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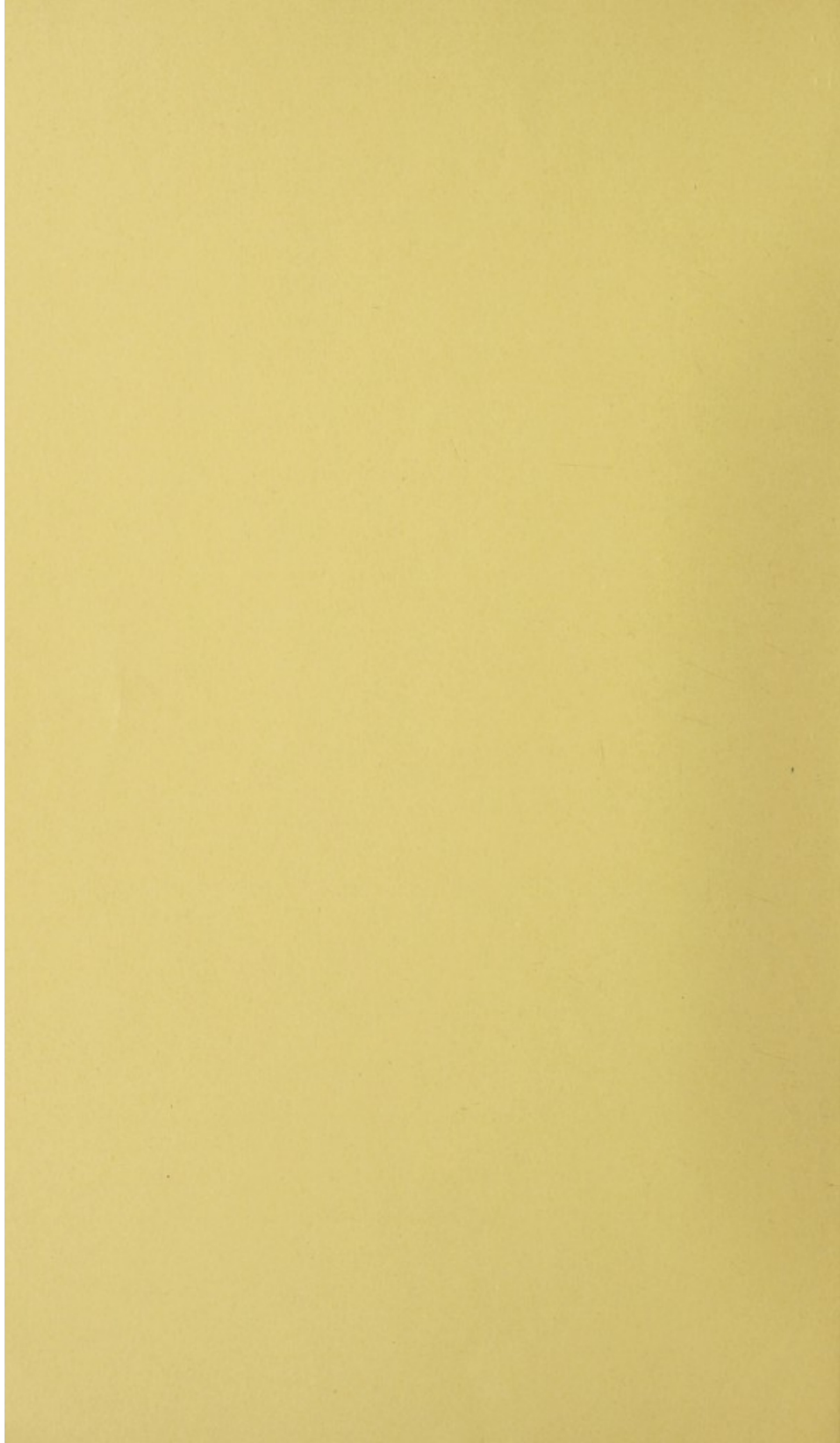
B O R O U G H   O F   W E N L O C K

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

O F   T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

F O R   T H E   Y E A R   1 9 5 8 .



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, 1958.

Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM HALL, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst.,  
R.C.O.G., D.P.H.  
(Temporary, till 31st March, 1958).


MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(From 1st April, 1958).

Public Health Inspector.

J. L. McFALL, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.

CONTENTS OF REPORT.

- |           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| Section A | - | Statistics.  |
| Section B | - | General Provision of Health Services<br>in the Area. |
| Section C | - | Environmental Hygiene, Housing, Food.                |
| Section D | - | Infectious Diseases.                                 |



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BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Wenlock Corporation.

