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Contributors

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1955.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1955.

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. & Hy.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

Ronald F. Saunders: Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G. S. Banks: Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

CONTENTS OF REPORT.

Introduction.

Table of Vital Statistics.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

B. General Provision of Health Services.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

D. Housing.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food Supply.

F. Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Diseases.

Table showing the causes of Deaths during the year.

MEMBERS PRESENT CONTINUED.

National Officers of Health:

James L. Gregory. M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

Donald F. Lawrence, Cert. S.I.E., R.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

O. E. Banks. Cert. S.I.E., R.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

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F. Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Diseases.

Table showing the causes of Death during the year.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1955.

Ludlow.

3rd May, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year ending on the 31st December, 1955.

The Birth-rate for the District was 18.0 per 1,000 and this was higher than that for the country as a whole which was 15.0. The Death-rate was 9.2 and this was lower than the Death-rate for England and Wales which was 11.7.

There was no serious outbreak of any Infectious Diseases during the year but there were a number of cases of Measles notified among the children and this was also the case throughout the country. No case of Diphtheria was notified and the last case of this disease in the District was in the year 1943.

A total of 30 Council Houses and 21 Private Houses were completed during the year and it is planned to commence 38 Council Houses during 1956. At the end of the year the number of applications for Council Houses was 217.

A total of 44 of the applications for Improvement Grants for houses were approved by the Council during the year and it is to be hoped that each year an increased number of the owners of houses will apply for these Grants and thus be able to have improvements carried out which will bring their older houses up to a higher standard.

I would again like to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspectors for the work they have carried out during the year. The Meat Inspection at the Abattoir at Craven Arms has increased very much indeed of late and much of the Inspectors' time has been taken up in carrying out this work.

JAMES L. GREGORY.

Medical Officer of Health.

KOOWONG SOCIAL DISTRICT.

General Report of the National Officers of Health

1923.

Madam,

3rd May, 1924.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year ending on the 31st December, 1923.

The Birth-rate for the District was 35.0 per 1,000 and this was higher than that for the country as a whole which was 25.0. The Death-rate was 9.2 and this was lower than the death-rate for England and Wales which was 11.7.

There was no serious outbreak of any Infectious Disease during the year but there were a number of cases of measles notified among the children and this was also the case throughout the country. No case of Diphtheria was notified and the last case of this disease in the District was in the year 1923.

A total of 10 Council Houses and 21 Private Houses were completed during the year and it is planned to construct 28 Council Houses during 1924. At the end of the year the number of applications for Council Houses was 221.

A total of 44 of the applications for Improvement Grants for houses were approved by the Council during the year and it is to be hoped that each year an increased number of the money of houses will apply for these Grants and then be able to have improvements carried out which will bring their value up to a higher standard.

I would again like to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspectors for the work they have carried out during the year. The best information as the activity at Crewe and has increased very much indeed of late and much of the Inspectors' time has been taken up in carrying out this work.

JAMES L. GREGORY.

Medical Officer of Health.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS

1955.

		M.	F.	Total
Live Births -	Legitimate	103	103	206
	Illegitimate	5	4	9
	Totals	108	107	215

Birth-rate per 1,000 of population = 18.0

		M.	F.	Total
Still Births -	Legitimate	2	2	4
	Illegitimate	1	-	1
		3	2	5

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 22.7

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	77	69	146

Death-rate per 1,000 of population = 9.2

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births.
a. From Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
b. From other Puerperal Causes	-	-
Totals	-	-

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births.
a. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	7	33.9
b. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	-	-
c. All infants per 1,000 total live births	7	32.5

The following were the rates for England and Wales:-

Birth-rate	15.0
Death-rate	11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	24.9
Still Birth-rate	23.1

JAPOCA - VITAL STATISTICS.

