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ANNUAL REPORT FOR

1949.

TO

THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY

J.J. MURRAY, M.B., D.P.H.,
(District Medical Officer of Health).

AND

J.W. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.,
(Chief Sanitary Inspector).



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To, THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of your District for 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's population estimate - 15,440.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	144.	141.	285.
Illegitimate.	13.	14.	27.
	157.	155.	312.

STILL-BIRTHS.

Legitimate.	9.	1.	10.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	9.	1.	10.

1948,

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 20.9. 19.9.

STILL-BIRTH rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births. 31.6. 29.0.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
DEATHS.	92.	99.	191.

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 12.4. 10.3.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Puerperal Sepsis.	}	-	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes.			
Total.			

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year.	3.	1.	4.
Deaths of legitimate infants.	3.	1.	4.
Deaths of illegitimate infants.	-	-	-

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR -

All infants per 1,000 live births. 13. 43.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 14.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages). 19.
Deaths from Measles (all ages). Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age). Nil.

Comparison with certain figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u> 1949.	<u>District.</u> 1948.
Birth Rate.	16.7	20.2	19.9
Death Rate.	11.7	12.4	10.3
Infant Mortality Rate.	32.	13.	43.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table gives the causes of death during 1949:-

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	4	3	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	2	-	2
Syphilitic Diseases.	-	-	-
Influenza.	1	2	3
Measles.	-	-	-
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	-	-	-
(Cancer of bucc.cav. and oesoph. (M)	1	-	1
uterus. (F)	-	1	1
(Cancer of stomach and duod.	1	1	2
(Cancer of breast.	-	3	3
(Cancer of all other sites.	7	5	12.
(Inclusive Totals.	9	10	19.
Diabetes.	-	3	3
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	6	11	17
Heart Disease.	34	49	83
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System.	4	2	6
Bronchitis.	4	3	7
Pneumonia.	4	4	8
Other Respiratory Diseases.	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	-	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	-	-	-
Appendicitis.	-	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases.	1	3	4
Nephritis.	2	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis &c.	-	-	-
Other Maternal causes.	-	-	-
Premature Birth.	-	-	-
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Inf. Dis.	2	-	2
Suicide.	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents.	1	-	1
Other Violent Causes.	5	1	6
All other causes.	13	4	17.
TOTALS.	92	99	191.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Infectious Disease Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

No difficulty has been found in obtaining admissions, and the transport system is satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supplies.

A total of 2,183 houses with a population of 7,638 is supplied from public mains. The analyses are satisfactory.

The supply from private mains to the villages of Elmley Castle and Little Comberton, which varies in quality is not being chlorinated.

The parishes of Besford and Defford were furnished with a supply of piped water beginning in June, 1949; number of houses 95, population 332, replacing a very unsatisfactory well supply.

2,224 dwellings with 7,592 persons are dependent on wells, whose analyses vary considerably. Very many of these well waters are unfit for drinking.

Piped water from Cheltenham and Worcester Corporations augment the local mains supply.

It is hoped that this Council will be enabled to obtain a share of the water to be supplied from the River Severn to the City of Coventry.

There is no evidence of plumbo-solvency in this district.

Approximately twelve houses are supplied by stand-pipes.

ANALYSES.

(a) RAW WATER.

Bact. examination.	No. 9.	Satisfactory - 6	} Including independent Parish Spring supplies.
		Unsatisfactory - 3.	
Chem. examination.	No. 9.	Satisfactory - 7	}
		Unsatisfactory - 2.	

(b) TREATED WATER.

Satisfactory reports from Cheltenham Corporation.

PARISHES AND POPULATIONS SUPPLIES.

<u>PARISH.</u>	<u>NO. OF HOUSES SUPPLIED.</u>	<u>POPULATION.</u>
BREDON.	295	1,033
COMBERTON, Great.	47	164
COMBERTON, Little.	45	157
ECKINGTON.	174	608
PEOPLETON.	60	210
PINVIN.	133	465
WICK.	51	178
WYRE PIDDLE.	92	322
WHITTINGTON.	95	332
PERSHORE.	1,027	3,594
BREDON'S NORTON.	8	38
DEFFORD.	81	283
STOULTON.	32	112
BESFORD.	14	49
NORTON.	9	41
BIRLINGHAM.	20	70
TOTALS.	2,183	7,638.

