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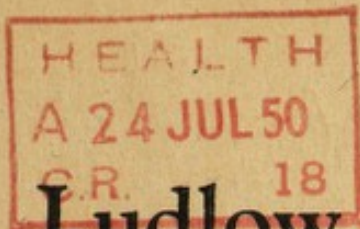
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Ludlow Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1949



Price, Printer, Ludlow.

Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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D.P.H. (CAMB.), D.T.M. AND HY. (CAMB.).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

RONALD FREDERICK SAUNDERS,
M.R. SAN. INST., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. O. WATERHOUSE, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ludlow Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1949

PONTESBURY.

1st June, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the report on the health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1949. It has been drawn up in accordance with the Ministry's Circular, 2/50, dated 25th January, 1950.

The Registrar-General estimates the civilian population at mid-1949 as being 13,980, which is 270 more than in 1948. The number of children under the age of 15 years is 3,275.

There were 231 births (Birth-rate = 16.5) and 192 deaths (Death-rate = 11.2) during the year and Infant Deaths numbered eight, the Infant Mortality Rate being 34. There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

During the year the district was very free from any serious outbreaks of infectious disease—but there were some cases of Measles and Whooping Cough among the child population, none of which, however, were fatal.

Eleven deaths were reported from Tuberculosis and the death-rate from this disease was 0.78 per 1,000, which is higher than usual.

Housing progress has been disappointing and the Council have now decided to form a Direct Building Department by which means it is hoped to expedite the building of greater numbers of Council Houses than has been possible in the last few years.

During the year the Council approved several schemes for new water supplies or extensions to existing supplies. Particulars of these will be found in Section C. of this report. It is expected that the major High Level Scheme will shortly be approved by the Ministry of Health and that work will then be commenced. This is a joint scheme with the Bridgnorth R.D.C.

The new sewage disposal works at Cleobury Mortimer have been under construction and it is hoped that they will be completed by the end of 1950. At Craven Arms a new disposal works is planned for and at Clee Hill a scheme has been prepared.

JAMES L. GREGORY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS - 1949

LIVE BIRTHS—				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...		215	123	92
Illegitimate	...	...		16	9	7
Totals				231	132	99

BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 of population = 16.5.

STILL BIRTHS—				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...		6	3	3
Illegitimate	...	...		—	—	—
Totals				6	3	3

STILL-BIRTH RATE per 1,000 live and still births = 25.3

DEATHS—				Total	M.	F.
				192	114	78

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of population (corrected) = 11.2

INFANTILE MORTALITY—			Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a)	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...		6	27
(b)	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...		2	125
(c)	All Infants per 1,000 total (live) births ...		8	34

DEATHS from Puerperal Causes—			Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a)	From Puerperal sepsis ...		—	—
(b)	From other Puerperal causes		—	—
Totals ...			Nil	Nil

DEATHS from—				Number
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	34
Measles	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis—				
	Pulmonary	...	...	10
	Non-Pulmonary	...	...	1

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	113,004
Estimate of population, mid-1949	13,980
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,027
Rateable Value of the District	£64,263
Product of 1d. Rate (estimated)	£266

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

There were 231 births registered, of which number 16 or 7% were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 16.5 per 1,000 of the population. (England and Wales, 16.7). These figures show very little difference from the figures for 1948.

STILL BIRTHS.

These numbered six, the same as last year. This gives a Still Birth Rate of 25.3, which is slightly above the rate for the country as a whole.

DEATHS.

There were 192 deaths (114 males and 78 females). This gives a corrected death rate of 11.2 per 1,000. A table showing the causes of deaths in the district will be found at the end of the report. As in former years the chief causes of death were—Heart Disease (59), Cancer (34), and Intra-Cranial Vascular Diseases (22). These are chiefly diseases of middle or old age and accounted for 115 out of the 192 total number of deaths (60%).

It is of interest to note that the only deaths from Infectious Diseases were three from Influenza and eleven from Tuberculosis.

PUERPERAL DEATHS.

