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Ludlow Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1950



Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. AND HY.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

RONALD F. SAUNDERS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

F. O. WATERHOUSE, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.
(resigned 30th June, 1950).

G. S. BANKS, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.
(appointed 20th September, 1950)

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1950.

LUDLOW.

5th July, 1951.

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, 1950. It has been drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 112/50, dated 6th December, 1950.

The Registrar General estimates the mid-year population as being 14,540, which is 560 more than at the same period in 1949.

Births registered numbered 242 (birth-rate = 19.0) and Deaths numbered 190 (death-rate = 12.0). Infant Deaths were 5 in number and this gives a record low Infant Death-rate of 20.6 per 1,000 live births.

There was no serious outbreak of any Infectious Disease but six cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, of which one proved fatal. This disease was prevalent in the country during the summer and autumn months.

Four deaths were notified from Tuberculosis as compared with eleven in the previous year. The death-rate from this disease is therefore low—0.275 per 1,000.

A total of 31 houses were completed by the Council and 46 were under construction at the end of the year. This brings the total number of houses built by the Council since 1944 to 86, while 56 have been built by private enterprise. One of the most serious problems which will have to be faced is the gradual deterioration of so many of the older cottages which the owners cannot afford to keep in proper repair owing to the high cost of materials and labour. Very little advantage has so far been taken of the "Improvement" grants made available by the Housing Act, 1949. Only three applications for grants have been received so far and all of these were from owner-occupiers.

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Cleobury Mortimer are now practically completed.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	230	122	108
Illegitimate	12	9	3

Birth-rate per 1,000 of population = 19·0

STILL-BIRTHS—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	1	0

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births = 20·2.

DEATHS—

	Total	M.	F.
	190	101	89

Death-rate per 1,000 of population = 11·0.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total Births
(a) from Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	—
(b) from other Puerperal causes ...	Nil	—
Totals ...	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR—

	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
(a) Legitimate children per 1,000 live legitimate births ...	4	17·4
(b) Illegitimate children per 1,000 live illegitimate births ...	1	83·3
(c) All children per 1,000 total live births	5	20·6

Number of Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	33
„ „ „ Measles (all ages) ...	...	0
„ „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	0
„ „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	0
„ „ „ Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ...	...	2
Non-pulmonary ...	...	1

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	113,004
Estimate of population (mid-1950)	14,540
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,056
Rateable Value of the District	£65,346
Estimated product of Id. Rate	£265

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.

There were 230 births registered, of which number 12 or 5% were illegitimate. The corrected birth-rate was 19·0 per 1,000 of the population.

STILL-BIRTHS.

These numbered five, which is one less than in 1949. The Still-birth rate is 20·2 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.

These numbered 190 (101 males and 89 females). This gives a corrected death-rate of 11·0 per 1,000. The death-rate for England and Wales was 11·6 per 1,000.

A table showing the causes of death will be found at the end of the Report and it will be seen that Heart Diseases, Cerebral Hæmorrhage and Thrombosis, and Cancer are again the chief causes of death. These account for 118 out of the total number of deaths, or about 60%. Three deaths from Tuberculosis and four from Influenza were the only deaths from Infectious Diseases.

PUERPERAL DEATHS.

There were again no deaths from conditions associated with child birth. The last year in which any Maternal deaths were registered was in 1946 when there were three.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Five Infants died under the age of one year. This is the lowest number of infant deaths reported since 1945, when there were also only five infant deaths. The Infantile Mortality rate is 20·6, which is the lowest recorded and is well below that for the whole country (England and Wales 29·8). Three of the deaths could be classed as from preventable causes. The ages at death were as follows: 5 minutes, 3 days, 1 week, 2 months and 4 months.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The births exceed the deaths by 52. The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population shows an increase of 560 as compared with the figure for 1949.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

STAFF.

