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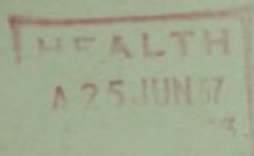
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ANNUAL REPORT

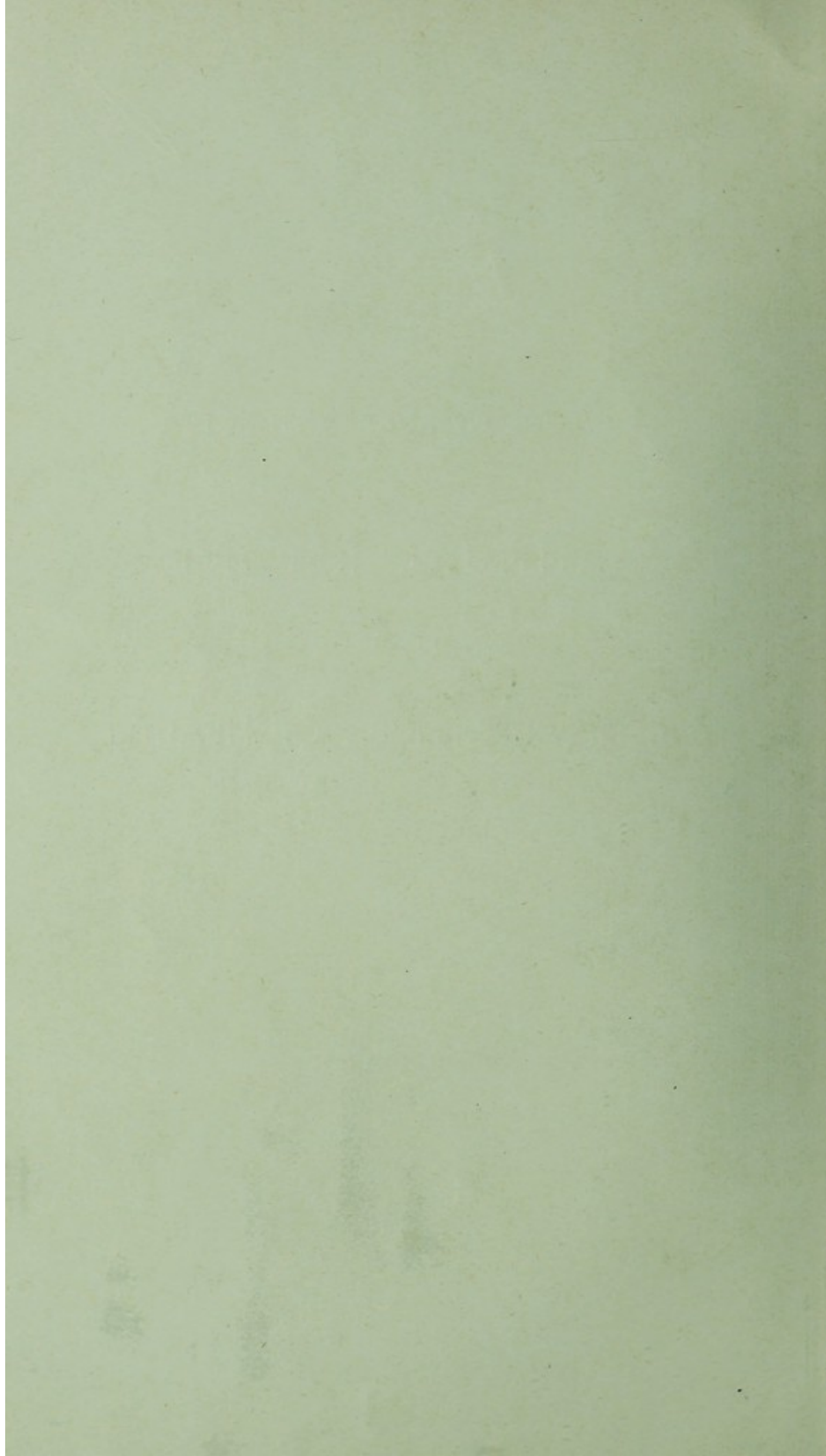
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956





PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Medical Officer of Health

James L. Gregory, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.P.S., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.S.,
F.R.S., F.R.C.