There were again no deaths from diseases associated with child-birth.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Eight infants under one year of age died. The Infant Mortality Rate is therefore—34. (England and Wales—32). Of these eight deaths four were of infants under one month.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The births exceeded the deaths by 39. The Registrar General's figures for the population show an increase of 270 as compared with 1948.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

STAFF.

There is no change to report for the year, the officers in the Health Department being the Medical Officer of Health (part time), the Senior Sanitary Inspector (who is also Surveyor), and an additional Sanitary Inspector.

There is also an assistant (unqualified) in the Sanitary Inspector's Office who commenced duty in April after his release from Military Service, and a Clerk Typist.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The details of the County Council scheme for the Provision of ambulances were outlined in previous reports. There are three ambulances stationed at Ludlow (Tel. No. 184), and if any difficulty is experienced in getting one of these then a call to Cross Houses (242) will ensure an ambulance being sent from the Central Depot.

Applications for cars for sitting cases should be sent to the County Health Department (Tel. Shrewsbury 3031), and if possible 48 hours' notice should be sent.

Long distance journeys to places outside the county will be undertaken by ambulances from the Central Depot at Cross Houses (Tel. Cross Houses 242).

During the year no complaints have been received regarding any delay in getting an ambulance when necessary.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This work is administered by the Nursing Sub-Committee of the County Council's Health Committee. Nurses employed by the District Nursing Associations have been transferred to the County Council Staff.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This valuable work is organised on a county basis and there is an office in Ludlow (24, Corve Street, Tel No. 382), which is open daily from 2.30—4.30 p.m.

During 1949 a total of 58 cases were assisted, of which number about 20 were in the Rural Area. One of the difficulties has been that of transport, but it is hoped that this may be overcome shortly. In addition to the cases assisted from Ludlow some cases in the Rural District have been visited from the Church Stretton Office.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is no change to report regarding the provision of hospitals for the area, particulars of which have been given in previous reports.

TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are provided at Ludlow for School Children, Infants, Ante-natal cases, Orthopaedic cases and at Shrewsbury for Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section of the report deals with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, refuse collection and disposal and other matters connected with environmental hygiene.

Most of the figures for this section and the following two sections have been supplied by Mr. R. F. Saunders, Surveyor, to whom I am indebted for his assistance.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Although the summer was very dry the Council's supplies at Craven Arms, Cleobury Mortimer, Clee Hill, Coreley and Stoke St. Milborough proved adequate during the year. Some private supplies, however, failed in the autumn months and water had to be transported from other sources.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES.

Samples of water from the public supplies are taken each quarter and more frequently should the results be unsatisfactory.

The only public supplies which are chlorinated are those at Craven Arms and at Cleobury Mortimer. Water from the Elan Aqueduct (Birmingham Main Supply) is rough filtered and treated with lime at the source to reduce organic acidity. It is not chlorinated until it reaches Birmingham.

During the autumn months reports on the Cleobury Mortimer supply were unsatisfactory although it was receiving an adequate

dosage with chlorine. It was decided to carry out various improvements to the chlorination plant and to supply a new auxiliary pumping plant as the old one was worn out.

It was also decided to instal a meter so that the daily consumption of water could be accurately ascertained. This will enable chlorination to be carried out more exactly and will also be of assistance in bringing any leakages to notice.

Since the repairs, etc., to the chlorinator have been carried out the reports on samples have been satisfactory.

The following are the results of bacteriological examinations of the public supplies during the year. The standard taken is that laid down by the Ministry of Health, namely that no water supply for domestic use should contain more than 2 Presumptive B. coli per 100 mls.

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES.

Supply		Number of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Craven Arms	...	4	3	1
Cleobury Mortimer	...	20	4	16
Stoke St. Milbore	...	11	6	5
Coreley	... ..	6	5	1
Clee Hill	... ..	6	2	4
Elan Aqueduct	...	3	2	1
Clee St. Margaret	...	5	3	2
Hope Bowdler	...	3	1	2

In addition to the above samples a further total of 55 samples were taken from private and other smaller supplies of which 13 were satisfactory. Many of these samples were taken from suggested new sources.