Mr. Mayor, my Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1958, this being the first occasion for many years that the Borough has had a separate Annual Report of its own.

Drawn up along the same general lines as those adopted in previous years, it includes all the information required by the Ministry of Health.

A few brief comments on its contents may be made at this stage by way of introduction.

The health of the area, as judged by the vital statistics for the year and their trend over the preceding few years, may be regarded as satisfactory. There is a pleasing reduction in Infant Mortality Rate for 1958 as compared with the previous two years, and it is well below the average for the country in general. This rate is traditionally regarded as being the most significant single index of the health of a community, but is probably of less importance in this respect nowadays than was the case 30 or 40 years ago.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year and fewer notifications were received than during 1957.

Attention has been drawn at some length in Section B to the necessity for an Additional Public Health Inspector, and comments appear in the subsequent section under the various headings about routine inspection work which is now far in arrears. All credit is due to the Public Health Inspector, and to his clerical assistant, for the amount of work he manages to achieve single-handed, but the fact remains that the Department is understaffed, and too many of the Authority's statutory obligations in the Public Health field are not being fulfilled.

Attempts to obtain an extra Inspector towards the end of 1958 failed. When the matter comes up for review again, it should be borne in mind that there is a national shortage of Public Health Inspectors, and care should therefore be taken to make the position attractive to a man of adequate qualifications.

In conclusion, I should like to record my appreciation of the very valuable contribution made towards the preparation of this Report by Mr. J. L. McFall, who collected all the information contained in Section C.

The continued co-operation and help afforded to me throughout the year by the Public Health Inspector, by our clerical assistant, and by my colleagues in other Departments is also gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Obedient Servant,

Margaret H. F. Turnbull,  
Medical Officer of Health.



# A 1.

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of District in acres	-	22,657
Estimated Population (mid-1958)	-	15,070
Number of Inhabited Houses	-	4,484
Rateable Value of District (at 1.4.59).	-	£123,271
Estimated Product of ld. Rate	-	£ 490

#### 2. VITAL STATISTICS:

##### (a) Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district at mid - 1958 was 15,070 - an increase of 20 on the corresponding estimate for 1957. This figure is employed in the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates for the area.

##### (b) Births.

#### LIVE BRITHS 1958

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	103	4	107
Female	109	6	115
Total	212	10	222
Rate per 1000 of population	14.1	0.7	14.7



## A2.

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	- 14.7
Standardised Birth Rate per 1000 of population	- 14.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1958	- 16.4

There were 222 live births in the Borough during the year (107 males and 115 females) as compared with 254 in 1957. Of the 222, 10 were illegitimate (4.5% of the total).

The 'Crude' Birth-Rate for 1958 was 14.7 per 1,000 of the population, and the Standardised Birth-Rate (with which comparisons may be made with the corresponding rate for other areas) was 14.8. This figure is rather lower than the Birth-Rate for the country in general (16.4) and shows a decrease on our own Rate for 1957 which was 17.0.

### STILL BIRTHS, 1958.

Male	- 3
Female	- 3
Total	- 6

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	- 26.3
Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 total births (England & Wales, 1958)	- 21.6

Six Still-births occurred in the course of the year, one more than in 1957.

The Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 total births (live births plus still-births) was 26.3, which is a little higher than the national rate for the year of 21.6, and higher than our own figure of 19.3 for 1957.

A3.

(c) DEATHS

Male - 122  
Female - 103  
Total - 225

Crude Death-Rate per 1,000 of population - 14.9  
Standardised Death-Rate per 1,000 of population - 10.1  
Death-Rate, England and Wales, 1958. - 11.7

225 inhabitants of the Borough died during 1958 (122 males and 103 females). This total is 89 more than for 1957.

The 'Crude Death-Rate per 1,000 of the population was 14.9, and the Standardised Rate (comparable with that for other areas) was 10.1. This is slightly lower than the Death-Rate for England and Wales for the year, which was 11.7, and a little in excess of our own rate of 9.8 for 1957.

	Male	Female	Total	% of total deaths (all causes)
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	20	15	35	15.5
Respiratory Diseases	10	8	18	8.0
Other Diseases	92	75	167	74.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The Registrar-General's annual return gives the causes of deaths in the area during 1958 as follows:-

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958.

				Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	..	..	..	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	-	-
5.	Whooping-cough	..	..	..	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	..	..	..	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	5	3	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung or bronchus			9	1	10
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	-	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			6	6	12
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	-	-
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..		18	20	38
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	18	11	29
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..		1	3	4
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	20	21	41
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	10	4	14
22.	Influenza	..	..	2	4	6
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	3	2	5
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	9	4	13
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system			1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..		-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..		-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			11	17	28
33.	Motor-vehicle accidents	..	..	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	..	..	4	1	5
35.	Suicide	..	..	3	-	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	-	-	-
All Causes				122	103	225

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	% of total deaths (all causes)
Malignant Disease	20	13	33	14.7
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	67	59	126	56.0



Of the causes listed in the foregoing table, it will be seen that affections involving the heart and circulation account for the greatest number of deaths, i.e. 56% of the total number for the year. In 1957, the corresponding percentage was 54.

Malignant disease caused 43 deaths, i.e. 14.7% of the total number (18.5% - 1957).

Cancer of the lung or bronchus accounted for 10 deaths, 9 males and 1 female.

#### d. INFANT MORTALITY

##### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE, 1958.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	2	-	2
Female	1	-	1
Total	3	-	3
Rate per 1000 related live births	14.2	-	<b>13.5</b>

Infant mortality Rate per 1000 live births - 13.5

Infant mortality Rate per 1000 live births  
(England and Wales, 1958). - 22.5

Neonatal mortality Rate per 1000 live births - 9.0

3 infants under the age of 1 year died in the Borough during 1958 - 2 less than in 1957. Of these, 2 succumbed during their first 4 weeks. The infant mortality Rate for the year was 13.5 per 1000 live births, which compares very favourably with that for England and Wales of 22.5, and with the Borough I.M.R. for 1957, which was 19.7 per 1000 live births.

The Neonatal Mortality Rate refers to those infants dying in the first four weeks of life - the period in which the majority of infant deaths occur.

#### e. MATERNAL MORTALITY:

No deaths associated with pregnancy or childbirth occurred in the Borough during the year under review.



Of the cases listed in the following table, 10 will be seen to have been reported in 1957. The total number of deaths, 12, out of the total number for the year. In 1957, the corresponding percentage was 22.

The following table shows the number of deaths, 12, out of the total number, 12, out of 1957.

Number of the type of organism identified in 12 deaths, 9 cases and 1 death.

Number of the type of organism identified in 12 deaths, 9 cases and 1 death.

Number of the type of organism identified in 12 deaths, 9 cases and 1 death.

Total	Infants	Total
12	9	12
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

Infants reported were per 1000 live births - 12.5 (1957 and 1958).  
Infants reported were per 1000 live births - 12.5 (1957 and 1958).  
Infants reported were per 1000 live births - 12.5 (1957 and 1958).

Infants under the age of 1 year died in the hospital during 1957 - 9 less than in 1956. Of these, 8 occurred during the first 4 weeks. The infant mortality rate for the year was 12.5 per 1000 live births, which compares very favourably with that for England and Wales of 20.7, and with the reported 12.5 for 1957, which was 12.7 per 1000 live births.

The hospital mortality rate refers to those infants dying in the first four weeks of life - the period in which the majority of infant deaths occur.

Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - 12.5 (1957 and 1958).  
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - 12.5 (1957 and 1958).  
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - 12.5 (1957 and 1958).

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
IN THE AREA.PUBLIC HEALTH.

For the first three months of 1958 Dr. William Hall continued to act as Medical Officer of Health to this Authority, having done so since the death of Dr. Gregory in October, 1957.

Your present Medical Officer was appointed as from 1st April, 1958, and devotes 5/11ths of her time to the service of Wenlock Corporation, Bridgnorth Corporation and Bridgnorth Rural District Council and 6/11ths to the Salop County Council.

During the past few years new legislation relating to Public Health matters has imposed many extra duties on Public Health Inspectors, who already had a lengthy list of responsibilities. It is now a physical impossibility for one Inspector to deal adequately and conscientiously with all the work which requires to be done in an area of the size and population of this Borough.

The all-important routine inspection work, which should be regularly and systematically carried out in food-premises, factories, houses etc. can only be nibbled at, when time can be spared from the day-to-day work of the Department.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs was the subject of a lengthy report by the Public Health Inspector in October, 1958, when he requested the appointment of a qualified assistant. The matter had also been brought to the notice of the Council on several occasions in the previous few years.

An advertisement for an Additional Inspector, however, only brought forth one belated application, and by the end of 1958 the Council had decided to await the report of the Organisation and Methods Consultants before doing anything further in the matter.