Public Health Inspector

Donald W. Sanders, Cert. Gen. Med. & Surg., F.R.C.S.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Additional Public Health Inspector

G. G. Banks, Cert. Gen. Med. & Surg., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

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Causes of Death for 1956.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

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Additional Public Health Inspector:

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

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ending 31st December,
1956.

Ludlow.

1st May, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year 1956.

The Birth-rate for the District was 16.7 per 1,000 and this was higher than the Birth-rate for the country as a whole which was 15.7. The Death-rate was 10.4 per 1,000 and this is a lower rate than the one for the country which was 11.7.

No serious outbreak of any of the Infectious Diseases took place during the year. No cases of Diphtheria were notified nor were there any cases of Acute Poliomyelitis. Only two cases of Tuberculosis were notified and there were no deaths from this disease.

A total of 43 Council Houses and 15 Private Houses were completed during the year and at the end of the year 19 Council Houses and 3 Private Houses were in the course of construction. The number of applications for Council Houses at the 31st December, 1956 was 269.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, or in some cases on the 1st July, 1956. The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure that all food premises are visited by the Public Health Inspectors and advice given to the owners or tenants as to what should be done to make the premises fit in every way.

The work of Meat Inspection at the Abattoir at Craven Arms has increased during the year and has entailed a considerable amount of work for the Inspectors. It has now been announced that Exchequer Grants will be paid towards the cost of meat inspection in certain circumstances and a Circular has been sent to all Councils concerning this matter. The purpose of the Grants is to assist these local authorities on which the cost of inspecting meat in slaughterhouses imposes an unduly heavy burden because much of the meat inspected is not for local consumption. Claims may now be made by local authorities with regard to this matter.

JAMES L. GREGORY.

Medical Officer of Health.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics.

1956.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	109	87	196
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Totals	110	89	199

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population = 16.7

Still Births - Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	4

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 19.7

Deaths	82	71	153
--------	----	----	-----

Death-rate per 1,000 of the population = 10.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes -	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) From Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
(b) From other Puerperal Causes	1	5.0
Totals	1	5.0

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	1	5.1
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	-	-
(c) All infants per 1,000 total births	1	5.0

The following were the Rates for England and Wales:-

Birth-rate	15.7
Still Birth-rate	23.0
Death-rate	11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	23.8

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	112,823
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid-1956)	13,740
Number of inhabited houses	4,249
Rateable Value of the District	£110,224
Estimated product of 1d Rate	£424

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the Rural District at the 30th June, 1956, is 13,740. This is a slightly lower figure than the one for the previous year.

Births.

Live births numbered 199 (Legitimate - 196, Illegitimate - 3). The 'Crude' birth-rate is 14.4 but the corrected birth-rate is 16.7. The Comparability Factor is 1.16.

Still Births.

There were four of these and this gives a Still Birth-rate of 19.7 which is lower than the similar rate for the country as a whole which was 23.0.

Puerperal Deaths.

One such death was reported and this gives a rate of 5.0 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

One death was reported of a child under the age of one year. This gives an I.M. Rate of 5.0 per 1,000 live births. The I.M. Rate for the country was 23.8.

There were no deaths of infants under the age of one month.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered was 153 (males 82, females 71). This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 11.1 and a corrected Death-rate of 10.4 per 1,000. The Comparability Factor was 0.94. Figures showing the chief causes of 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 46.

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 Public Health Inspector, and an additional Public Health Inspector. There have been no changes during the year.

Ambulance Service.

The Central Ambulance Depot is at Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331). Applications for an ambulance should be made to the Depot as it will be known there which ambulance can be sent to any particular place.

Home Nursing.

The provision of nurses for persons who require nursing in their own homes is undertaken by the County Council as Local Health Authority. There is at present a full-time Home Nurse at Ludlow but in the Rural District home nursing duties are undertaken by the home nurse-midwives in the various nursing areas. Details of these nurses' work can be obtained in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory is at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and samples of water, milk, ice-cream, etc. are sent there for bacteriological examination and report.

