Council, Pathological specimens are examined at the Bacteriological Department, Birmingham University, free of cost and this is taken full advantage of by the local Medical Practitioners.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Infectious cases are removed by an ambulance from the Hospital, and there are ambulances at Ludlow and Tenbury available for other illness and accidents.

NURSING IN THE HOME. There are Nurse Midwives living in most of the Parishes who carry out a certain amount of home nursing.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. These are situated in the Borough of Ludlow and consist of a Child Welfare Centre and a Tuberculosis Clinic. The Tuberculosis Officer also visits Craven Arms once a month.

HOSPITALS. There are Cottage Hospitals at Ludlow and Burford which are available for accidents and illness.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. Mr. Graham reports that the three public supplies at Craven Arms, Cleobury Mortimer and Ludford were satisfactorily maintained during the year and six new connections were made. At Craven Arms a trial bore was sunk with a view to augmenting the present supply, and the Engineers, Messrs. Brady & Partington, regard the results as satisfactory, and arrangements are in hand for putting down a 30in. bore hole and connecting same with the existing well.

Complaints were received during the year in regard to the unsatisfactory water supply in parts of Stokesay, Onibury and Culmington Parishes, and the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector were directed to make a survey and report. The report showed that the complaints were justified. A new supply is required at Onibury Village, the County Analyst having reported that the quality was unsatisfactory, and extensions of the mains is required in other areas.

Mr. Wyatt's scheme to supply Clee Hill village and Coreley has now been completed and it is proposed to extend it to Knowbury, if the amount available warrants it, after a six months' test.

The scheme for piping the overflow from Whatsill Spring to the houses on Hopton Bank has been considered and estimates got of the cost from the Surveyor. The Council have approached the County Council with a view to getting a grant from them towards the cost, which is estimated at £4,000 for the whole scheme, which includes two farms and a number of small holdings, and a number of houses in Bridgnorth Rural District which were transferred to that area recently.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE. The scheme for new Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works at Cleobury Mortimer is still held up on account of the burden on the parish. The County Council

have not agreed to make a grant towards the cost. There is no doubt that the sewage works and the relaying of the sewers is urgently necessary from a public health point of view, and to encourage building, and that if necessary it should be assisted by the general rates of the district.

One hundred and eighty-five yards of new sewer were laid and eleven new houses connected to existing ones. New drains were laid or old ones amended at 40 houses and twenty-six privies converted into pail closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. A weekly collection of house and shop refuse is carried out at Craven Arms by contract, and a refuse tip is provided by the Council. Arrangements have been made for public scavenging at Cleobury Mortimer and will soon be in progress, the local Parish Council having given their approval to the scheme.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Appended to the Report is a statement of the work done during the year, furnished by the Sanitary Inspector. Eighty-two houses were inspected either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease or in consequence of complaints or in the course of a systematic sanitary survey, and 337 informal notices were served and 302 complied with. They had reference to deficient water supply in 17 premises, defective drainage in 40, defective closets 64, and houses in a bad sanitary condition 86. A large amount of useful sanitary work was done to houses in the area.

Housing

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1).	*(a)* Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ··· ··· ···	82
	(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ···	116
(2).	*(a)* Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ···	40
	(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ···	62
(3).	Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ···	12

(4). Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 40

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 ... 90

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

A. Proceedings under 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936 Nil

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) by Owners 10

(b) by Local Authority 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate Tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1

(2) Number of separate Tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement having been rendered fit... 0

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part. IV., OVERCROWDING—Nil.

Four overcrowded houses were reconditioned and the overcrowding abated.

No houses were built by the Council during the year, but sites have been secured at Clee Hill for twelve houses, and at Cleobury Mortimer for four houses, where it is intended to commence building shortly. Sites in several other parishes are under consideration and will be secured as soon as terms can be agreed on. Twenty-one houses were reconditioned under the Housing Rural Workers' Act during the year and grants made.

SHOPS. No action was called for under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No complaints were received in regard to smoke in the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There are none in the district open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No complaints were received and I believe that the Council Houses are all free from vermin.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition and water supply of the Elementary Schools visited during the year were satisfactory. There were a number of cases of Measles and Influenza in various schools during the year and Culmington School was closed for a week to prevent the spread of the disease.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are 223 Cow keepers and Milk sellers on the register. 306 inspections were made and 25 verbal notices given for the improvement of the Cowsheds, Dairies and Sterilising Plant.