His pupil, appointed in September 1957, left the service of the Authority at the end of 1958, and the Public Health Inspector was therefore left without any assistance "in the field" at the start of 1959.

It is greatly to be hoped that the Council will recognise the necessity for an extra Inspector, and will do their utmost to attract a man with adequate qualifications, for as things stand, they are unable to fulfil many of their statutory obligations as a Sanitary Authority, for the lack of sufficient staff.



By the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the major Health Services are divided into three main groups, each administered by a different authority.

- (1) Hospital and Specialist Services.
- (2) General Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Ophthalmic Services.
- (3) Local Health Authority Services.

- (1) The Hospital and Specialist Services are provided and administered by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and its Hospital Management Committees.

The District is well served, being within easy reach of various large general hospitals in the neighbourhood. Consultants from the larger centres hold regular out-patient clinics at the two small general hospitals at Broseley and Much Wenlock.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring isolation and hospital treatment are admitted to Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury, and patients with Tuberculosis receive treatment at Shirlett Sanatorium, or at Cross Houses Hospital.

The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge, takes the elderly and chronic sick, and also has accommodation for mental defectives.

- (2) The General Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Ophthalmic Services are the responsibility of the Salop Executive Council

- (3) In accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Salop County Council as Local Health Authority is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services in the area:-

- (a) Health Centres. (Not applicable in this area).
- (b) Care of mothers and young children.
- (c) Domiciliary Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Services.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
- (i) Domestic Help Services.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are four Child Welfare Centres in the District where afternoon sessions are held as follows:-

Victoria Institute, Broseley	- 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays.
Severn Bank House, Ironbridge	- Each Friday.
Welfare Centre, Church Street, Madeley	- Each Wednesday.
British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock	- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

An Antenatal Clinic is held in conjunction with the Child Welfare Clinics at Ironbridge and Madeley.

WELFARE FOODS.

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during clinic hours, and at various conveniently situated distribution-points throughout the district.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY, HEALTH VISITING, HOME NURSING.

Details of these services may be obtained from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Under the County Council's scheme, Vaccination against Small-Pox, and Immunisation against Whooping-Cough, Diptheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations, Immunisation against Whooping-Cough, Diptheria, and Tetanus is given separately at the Clinics, and not by means of the "three-in-one" injections which have become popular in recent years.



## 1. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

A very extensive programme of Poliomyelitis Vaccination was organised by the County Health Department during 1958.

The Ministry of Health had recommended in September 1957 that vaccination should be offered, before the summer of 1958, to all children up to the age of 15 years, and to expectant mothers.

From February onwards, therefore, special sessions for this purpose were held at all schools in the area, and at the Welfare Centres. Routine School Medical Inspection work was suspended to allow the vaccination programme to proceed.

In September, the Ministry recommended that the arrangements of Local Health Authorities should be extended to include those born in the years 1933 to 1942, and that third injections should be introduced.

To cater for the 15-25 year age-group, monthly evening sessions at Welfare Centres were started at the latter end of the year. The initial response from this group was disappointing on the whole.

## 2. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

This protection was offered to all 13-year old children at schools in the area who were found by preliminary testing to have no resistance to the disease.

B.C.G. Vaccine is used for this purpose. This material is obtained from Denmark, and is prepared from a special type of the Tubercle Bacillus which is no longer capable of producing Tuberculosis in man. The vaccine obtained from it, however, will produce a satisfactory active immunity to the disease.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES.

There were no changes in the Ambulance arrangements during the year. The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331) and all calls for ambulances are dealt with centrally.

One ambulance is stationed in Much Wenlock for use on local journeys.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service of a Home Help is available in the words of the Act for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.

There are no Domestic Help Offices in the Borough of Wenlock. The nearest are at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre (open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and at Wellington (42 Tan Bank).

SECTION C.ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, HOUSING, FOOD.

The information contained in this section has been contributed by the Public Health Inspector, whose assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.(a) Water Supplies.

The main piped supplies to the Borough are under the control of the East Shropshire Water Board. No shortage occurred during the year.

36 water samples were taken in 1958, and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

The results were as follows:

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main Supply	16	10
Private Supply	3	7

Copies of the reports on the samples from the main supplies were sent to the East Shropshire Water Board.

Samples of water taken from a private piped supply serving property in the Farley Area of Much Wenlock were regularly found to be badly polluted. The East Shropshire Water Board agreed to extend the water main to this area after receiving a guarantee from the Borough Council.

(b) Sewage Disposal.