The names and qualifications of the officers in the Health Department are given on the inside of the front cover of the Report. The only change to record is that Mr. F. O. Waterhouse resigned in June to take up another post and he was succeeded by Mr. G. S. Banks.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

There have been no complaints received regarding any delay in getting an ambulance under the County Council Scheme. The central depôt is at Cross Houses (Tel. 242), but a new depôt is planned for the future and will be situated in Shrewsbury. In addition to the ambulances at Cross Houses there are three stationed at Ludlow (Tel. 184).

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This work is administered by the Nursing Sub-committee of the County Council's Health Committee. Particulars of the work will be found in the Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is no change to report regarding the provision of Hospital accommodation. Generally speaking, this has proved adequate but occasionally there has been difficulty in getting a bed for some of the older people who are not suffering from any definite disease but who require some attention as regards nursing. If such cases can look after themselves they can be accommodated in one or other of the Institutions provided by the Welfare Authority, but if not they become hospital cases and present difficulties in that they may occupy beds for a long time. The provision of some kind of hostels for such old persons is under consideration at present.

Particulars of the hospitals available for the area have been given in previous reports.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

There is a combined School Clinic and Welfare Centre at Dinham, Ludlow. Orthopædic cases are also seen at it and Antenatal cases. These Clinics are under the control of the County Health Department.

Cases of Tuberculosis can be seen at the Chest Clinic, 17, Belmont, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 3068).

The Clinic for Venereal Diseases is at 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury, the hours for men being 6—8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, and for women 2—4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Diphtheria Immunisation can be carried out at the Schools or at the Clinic or Infant Welfare Centre, or by the family doctor. Application should be made to the County Health Officer, College Hill, Shrewsbury.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This work is organised on a County basis and there is an office at 24, Corve Street, Ludlow (Tel. 382). There are now eight Home Helps and four of these are full-time. During the year a number of applications for the services of a Home Help were received from families living in the Rural District. Owing to the shortage of domestic workers, this service has done much good work in helping families where the mother is ill and unable to carry out her normal duties. Help is also given to old persons who might otherwise have to be moved to an Institution, but who are able to stay in their own homes if given a little help with household work. The County Council have decided not to expand this work for the present, for financial reasons, but it is to be hoped that the time will soon come when it can be increased further.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

This section of the Report deals with Water Supplies, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and other matters connected with environmental hygiene. I am indebted to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. F. Saunders, for much of the information given in this and the two subsequent sections of the Report.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The supplies under the control of the Council proved adequate during the year, during which there was a high rain fall. Private supplies also were sufficient in quantity. The Council's supplies at Craven Arms and at Cleobury Mortimer were chlorinated before going to the mains. At Cleobury Mortimer two meters were installed so that accurate information could be available of the total amount of water pumped. In addition, an entirely new electrically-operated centrifugal pumping set was installed, together with a "Noflote" system of automatic control. This ensures that the pump is stopped either when the reservoir is full or when the water in the supply falls below a certain level. Most of the pumping is now done at night when the demand on electricity is low.

During the year the scheme for supplying Bitterley was completed and now nearly all the houses are supplied.

The extension of the Clee Hill supply to Ludlow Road, Clee Hill and Studley and Little Isle, was commenced and is still in progress. An extension was also made taking the Elan Aqueduct water to the new housing site at Caynham. The 3in. main at Brook Road, Craven Arms, was extended to link up to the Council's housing estate with Clun Road.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES.

Samples of the Council's water supplies and also of various private supplies were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination and report. In addition to these, the Inspectors took various samples from sources which are being considered as possible new supplies. The following are the numbers of reports received.

Source	Total number of samples	Satis	Non-satis
Cleobury Mortimer ...	8	6	2
Craven Arms ...	5	3	2
Bitterley ...	2	1	1
Coreley ...	2	2	0
Hope Bowdler ...	1	1	0
St. Milburgha's Well ...	4	4	0
Elan Aqueduct ...	3	3	0
Clee Hill ...	2	2	0
Clee St. Margaret ...	2	1	1
Private supplies ...	28	8	20
Proposed new sources ...	31	14	17

Samples for chemical examination were submitted from the following supplies: Coreley, Craven Arms and the Church Stretton supply (in connection with the proposed extension to Marshbrook). In each case the reports of the Analyst were satisfactory.