Chemical Examinations of water samples are carried out at the Laboratory, Chester. Effluents from Sewage Disposal Works are also sent to this Laboratory for an analysis to be made.

The co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory is of the greatest importance in the work of the Health Department and I would like to express my thanks to Dr. A.C. Jones and his Staff for the great assistance they have given in many ways during the year.

Home Help Service.

Home Helps are provided under the permissive powers of Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. Domestic Help is available to households where there is present "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age".

There is a Centre at Dinham, Ludlow, and a standard charge for the services of a home help is made 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.

Hospital Accommodation.

Shrewsbury is the hospital centre and particulars of the hospitals available have been given in previous Reports. Infectious Diseases are

sent to Monkmoor Hospital and in some cases to Copthorne Hospital. The question of the provision of special accommodation for children has been brought before the Hospital Management Committee. The plan would be to have such accommodation at the Ludlow Hospital and if this could be arranged it would save the parents from making a rather long journey to Shrewsbury to visit their children who might be in hospital there.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

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.

The Clinic for Venereal Diseases is held at 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury on the following days and hours:-

Males Tuesdays and Fridays - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Females Mondays - 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Thursdays - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation can be given to children at the School Clinics or at the Welfare Centres by the County Health Officers. It can also be given at the homes of the children by the family doctor.

There is a School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre at Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow. There is also a Welfare Centre at the Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer. This Centre is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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 dealing with environmental hygiene. I would like to thank the Public Health 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 there has not been any serious shortage of water from the Public Supplies. It is estimated that in the case of 1,400 houses the water from the main supplies is laid on and a further number of 520 houses obtain supplies from stand-pipes. In some cases water is obtained from the Elan Aqueduct Supply. There are also some private piped supplies and the remaining houses get water from wells and streams or springs. Many of these latter supplies are far from satisfactory and out of a total of 85 samples taken from then during the year only 24 were found to be satisfactory.

The Surveyor reports that during the year progress with regard to capital works has been delayed as the Ministry have placed a virtual embargo on such work. The Rushbury Water Supply Scheme was however, completed and is now working satisfactorily. During the initial period of service doubt was felt about the yield of the borehole being able to supply the demand, since it only produced 60% of the yield obtained during the pumping test. Ten hours working a day however suffices to keep the scheme working. The Supply is chlorinated and some complaints regarding 'taste' have been received. Dosage is at the rate of 1 p.p.m.

The main testing programme has been continued. In the last Report it was stated that satisfactory leak detection results had been achieved everywhere except at Craven Arms. Consequent upon the purchase of additional apparatus at the commencement of the year work was started at Craven Arms and continued over three months (generally five nights a week) to trace leakages. The effort was worthwhile and reduced the consumption figures by 25,000 gallons a day. All the leakage was due to faulty service pipes many of which had been leaking apparently for years and soaking away into the gravelly subsoil. Some 35 underground bursts were detected and repaired.

Approval was obtained for the sinking of a trial borehole at Burford and this was sunk and proved a failure - red marl being encountered throughout its depth.

The legal difficulties referred to in the last report in connection with the Western Area Water Supply Scheme held up further progress. An Order under Section 9 (1) of the Water Act, 1945, has been prepared by the Council for submission to the Ministry in order to overcome the difficulties being experienced in connection with the take over of the Culmington Manor Estate Supply. It is hoped that a Public Enquiry will be held into this scheme during the year.

Purity of Supplies.

The following were the number of samples taken from each of supplies owned by the Council during the year and also from the Elan Aqueduct Supply. These samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

<u>Supply.</u>	<u>Total number of samples.</u>	<u>Number Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Number Unsatisfactory.</u>
Cleobury Mortimer	6	5	1
Craven Arms	5	5	-
Ticklerton	4	4	-
Clee Hill	8	8	-
Coreley	7	6	1
St. Milburgha's Well	3	2	1
Hope Bowdler	5	-	5
Bitferley	4	4	-
Wall-under-Heywood	6	6	-
Clee St. Margaret	6	6	-
Onibury	3	3	-
Munslow	5	5	-
Culmington	4	4	-
Diddlebury	4	3	1
Elan Aqueduct	6	6	-
Totals	81	72	9