Chemical analysis was made of samples from the following sources and all were found to be satisfactory chemically.

Clee Hill Public Supply.

Elan Aqueduct Supply.

Whettleton Pool (potential Public Supply).

NEW WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

The three large schemes under consideration by the Council were those from the Ashes Valley on the Longmynd, from the Elan Aqueduct and the Joint High Level Scheme with the Bridgnorth Rural District.

Of these only the latter has made progress so far and it is expected that approval from the Ministry will soon be received and work commenced. It is not likely that the amount of water available at the Ashes Valley will prove sufficient as gauging of this source has proved the flow to be very variable.

Among other new supplies or extensions to existing supplies approved during the year by the Council were the following:—

Bitterley.
Ludlow Road, Clee Hill.
Studley and Little Isle.
Craven Arms.

The Bitterley, Ludlow Road, Clee Hill, and Studley and Little Isle schemes have received approval from the Ministry and it is expected that work will shortly be commenced on them.

The detailed scheme for the extension at Craven Arms has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and approval is awaited. A minor extension at Brook Road, Craven Arms, has been approved and work on this will commence shortly.

As regards the Council's scheme for supplying the districts south of the Elan Aqueduct with water from that supply, no decision has yet been reached but it is hoped that approval will be obtained and the work proceeded with.

A new bore was sunk during the autumn at Ticklerton to serve the proposed new Council Houses. Lining tubes of sufficient size to be suitable for the purpose of a public supply were used and a fourteen days' pumping was carried out which showed a yield of seventeen thousand gallons per day.

At Cleobury Mortimer the Council decided to continue the use of the present supply provided that the chlorination plant was repaired, a new auxiliary pumping plant supplied, and a careful check kept on the results of chlorination. It is essential that in this supply a weekly check should be kept on the residual chlorine in the water after chlorination, and that a bacteriological report should be obtained monthly.

CLEE HILL SUPPLY.

The following is a copy of the Analyst's Report on a sample of water from this supply submitted on 30th March, 1949.

				Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter in solution	...	...	...	10.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.12
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80 F.	...	...	...	0.032
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	0.004
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	0.003
Chlorine as chlorides	...	...	...	1.000
Metallic impurities	...	...	...	Nil
Action on Lead	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness (in degrees Clark)				
	Temporary		2.8	
	Permanent		1.0	
	Total		3.8	
pH Value	...	...	6.4	
pH Value (after chalk)	...	...	6.4	

This sample is satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc.,

County Analyst,

Chester.

A sample submitted for bacteriological report on the 29th March, 1949, was also found to be satisfactory, no faecal coli being present.

ELAN AQUEDUCT SUPPLY

As it was suggested that this supply should be used at Cleobury Mortimer a report on Chemical Analysis of this water was obtained from the Birmingham Health Department, the results being averaged over the year.

	Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter	8.43
Free ammonia	0.000
Albuminoid ammonia ... ..	.003
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.01
Oxygen consumed in 3 hours at 27 C. ...	0.19
Chlorine in chlorides ... ..	.9
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	2.4
Total alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	0.9
Silica (SiO ₄)	0.19
Plumbo solvency	0.13
pH value	8.45

The high pH value is due to the water being treated with lime at the source to reduce the plumbo solvent action on pipes. The original pH value is 6.3 at the reservoir in Wales. Dr. Newsholme states in a covering letter that the water has only a negligible effect on lead or copper pipes but that it has an appreciable action on iron pipes. 'Tubercles' are formed in course of time and will ultimately reduce the lumen of the pipes. The best types of pipes for use as distribution mains for the Elan Water are either concrete, bitumen lined steel or cast-iron pipes, or asbestos cement pipes. Service pipes should be of lead or copper with copper tanks and piping for the hot water system.