VITAL STATISTICS

1.Ch.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Birth - Legitimate	103	103	206
Illegitimate	5	4	9
Totals	108	107	215

Birth-rate per 1,000 of population = 18.0

Still Birth - Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	3	2	5

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 23.7

Deaths	77	69	146

Death-rate per 1,000 of population = 9.2

Deaths from Preventable Causes	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live births.
a. From Tuberculosis	-	-
b. From other Infectious Causes	-	-
Totals	-	-

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live births.
a. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	7	33.9
b. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	-	-
c. All infants per 1,000 total live births	7	32.5

The following were the rates for England and Wales:-

Birth-rate	18.0
Death-rate	12.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	94.3
Still Birth-rate	21.3

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	112,823
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid - 1955)	13,760
Number of inhabited houses	4,237
Rateable Value of the District	£110,585
Estimated product of 1d. Rate	£438

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the District at the 30th June, 1955, was 13,760. This is a slighly lower figure than the one for 1954.

Births.

Live births numbered 215 (Legitimate 206, Illegitimate 9). The 'Crude' birth-rate was 15.6 but the corrected birth-rate is 18.0. The Comparability Factor is 1.16. The corrected birth-rate in the previous year was 17.6.

Still Births.

There were five of these and this gives a Still Birth-rate of 22.7 which is lower than the S.B.R. for the country as a whole. The number of Still Births in the years since 1952 were one, eleven, and eight.

Puerperal Deaths.

No deaths were reported from causes associated with child-birth.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

The number of deaths of infants numbered seven. This gives an Infantile Mortality of 32.5. This rate is slightly higher than in the previous year when there were six infant deaths and the I.M.R. was 28.8.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered numbered 146 (male 77, female 69). This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 10.6 and a corrected Death-rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of the population. The Comparability Factor was 0.87.

Figures showing the chief causes of the deaths will be found at the end of the Report.

Natural Increase of Population.

The total number of Births exceed the total number of Deaths by 69.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	142,863
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid - 1955)	11,760
Number of inhabited houses	4,237
Rateable Value of the District	£110,985
Estimated product of 1d. Rate	£438

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the District at the Year End, 1955, was 11,760. This is a slightly lower figure than the one for 1954.

Births.

Live births numbered 215 (legitimate 206, illegitimate 9). The 'Crude' Birth-rate was 18.3 but the corrected birth-rate is 16.0. The Comparability Factor is 1.16. The corrected birth-rate in the previous year was 17.6.

Still Births.

There were five of these and this gives a Still Birth-rate of 22.7 which is lower than the E.&W. for the country as a whole. The number of Still Births in the years since 1952 were one, eleven, and eight.

Puerperal Deaths.

No deaths were reported from causes associated with child-birth.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

The number of deaths of infants numbered seven. This gives an Infantile Mortality of 32.5. This rate is slightly higher than in the previous year when there were six infant deaths and the I.M.R. was 25.6.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered amounted 146 (male 77, female 69). This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 10.0 and a corrected Death-rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of the population. The Comparability Factor was 0.87.

Figures showing the chief causes of the deaths will be found at the end of this Report.

Natural Increase of Population.

The total number of Births exceed the total number of Deaths by 69.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff.

The names and qualifications of the officers in the Public Health Department are given at the beginning of the Report. There is a Medical Officer of Health, a Senior Sanitary Inspector, and an Additional Sanitary Inspector. There have been no changes during the year.

Ambulance Service.

As was mentioned in last year's Report the Ambulance Depot is at Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, the Telephone Number being Shrewsbury 6331. Any application for an ambulance or for a sitting-case car should be made to the Depot as it will be known there exactly which ambulance can be sent to any particular address. There are also of course subsidiary depots in various parts of the county. At the end of 1954 there were three ambulances and one sitting-case car at Ludlow and Craven Arms. Full particulars of the work done by the Ambulance Service can be found in the Annual Report of the County Health Officer.

Home Nursing.

The County Council are required, as Local Health Authority, under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to make provision for the securing the attendance of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes. There is at present a full-time Home Nurse at Ludlow but elsewhere in the Rural District home nursing duties are undertaken by the home nurse-midwives in the various nursing areas.

Hospital Accommodation.