Night soil is collected weekly in the Madeley Ward only.

No new sewers were constructed during the year, but by the end of 1958, details of the Madeley (Aqueduct) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme were almost ready for submission to the Ministry for approval, and a decision had been made to advertise for a resident engineer to supervise construction of the scheme.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly throughout the Borough except in the outlying parts where the collection is fortnightly.

Three refuse tips are in use in the Borough and a form of controlled tipping is used.

A new refuse vehicle, a 12 Cu. Yd. Fore and Aft Tipper, was purchased during the year.



(d) Rodent Control.

One Rodent Operator is employed, spending two weeks of his time with the Borough of Wenlock and every third week with Bridgnorth Borough.

Contracts for Rodent Control increased during the year from twenty-eight to thirty contracts in respect of thirty-nine premises.

Refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected for the presence of rats and any infestation promptly dealt with. Sewers were test baited twice during the year and the small infestations found were treated.

HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.58.	- 4,600
" " Council-owned houses	- 1,212
" " houses completed in 1958	
(a) Council	- 0
(b) Private	- 6
" " houses under construction at 31.12.58.	
(a) Council	- 0
(b) Private	- 25
" " applications for Council Houses at 31.12.58.-	626
" " applications for Improvement Grants in 1958	- 30
" " applications approved for Grants	- 9

SLUM CLEARANCE.Broseley Ward.

The progress indicated was made during the year in respect of the following Clearance Areas in the Broseley Ward:

1. The Square, Broseley. (2 Houses)  
Purchased by agreement.
2. Woodhouse Road. Compulsory Purchase Order.  
5 Houses and additional land.  
Awaiting confirmation by Ministry.
3. Church Street. Clearance Order. (4 Houses).  
Confirmed by Ministry 19.12.58.
4. Birch Row. Clearance Order. (7 houses).  
Confirmed by Ministry 14.10.58.

## 5. Hockley Bank. Compulsory Purchase Order. (12 Houses).

On the advice of the Ministry, application for confirmation of this area was withdrawn pending purchase of adjoining land. Arrangements have since been made to purchase this land, and the Clearance Order is to be re-submitted in January next.

## 6. Legges Alley. Clearance Order. (3 Houses).

Confirmed by the Ministry 14.10.58.

One objection was received in respect of Area 2 (Woodhouse Road), and one in respect of area 3 (Church Street).

A public enquiry was held by the Ministry, but one objection was withdrawn before the enquiry, and the other objector did not appear.

The Ministry Inspector did however proceed briefly with the enquiry for the benefit of the few members of the public present.

MADELEY WARD.

In the Madeley Ward a Clearance Order in respect of a terraced block of 10 houses was agreed to by the Borough Council in October, and was submitted to the Ministry for approval.

The Public Health Inspector made a preliminary survey of areas suitable for dealing with as Clearance Areas in the Ward, and 16 were noted by the Committee as suitable areas from which to choose future Clearance Areas. The advantage of this matter having been considered by the Committee is that prospective purchasers may be informed regarding any possible future action which may be taken by the Council in respect of a particular property.

WENLOCK WARD.

No action was taken regarding Slum Clearance in this area during the year.

BARROW WARD.

A check was made on the list of about 40 applicants for Council Houses in the Ward when it was found that only two families remained on the housing list - the others having died, found other accommodation, or left the district.



INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Action taken in respect of Individual Unfit Houses in the Borough during 1958 was as follows:

Houses demolished	-	5
Unfit Houses Closed	-	9
Undertaking to repair accepted from owner	-	6

The condition of many houses throughout the Borough is the cause of numerous complaints to the Public Health Department from the tenants. Quite often the property is unfit for human habitation, and should be demolished.

A complete survey of houses in the Borough would give a true picture of the appalling conditions under which many people live, and reveal the magnitude of the Slum Clearance problem to the Council.

A local authority have the duty under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1957, to "Cause their district to be inspected from time to time with a view to ascertaining whether any house therein is unfit for human habitation". Such a survey cannot be carried out while there is only one Inspector in the Public Health Department.

RENT ACT, 1957:

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	-	17
No. of applications approved	-	17
No. of Proposals to Issue a Certificate of Disrepair	-	18
No. of Undertakings received	-	10
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	6
No. of Repairs completed	-	9
No. of Applications by Landlord for cancellation	-	2
No. of Certificates cancelled	-	2

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

On the 31st December, 1958, there were thirty-five caravans in the Borough - each had individual licences under the provisions of the Public Health Act. There was one site licenced for twelve moveable dwellings in the Broseley Ward.