Twenty-seven milk producers have been granted licenses for the production of "Accredited Milk" and two for "Tuberculin-tested Milk" by the County Council.

Two milk producers are licensed for bottling their milk.

Two new Cowsheds were erected in the area during the year.

The practice of refilling bottles collected on the round by certain retailers before the bottles are sterilised, is open to objection. Steps are being taken to check it.

The area is well supplied with milk in all the parishes of high grade and a large amount is exported to the neighbouring towns in Staffordshire.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are thirteen registered and licensed Slaughter Houses in the area and they have been regularly visited by Mr. Graham and the meat inspected. The carcases of two sheep and one pig were found unfit and destroyed.

The two Knacker Yards have been inspected several times and are both in satisfactory condition and no complaints have been received during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED. Number killed : 728 Cattle, 50 Calves, 1560 Sheep and Lambs, 782 Pigs.

Carcases of which some parts or organs were condemned: 2 Sheep, 1 Pig.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

SCARLET FEVER. There were seven cases of Scarlet Fever in different parishes throughout the year and no second case in a house. Only one was removed to Monkmoor Hospital on account of the lack of isolation, where there were five children and no doors on the bedrooms.

DIPHTHERIA. There were six cases in two adjoining houses (four in one house) at Cleobury Mortimer. Four of them were sent to Hospital. The original case brought the disease back with him from a Birmingham Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation was completed in the Clee Hill School during the year and commenced at Cleobury Mortimer. The majority of parents ask for their children to be immunised.

Only one case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified and four cases of Erysipelas and ten of Pneumonia.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) **during 1937.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	1	0
Diphtheria ...	6	4	0
Erysipelas ...	4	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	0
Pneumonia ...	10	0	4
	28	6	4

The arrangement between the Council and the Shrewsbury and Atcham Joint Hospital Board for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease into Monkmoor Hospital is still working very satisfactorily. Four Diphtheria and one Scarlet Fever were treated there during the year.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act of 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0			1					
1								
5		1	1	1				
15	2							
25			1		1	1		
35	1				3		1	
45	1	1						
55								
65+								
	4	2	3	1	4	1	1	0

Four Respiratory cases were treated at Shirlett and one at Berrington Hospital, and one Non-Respiratory at the Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry. There were on the register at the end of the year 134 Pulmonary cases (68 male, 66 female) and 104 Non-Pulmonary (60 male and 44 female).

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

June 12th, 1938.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937, IN THE LUDLOW RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register ...	223
Number of premises—Cowsheds	223
Dairies	Nil
Milkshops	Nil
Number of Inspections	~~Nil~~ 306
Defects found (1) in Cowsheds—	
(a) floor or cubic space	Nil
(b) ventilation	4
(c) lighting	3
(d) structure of floor	5
(e) drainage	3
(f) cleanliness	7
(2) in surroundings of Cowsheds	3
(3) in sanitary condition of Drains ...	Nil
(4) in sanitary condition of Milkshops ...	Nil
(5) in water supply	Nil
Number of notices—verbal and written	25
Number of these notices complied with	25
Number of defects found and not yet remedied	Nil

(Signed)

C. W. GRAHAM,

Sanitary Inspector.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT FURNISHED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937, 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	82
Number of legal notices sent	Nil
Number of informal notices sent	337
Number of such notices complied with	302
Number of letters written	650

Particulars of Sanitary matters referred to in the above Notices:—

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	19
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply	17
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	40
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	66
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	86
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds	7
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	3
(h) Houses overcrowded	4

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis	13
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	6
Privies converted to water closets	1
Privies converted to earth closets	19
Plans for new houses passed	30
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ...	22
Houses connected to public water supply	6
Repairs to public pumps and wells	2
Private wells re-constructed or improved	5
Houses connected to public sewerage	11
Lengths of new sewers laid	185
Lengths of new water mains laid	1100 yards

(Signed) **C. W. GRAHAM,**

Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUDLOW, in the County of Shropshire, 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 :—

	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	10	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	10	3
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	10	3
Total ...	30	6

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Accommodation—insufficient ...	2	2
unsuitable or defective	1	1
Total ...	3	3

(Signed)

ALFRED E. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June 12th, 1938.