Details of the hospitals serving the area have been given in previous Reports. Cases of infectious diseases are sent to Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, or in some cases to Copthorne Hospital. The number of cases of infectious diseases which require hospital treatment and isolation has decreased fairly considerably in recent years. It is sometimes said that there is need for more and larger hospitals in some of the smaller towns so as to avoid the rather long distances which have to be travelled by ambulances to a Central Hospital. There is also the difficulty that relatives of the patient may have if they wish to visit the patient in hospital. On the other hand such local hospitals could not be fitted out with all the equipment needed to deal with every type of disease which may be met with. Conditions for travelling now-a-days are different from what they used to be and with up-to-date motor ambulances patients can be moved a considerable distance in quite a short time.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There is a School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre at Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow. Ante-natal cases are also advised and there is also a Clinic once a month where advice is given to married women in whom pregnancy would be detrimental to health and who are referred to the Clinic by their own doctor. There is also a Welfare Centre held at the Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer. The days of this Centre are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is at Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury. One of the Chest Physicians visits Ludlow once a month and patients can be referred to him for examination by their own doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation is now carried out by one of the County Health Medical Officers at the School Clinics or the Welfare Centres. It may also be given by a private doctor at the child's home. In each case it is given free of charge.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff.

The names and qualifications of the officers in the Public Health Department are given at the beginning of the Report. There is a Medical Officer of Health, a Chief Sanitary Inspector, and an Additional Sanitary Inspector. There have been no changes during the year.

Ambulance Service.

As was mentioned in last year's Report the Ambulance Depot is at Abbey Forgate, Shrewsbury, the Telephone Number being Shrewsbury 2311. Any application for an ambulance or for a sitting-case car should be made to the Depot as it will be known there exactly which ambulance can be sent to any particular address. There are also of course ambulance depots in various parts of the county. At the end of 1954 there were three ambulances and one sitting-case car at Ludlow and Craven Arms. Full particulars of the work done by the Ambulance Service can be found in the Annual Report of the County Health Officer.

Home Nursing.

The County Council are required, as Local Health Authority, under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to make provision for the nursing in the dwellings of persons of persons who require nursing in their own homes. There is at present a full-time home nurse at Ludlow but elsewhere in the Rural District good nursing during convalescence by the home nurses-midwives in the various nursing areas.

Hospital Accommodation.

Details of the hospitals serving the area have been given in previous Reports. Cases of infectious disease are sent to Tonbridge Hospital, Shrewsbury, or in some cases to Copthorne Hospital. The number of cases of infectious disease which require hospital treatment and isolation has fluctuated fairly considerably in recent years. It is sometimes said that there is need for more and larger hospitals in view of the reluctance on the part of the public to avoid the rather long distances which have to be travelled by ambulances to a central hospital. There is also the difficulty that relatives of the patients may have to stay away to visit the patient in hospital. On the other hand such short hospitals could not be fitted out with all the equipment needed to deal with every type of disease which may be met with. Journeys for treatment and consultations are different from what they used to be and with up-to-date motor ambulances patients can be moved a considerable distance in quite a short time.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There is a School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre at Cleobury Mortimer, Ludlow. Ante-natal cases are also advised and there is also a clinic once a month where advice is given by medical women in the maternity world in particular to health and who are referred to the clinic by their own doctor. There is also a Children Centre held at the Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer. The days of this Centre are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is at Shrewsbury Hospital. There is only one of the Tuberculosis Visitors covering a health and welfare area and can be referred to him for examination by their own doctor.

Dispensary Examination is now carried out by one of the County Health Officers at the School Clinics or the Welfare Centre. It may also be given by a private doctor at his own clinic. In each case it is given free of charge.

At present there is no Welfare Centre at Craven Arms and it would be as well if one could be started there as the nearest Welfare Centres are at Ludlow and Church Stretton both of which are too far away for mothers to take young children to each week.

Domestic Help Service.

