

**[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Pershore R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR

- 1954 -

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T O

THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :- .

Colonel R.F. Harrison.

CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE :-

Mr. S.G. Parkes.


DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :-

Doctor J.J.Murray, M.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :-

Mr. J.W. Holmes, M.S.I.A.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my report on the health of your district for 1954.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's population estimate:- 16930.

BIRTHS.

		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	...	143	139	282
Illegitimate.	...	5	6	11
		148	145	293

STILL-BIRTHS.

Legitimate.	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate.	...	1	-	1
		4	2	6

Birth rate of 1,000 of estimated resident population.	1954.	1953.
	17.3	16.8
Still-birth rate per 1,000 of total (live & still) births.	20.06	10.0

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
92	95	187

DEATHS.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.	..	11.04	9.6
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	.. ..	Nil.	Nil.
Rates per 1,000 total (live & Still) Births.	..	Nil.	Nil.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year.	5	2	7
Deaths of legitimate infants.	4	2	6
Deaths of illegitimate infants.	1	-	1

Death rates of infants under one year:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	23.4	34.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	20.4	35.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	90.9	-

Deaths from Cancer. (all ages)	29.
Deaths from Measles. (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Gastro-enteritis. (under 2 years)	2

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	3	1	4
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

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

	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>1954 District.</u>	<u>1953 District.</u>
Birth Rate.	15.2	17.3	16.8
Death Rate.	11.3	11.04	9.6
Infant Mortality Rate.	25.5	23.4	34.



The following table gives the causes of death during 1953.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other.	-	2	2
Syphilitic disease.	1	-	1
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases.	2	-	2
(Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	4	4)
(Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	1	2)
(Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	3	3)
(Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2)
(Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	8	10	18)
(Leukaemia and aleukaemia.	-	-	-)
(Inclusive Totals.	9	20	29)
Diabetes.	-	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	15	15	30
Coronary disease, angina.	10	10	20
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	4	6
Other heart disease.	22	13	35
Other circulatory disease.	3	2	5
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia.	4	1	5
Bronchitis.	5	3	8
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	10	10	20
Motor vehicle accidents	-	3	3
All other accidents.	1	1	2
Suicide.	2	-	2
	92	95	187

# 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 2,936 houses with a population of 9,953 is supplied from public mains.

2,115 dwellings with 6,992 persons are dependent on the 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 12 houses are supplied with stand-pipes.

A Scheme for the supply of water to the Parishes of :- Spetchley, Bredicot, Broughton Hackett, Upton Snodsbury, Grafton Flyford, North Piddle, Dormston, Kington, Flyford Flavel, Naunton Beauchamp, Abberton, Bishampton, Throckmorton, Hill & Moor, Fladbury, Cropthorne and Charlton, has been completed and tapplings will commence immediately.

### ANALYSES.

#### RAW WATER.

Bacteriological examination	- 10.	Satisfactory	- 8 )	Including
		Unsatisfactory	- 2 )	independent
			)	Parish
Chemical examination.	- 10.	Satisfactory	- 10 )	spring
		Unsatisfactory	- )	supplies.

#### TREATED WATER.

Satisfactory reports from Cheltenham Corporation.

### PARISH AND POPULATION SUPPLIES.

P A R I S H.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.		FROM WELLS, SPRINGS, ETC.	
	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.
BREDON.	381	1,279	26	104
Gt. Comberton.	55	192	19	70
Lt. Comberton.	42	163	37	148
ECKINGTON.	203	680	36	126
PEOPLETON.	81	270	4	20
FINVIN.	163	515	18	68
WICK.	83	213	12	60
WYRE.	103	353	8	32
WHITTINGTON.	113	360	11	44
PERSHORE.	1,273	4,210	13	52
BIRLINGHAM.	21	74	80	282
BREDON'S NORTON.	8	38	50	175
DEFFORD.	101	392	34	136
STOULTON.	87	332	43	144



4.  
PARTISH AND POPULATION SUPPLIES. (continued)

P A R I S H.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.		FROM WELLS, SPRINGS, ETC.	
	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.
BESFORD.	32	120	13	52
NORTON.	76	306	117	468
DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH				
FLADBURY.	114	456	43	172
CHARLTON.	-	-	163	489
CROPTHORNE.	-	-	129	383
ELMLEY CASTLE.	-	-	146	540
UPTON SNODSBURY.	-	-	134	460
HILL & MOOR.	-	-	97	291
OTHER PARISHES.	-	-	138	414
			754	2,262
T O T A L S	2,936	9,953	2,115	6,992

HOUSING.

During 1954, the Council erected 108 houses, making a total of 535 constructed since the War. 41 houses were built privately.

It is 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 33 registered premises for the sale of ice-cream which are regularly supervised.

There are 3 slaughter houses in this area under supervision and inspection.

