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ANNUAL REPORT FOR

1951.



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 1951.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's population estimate:- 16,490.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	135	142	277
Illegitimate.	8	5	13
	143	147	290

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate.	4	4	8
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	4	4	8

1950.

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 17.6 17.2

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 26.9 35.9

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>DEATHS.</u>	112	122	234

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 14.3 11.8

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth. 2.

Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 6.7

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year.	6	4	10
Deaths of legitimate infants.	6	4	10
Deaths of illegitimate infants.	-	-	-

Death rates of Infants under one year:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	34	20
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	36	21
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-	-

Deaths from Cancer. (all ages). 32.
 Deaths from Measles. (all ages). -
 Deaths from Whooping Cough. (all ages). -

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

	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u> <u>1951</u>	<u>District.</u> <u>1950</u>
Birth Rate.	15.5	17.6	17.2
Death Rate.	12.5	14.3	11.8
Infant Mortality Rate.	29.6	34	20

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table gives the causes of death during 1951.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
(Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	3	4)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	1	4)
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	6	6)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2)
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	8	8	16)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	-	-)
Inclusive totals.	12	20	32)
Diabetes.	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	15	14	29
Coronary disease, angina.	10	6	16
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	2	4
Other heart disease.	26	26	52
Other circulatory disease.	3	1	4
Influenza.	3	9	12
Pneumonia.	6	8	14
Bronchitis.	3	11	14
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate.	5	-	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	2	2
Congenital malformations.	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	8	14	22
Motor vehicle accidents.	5	2	7
All other accidents.	5	2	7
Suicide.	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war.	1	-	1.
	112	122	234

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 2,336 houses with a population of 8,109 is supplied from public mains.

2,214 dwellings with 7,522 persons are dependent on well water supplies. Many of these are unfit for drinking.

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

The River Severn supply for Coventry will, it is hoped, assist in supplying some villages now using well water.

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

Approximately twelve houses are supplied with stand-pipes.

ANALYSES.

RAW WATER.

Bacteriological examination	- 52.	Satisfactory	46	} including independent Parish spring supplies.
		Unsatisfactory	6	
Chemical examination	- 52.	Satisfactory	52	}
		Unsatisfactory	-	

TREATED WATER.

Satisfactory reports from Cheltenham Corporation.

PARISH AND POPULATION SUPPLIES.

PARISH.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.		FROM WELLS, SPRINGS, ETC.	
	NO. OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.	NO. OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.
Bredon.	304	1,064	44	154
Comberton, Gt.	54	189	20	70
Comberton, Lt.	45	157	31	108
Eckington.	179	616	36	126
Peopleton.	69	246	14	48
Pinvin,	136	476	21	73
Wick,	70	185	27	96
Wyre,	92	322	15	52
Whittington.	99	345	15	52
Pershore.	1,078	3,773	98	343
Birlingham,	21	74	81	284
Bredon's Norton.	8	38	48	169
Defford.	108	378	42	144
Stoulton.	46	151	69	241
Besford.	16	56	25	87
Norton.	11	39	166	581
Other Parishes.	-	-	1,462	4,894
	2,336	8,109	2,214	7,522

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Two further small works were completed during the year making a total of 21 such completed since the war to serve small blocks of new Council Houses in various parishes.

Following the final conversion of pail closets, the collection of night soil in the Town of Pershore is now ended.

The scheme for Eckington village has not yet begun.

A new sewerage scheme for Pershore is very necessary.

HOUSING.

During 1951, the Council erected 52 houses, making a total of 280 constructed since the war.

The nissen huts occupied by fifteen families are gradually being demolished as houses are found.

The same policy is being followed in the case of the six occupied nissen huts which form part of the accommodation on the Pershore Racecourse.

It is to be noted that about 300 dwellings in the district are in a bad state of repair, forming part of a national problem, the solution of which is at present, very difficult.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In addition to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector's Staff under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1928 - 38. There are 22 registered premises for the sale of ice-cream which are regularly supervised.

There are no slaughter houses in this area.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF -		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Owners Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authority.	10	3	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	50	33	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding Out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	60	36	-	-

(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. Inspr.	by H.M. Inspr.	
Want of Cleanliness.	3	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences. (a) insufficient.	2	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	6	4	-	-	-

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 1951.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.</u>	<u>ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	15	1	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	7	5	-
Measles.	152	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	20	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis.	2	-	2
Dysentery.	3	-	-
Malaria.	2	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1951.

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>SCARLET FEVER.</u>	<u>MALARIA.</u>	<u>PNEUMONIA.</u>	<u>MEASLES.</u>	<u>WHOOPING COUGH.</u>	<u>PUERPERAL PYREXIA.</u>	<u>DYSENTERY.</u>	<u>ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS.</u>
Under 1 year.	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	2
1 - 3 years.	1	-	-	32	2	-	-	-
3 - 4 "	4	-	-	34	9	-	1	-
5 - 9 "	8	-	-	72	6	-	1	-
10 - 14 "	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 "	1	-	6	3	-	-	1	-
25 and over.	-	2	1	5	-	1	-	-
TOTALS.	15	2	7	152	20	1	3	2

Acute Poliomyelitis.