NEW WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

The Joint High Level Scheme and the Elan Aqueduct Scheme for the South-eastern part of the district have not yet been approved by the Ministry of Health. The Council have had under consideration a plan to proceed with a portion of the High Level Scheme, namely that part of it in the Hopton Bank area, but progress in this matter has been slow. The Ashes Valley Scheme has not been proceeded with as gaugings showed the supply to be insufficient in quantity.

The Surveyor reports that four schemes of extending existing mains have been approved during the year. These are as follows :-

- (a) An extension of the Gibbet Spring supply for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to serve the Village of Coreley;
- (b) An extension of the Clee Hill supply with pumping plant at the main reservoir to serve houses at Hill Top which, at present, have no proper supply;

- (c) An extension of the Church Stretton mains from Little Stretton to Marshbrook. This will supply a number of houses for which at present there is no other scheme in view;
- (d) An extension from Clee Hill supply to serve various properties in lanes at Knowbury.

A scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health during the latter part of the year by which it is proposed to supply the East Foreign Ward, Cleobury Mortimer, with a supply of water from the Elan Aqueduct supply.

The Council have purchased from the War Department the water main in the ex-R.A.F. Camp at Ludford, and it is hoped to bring a supply into use shortly by this means. Eventually this main will form part of the S.E. Parishes Scheme as the first link in the system serving Richard's Castle, Ashford Carbonell and Woofferton.

A temporary supply has been provided for Cleeton St. Mary's by laying a small diameter main from New Found Well down the hill side to the existing supply tank. The former supply was polluted.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

It has been mentioned in previous reports that as a rule the problems of Sewage Disposal in a Rural area are not usually of a serious nature, as in the past it was unusual for a large number of new houses to be built at a time and sewage usually found its way into neighbouring ditches or road-side drains, etc. There are, however, some factors which may call for the consideration of the Council as to whether a sewage disposal scheme may not be required, and the chief of these are—

- (a) The building of a number of Council Houses;
- (b) The coming of a piped water supply;
- (c) The increased water-mindedness of the inhabitants.

In the whole Ludlow R.D. the only disposal works of any size up till lately have been the works at Stokesay, where there are collecting tanks, followed by land treatment, and the effluent is passed to the river. Elsewhere there have been some small disposal schemes for groups of Council houses, but the housing survey of 3,000 houses showed that only 529, or 18%, had a water carried system of sewage disposal and only 394, or 13%, had baths, so that there has in the past been no great necessity for sewage disposal schemes. These figures, of course, relate to houses of low rateable value, *i.e.* those rated under £20. If the

other houses in the district (roughly about 1,000 more) had been included in the survey the percentages would, in both cases, have been higher.

While the provision of a pure water supply is a primary necessity of life, the provision of sewage disposal schemes may be said to be a regrettable necessity of no direct advantage and therefore to be avoided if possible. In purely rural areas sewage disposal arrangements are largely an amenity and as such may be well worth while, but only very rarely have they any direct relationship to health. The possibility of the pollution of a water supply by sewage is perhaps the chief way in which Public Health can be affected by sewage, and this only occurs where surface wells are the source of supply.

The high cost of labour and material has made it difficult to make progress with new sewage schemes but the Council have been active in putting forward schemes where the need is evident. Among the major schemes concerned are those at Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and Ashford Carbonell, and the following is the position in each of these schemes :

CLEOBURY MORTIMER.

The need for a disposal scheme in Cleobury Mortimer has been an urgent matter for some years as most of the sewage has been passing either directly or from sedimentation chambers into a brook below the town. A Public Enquiry was held in August, 1946, into the Council's proposal to build a disposal works and the scheme was approved and work commenced the following year. The works are now practically completed (May, 1951), and the sewers laid, and it is expected that houses will be connected this summer.

CRAVEN ARMS.