As regards the bacteriological reports on the water these show it to be free from B. coli as a general rule although occasionally an unsatisfactory sample is obtained. The supply is filtered at the reservoirs through coarse sand filters in addition to being treated by the addition of lime. The amount of lime added after filtration is 0.6 parts per 100,000.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

At Cleobury Mortimer good progress has been made during the year on the Council's new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.

At the end of the year practically all of the sewers had been laid and some work had been completed at the disposal works. Owing to difficulties over the supply of special fittings it is not anticipated that the works will be completed much before the end of 1950.

The Ministry of Health have not yet given their approval to the scheme for Craven Arms where a new disposal works is to be made.

At Clee Hill and Lion Lane a scheme has been prepared and will be submitted to the Ministry whenever details regarding a site for the disposal works have been agreed upon.

At Ashford Corbonell a site has been decided on for disposal works and the Engineer has been asked to prepare plans for submission to the Ministry of Health.

Several new small disposal schemes have been provided during the year, chiefly of the septic tank variety. A small extension of a sewer was made at Newton, Craven Arms to allow various premises in that area to be connected.

As was pointed out in last year's report the demand for new disposal works will grow as more houses are connected to main water supplies and have indoor sanitation supplied. At the time of the survey of three thousand houses in the area only 18 per cent had W.C.s, the remainder having pail closets and privy middens.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The present system of collection is that at Craven Arms and Cleobury Mortimer there is a weekly collection by motor vehicle and in the rest of the district there is a six-weekly collection.

Disposal is by tipping at various sites—Cleobury Mortimer, Clee Hill, Woofferton, Onibury Lane and Greenway Cross, Craven Arms. The latter tip is now full and a new tip at the Old Quarry, Shaw Bank is now to be put into use. No nuisances have arisen at the various tips during the year.

Some complaints were received regarding the six-weekly collections and the Surveyor submitted a report on the matter to the Council in December, 1949. In it he pointed out that to have a collection weekly in the two towns and every three weeks in the country areas would mean that another vehicle would have to be purchased, the cost of running this being about £1,200 or a rate of 4½d. The matter has been deferred for the present. Much can be done in the country districts by house-holders getting rid of their refuse by burning it or burying what cannot be burned as there is usually some space available for this to be done. The trouble in such a scattered area is that in some of the isolated houses a collection can hardly be made and the tenants feel that they should not be asked to pay a rate for which they receive no service.

SALVAGE COLLECTION

As the direction for the collection of salvage was removed by the Board of Trade during the year and as it was found difficult to dispose of the paper collected the Council decided to discontinue the collection of waste paper and other salvage.

INSPECTION BY SANITARY OFFICERS

The following are some particulars regarding the visits paid by the Inspectors during the year:—

Water Supplies (including visits for sampling ...	862
Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	259
Refuse collection	52
Meat and other foods inspections	243
Dairies and Cow-sheds	45
New Buildings and Building Work	446
Visits to Council Houses	587
Infectious Diseases	11
Factories and Work-shops	11
Food Premises	19
Petrol installations	11
Miscellaneous visits	245
	Total visits
	2,791

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

(a) Informal	36
(b) Formal	—

Housing Inspections recorded 259

FACTORIES ACTS — 1937 and 1949

Inspections	13
Notices served for defects found	2
Notices complied with	2

Section D

HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	4027
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	...	143
Houses completed in 1949:—					
(a) By Council	...	...	12		
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	22		
Total	...	...	...	...	34
Houses under construction at 31/12/49:—					
(a) By Council	...	...	17		
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	20		
Total	...	...	...	...	37
Approximate number of applications for houses	...	...	...	...	341

NEW HOUSES

The sites on which these were completed and the sites of the houses under construction at the end of the year were as follows:—

SITE	Houses completed	Houses under construction
Craven Arms	5	—
Cleobury Mortimer	7	3
Bitterley	0	8
Diddlebury	0	6

Progress in the building of new houses has been most disappointing during the last six years and this has been due to several different causes among which may be mentioned the difficulty of obtaining tenders for houses in small numbers and the problem of securing an adequate pure water supply.