Sewage Disposal.

A new disposal works has been completed to serve a total of 120 houses, 78 of which have been completed on the new Abbey Estate.

16 small works - septic tanks with filters - have been completed since the war to serve small blocks of new Council Houses in various parishes.

A further 24 pail closets have been converted to the water type during this year. Next year it is hoped that the "night-soil" collection will be discontinued.

There is an urgent need for a new sewerage scheme in the Town of Pershore. The village of Eckington is in a like plight.

Both schemes should be instituted as soon as possible.

HOUSING.

During 1949 the Council erected 62 houses and 16 were built by private bodies.

Since the war, a total of 182 Council Houses have been completed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In addition to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, samples are taken by the Sanitary Department Staff under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1928 - 38. There are 19 registered premises for the sale of ice-cream which are regularly supervised.

There are no slaughter houses in this area.

Notification was received from the Royal Air Force of a food poisoning incident at a canteen, involving nineteen personnel, all of whom recovered. No organisms were found in foodstuffs examined. It is conjectured that staphylococci may have been responsible, from the onset period and symptoms.

No carcasses of animals were inspected during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF -		
		Inspect-ions.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	18	21	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	20	17	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding Out-workers' premises).	4	5	-	-
TOTALS.	42	43	-	-

2) Cases in which defects were found:-

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND -				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	REFERRED		
to H.M. Insp.			by H.M. Insp.		
ant of cleanliness.	4	3	-	-	-
vercrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
unreasonable temperatures.	-	-	-	-	-
ineffective drainage of floors.	1	1	-	-	-
sanitary conveniences.	2	2	-	1	-
a) insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes.	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers.)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	8	7	-	2	-

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES - SECTIONS 110 and 111.

There were no instances of this during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.</u>	<u>ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	10	7	-
Diphtheria.	1	1	-
Pneumonia.	1	1	1
Measles.	56	-	-
Anterior Polio-myelitis.	1	1	-
Whooping Cough.	6	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1949.

AGE GROUPS.	SCARLET FEVER.	DIPHTHERIA.	PNEUMONIA.	MEASLES.	WHOOPING COUGH.	ANTERIO POLIO- MYELITIS.	ERYSIPELAS.	PUERPERAL PYREXIA.
Under 1 year.	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1
1 - 3 years.	1	1	1	12	2	1	1	1
3 - 5 years.	4	1	1	12	1	1	1	1
5 - 10 years.	3	1	1	21	2	1	1	1
10 - 15 years.	2	1	1	5	1	1	1	1
15 - 25 years.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
25 - 65 years.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
65 and over.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS.	10	1	1	56	6	1	2	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One death from pneumonia was recorded during the year.

There was a mild case of diphtheria notified in an immunised boy aged 8 years, who was removed to hospital, and made an uncomplicated recovery. The C. diphtheria was not isolated.

One case of acute paralytic poliomyelitis was notified from an R.A.F. Camp. It is understood that the patient recovered.

56 measles cases occurred among children of pre-school and infant school ages. The outbreak was of a mild type.

SCHOOLS.

No schools were closed by reason of infectious disease occurrence.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the numbers immunised during the year.

<u>Numbers immunised.</u> <u>(0-4 inclusive).</u>	<u>Numbers immunised.</u> <u>(5 - 14 inclusive).</u>	<u>Total.</u>
243	26	269

School reinforcing doses - 208.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table includes notifications and deaths arising from this disease during 1949.

AGE PERIOD.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS.								
0 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1 -	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-
20 -	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	7	7	1	3	4	3	2	-
	14		4		7		2	

Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis - 9.

Number notified by Death. - 2.

The very low infant mortality rate calls for favourable comment, 13 as against the England and Wales figure of 32. The birth-rate is higher than the corresponding figure for the country as a whole. Of the deaths registered 70 occurred in persons aged 65 years and over.

Amenities required are further extensions of piped water supply, and the establishment of sewerage and sewage disposal works in Pershore Town and Eckington village.