It will be seen from the above results that most of the supplies are satisfactory. The supply to the Council Houses at Hope Bowdler was not. These samples were taken at the following dates:-

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Result.</u> <u>Coliform bacilli</u> <u>per 100 ml.</u>	<u>Faecal</u> <u>coli.</u>
9.1.56.	160	0
22.5.56.	7	0
18.6.56.	180+	Present
30.6.56.	180+	180+
3.12.56.	13	5

It will be seen that the samples taken in the month of June gave the worst results and as the spring from which the water is obtained is on the hillside above any houses the pollution is probably from animal sources. It might be possible to protect the water from pollution or to have the supply chlorinated.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council have had under consideration during the year schemes for Ashford Carbonel, Clee Hill, Craven Arms and Burford.

Ashford Carbonel.

The Council advertised for tenders for the work involved on the Ashford Carbonel Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme and obtained a lower tender than the previous one. The new tender should show a saving of £3,000 over the original one. The revised costs have been submitted to the ministry and starting instructions and loan sanction are awaited.

Clee Hill.

Tender documents are being prepared for this scheme and it is hoped

that the Council will be able to advertise for tenders within the next few months.

Craven Arms.

During the year this scheme was the subject of a visit from one of the Ministry's Engineering Inspectors. Approval in principle has been given subject to certain minor alterations to the design of the plant. The discharges on an increasing scale to this sewerage system by the Shropshire Fatstock Society from the slaughterhouse at Craven Arms are likely to make a complete re-design of the works necessary in the future. The Ministry have stated that a starting date for this scheme will not be issued for the time being.

Burford.

Difficulties have been encountered during the year over the proposed discharge of canning waste to the intended new sewerage system. The problem was not finally settled until December, 1956, and design work was consequently held up. Working drawings are now being prepared for submission to the Ministry.

Cleobury Mortimer.

The Inspector reports that at the end of the year a few properties in the town had still to be provided with a water closet in substitution for privies or earth closets. The Council advertised for tenders for carrying out the necessary work in default of the owners, but the matter was deferred owing to the extremely high cost of work. The matter is to be considered again shortly.

General.

The Public Health Inspector estimates that in the whole District there are 600 houses connected to the Public Sewers and 650 connected to private sewers.

Cleobury Mortimer Sewage Disposal Works.

These works were completed in the year 1951 and have proved to be of great value. Previously there was some pollution of streams by sewage but the effluent from these works is satisfactory.

A sample of the effluent was taken on the 26th February, 1957, and the following is a certificate of the Analysis of it:-

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

of

Sample of Sewage Effluent
taken at out-fall from Humus Tank.

	In parts per 100,000.
Dissolved Oxygen taken up in 5 days at 65 F.	2.0
Suspended matter	3.0
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs at 80 F.	0.88
Chlorine in Chlorides	7.0
Reaction pH	7.0
Stability test (Methylene Blue 5 days)	Satisfactory
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.95
Appearance	Slightly brown
Odour	Nil

This is a satisfactory Sewage Effluent, suitable to discharge into a stream.

(Signed) Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst.

Chester.

12th March, 1957.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse is collected in all the 45 Parishes and the arrangements are as follows. At Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms there are four collections made in every five weeks. At Clee Hill and Burford there are two collections in every five weeks and elsewhere there is one collection every five weeks. The Inspector reports that these arrangements have worked in a satisfactory way throughout the year.

Tipping is by disposal at nine tips of which five are in regular use. The tips are treated regularly for the control of rats. At Cleobury Mortimer the tip is situated very close to the main road and disposal is by crude tipping and a more suitable site will be found in the near future.

The tip at Woofferton which has been in use for 10 years is still being used and it was covered by about 1,000 tons of soil during the year.

A new refuse collection vehicle was purchased and put into use in October, 1956. It has a capacity of 20.cub.yards and should result in greater economy in working.

In Rural Districts the problem of Refuse Disposal is usually one of great difficulty and considerable expense. The number of miles to be covered is high and takes up a great amount of time. The finding of suitable sites for tips is often difficult and there is also the problem of obtaining materials to cover the refuse at the tips. If tips are not 'controlled' then nuisance often arises from flies or from paper being blown on to gardens or land near the tips.