The Engineer reports in September, 1950, that full details of this scheme were prepared for transmission to the Ministry in July, 1949, and that the work is due to commence in June, 1951. In January, 1951, the Surveyor reported that the Ministry of Health had not yet given their approval to this scheme.

CLEE HILL AND LION LANE.

The Engineer reported that the scope of this scheme was enlarged after plans had been prepared, and a new survey has been made.

ASHFORD CARBONELL.

The Council's new scheme for the Sewerage of this Village has been submitted to the Ministry for approval. The site for the disposal works has been decided on—near the River Teme.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

There is no change to report in the system of collection of refuse. At Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms the collection is weekly, and elsewhere it is every six weeks. The Surveyor reports that complaints are received from time to time regarding the inadequacy of a six-weekly collection in the rural areas. The matter as mentioned in last year's Report was considered in December, 1949, by the Council but was deferred. A weekly collection in such a very widely scattered rural area is bound to be expensive as so much time is spent on travelling. There are many out-lying places and isolated houses which could not be reached, and in such places the inhabitants can do much by destroying their own refuse as far as is possible or by burying it.

Disposal is at tips in various parts of the district—Cleobury Mortimer, Clee Hill, Woofferton, Onibury Lane and Shawbank. The tips are treated regularly to keep down rats and no nuisance has arisen from them during the year.

SALVAGE COLLECTION.

No salvage was collected during the year. In the autumn a circular on this matter was considered by the Council and it was decided not to re-commence salvage collection again.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into force in April, 1950, and by it the duty of keeping rats, etc., under control at private houses and business premises became the function of the Local Authority. Farm premises were to be dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Such dual control was bound to be unsatisfactory as all premises in a given area should be dealt with at the same time, and it was decided in the autumn that the Local Authority should also take on the duty of dealing with farm premises when necessary. The Council employ a man for this work and he also works for part of his time for the Church Stretton U.D.C. Contracts are made where necessary with the owners of infested premises on an annual basis.

The Sanitary Inspector is of opinion that an additional employee for this work, which includes making a survey of premises to discover infested places, should be engaged if the work is to be carried out efficiently, but at present the Council have deferred the question of employing another man.

Rats will not infest premises where they cannot get food and one of the ways in which householders can help in keeping rats down is to avoid leaving food of any kind about the premises where rats can get at it.

INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY OFFICERS.

The following are some particulars of visits of inspection paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :-

Water Supplies (including sampling)	876
Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	154
Refuse Collection	37
Meat and Food Inspections	298
Dairies and Cow Sheds	10
New Buildings and Building Work	232
Visits to Council Houses	443
Infectious Diseases	13
Factories and Workshops	43
Food Premises	7
Petrol Installations	9
Rodent Control	56
Sewerage and Drainage	186
Miscellaneous Inspections	117
Total ...	2,481
Number of Notices served. (a) Informal ... 47	
(b) Formal ...	13

 FACTORIES ACTS, 1937—1949.

In the Rural Area there are 31 Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Acts are enforced by the Local Authority. The Sanitary Inspector reports that 28 visits were paid during the year and no defects were found nor were any notices served.

There are, in addition, 29 Factories to which Section 7 of the Act refers and no defects were found under this Section.

Under Section 34 of the Act it is a duty of the L.A. to grant certificates to certain classes of Factories with regard to the means available for escape in the case of fire. The factories concerned are those which employ more than 20 persons in all or where there are 10 or more persons employed on the first floor. A duty is laid on the L.A. to have all such factories inspected and to grant certificates where conditions are satisfactory for escape in case of fire.

Section D

HOUSING.

Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,056
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	174
Houses completed in 1950—				
(a) by Council	...	...	...	31
(b) by Private Enterprise	...	...	...	4
				—
			Total number	35
Houses under construction at 31st Dec., 1950—				
(a) by Council	...	...	...	46
(b) by Private Enterprise	...	...	...	7
				—
			Total number	53
Approximate number of applications for Council Houses				585

NEW HOUSES.