The public health of this area is on the whole very satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their kind assistance during the year.

J.J. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Officers work undertaken during the year ended 31st December, 1949. The progress made with the housing programme has been very satisfactory with the result that serious cases of insanitary living accommodation and cases of overcrowding have been relieved.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

New sewerage and sewage disposal works in connection with post-war housing on the Abbey Grounds Estate, Pershore, have been completed at an estimated cost of £11,308.

This system will ultimately receive drainage from 220 houses on the above Estate.

16 small schemes incorporating treatment of sewage in septic tanks and filters have been completed on various post-war building sites. Three of these schemes will be enlarged to form small disposal works next year. It is hoped in future, as far as possible, to combine the drainage of existing houses in the various parishes with any proposed post-war development.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been many new connections to the Town sewerage system and there remains a real urgency for an up-to-date system of carriage and disposal in Pershore.

24 pail latrines have been converted to water closets in the Town of Pershore and next year it is hoped to discontinue the "night soil" collections.

The parish of Eckington (population 750) remains the most pressing case for an up-to-date sewerage system and disposal works, apart from Pershore. Plans have been prepared.

SEWAGE DITCHES.

Three employees are continually engaged on the cleansing of sewage ditches and this no doubt will have to be almost doubled next year. Much of the trouble arises from Parishes having a main water system but no main drainage system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Owing to delayed negotiations the trade effluent and sewage disposal plant from a Factory at Wyre will not be completed this year. No other serious pollution of the river Avon exists apart from the sewage entering it from the Town of Pershore.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

CLEANSING OF SEPTIC TANKS.

A temporary service has been arranged with a neighbouring authority to cleanse septic tanks in the district but a better service could be arranged if the Council owned a cesspool emptying vehicle.

REFUSE.

The employment of the new 17 cubic yard refuse vehicle has meant that more refuse can be collected and that the running costs have been reduced. This is due to reduced journeys to and from the controlled

tipping area in Pershore. Slight nuisances have arisen due to the proximity of the tip to the Town. No alternative suitable sites have yet been located.

SALVAGE.

Less revenue has been derived from the collection of paper this year owing to the Paper Mills not being able to receive it.

A new roadway has been constructed from the car park through the children's playground to the refuse tip.

WATER SUPPLY.

MAIN SUPPLY.

A pure and wholesome untreated supply continues to meet the demand from the Overbury Springs for about four months of the year. Bulk supplies of treated river water continues to be taken from the Cheltenham and Worcester Corporations to implement the Overbury supply.

EXTENSIONS.

7,900 yards of 3" water main costing £13,450 has been laid in the parishes of Defford and Besford having a total population of approximately 587 persons.

ANALYSES.

WELL WATER.

Number of samples taken. - 20.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Bacteriologically.	3	17.
Chemically.	7	11.

COMBERTON PRIVATE SUPPLY.

This supply is periodically polluted by surface contamination and the drip feed chlorinating apparatus has proved unsatisfactory. An automatic treatment plant is required.

TRANSPORT OF WATER.

This service continues to be given to 11 parishes. It became necessary because of the drying up of shallow wells and gross contamination of well water in certain parts of the district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There is an increasing number of sub-standard dwellings and caravans in the area that are being used for permanent living accommodation.

HOP-PICKERS QUARTERS.

There are three such camps of a semi-permanent nature all of which have been repaired and improved. The standard of living accommodation, however, is still very low.

DISINFESTATION.

Preparations containing D.D.T. were used in disinfesting four houses which were not of a serious nature.

RODENT CONTROL.

The district has been surveyed and areas of major infestations are

known. It is considered that the number of rodents in the area has been substantially reduced.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses.	15.
Number of infestations dealt with at business premises.	15.
Number of other infestations dealt with.	7.
Number of Contracts.	3.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Farms producing milk have been paid regular visits and there are now no instances where milk has not been adequately cooled. Two farms now have the "milking parlour" system included with recent alterations.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS 1936 - 46.