This Service is provided by the County Council under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. It was operated up to the end of March, 1952, by the Women's Voluntary Services but from the 1st April, 1952, it has been operated by the County Council. There is a Centre at the Welfare Centre at Dinham, Ludlow. There is a standard charge for the services of the Home Helps but if any applicants cannot afford to pay these charges they can submit particulars of their means and will then be assessed to pay in accordance with the means they have.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

This section of the Report deals with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, refuse collection, rodent control, inspection of Factories and Workshops, and other matters connected with enviromental hygiene. I would like to thank the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for much of the information supplied by them for this and the following two sections of the Report.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year some prolonged dry weather was experienced during the summer and autumn months. In spite of this the supplies were maintained satisfactorily but at Craven Arms there was considerable difficulty and daily restriction of the supply at certain times was o n l y avoided by the immediate commissioning of the borehole near the pumping station which had been sunk earlier under the Council's instructions. By the use of this borehole a further 25,000 gallons per day of water was added to the yield from the wells and consequently it was found possible to maintain supplies.

Night testing of the mains in the whole district continued during the year and satisfactory results have been achieved on all schemes except at Craven Arms. Mr. Shaw states that in his opinion there may be a series of leaks on this system and special equipment is needed to find those. This equipment has been ordered and will come to hand in about three months time.

The Ticklerton scheme has been completed and the Rushbury, Wall, and Roman Bank scheme is 90% completed. Service connections have been made to the Rushbury distribution system and supplies are not being afforded.

The short lengths of mains at Greet Road, Caynham, and at Planton Court and Brook Row in the Parish of Coreley, which were referred to in last year's report have also been constructed and brought into use.

The scheme based upon the use of the borehole at Soudley has been designed and submitted for approval to the County Council and the

Ministry, and the estimated cost is £65,500.

As regards the revised Western Area Scheme considerable legal difficulties have had to be faced which the Council has largely resolved. An Order has to be made under the Water Act, 1945, in connection with the proposed 'take-over' of the Culmington Manor Estate Supply and then it is hoped that an Inquiry will be held by the Ministry and approval in principle secured to the carrying out of the scheme.

As regards the South Eastern Parish scheme revised estimates have been submitted to the Ministry and it is hoped that a Public Inquiry will be held into this scheme when the Western Area Scheme is considered.

In the Parish of Burford the Ministry have approved the scheme for the sinking of a borehole at Burford House. It is hoped that the work there will commence fairly soon.

The Joint High Level Scheme has been modified by the two Councils concerned (Ludlow R.D.C. and Bridgnorth R.D.C) Since Ludlow R.D. Council is now a very minor partner in this scheme, Bridgnorth R.D. Council are handling the scheme in an effort to bring the work forward to Local Inquiry.

However, the scheme to supply the Crumps Brook area based upon mains to be laid under the provisions of the revised Joint High Level Scheme has been submitted and approved by the Ludlow R.D. Council, the estimated cost of the scheme being £30,400.

SAMPLES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

The following samples were taken during the year from the supplies owned by the Council. They were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Source.	Total Samples.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Cleobury Mortimer	3	3	-
Craven Arms	5	4	1
Ticklerton	2	1	1
Clee Hill	6	6	-
Coreley	5	1	4
St. Milburgha's Well	2	2	-
Hope Bowdler	2	-	2
Bitterley	1	-	1
Wall-under-Heywood	2	2	-
Clee St. Margaret	3	2	1
Longville	1	1	-
Onibury	1	1	-
Munslow	2	2	-
Totals	35	25	10

Samples were also taken from the supply taken from the Elan Aqueduct and from the Soudley New Bore-hole.

At Coreley a chlorination plant has been installed and this should result in improving the purity of the supply.

In addition to the samples taken from the Council's supplies a total of 66 samples were taken from private supplies and 20 of these were satisfactory.

The introduction of piped water supplies on a large scale would no doubt be of great advantage, as it has been in other Rural Districts, but this would be a very expensive matter at present owing to long

distances that pipes would have to be laid to reach many of the small villages. The hilly nature of many areas is also a difficulty and might often mean that water would have to be pumped to a reservoir at some height in order to make it possible to supply some houses.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following facts with regard to new schemes which have been considered by the Council during the year.

Ashford Carbonell.

This scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal has been put out to tender and an offer has been provisionally accepted by the Council, subject to the Ministry's approval.

Clee Hill.