The following are the sites on which new houses were built during the year or on which houses were under construction at the end of the year :-

Site	Houses completed	Houses under construction
Cleobury Mortimer	17	16
Clee Hill	0	16
Bitterley	8	0
Diddlebury	6	0
Wall-under-Heywood	0	10
Caynham	0	4

It is hoped that further houses will be commenced to be built during 1951 at Clee St. Margaret and at Richard's Castle.

A total of 86 houses have now been built by the Council since 1944, but progress is still slow and meanwhile many of the older cottages are getting into worse repair each year, and little is being done to bring them up to modern standards.

The present low rents charged for controlled cottages and the high prices for repairs make it very unlikely that landlords will be able to keep their cottages in proper order. It seems probable that some adjustment in rents will be necessary if many houses are to be saved from further deterioration.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Attention was drawn in last year's Report to the provisions of the above Act dealing with grants for improvements. The Surveyor states that only three applications for grants have been received during the year and of these one has been withdrawn and the other two are at present awaiting approval by the Ministry. All the applications have been from owner-occupiers and it is evident that landlords are not anxious to bring the older houses up to modern standards even with the inducement of a 50% improvement grant. It would seem that the only solution in many cases would be for the Council to take over such cottages and carry out the improvements with the aid of the grant, which they themselves can claim.

The Council have, indeed, acquired four cottages at Knowbury under this Act with a view to carry out improvements, the owner in this case having failed to carry out the necessary alterations required.

LICENCING OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The ceiling figure agreed on with the Ministry for repairs and alterations to buildings was £15,200, and the maximum cost of work without a licence in connection with a private building was £100.

Licences issued during the year were as follows :-

(a) IN RESPECT OF REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

Number	Value
37	£14,541 12s. 4d.

(b) IN RESPECT OF NEW DWELLING HOUSES

Number	Value
4	£9,000 15s. 0d.

It will be recalled that in the report on the Housing Survey in 1947, nearly 2,000 of the 3,000 houses reported on were placed in Category III, *i.e.* as houses which required major structural alterations to make them fit. A further 307 required re-construction and 104 were condemned as totally unfit and unable to be made fit. These houses are gradually deteriorating and will soon fall into lower categories unless repairs are carried out.

It would seem that the time has come for some change to be made in the Acts governing the restriction of rents, as with such low rents as prevail in the country areas it is nearly impossible for landlords to afford to have repairs carried out.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The inspection of Meat at the Ministry of Food's Slaughter House at Craven Arms has again been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and Mr. Saunders reports that practically 100% of the carcasses are examined and a total of over 29 tons of meat was condemned, of which total more than half was condemned on account of Tuberculosis.

Conditions at the slaughter house are still not suitable in many ways for the numbers of animals which have to be dealt with, especially at certain times of the year. In this connection it may be noted that the Minister of Food has been frequently asked in Parliament about conditions at the Ministry's slaughter houses in various parts of the country. At present two experimental slaughter houses are being built by the Ministry at Guildford and Fareham. It may be recalled that in 1940 the 12,000 privately owned slaughter houses in the country were closed and now there are only approximately 600 in use. Many of these are too small to deal with the number of animals to be slaughtered at them.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1950.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	1141	732	1131	5831	201
Number inspected	„	„	„	„	„

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	5	27	7	74	8
Organs or part of carcase condemned	481	462	12	466	29
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	42%	66%	1.6%	9%	18%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Whole carcasses condemned	12	31	1	0	4

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	122	315	5	0	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	12%	47%	0.5%	—	0.6%

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

(1) On account of Tuberculosis ...	33,383 lbs.
(2) On account of other conditions ...	32,236 lbs.
Total	<u>65,619 lbs.</u>

= 29 tons, 5 cwts., 99 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Corned Beef ...	26 tins	Imported Beef ...	193 lbs.
Canned Milk ...	16 tins	Bacon ...	4 lbs.
Assorted Foodstuffs	17 tins	Sausage ...	10 lbs.

In the figures showing the number of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis it will be observed that the percentage of cows so affected was four times that of other cattle. Cows are slaughtered at a greater age than oxen, after their milking days are over. Their constitution is probably undermined by years of yielding large quantities of milk and they thus easily fall victims to the tubercular infection.