NO. OF DEALERS LICENCES INCL. SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES ISSUED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DURING THE YEAR IN RESPECT OF-	TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK. (1) Bottling.....1..... (2) Distribution..1:..
	ACCREDITED MILK. (1) Bottling....7..... (2) Distribution...7...
NO. OF LICENCES ISSUED IN RESPECT OF PASTEURISED MILK.	Pasteurising Plants. Retail Distribution.N11..... 1.....

FARMS.

Number of Dairy Farms.	192.
Approximate number of cows in dairy herds.	2,700.
Number of inspections.	21.
Number of Milk purveyors.	3.
Number of samples taken.	14.
Number of T.T. Milk producers on Register.	30.
Number of Accredited milk producers on Register.	20.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, came into force on the 1st October, and the necessary liaison has been made with the Ministry of Agriculture.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Council have decided to apply to the Ministry of Food for confirmation of the Model Byelaws for the handling, storage and wrapping of food. This action will result in a higher standard of cleanliness being observed in food premises.

There is no public abattoir in the area but relief meat inspection has been carried out by the Staff at the Evesham Abattoir. It is considered that the arrangements for slaughtering at Evesham are very poor.

ICE-CREAM.

19 Retailers are registered and all have hygienic methods of sale. No irregularities or cases of adulteration have arisen.

UNFIT FOODS VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

Liver.	35 lbs.
Eggs.	303 dozen.
Sausage.	81 lbs.
Bacon.	151 lbs.
Cheese.	50 lbs.
Fresh Fruit.	212 lbs.
Milk.	21 tins.
Vegetables.	44 tins.
Meat.	17 tins.
Fruit.	2 tins.

Fish.	10 tins.
Herrings.	48 stone.
Dripping.	353 lbs.
Flour.	63½ cwts.
Carrots.	22 cwts.
Macaroni.	52 lbs.
Miscellaneous foodstuffs.	4 lbs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 16 cases needing disinfection of premises, bed linen and clothing. No abnormalities are reported. The steam disinfectant at the Isolation Hospital continues to be used and facilities are offered to H.M. Forces for the disinfection of bedding.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR (OTHER THAN HOUSING).

Number of premises visited.	820 (approx.)
Defects or nuisances found.	22
Defects or nuisances abated.	18
Number of informal notices served.	8
Number of statutory notices served.	Nil
 New drainage to sewers.	 79 (approx.)
New drainage to septic tanks.	25
Drains repaired.	17
Obstructed drains cleared.	40
Drains tested.	19
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals dealt with.	12
 Number of shops visited.	 20.
Cases under Shops Act, 1934 (informal)	5
Number of factories inspected.	43.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during year -	
(1) by the local authority.	62.
(2) by other bodies or persons.	16.
 Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year -	
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	129.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	4.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	147.
 Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers.	24.
 Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	12.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owner.	8.
(b) by local authority in default of owners.	4.
 Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	3.

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notice.

3.

Overcrowding in many cases is still very acute.

NEW HOUSING.

62 Council Houses and 16 private houses have been erected during the year ended 31st December, 1949, bringing the total post-war development up to 182 Council and 56 private houses. The Council now own 566 houses.

TEMPORARY HOUSING.

The Council administer on behalf of the Ministry of Health two ex. Government sites providing accommodation for 41 families. Some of the accommodation is, however, only considered to have a further life of approximately four years.

HOUSING RURAL SURVEY.

There remains 700 to 800 houses to inspect and it is significant to note that out of 1,129 houses inspected up to 31st December, 1949, 192 are considered to be within the demolition category.

BUILDING REPAIRS AND CONVERSIONS.

10 properties have been very thoroughly and extensively improved and repaired in the district as the result of formal action under the Housing Act, 1936.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

This Act came into force on the 1st October, 1949, and several properties have been inspected with regard to application for improvement grants. Only one case was found to be suitable for forwarding to the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the main sewerage schemes for the Town of Pershore and Eckington are most essential if the standard of public health is to be maintained and improved. Should the Regional Water Scheme materialise, it is anticipated that there will be a much increased demand for main drainage schemes particularly in the northern parishes. I should like to record my appreciation to Doctor Murray, the Medical Officer of Health, for his continued assistance during the year and also to my staff.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.W. HOLMES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