The following summary of each year's progress will show the position clearly:—

1944 Fourteen agricultural cottages completed.

The Council prepared a scheme for 70 houses to be built in the first post-war year.

1945 No houses completed either by the Council or by private enterprise.

The Council drew up a programme for 198 houses to be built on a short term scheme and 320 houses on a long term scheme.

- 1946 Five houses were completed by private enterprise.
None were completed by the Council.
- 1947 The Council built eight houses and three were built by private enterprise.
- 1948 The Council built 21 and 19 were built privately.
- 1949 Twelve built by the Council and 22 by private enterprise.

These figures show that since 1944 until the end of 1949 only 55 houses have been completed by the Council and 49 by private enterprise, a total of 104 houses in six years.

The Council decided in the autumn of 1949 to form a Direct Building Department, the functions to consist of:—

- (a) The building of new houses.
- (b) The carrying out of works of repair, maintenance and improvement of existing Council houses; and
- (c) The carrying out of works of repair and maintenance of the Council's Offices, etc.

The Department is to be supervised by a Direct Building Subcommittee appointed by the Housing and Planning Committee which will meet monthly and shall report to the Housing and Planning Committee. It is hoped that through this new Department the building of houses will be greatly expedited in the future.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

This is an Act to amend the Housing Act, 1936, and to promote the improvement of housing accommodation by authorising the making of contributions out of the Exchequer and of grants by local authorities.

In Section I of this new Act the reference to houses suitable for the working classes in certain provisions of the Act of 1936 is deleted. It is now the duty of the Local Authority to consider the housing conditions and needs of all the inhabitants.

Sections 15-18 of this Act give the Local Authority power to acquire property for the purpose of: (a) providing dwellings by means of the conversion of houses or other buildings, and (b) improving dwellings.

Section 20 empowers local authorities to make grants, referred to in the Act as "improvement grants," to private owners (a) for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses or other buildings and (b) for the improvement of existing dwellings. These grants are *not* given for ordinary repairs to a house and the amount expended on improvements must be between a minimum of £100 and a maximum of £600. The grant to be given is 50 per cent of the cost. The dwellings for which a grant is given must conform, after improvement,

with the standard of a fit house and must provide satisfactory accommodation for at least thirty years.

It will be of interest to see how many owners of unfit houses will apply for grants under Section 20. If they fail to do so then local authorities can acquire the houses concerned and have them made fit. In these cases of course the grant for improvements would be given to the Local Authority. Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts there were no such powers of compulsory acquisition by the Local Authority.

HOUSING PROGRAMME, 1950

In addition to the 17 houses under construction at the end of the year 1949, it is hoped that the following number of houses will be commenced during 1950:—

CLEOBURY MORTIMER	...	12. 3 b.r. Cornish Unit Houses. 4. 2 b.r. Maisonettes. 12 Aluminium Bungalows.
CLEE HILL	...	16. 3 b.r. Cornish Unit Houses.
WALL-UNDER-HEYWOOD	...	10. 3 b.r. traditional Houses.

In addition to the above 54 houses it is expected that the Council will be allotted 18 houses to be built under their direct building scheme thus making the total number to be commenced in 1950 = 72.

The Cornish Unit houses will be the first of this type to be built in Shropshire and it is hoped that their building will be completed more expeditiously than has been the case with some of the traditional houses in the area.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

The Ministry of Food's central slaughter-house at Craven Arms serves a large district in South Shropshire and parts of Leominster and Wigmore Rural Districts. Regular inspections are carried out involving four to six visits a week. The Inspector reports that practically 100 per cent of the carcasses are examined and the necessity for strict examination is evident from the figures showing the total weight of meat condemned given on the accompanying table. It will be seen that nearly 25 tons of meat were condemned during the year and of this total two-fifths was due to Tuberculosis.

Although this total weight of meat condemned is high it must be remembered that many of the animals slaughtered are 'casualties' and are therefore more likely to be unfit for food than normal animals. Conditions at Craven Arms are not suitable in many ways for the slaughter of such a large number of animals but so far the Ministry have not come to any decision as to whether they will build new central slaughter houses or not. Much credit is due to the In-

spectors for their work in carrying out such a thorough inspection in cramped and otherwise unsuitable premises.