It has been stated in Parliament by the Minister of Food that in the year ending 30th June, 1950, 5,535 tons of beef from cattle graded at collecting centres was condemned as unfit for human consumption. The value of this beef was estimated to be £692,041. These figures show how important it is that all meat intended for human consumption should be inspected by qualified Inspectors before being passed for sale.

SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLY.

The supervision of the Milk supply at farms has now been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture's officials since the coming into force of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, on the 1st October of that year.

The Local Authority is still responsible for dairies where milk is not produced but merely retailed. In the Ludlow R.D. there are seven such dairies on the register and no action has

been found necessary with regard to these during the year. Fourteen samples of milk were taken.

Pasteurisation of milk is under the control of the County Council Health Department, but there are, so far, no plants for pasteurising milk in the area, nor in the town of Ludlow. In cases where it is found necessary to order the pasteurising of a supply in order to prevent the spread of disease through milk, the milk has at present to be sent outside the district for heat treatment. This is often difficult to arrange for and it would be a good thing if a dairy with pasteurising plant could be established in either the Borough of Ludlow or the Rural District.

During the year one case of Undulant Fever was reported and after a Veterinary examination of the herd concerned was carried out, one cow was found to be infected with the organism concerned and was removed from the herd.

No supplementary licences were issued.

ICE CREAM.

The Inspector reports that seven samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year and that five of these were Grade I. There are twelve retailers of ice cream in the district and, of these, two manufacture ice cream by the "cold mix" method which consists in adding water only to the prepared powder and freezing the mixture. In the other ten cases, pre-packed ice cream only is sold and this is the most satisfactory system where it is not possible to have a special shop or part of a shop to manufacture the product. The pre-packed cream is sold without being handled after leaving the factory and this eliminates any danger in it being contaminated. Conditions at the factories of the manufacturers are carefully supervised.

FOOD HYGIENE.

There has been a considerable increase of late years in the number of reported outbreaks of Food Poisoning, and in September, 1950, a Conference was held at London to which delegates from all local authorities were invited.

It is recorded that previous to the war the average number of such outbreaks annually was 50, but now they number 1,000 per annum. Nearly all these outbreaks are due to bacteria and the commonest types are those of the Salmonella group of organisms, of which there are at least 200 types.

Among the reasons for the increased number of cases are: (1) the increase in communal feeding, and (2) the fact that we are eating more "made-up" food than formerly. Another important factor in the causation of these outbreaks is temperature. Food should not be kept for any length of time at a temperature which is favourable to the growth and multiplication of organisms. In

some communal kitchens and canteens food is partly cooked and then kept at a moderate temperature until required. This procedure, of course, favours the growth of germs and increases the risk of an epidemic. Food should be cooked as soon as possible and, if not all consumed at a meal, should be kept in a refrigerator until required.

The necessity for strict personal hygiene on the part of all those handling food cannot be too strongly insisted on, as it is through faulty hygiene that so many diseases are spread. Public opinion must demand a high standard of hygiene in all food shops, restaurants, etc., and in this connection also, the Bye-laws dealing with Food Handling should result in higher standards of cleanliness.

No case of Food Poisoning was reported in the Rural District 1950. Epidemics of food poisoning may arise from human "carriers" of a germ infecting foodstuffs or, less frequently, by meat being infected in cases where the animal itself has suffered from a disease communicable to man. It is not always possible to ascertain that carcasses are so infected and therefore thorough cooking is the only safe-guard in such cases. The practice of eating sausages or sausage meat uncooked or insufficiently cooked is a dangerous one and should be discouraged.

It has been suggested that all food shops and cafés, etc., should be registered so that they may be more carefully controlled. At present, the retailers of Milk and Ice Cream have to be registered and there seems no reason why other food premises should not also be subject to registration by the Local Authority.