1 case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

P R E M I S E S.	NUMBER ON REGISTER.	INSPEC- TIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES.	OWNERS PROSECUTED.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	5.	5.	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	58.	39.	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
T O T A L S.	63.	44	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found :-

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.				Number of cases in which pro-secutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	REFERRED -		
			To H.M. Insptr.	By H.M. Insptr.	
Want of Cleanliness.	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences.					
(a) insufficient.	1	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	6	6	-	6	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	11	-	7	-

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES - SECTIONS 110 & 111

There were no instances of this during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than tuberculosis) during 1954.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.</u>	<u>ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	12	5	-
Measles.	34	-	-
Whooping Cough.	21	-	-
Acute pneumonia.	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
Acute polio-myelitis.	1	1	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Dysentery.	1	-	-



ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES  
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1954.

AGE GROUPS.	SCARLET FEVER.	ACUTE PNEUMONIA	MEASLES.	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.	WHOOPING COUGH	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	ERYSIPELAS.	DYSENTERY
YEARS.								
0 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	4	-	7	-	-	-
3 -	2	-	5	-	6	-	-	-
5 -	9	-	20	-	6	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1
15 -	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	12	-	34	-	21	1	-	1

Acute Polio-myelitis.

One case notified from an R.A.F. Station. Case diagnosed in Nottingham shortly after posting from Pershore. The case recovered.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.

12 cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

Measles.

34 cases of a mild character affecting chiefly the 5 - 10 age group, were notified. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the numbers immunised during the year.

<u>Numbers Immunised</u>	<u>Numbers Immunised</u>	
<u>0 - 4 inclusive.</u>	<u>5 - 14 inclusive.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
161	29	190.

(above figures include cases immunised by Private Practitioners)

School reinforcing doses :- 117.

VACCINATIONS.

<u>Under 2 years.</u>	<u>Over 2 years.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
121	16	137

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

The following table includes notifications and deaths arising from this disease during 1954.

AGE GROUPS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS.								
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
25 -	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
45 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	12	11	-	1	-	1	-	2
		23		1		1		2

Number of deaths from tuberculosis	..	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Number notified by death.	..	2	--
Total number of tuberculosis notifications	..	24	15
Total number of deaths.	..	3	2

There was some increase in notifications. The Mass Radiography Unit X-rayed 906 persons. Five of these were found to have pulmonary tuberculosis.

The tuberculosis after-care Committee continues to afford needed assistance to longterm cases. This Committee is a voluntary one.

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The death rate was 11.04 - and increase from the 1953 figure.

There were 293 births this year as compared with 298 for 1953.

The infant mortality rate has decreased.

There were three fewer infant deaths than last year - 7 as compared with 10.

All the above rat@s measure favourably with the national figures.  
(see page 1.)

Housing activities continue to be in the forefront of endeavour and undoubtedly advance the personal and public health of the area.

8.

Despite the remarkable increase in dwellings a very large number of unsuitable houses exist. Under "Slum Clearance" it is to be hoped that the problem will be solved as soon as national circumstances will allow.

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.



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 31st December 1954.

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SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following schemes have been constructed during the year :-

Drakes Broughton.

Scheme for the major portion of the village and the new Council House development, involving construction of works with capacity for 50 houses.

Eckington.

The scheme for the village involving pumping, settlement and rotary distribution, has been completed. The entire village (approximately 185 houses) has been connected to the new sewers.

Peopleton.

Duplication of existing works to give capacity for 20 houses.

Pershore.

The scheme for the town of Pershore is still under consideration.

Bredon.

Instructions have been given to the Council's Consulting Engineers for the construction of a new Disposal Works.

Pershore. (Abbey Grounds)

The disposal works serving the Council's development on the Abbey Grounds is in need of enlargement.

Upton Snodsbury.

Scheme involving pumping, settlement and aeration, giving a capacity for 40 houses.

Whittington.

Scheme with a capacity for 30 houses, for the existing and proposed Council development, involving pumping, settlement and aeration.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

Tipping has been carried out at the old Brickworks, Drakes Broughton, during the year. The fly nuisance has been considerably reduced.

Contracts have been undertaken with the Royal Engineers and the Worcestershire Regiment for the twice-weekly removal of refuse from Norton Barracks.

A further contract has been undertaken with the Ministry of Supply and Messrs. Farrans, for the twice-weekly removal of refuse from the Pershore Aerodrome.

SALVAGE.

The market price of paper increased during the year to £6. per ton. The revenue during the year amounted to £248. compared with £472. during 1953, and £581. during 1952. Scrap metals and other materials continue to be salvaged.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply taken from the Overbury Springs is of good quality, this water supply is untreated. The supplies obtained from neighbouring Corporations has been similarly of good quality.

The number of new consumers connected to the mains during the year is 96.

Trouble was again experienced with the maintenance of the public supply due to the inadequacy of the Pershore service reservoir.

Main laying in the Regional Water Supply Scheme serving the northern part of the district has been completed.

Analyses - Well Water.

Number of samples submitted for analysis - 36.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Chemical.	15.	13
Bacteriological.	6	22

DISINFECTION.