Following the Local Inquiry into this scheme a new site for the disposal works was decided on. The Ministry have now intimated that the scheme has been approved in principle.

Craven Arms.

Revised estimates and drawings of this scheme have been prepared and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have intimated that the scheme will be the subject of a visit from one its Engineering Inspectors during the early part of the year 1956.

Burford.

The Council has agreed to carry out a scheme in conjunction with Tenbury Rural District Council. The details are now being prepared in connection with the works involved.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The altered schemes of refuse collection which were mentioned in my last Report came into operation in January, 1955. Under these new arrangements the collections at Craven Arms and at Cleobury Mortimer are now made four times in every five weeks instead of once every week as formerly. At Clee Hill and Burford there are two collections in every five weeks and in other places the collection is once every five weeks.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the new plan has worked satisfactorily. Refuse collection in Rural Areas is work which tends to increase from year to year and the expense of carrying it out also increases. This is in great measure due to the distances which have to be travelled in a large district. At present there are nine tips and they are inspected and treated regularly with regard to the control of rats on them. No serious nuisances have been reported during the year.

The Council decided to replace the Refuse Vehicle by a new one which will take a larger load than the former one and thus reduce the mileage which as to be covered.

As many premises were reported to be without a proper type of dustbin the Council have considered the question of the provision of dustbins when these are required and making a charge of about 5/- per annum for them. This charge could be collected with the general rate. Such a scheme has been adopted in other Districts and appears to be a satisfactory way of ensuring that each house has a proper bin. It would save the time of those who are employed in the collection of refuse.

RODENT CONTROL.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the work for which the Council are responsible has been carried out as in previous

years. The man employed by the Council for carrying out these duties is also employed by the Church Stretton Urban District Council for a period of one week in every two months.

The work on farms was previously carried on under the Agricultural Executive Committee but local authorities were all asked during the year if they would take over the responsibility for this work. The Ludlow R.D.C. have agreed to do this and since the 1st June, 1955, all farmers and land owners whose contracts with the A.E.C. have expired have been offered new contracts by the Council. At the present time a total of 63 contracts are in operation. It is probable that some farmers are taking steps to control rats on their own farms by the use of 'Warfarin' which has proved of great value in this work.

INSPECTIONS BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

The following is a summary of the number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:-

Meat Inspection	571
New Buildings etc.	6
Water Supplies	142
Drainage	128
Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	439
Refuse Collection	88
Factories and Workshops	8
Food Premises	16
Knackers Yards	5
Infectious Diseases	13
Moveable Dwellings	26
Rodent Control	34
Allocation of Houses	349
Miscellaneous Visits	125
Total Inspections	1,950

Fifty-two notices were served and the majority were complied with except a small number served late in the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that there are 74 Factories on the Register and that of these 55 have mechanical power and 19 have not. A total of eight visits were paid and in two cases defects were found and written notices served. In both cases the defects were remedied.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses	4,237
Number of Council Houses	369
Number of houses completed in 1955 -	
(a) Council Houses	30
(b) Private Houses	21
Number of additional houses provided by the conversion of older houses	3
Number of Improvement Grants applied for	52
Number of Improvement Grants granted	44
Number of applications for Council Houses as at December, 1955.	217

The following figures show the number of Council Houses completed in 1955 and also the number which were under construction as at 31st December, 1955. The number of houses to be commenced in 1956 is also given.

Site	Completed in 1955.	Under construction at 31.12.55.	To be commenced in 1956.
Longville	4	-	-
Coroley	10	-	-
Culmington	8	-	-
Diddlebury	-	16	-
Middleton	-	8	-
Cleobury Mortimer	-	-	38
Onibury	8	-	-
Totals	30	24	38

In the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Circular 48/55, dated the 29th September, 1955, it was laid down that details with regard to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts were henceforth to be submitted quarterly to the Ministry on Form P.13 (Hsg.)

This matter was also referred to in the Ministry of Health's Circular 17/55, paragraph 4 dated the 23rd November, 1955, in which it was pointed out that in view of the above quarterly Return, the inclusion of details on housing matters in the Reports of Medical Officers of Health might henceforth be discontinued.