Mr. Saunders reports that in other premises, chiefly butchers' shops, where food is prepared the conditions were found to be satisfactory.

At Burford there is a pie and sausage factory and conditions in it are always found to be satisfactory.

Particulars of inspections and the amounts of food condemned are given in the following table:

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	979	568	1009	6286	163
Number inspected	979	568	1009	6286	163
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses					
condemned	3	29	9	65	7
Carcases of which					
some part or organ					
was condemned	300	318	13	198	34
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	30.3%	61.9%	2.18%	4.18%	25.1%

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses					
condemned	4	24	—	—	1
Carcases of which					
some part or organ					
was condemned	26	142	2	1	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3%	29.2%	.19%	.01%	6.1%

Weight of Meat Condemned:

(1) On account of Tuberculosis	22,408 lbs.
(2) On account of other conditions	33,445 lbs.
Total	55,853 lbs.
=	24 tons 18 cwts. 77 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned:

Corned Beef	22 tins
Assorted Food Stuffs	137 tins
Fish	56 lbs.
Imported Beef	358 lbs.
Bacon	11 lbs.

SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLY

As a result of new Acts and Orders which came into force on 1st October, 1949, there have been several changes with regard to responsibility in the control of milk supplies.

The supervision of milk production at the farm passes to the Ministry of Agriculture whose inspectors will now visit farms and advise as to standards of cow-houses, dairies, etc.

The supervision of heat treatment of milk passes to the County Health Department. Local Authorities are still responsible for the supervision of dairies where milk is retailed but not for farm dairies which, as stated above, are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Medical Officers of Health are given power with regard to the control of milk workers who are suffering from infectious disease and might spread a disease by means of milk.

Among other recommendations it is advised that officials of local authorities and those of the Ministry should work in close co-operation with each other in order that every means can be taken to safeguard the milk supply for human consumption.

The number of producers on the register is approximately as follows:—

Total producers	...	...	343
Accredited producers	...	...	18
T.T. producers	...	...	12

Mention was made in last year's report of the disease known as Undulant Fever, which is caused by the same organism as causes contagious abortion in cattle (*Brucella abortus*).

There can be small doubt that this disease is more prevalent than supposed and especially so in country areas where milk is not heat treated to any great extent. It is estimated that at least 50% of cows are infected with the organism in most herds, but as the disease is not notifiable in humans, there are no accurate figures with regard to its incidence among them. The symptoms are continued fever, sweating and wasting and the disease usually runs a course of three to four months and causes great prostration but is seldom fatal. Diagnosis is easily made by examination of the blood which agglutinates the organism in infected cases. The prevention of the disease is of course easily secured by having all milk pasteurised.

In cases reported from the laboratory the Ministry of Agriculture Inspector is notified so that he can have the herd inspected and diseased animals isolated. Of course it is the duty of a farmer if he knows a cow is suffering from contagious abortion to exclude the milk from such a cow from the supply to the public. It is of interest to note that in a recent case reported in the South Shropshire area the milk supply came from a T.T. herd of cows. The fact that a herd is T.T. does not therefore exclude the possibility of Undulant Fever being spread through the milk supply.

ICE CREAM.

There are only two manufacturers of ice cream in the district and both employ the 'cold mix' method, i.e., the ice cream is bought in powder form and only water is added before the mixture is frozen. Their premises and methods of production were found to comply with the regulations.

During the year a case occurred of a retailer in Craven Arms receiving ice cream from a manufacturer outside the district and having it transported contrary to the requirements of the regulations. The temperature of the mixture had risen above the prescribed temperature and the ice cream had not subsequently been re-heated as required. Insulated containers are now provided.

There are a total of nine retailers on the register including the two mentioned above who use the 'cold mix' process of making ice cream.