At some of the large towns in the country the incineration of refuse at the tip is carried out but this is an expensive matter and could hardly be done at numbers of scattered tips in rural areas.

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 this work works also for one week in every two months for the Church Stretton U.D.C. Work has also been carried on for farmers and land owners as has been done since June, 1955. At the end of the year 68 contracts were held for this work at farms etc. and the total value of these was £545. A survey of the District has been continued and during the year nearly one half of the area was surveyed. The Inspector wrote a Memorandum on Rodent Control Contracts in February, 1956, and in it he stated that 17 of the contracts which were entered into in the previous year were not renewed. This may have been due to the fact that the owner himself was carrying out the work or that the premises etc. were free from rats at the time. The average value of each contract is about £8. This amount could be reduced to half an hour per day instead of one hour per day which is the time given to the work at present. This would only be applicable in the case of a contract for a small farm.

INSPECTIONS BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

The following is a summary of the visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

Meat Inspection	561
Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	295
Allocation of houses	279
Water Supplies	222
Food Premises	205
Drainage	179
Refuse Collection & Disposal	105
Moveable Dwellings	25
Factories and Workshops	17
Infectious Diseases	5
Knacker's Yards	3
Miscellaneous Visits	117

2,013

Factories and Workshops Acts, 1937 - 1948.

There are a total number of 73 Factories and Workshops on the Register. Of this number 18 are places where there is no mechanical power used. A total of 17 visits were paid during the year and in 7 cases defects were found and notices served and complied with.

Housing.

In the Ministry of Health's Circular 17/55 dated the 23rd November, 1955, it was pointed out that in view of the Quarterly Return which now has to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on Form P.13 (Hsg) and which deals with details regarding the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts, the inclusion of details on housing matters in the Reports of Medical Officers of Health might henceforth be discontinued. In view of this Circular therefore only some of the chief figures with regard to housing matters are given in this year's Report.

Number of inhabited houses	4,249
Number of Council houses	412
Number of houses completed in 1956:-	
(a) Council Houses	43
(b) Private Houses	15
Number of houses under construction as at 31.12.56:	
(a) Council Houses	19
(b) Private Houses	3
Improvement Grants applied for and granted	32
Additional houses provided by the conversion of older houses	3
Number of houses closed or demolished as unfit	52
Number of Unfit houses made fit	3
Total number of applications for houses as at 31.12.56.	269

The following figures show the sites of the new houses which were completed during 1956, the sites of the numbers under construction as at 31.12.56, and the sites of those to be commenced in 1957:-

Site.	Completed in 1956.	Under Construction at 31.12.56.	To be commenced in 1957.
Middleton	8	-	-
Diddlebury	16	-	-
Cleobury Mortimer	19	19	-
Craven Arms	-	-	17 bungalows & Warden's accommodation in one Grouped Dwellings Scheme for old people.

Moveable Dwellings.

A total number of 14 caravan sites were licensed and the majority of these were sites on which there was only one caravan in use. The largest site is at a farm on the Worcestershire border beyond Cleobury Mortimer. There are fifteen caravans on this site which is in a suitable position and is well maintained.

Post War Housing.

The total number of houses erected from the 1st April, 1945, up to the 31st December, 1956, have been as follows:-

Erected by the Local Authority	319
Erected by Private Enterprise	137
Total	456

Inspection of and Supervision over Food Supply.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, and apply to all food and drink with only a few exceptions. They do not apply to milk and cream both of which are dealt with under separate Regulations, nor to raw food which has to be milled or refined before it is fit for human consumption. The number of food premises to be visited is considerable and in such a scattered and wide area as a Rural District is this work will add considerably to the duties to be undertaken by the Inspectors. Some of the Regulations did not come into operation until the 1st July, 1956, and the following is a short statement of the matters which have to be provided at food premises:-

1. Water Supply.

There must be a supply of enough clean and wholesome water to enable all the Regulations to be complied with and, if practicable, the supply must be constant.

2. Sanitary Conveniences.

Water closets, urinals etc. must be clean, in working order and well lit and ventilated. Those used by food handlers must have a "Wash your Hands" notice visible.