In particular, the information asked for in the previous year's Circular 28/54, is not now required - i.e., information in tabular form under article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Under Section 1 of the above Act all local authorities were required to submit to the Minister the proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their districts. The proposals had to be submitted by the 30th August, 1955. It was pointed out by the Ministry that the figures given in the Return would be preliminary ones and after further surveys it might be found that more houses would be found to be unfit. The following figures were given in the Return submitted:-

Total houses in area.	Number unfit.	Houses to be demolished in five years.		
		Indiv.	Clearance Areas.	Total.
4,237	91	91	-	91

It will be seen that during the year the Council approved 44 Improvement Grant Schemes and it may be said that most of these were not for houses which were rented but in which the owners themselves lived. It would seem that something more will have to be done to make owners of houses which are let carry out improvements under this Act.

Undertakings were given by owners in respect to 30 of the houses found to be unfit and which were not tenanted that they would not be let again for human habitation. Offers to carry out such work as would make houses fit were submitted in the case of five houses and these offers were accepted. One house was demolished and four Closing Orders were made.

Moveable Dwellings.

Twenty one caravan sites were licensed during the year. The largest site, where there are 15 caravans, is near Cleobury Mortimer and the Sanitary Inspector reports that it is maintained in a satisfactory condition At the other sites there are only small numbers of caravans on them.

New Buildings.

During the year a total of 30 Council Houses were completed. The sites of these were at Coreley, Culmington, Onibury and Longville.

Private Houses erected numbered twenty one.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION OF AND SUPERVISION OVER FOOD SUPPLY.

Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering has taken place during the year at three privately owned slaughterhouses. One of these is at Munslow and is a small establishment. Another is at Cleobury Mortimer and this is a larger one and some wholesale business is undertaken at it.

The Ministry of Food's large slaughterhouse at Craven Arms was taken over in July, 1954, by the Shropshire Fatstock Society Ltd., and a very large amount of slaughtering took place there during the year. The work of meat inspection was also very much greater than it used to be and took up a considerable amount of the two Sanitary Inspectors' time.

Improvements have been carried out at the Craven Arms premises and the number of animals slaughtered there during the year was three times the number which used to be slaughtered in a year when the slaughterhouse was under the Ministry of Food.

The Society have indicated that they wish to get permission to extend their premises in the near future and this will of course mean a further increase in the work done there. If this takes place it might probably be best if a whole time Meat Inspector could be appointed to carry out meat inspection. In such a case it might be best for the Inspector to be resident at Craven Arms as this would save a considerable amount of travelling to this work.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned in 1955.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
Number killed	2,370	350	1,969	16,779	6,129
Number inspected	2,370	350	1,969	16,279	6,129
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	8	13	7	156	40
Part or organ condemned	303	220	4	515	176
Percentage affected	13.1%	66.6%	0.5%	4.1%	3.5%

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
Tuberculosis.					
Carcases condemned	15	10	2	-	3
Organs or parts condemned	37	53	1	-	57
Percentage affected	2.2%	18.0%	0.1%	-	1.0%

Cysticercosis. No cases were found.

Weight of meat condemned -	1. On account of T.B.	14,669 lbs.
	2. On account of other diseases.	28,769 lbs.
	Total weight	43,438 lbs.

Milk Supplies.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the conditions at the premises of milk retailers were found to be satisfactory. Milk production at farms is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries but if any milk is found to contain organisms which may cause disease in human beings then Health Officers can take action to see that steps are taken to render the milk safe before it is sold to the consumers. Some people are inclined to believe that Tuberculin Tested Milk is free from any danger of spreading disease but this is not so. It may not carry the germs which cause Tuberculosis but it may be infected with other germs and in this way be the cause of spreading a number of diseases.

The only really safe milk is milk which has been PASTEURISED. At present the milk sold in London is pasteurised or otherwise heat treated to render it safe in more than 90% of the total amount sold. In the country as a whole more than 80% of milk is pasteurised. It might be best if all milk had to be pasteurised before sale.