No cases were notified.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.

15 cases of a mild type were notified. No deaths.

Measles.

152 cases, less than half those notified in the previous year, mostly affecting children of school age. No deaths.

Dysentery.

3 cases of dysentery were reported, all recovered.

Acute Encephalitis.

Two cases reported by Coroner's Certificate - post mortem findings on two children under one year.

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>
202.	14.	216.

(Above figures include cases immunised by private practitioners).
School reinforcing doses:- 174.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table includes notifications and deaths arising from this disease during 1951.

AGE GROUPS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non - Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non - Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS								
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 -	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS.	13	7	1	1	1	-	-	-
	20		2		1			

Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis - 1.

Number notified by Death - Nil.

	1950.	1951.
Total number of tuberculosis notifications.	20	22
Total number of deaths.	5	1

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Both the birth rate and the death rate are higher than the corresponding national figures.

There are five fewer births than last year's total, but the number of deaths has increased by 32, chiefly due to deaths in the older age groups from chest and heart diseases.

There were four more deaths of infants under one year furnishing a higher infant mortality rate (34).

169 of the total deaths (72%) were of persons aged 65 years and over.

The general health of the district is satisfactory.

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

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.J. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

The following table includes notifications and deaths
 arising from this disease during 1957.

AGE GROUP	NOTIFICATION			DEATH		
	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL
15-24	1	1	2	1	1	2
25-34	1	1	2	1	1	2
35-44	1	1	2	1	1	2
45-54	1	1	2	1	1	2
55-64	1	1	2	1	1	2
65-74	1	1	2	1	1	2
75-84	1	1	2	1	1	2
85-94	1	1	2	1	1	2
95-104	1	1	2	1	1	2
TOTALS	13	13	26	13	13	26

Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis
 Number notified by Death
 Total number of tuberculous notifications
 Total number of deaths

There are five cases of this disease in 1957.
 The number of deaths has increased by 1, mainly due to
 deaths in the older age groups from chronic and latent disease.
 There were four cases of deaths of infants under one year
 from this disease in 1957.
 13 of the notified deaths (50%) were of persons aged
 65 years and over.

The general mortality rate is satisfactory.
 It is indicated by the fact that the mortality rate has
 fallen for this disease during the year.

1957
 1956
 1955
 1954
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 1900

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Sanitary work undertaken by Officers of my Department during the year ended December, 1951.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In view of the uneconomical nature of providing a comprehensive district scheme, the various Parishes are being sewered in order of urgency and small schemes are being prepared in connection with post war housing development.

The following schemes have been constructed:-

Wadborough. (26 houses). A gravitation scheme to settlement tanks and rotary distribution.

Defford, Lodge Hill. (12 houses). A small 'on site' pumping scheme dealing with existing Council Houses was constructed and at the same time the houses were provided with water lavatories. A separate sewage ejector scheme for six houses was also constructed adjacent to the post-war Housing Site.

Pershore. The Ministry of Works are constructing a sewage disposal works in the Defford Road to treat sewerage from approximately 150 houses on the Abbey Grounds Estate. The Council have agreed to adopt the sewers and the maintenance of the sewage disposal works when completed.

Eckington.

A comprehensive scheme for this Parish has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers and a starting date given for December, 1952. The scheme is partially separate, involving pumping, settlement tanks and rotary distribution. Some of the existing sewers will be retained for surface water drainage.

In order to prevent delay in erecting approximately 15 Council Houses a small septic tank will be provided close to the site as a temporary expedient until the main scheme is completed.

It is anticipated that the following works will be required to be increased in size next year to deal with new housing development.

<u>Pershore.</u>	-	Abbey Grounds Estate drainage.
<u>Defford.</u>	-	Council House site extensions.
<u>Bredon.</u>	-	A complete new disposal works is recommended here to deal with foul and surface water drainage.

DRAINAGE.

Spetchley. Approximately 190 yards of 6" sewer were laid in the Parish to overcome a public nuisance near the highway.

W.C. Conversions. The Council aided Scheme for conversions to water lavatories in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936 has been completed in the Town of Pershore at an approximate cost of £14.14.0d. each.

134 conversions have been carried out over a period of 4 years.

Racecourse, Pershore. £150 was expended on improving the water supply and drainage arrangements to six temporary buildings.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

It was decided uneconomical for the Council to own a cesspool emptying vehicle and the work of cleansing septic tanks and small sewage disposal works is now carried out by Contract at quarterly intervals. The County Council undertake the cleansing of gullies in the Town of Pershore at present.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

Due to repeated complaints with regard to smells emanating from the Council's one and only controlled tip in Pershore a new site for disposal in a disused brick working at Drakes Broughton has been decided upon.

An additional refuse vehicle is now urgently required due to the development in the area.

Salvage. During the year there was a market increase in paper salvage, the revenue from which was £1,413. Scrap metal and other materials continue to be collected.

WATER SUPPLY.