The provision of refrigerators would help to reduce cases of food poisoning, as food not used at a meal can then be kept with less risk.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year :-

NOTIFICATIONS, 1950.

Disease	Number notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0
Whooping Cough	54	0	0
Measles	6	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	2	0	0
Undulant Fever	1	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	6	3	1
Dysentery	1	0	0
Pneumonia	4	0	5

During the year there has been no serious outbreak of any Infectious Disease. The cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type and none of these were sent to hospital.

Acute Poliomyelitis was prevalent in the country generally but only six cases were notified in this area. This disease usually becomes epidemic in the late summer and autumn months and the first case of the six was notified in July, in which month there were also two other cases. A further case was notified in August and this proved the only fatal case. The patient concerned was a visitor who had been two days in Shropshire, so that he probably contracted the disease elsewhere.

The cases were distributed as follows: Hopton Wafers, Burford, Tenbury Wells, Clee St. Margaret, Clee Downton and Greete. No source of infection could be traced in any of the cases, nor was there any contact with other cases discovered. The ages of the patients were: 11 months, 2 years, 2½ years, 9, 19 and 39 years. In each case there was some degree of paralysis, but in all but the fatal case (the patient aged 39) this was slight.

No case of Diphtheria was notified and the district has now been clear of this disease for eight years. It is of the greatest importance that the children should be protected against this disease not later than their first birthday, as if an unprotected number of children should be allowed to arise in any area this would, no doubt, lead to a return of the disease in epidemic form again.

During the last fifty years or so there has been a great change in the prevalence and severity of many infectious diseases. Diseases which used to take a steady toll of lives have now almost disappeared, *e.g.* Typhoid Fever, Small Pox, Diphtheria. In other cases the disease has become less severe in type, *e.g.* Scarlet Fever.

At the same time, other diseases of an infectious nature appear to have become more prevalent and thus new problems have arisen with regard to their investigation and control. Among the diseases which have not yet been controlled is Tuberculosis, which still exacts a total of more than 20,000 lives a year. In spite of all that has been done in the education of the public there is still a lack of appreciation of the fact that Tuberculosis is a highly infectious disease and that an infectious case in a household can infect the other members if precautions are not taken. In the past too much attention has been given to the treatment of the disease as compared with its prevention. It is, of course, an easier matter to convince people of the necessity of treatment when they are actually suffering from the disease than to convince them of the need for precautions to prevent the disease attacking them. If this disease is to be stamped out it is obvious that much stricter supervision of patients and contacts will have to be exercised than at present.

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS.

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

MALES		FEMALES		Total
Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	
47	54	53	43	197

The total number shows an increase of six over the number at the end of 1949.

NEW CASES.

Eleven new cases were notified, of which seven were of the Pulmonary type (four males and three females) This number compares with fourteen in 1938 and ten in 1949.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.

The total deaths numbered four and they were all from the Pulmonary type (one male and three females). In 1948 there were three, and in 1949 eleven.

The ages at death were 24, 52, 54 and 64, and for the third year in succession there were no deaths of children from this disease.

Pulmonary	Death-rate per 1,000	=	0.275
Non-pulmonary	„ „ „	=	0.000
Total	Death-rate (all forms)	=	0.275

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1950.
(IN AGE GROUPS)

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5 yrs.								
5-15 „				3				
15-25 „	2	3				1		
25-35 „	1		1					
35-45 „								
45-55 „						2		
55-65 „	1				1			
Over 65 ys.								
Totals	4	3	1	3	1	3		

CANCER.

Deaths from Cancr numbered 33, which number is about the same as in the last few years. The death-rate per 1,000 of the population = 2.26.

It will be seen from the table of causes of death that Cancer was the cause of 6% of all deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1950.

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of Heart and Circulation ...	31	20	51
Vasc. Disease of Nervous System ...	19	15	34
Cancer	17	16	33
Influenza, Pneumonia and Bronchitis	7	10	17
Accidents	6	2	8
Congenital Malformation ...	2	3	5
All other causes	19	23	42
	—	—	—
TOTALS	101	89	190
	—	—	—