The following licences have been issued during the year:-

Sterilised Milk Licences	2
Pasteurised Milk "	1
Tuberculin Tested "	3
Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised "	3

Ice Cream.

There are thirty three retailers of pre-packed ice cream in the District. There is one retailer who makes ice cream by the 'cold-mix' process. No samples of ice cream were taken during the year and reported on and as I have pointed out previously it would be safer if samples were taken during the summer montjs at least as that is the only way in which we can be sure that it is safe for human consumption.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year ending the 31st December, 1955:-

NOTIFICATIONS - 1955.

Disease.	Number notified	Admitted to hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Measles	264	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	39	-	-
Pneumonia	9	1	3
Dysentery	23	-	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmon.	6	2	1
Non- Pulmon.	4	-	1

It will be noticed that no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. It is now twelve years since there has been a case in the District. The immunicastion of children against this disease is still being carried out and the figures which were given in last year's Report for the whole country indicated that the number of cases of this disease and the deaths due to it are now very low indeed. In the year 1955 the cases in England and Wales were 161 and the deaths numbered 11.

Measles was epidemic throughout the whole country during the year and the number notified in the Ludlow R.D. was greatest in the second and third Quarters of the year.

Whooping Cough was less common than in 1954.

The cases of Dysentery were notified from two places. At a boys' Boarding School there were 15 cases of Sonne Dysentery and the other cases were at an Institute where the organism was of the Flexner Type. All the cases were of a mild kind and there were no deaths.

The one case of Poliomyelitis notified was of the non-paralytic type. The patient was a child and there were no other cases in the family nor was it possible to find any way in which the patient became infected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Central Registor of cases of Tuberculosis in the whole County is now kept at the Health Offices of the County Council. It is not now the duty of the Medical Officers of Health of Local Authorities to keep a Tuberculosis Register for the District but it is perhaps advisable that such a Register should be kept.

The matter of re-housing families where there may be one or more cases of Tuberculosis in the family is of considerable importance and it is the Local Authority who can do this. It is therefore of some help if the Medical Officer has knowledge of the conditions under which such families are living so that he can advise his Council with regard to the

necessity of re-housing any particular family.

The following are the numbers of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register as at the 31st December, 1955:-

TUBERCULOSIS.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	Pulmon,	Non-pulmon.	
26	5	30	8	69

New Cases.

A total number of six new cases (Males 3, Females 3) were notified during the year. The ages of these patients at the time of notification were - Males - 2, 27, and 30 years and Females - 17, 25, and 31 years.

Four cases of the Non-pulmonary Disease were also notified - the Males being aged 5 and 9 years and Females 1 and 42 years.

The above figures are exactly the same as the numbers notified in the previous year.

Deaths.

One death was reported from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The death-rates were as follows:-

	Death-rate per 1,000	
	Ludlow R.D.	England & Wales.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.072	0.015
Non-pulm. Tuberculosis	0.072	0.131
Both forms of Tuberculosis	0.144	0.146.

CAUSES OF DEATH

1955.

Cause of Death	NUMBER OF DEATHS. Male	Female	Total.
Disease of Heart & Circulation	33	26	59
Malignant Disease	10	16	26
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	13	22
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Accidents	3	-	3
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	1	-	1
Non - Pulmonary	1	-	1
Other causes	14	10	24
Totals	77	69	146

Death-rate (crude)	10.6 per 1,000
" " (corrected)	9.2 per 1,000
Death-rate for England and Wales	11.7 per 1,000

The above figures showing the causes of deaths indicate that 107 of the total deaths were due to the first three causes names. This figure equals 73% of the total deaths.

Of the deaths from accidents one was due to a motor vehicle accident. In the previous year there were two accidents of this kind causing deaths.

Deaths of children under the age of one year numbered seven.

Deaths from Malignant Disease are greater in number than in 1954, but the deaths from Tuberculosis were only two as compared with thirteen in the previous year.

The number of Neo-Natal Deaths - ie., deaths of infants under the age of four weeks - numbered six and this gives a Neo-Natal Mortality Rate of 27.9 per 1,000 live births.