BYELAWS.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Food issued Model Byelaws regarding the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

These are directed in a general way towards the improvement of the conditions under which all food stuffs are handled and sold. Persons handling food must observe cleanliness both as regards themselves and their clothing. Premises must be kept clean and food protected from flies and dust, etc. No one who is suffering from an infectious disease or who is a 'carrier' of any such disease and liable to spread it, shall handle or wrap food. Proper receptacles with lids must be kept for the reception of refuse and these must be emptied at least once a day.

The Council have decided to adopt the Byelaws.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified by practitioners during the year:—

DISEASE	Number notified	Admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	nil	nil
Whooping Cough	38	—	—
Measles	128	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	4

The above figures show how very free from any serious outbreak of infectious disease the district was during 1949.

Scarlet Fever was again of a very mild type indeed and all the cases were nursed at home.

Measles and Whooping Cough were most prevalent in the first quarter of the year. These two diseases are very infectious and spread rapidly when once introduced into an infant department in a school. No doubt it will some day be possible to control them as other infections have been controlled.

Diphtheria Immunisation is now undertaken by the County Health Department and is continued as previously at the schools and Welfare Centres and by general practitioners in the homes of the children. No case of Diphtheria has been notified in the area since April, 1943, and the percentage of all children immunised is high. It is, however, essential that all parents should have their young children immunised at or about their first birthday, as if Diphtheria should strike again it will most certainly be among those children who are not protected.

There have been no cases of Food Poisoning reported during the year and it is hoped that the Ministry of Food's new Model Byelaws regarding food handling and wrapping, etc., will improve the conditions under which food is sold. The Council have decided to adopt these Model Byelaws.

The Isolation Hospital for the district is at Monkmoor, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 2510).

The County Health Department now receive copies of all notifications of infectious diseases received in order that Health Visitors may visit and advise *re* care in cases where patients are being nursed at home (National Health Services Act, 1946, Schedule 10).

TUBERCULOSIS.

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

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
Pulmon.	Non-pulm.	Pulmon.	Non-pulm.	
46	53	52	40	191

The total number is one less than at 31st December, 1948.

NEW CASES

Ten new cases were notified during the year. Of these cases eight were of the pulmonary type (six males and two females) and two were non-pulmonary (male).

This is a decrease in the number of new cases as compared with the year 1948, when there were 14 new cases.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.

The total deaths numbered eleven, of which ten were from pulmonary tuberculosis (8 male and 2 female), and one was from the non-pulmonary type (male).

This number compares unfavourably with the total of three deaths only in 1948 but that was a record low figure.

The ages at death were from 26 to 70 years, and it is interesting to note that no children died of this disease either this year or in 1948.

Pulmonary	Death-rate per 1,000	=	0.71
Non-pulm.	" " " "	=	0.07
Death-rate (all forms)	... ..	=	0.78

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1949 (in age groups).

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-5 yrs.					...			
5-15 yrs.					...			
15-25 yrs.	1	1	1		...			
25-35 yrs.	2	1	1		...	4	1	
35-45 yrs.					...	2	1	
45-55 yrs.	2				...			
55-65 yrs.					...			1
over 65 yrs.	1				...	2		
Totals	6	2	2	—	...	8	2	1

CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 34 which is one more than in the previous year. The death-rate per 1,000 of the population was 2.43, which is slightly above the rate for England and Wales.

Cancer is now the cause of the second highest number of deaths in the area and it is probable that deaths from this disease will increase as time goes on as there will be more people living at the ages when cancer is usually met with. Although research into the cause and cure of the disease is being carried out all over the world, early diagnosis and operative treatment in favourable cases is at present the only hope of prolonging life in such cases.

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1949

CAUSE OF DEATH	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease	39	20	59
Cancer	20	14	34
Intra Cranial Vasc. Dis.	12	10	22
Tuberculosis	9	2	11
Violence	6	2	8
Diabetes	—	4	4
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Infant Deaths (Prematurity, etc.)	4	4	8
All other causes	20	18	38
TOTALS	114	78	192