It is difficult to compare the number of licenced caravans at the end of 1958 with those for previous years as a register of licences was not kept before that time.

An application by a person at Preens Eddy, Broseley, for planning approval and Public Health Licences in respect of a site for fifty caravans was unanimously recommended for approval by the Broseley Sanitary Committee. Unfortunately, the County Planning Authority refused approval - as a result of which the owner has appealed. A Ministry enquiry is to be held in January 1959. There is a necessity in the Borough for a well-run site for moveable dwellings provided with proper drainage and water supply. The conditions agreed to by the applicant regarding sanitary provisions etc. were ideal, and this appeared to be a good opportunity for a well-run caravan site to be provided.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### Meat Inspection.

The table below gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough during 1958.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Inspected	96	5	-	472	301
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part or organ condemned	11	-	-	1	11
Percentage affected	11.5	-	-	0.2	3.7
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part or organ condemned	3	-	-	-	7
Percentage affected	3.1	-	-	-	2.3
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	No carcasses were found to be affected				

The total quantity of meat condemned at the slaughterhouses was 4 cwt. 9 lbs.

All meat is inspected at each slaughterhouse in the district. There is a reciprocal arrangement with Dawley U.D.C. for meat inspection to be carried out in the Borough of Wenlock by the Dawley Public Health Inspector, and vice versa, when either of the Inspectors is on leave.



INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

It is an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for a retailer to have on his premises food which is unfit for human consumption. It is the usual practice for retailers to report the existence of doubtful food to the Inspector who, if he condemns this, issues a Surrender Certificate enabling the retailer to claim compensation for his loss.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1958:-

3 tins Corned Beef	- 15 lbs.
14 tins Tomatoes	- 17 lbs. 15 oz.
1 sack Potatoes	- 112 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955:

No record exists in the department regarding the number and types of food premises in the area. Some progress has been made to enforce these Regulations in a number of premises, but owing to other commitments it has not been possible for the Inspector to visit many of the food premises in the Borough under these Regulations.

One food trader, dealing in Pork Products, was found to have his premises in a very unsatisfactory state, and when repeated visits over a period of twelve months failed to produce any appreciable improvement, the Madeley Sanitary Committee decided to prosecute the offender. The prosecution was taken under the following articles of the Regulations:

16(2 and 3), 17, 19(1a, b and d), 32(1 and 2).

Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

The same trader was also prosecuted under section 15 for using premises for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food intended for sale while the premises were not registered.

The same offender was also prosecuted for having in his possession meat intended for, but unfit for, human consumption contrary to section 8(1).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There were 69 factories in the area at the end of 1958, in 54 of which mechanical power was used. 28 inspections were made during the year and no defects were found.

SECTION D.INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1958:-

Measles	69
Acute Pneumonia	14
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	2
Scarlet Fever	3
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	2
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
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	100
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The total number of notifications is less than in 1957 when 179 were received. This reduction is mainly due to the absence of any Whooping-cough in the area in 1958 - 84 cases were notified in 1957. Otherwise the number of cases of each disease are very similar to those of 1957.

No deaths from any of the notifiable infections occurred in 1958.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Three cases occurred in the area during the year, one with paralysis, and two without. Two cases were adults, both females, and the other a child of 5 years (who had not been vaccinated against the disease). All three are believed to have made a satisfactory recovery.

Tuberculosis.

Seven new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were diagnosed and notified in 1958, as compared with thirteen during the previous twelve months. There were two new case of the non-respiratory forms of the disease.

The total number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.58 was as follows:-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
Male	67	12
Female	57	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:	124	30
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The incidence of Respiratory Tuberculosis still remains rather high throughout the country, but as a result of modern methods of treatment, the disease is no longer the killing condition it once was.

The provisional death-rate in England and Wales in 1958 was 89 per million persons - a decrease of 6% as compared with 1957.

Since 1948 the annual death-rate has dropped by almost 80%.

It is hoped that B.C.G. Vaccination of the 13 year age-group each year will, in time, help to reduce the incidence of the disease by giving protection to young people before they reach the age at which they are most likely to contract infection, i.e. the late teens and early twenties.

#### Prevention of Infectious Diseases.

Reference has already been made in Section B to the Immunisation and Vaccination procedures available for the protection of infants and children, against various infectious diseases.

Information and advice about vaccination against small-pox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping-cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are sent to the parents of all infants born in the County, by the County Health Department.