Main Supplies. The quality of the water from the Overbury Springs remains very good and the yield has been increased by the rebuilding of five springs. The supply is untreated. Similarly, the supply afforded from neighbouring Corporations is of good quality. 56 new consumers were connected to the mains. The consumption for the district rose to over 350,000 gallons per day. The service reservoir at Pershore now has a capacity of less than one third of a days supply.

A starting date for the Regional Water Scheme has been allocated for the 1st July, 1952.

The quality of the water to Great Comberton has improved though 6 doubtful samples were taken.

Analyses.

(a) Raw Water.

Bacteriological examinations - 52.	Satisfactory - 46.
	Unsatisfactory - 6.
Chemical examinations - 52.	Satisfactory - 52.
	Unsatisfactory - Nil.

(b) Well Water.

Number of samples submitted for analysis - 13.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Chemical.	3.	3.
Bacteriological.	3.	10.

DISINFECTION.

Approximately 18 disinfections were carried out using formaldehyde gas and formalin spray, primarily as a result of Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis.

Arrangements for steam disinfection of bedding and clothing were made in several instances.

RODENT CONTROL.

The service has continued to operate smoothly, the Operative using A.N.T.U., Red Squill and Zinc Phosphide poisons.

No. of infestations dealt with at private houses.	-	808.
No. of infestations dealt with on business premises.	-	417.
No. of other infestations dealt with.	-	38.
No. of complaints received.	-	70.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food premises have been inspected periodically and improvements with regard to sanitary arrangements have been effected by informal action.

Milk Supply. Five new dairymen (other than cowkeepers) have been registered and three samples taken of ordinary milk in process of distribution. No adulteration cases have been detected.

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered, inspected and condemned.

Eggs. (frozen).	28 lbs.
Eggs.	30 dozen.
Tomatoes.	10 lbs.
Ham.	194 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat.	14 lbs.
Veal.	12 lbs.
Brawn.	2 lbs.
Beans.	2 lbs.
Apricots.	1,330 lbs.
Pineapple. (frozen).	210 lbs.
Sultanas.	30 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Pears.	2 lbs.
Pilchards.	8 lbs.
Halibut.	64 lbs.
Cod Roes.	28 lbs.
Beef.	107 lbs.

Public Abattoir. The existing slaughtering arrangements at the Evesham Abattoir were unsatisfactory and during the year slaughtering and allocation has been transferred to Stratford-on-Avon. It is thought the quality of the supply of meat will be detrimentally affected by the extended area of distribution and four local authorities (including Pershore Rural District Council) advocate the building of a new slaughterhouse in Evesham Area.

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

Number of premises visited.	350. (approx.)
Defects or nuisances found.	22.
Defects or nuisances abated.	22.
Number of Informal Notices served.	12.
Number of Statutory Notices served.	-
New drainage to sewers.	40. (approx.)
New drainage to septic tanks.	10.
Drains repaired.	22.
Obstructed drains cleared.	30.
Drains tested.	24.
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals dealt with.	2.
Number of Shops visited.	17.
Cases under Shops Act, 1934. (informal).	3.
Number of Factories inspected.	10.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year -

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| (a) by the local authority. | 52. |
| (b) by other local authorities. | - |
| (c) by other bodies or persons. | 7. |

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year -

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) | 220. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. | 20. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 49. |

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices -

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers. | 22. |
|--|-----|

Action under Statutory powers during the year -

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 12. |
|---|-----|

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | - |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | 3. |

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 17.

NEW HOUSING.

The Council have built 52 new houses and 7 have been built privately.

Total post-war development:-

- | | |
|--|------|
| Local Authority Development. | 280. |
| Private Development. | 77. |
| Total houses owned by local authority. | 664. |

Applicants re-housed in permanent new houses.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Pershore. | 34. |
| Bredon. | 2. |
| Wick. | 4. |
| Defford. | 15. |
| Cropthorne. | 1. |
| Westmancote. | 1. |
| Birlingham. | 1. |
| Aged persons Bungalows. | 2. |

Applicants re-housed in temporary accommodation -

W.A.A.F. Site, Parvin.	8.
Racecourse, Pershore.	8.
Stoulton Hostel (converted).	1.
Hurstmead Hostel (converted).	8.

Number of applicants for housing accommodation as at 31st December, 1951.

With separate accommodation.	320.
Sharing accommodation.	228.

548.

Note. This total includes applicants who have applied for more than one Parish and the total applicants may therefore be regarded as 452.

HOUSING RURAL SURVEY.

Little progress has been made towards completing this Survey but approximately 200 houses remain to be inspected.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

Due to the high cost of building repairs it is becoming increasingly difficult to have houses repaired economically, and in most instances such repairs under the Housing Act, 1936 have been carried out by informal action.

Number of repair licences issued.	61.
-----------------------------------	-----

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

The scheme for improvement grants does not appear to be attractive enough and is restricted to the low capital sum of £600. One application was approved.

The housing progress has been steady and although there are still over 400 applicants, the needs of the District should be met within 3 to 4 years. There are still many cases of overcrowding and there remains almost 300 houses in the area which will either have to be reconstructed or demolished.

There remains the acute need of a proper sewerage and sewage disposal works for the Town of Pershore.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.W. HOLMES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