3. Washing Arrangements for Staff.

All food premises must have enough wash-basins in places where the staff can get at them quickly and easily from their work and from the sanitary conveniences.

Constant hot water must be laid on to the wash basins wherever what is termed 'open' food is handled:- i.e. food which is not in a container or packing case which will exclude all risk of any contamination.

Soap, nail brushes, and clean towels (or paper towels or hot air dryers) must also be provided near the wash basins. The basins must be kept clean and in good working order.

4. First Aid Kit.

Bandages, dressing and antiseptics must be provided where the staff can get at them easily. For food handlers the outer dressings should be waterproof; such as rubber finger stalls or adhesive plastic.

5. Clothing Lockers for Staff.

Where 'open' food is handled then cupboards or lockers must be provided so that staff can leave all clothing and footwear which they do not use while at work.

6. Washing Food and Equipment.

Where 'open' food is handled the premises must have sinks or special washing machines or other facilities for washing food and equipment and constant hot and cold water must be laid on. Only cold

water will be required for fish, tripe, fruit and vegetables.

7. Equipment.

Articles or equipment with which food may come into contact must be kept clean and in good condition. They should, as far as is practicable, be made of non-absorbent materials to prevent contamination of the food.

The Regulations also draw attention to the need for personal hygiene on the part of the employees and of the necessity for them to inform their employer if they are suffering from certain diseases which might result in the food they are handling being infected.

Meat Inspection.

As in the previous year there were three slaughterhouses in use in the Rural District - one at Munslow, one at Cleobury Mortimer and the large one at Craven Arms which is owned by the Shropshire Fatstock Society. At the first two places mentioned the amount of animals slaughtered during the year was about the same as in the previous year but at Craven Arms there was an increase of about 50% over the number in 1955. There was a considerable amount of slaughtering on Saturdays and the Inspector reports that slaughtering also took place on a total of 30 Sundays in 1956.

Regulations regarding meat inspection and the hygiene of slaughterhouses are being prepared by the Ministry and should soon be issued. During the year the R.D. Council adopted new byelaws relating to the care and management of slaughterhouses. These came into operation on the 1st November, 1956. They are intended as a temporary means of obtaining improved conditions until the new Regulations referred to come into force.

At the Craven Arms slaughterhouse the meat condemned by the Inspectors is stained with a green dye by them and is then sent to an animal by-products works where the materials is rendered down into inedible products. The arrangements for the storage of such condemned meat before it is removed from the slaughterhouse have recently been improved so that the meat can be kept locked up until it is removed.

Exchequer Grants towards the cost of meat inspection have now been made available and the purpose of the Grants is to assist these local authorities on which the cost of inspecting meat in slaughterhouses imposes an unduly heavy burden because much of the meat inspected is not for local consumption. Details of the scheme are given in Circular FSH 2/57 which has been sent to all local authorities. The Ministry are now prepared to consider claims made to them from now on.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned in 1956.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	3,880	688	2,867	24,050	10,478
Number Inspected	3,880	688	2,867	24,050	10,478

All Diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	9	21	20	232	63
Organs or parts condemned	1,120	229	11	464	436
Percentage affected	29.09%	36.37%	1.08%	2.89%	4.76%

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcasses condemned	4	18	-	-	2
Organs or parts condemned	52	98	-	-	139
Percentage affected	1.44%	16.86%	-	-	1.35%

Cysticercus Bovis

Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Organs or parts condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage affected	.26%	-	-	-	-

Total weight of meat condemned:-

1. On account of Tuberculosis 16,785 lbs.
2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis 638 lbs.
3. On account of other diseases 44,481 lbs.

Total 61,904 lbs.

Total number of animals slaughtered = 41,963.

Milk Supplies.

The Inspector reports that conditions at the retailers premises in

the area were found to be satisfactory. Supervision of milk production at the farms is carried on by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following were the licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:-

Sterilised Milk Licences	1
Pasteurised Milk Licences	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	2
Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Licences	5

Ice Cream.

There are 34 retailers of 'pre-packed' ice cream in the district and all of these sell ice cream manufactured by one of the large firms who produce it.

There is one retailer who sells what is known as 'cold mixed' ice cream. In this process the ice cream is bought as a powder and is mixed with water and frozen.

No samples of ice cream sold in the district were taken and reported on during the year but as was mentioned in last year's Report it would be best if samples were taken at least during the summer months. The Inspector reports that it has been difficult to get samples to the laboratory within the usual time allowed and this has resulted in the results obtained an examination of such samples being valueless.

In Circular 19/56 of the 11th December, 1956, the Ministry asked for the following information with regard to Food and Food Premises:-

1. Number of Food Premises by type of business.
There are approximately 200 and these include nine butchers shops, one sausage and pie factory, two canneries, and about 30 schools, several hotels and many general stores.
2. Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-
 - (a) For sale of ice cream - 35
 - (b) For the sale of other preserved foods or their preparation. - 7
3. Number of inspections of Food Premises - 205
4. Clean Food Guilds inaugurated - Nil
5. Condemned meat is coloured with green dye and sent to a factory for treatment for non-edible purposes.
6. No heat treatment of Ice Cream is carried out in the district.
7. The majority of food premises in the district have now been visited and notices regarding the works necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/56 have been sent to the owners.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year ending the 31st December, 1956:-

NOTIFICATION - 1956.

Disease.	Number Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Measles	12	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	4
Dysentery	1	-	-
Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	1	1	-
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	-

During the year the total number of notifications received of Infectious Diseases was very low indeed. In the previous year there were many cases of Measles (264) among the children and Whooping Cough was also prevalent.

There were no cases of Diphtheria and it is now thirteen years since there has been any case of this disease in the District.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type and were notified in March and April. Three of the four cases were of children in one family.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis during the year.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis was lower than it was in the last few years and there were no deaths during the year from this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following are the numbers of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register as at 31st December, 1956:-

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	
25	3	26	9	63

New Cases.

One Pulmonary Case (Male) was notified during the year and there was also one Non-pulmonary Case (Female).

In the previous year there were six Pulmonary and four Non-Pulmonary Cases notified.

Deaths.

There were no deaths from either the Pulmonary or Non-Pulmonary type of this disease.

The total number of cases on the Register was 63 and this is six less than in the previous year. There are five less cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one less of the Non-pulmonary cases.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1956.

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths.		Total
	Male	Female	
Diseases of Heart & Circulation	32	30	62
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	18	28
Malignant Disease	16	8	24
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	4	2	6
Suicide	1	2	3
Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-
Other causes	12	9	21
Totals	82	71	153

Death-rate (crude)	11.1 per 1,000
Death-rate (corrected)	10.4 per 1,000
Death-rate for England & Wales	11.7 per 1,000

The above figures show that the first three causes of deaths were the causes of 114 deaths out of the total of 153 deaths in the District. This figure equals 74.5% of the total deaths. The percentage for the previous year was 73%.

There were no deaths from motor vehicle accidents. In 1955 there was one death from this cause and in 1954 there were two.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 24 (Male - 16, Female - 8) and this gives a Death-rate of 1.732 per 1,000. Five of the male deaths were due to Cancer of the lung or bronchus.

There were no deaths from either the primary or non-primary type of this disease.

The total number of deaths in the Registrar was 63 and this is six less than in the previous year. There are five more deaths from Tuberculosis and one less of the non-primary cancer, than in 1954.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Ischaemic of Heart & Coronaries	12	10	22
Valvular Lesions of Heart or Great Vessels	10	18	28
Myocardial Infarction	16	8	24
Brain	2	2	4
Stroke	2	2	4
Other Vascular Lesions	1	2	3
All other vascular	1	2	3
Alcohol	1	2	3
Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Other causes	12	7	19
Total	52	51	103

Death-rate (crude) 11.1 per 1,000
 Death-rate (corrected) 10.4 per 1,000
 Death-rate for England & Wales 10.7 per 1,000

The above figures show that the first three causes of death were the same as in the previous year. The total of 103 deaths in 1955 is six less than in the previous year. The percentage for the previous year was 100.

There were no deaths from motor vehicle accidents. In 1955 there was one death from this cause and in 1954 there were two.