Fourteen 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 satisfactorily, the Operative using mainly Warfarin. A.N.T.U, Red Squill and Zinc Phosphide used occasionally.

Number of infestations dealt with at private premises.	1704
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises.	41
Number of other infestations dealt with.	8
Number of complaints received.	80

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are the following food premises in the district :-

Grocers.	40.
Greengrocery.	10.
Sweet Shops.	8.
Butchers.	8.
Bakers and Confectioners.	9.
Fried Fish Shops.	1.
Wet Fish Shops.	2.
Cafes.	11.
Licensed Premises including Clubs.	63.

Food preparation premises in the district are inspected regularly.

One of the premises was improved by informal action.

Milk Supply.

Six dairymen (other than cowkeepers) are registered.

Twelve inspections were made during the year.



CONDEMNATIONS.

P.

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered, inspected and condemned :-

Tomatoes.	10 lbs.
	5 - 2½ lb. tins.
Pineapples.	8 - 1 lb. 14 oz. tins.
	37 - 30 lb. tins.
Cherries.	2 - 10 lb. tins.
Yellow Plums.	4 - 1 lb. 4 oz. tins.
Prunes.	2 - 11¼ oz. tins.
Peaches.	10 - 5 Kilo tins.
	5 - 1 lb. tins.
Apricots.	424 - 5 Kilo tins.
	3 - 1 lb. 13 oz. tins.
Strawberries.	8 - 15 oz. tins.
Grapefruit.	2 - 20 oz. tins.
Peas.	10 - 1 lb. 4 oz. tins.
Beans.	1 - 10½ oz. tin.
Fruit Salad.	3 - 15½ oz. tins.
Tomatoe Soup.	7 - 10 oz. tins.
Baby Food.	13 - 4½ oz. tins.
Evaporated Milk.	11 - 16 oz. tins.
Sardines.	2 - 4 oz. tins.
Tinned Lobster.	1 - 3½ oz. tin.
Minced Beef Loaf.	1 - 12 oz. tin.
Beef - Home killed.	10½ lbs.
Bacon.	11 lbs.
Turkey.	36¼ lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION.

In July slaughtering was decentralized by the Ministry of Food, and since that date three Butchers in the Pershore Rural District have slaughtered privately. Meat Inspection has been 100% and the slaughter-houses have been kept in a satisfactory state.

The following animals have been slaughtered and inspected since 1st, July.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Carcasses and organs)	122	22	718	255
which have been con-)	-	-	-	-
demned for Tubercul-)				
osis.				
Carcasses of which )				
some part has been )				
condemned for )	5	-	-	7
Tuberculosis. )				
Carcasses and organs)				
condemned for other )	1	-	2	1
diseases. )				



12.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Carcasses of which ) some part has been ) condemned for other ) diseases. )	7	-	8	-

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

Number of premises visited.	600 (approx.)
defects or nuisances found.	17
defects or nuisances abated.	17
Number of Informal Notices served.	16
Number of Statutory Notices served.	1
New drainage to sewers.	212
New drainage to septic tanks.	14
Drains repaired.	--
Obstructed drains cleared.	30 (approx.)
Drains tested.	41
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals dealt with.	--
Number of shops visited.	21
Cases under the Shops Act, 1934. (informal)	--
Number of Factories Inspected.	44

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(a) by Local Authority.	108
(b) by other Local Authorities.	--
(c) by other bodies or persons.	41

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 46.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. 21.
- (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. 25.

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.	25.
--	-----

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. -

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

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 6.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 2.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.  
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

Number of Closing Orders issued in respect of separate dwellings.	15.
<u>Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.</u>	
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	36.
Number of such persons concerned in such cases.	140.

### NEW HOUSING.

The Council have built 108 new houses and 41 have been built privately.

#### Total post-war development:-

Local Authority Development.	535.
Private Development.	177
Total houses owned by the Local Authority.	919

#### Applicants re-housed in permanent houses:-

Fershire.	43.
Bredon.	23.
Elmley Castle.	18.
Wick.	2.
Norton.	4.
Throckmorton.	1.
Drakes Broughton.	1.
Eckington.	13.
Pinvin.	5.
Croftthorne.	1.
Moor.	1.
Besford.	1.
Peopleton.	2.
Stoulton.	5.
Defford.	4.

#### Applicants re-housed in temporary accommodation :-

Hurstmead and Stoulton Hostels.	7.
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#### Applicants for housing accommodation at 31.12.54.

With separate accommodation.	341.
Sharing accommodation.	217.
	<hr/> 558.

(Note - this total includes applicants who have applied for more than one Parish and the total applicants may therefore be regarded as - 402.)

### HOUSING ACT, 1949.

26 applications for Improvement Grants were approved during the year.

+ + + +

There has again been a reduction in the number of applicants for new houses - 402 as compared with 428 last year.

The provision of Village Sewerage Schemes becomes of prime importance as main water is provided throughout the district.

It is proposed to prepare schemes for the Villages of Bishampton, Cropthorne and Hill and Moor during 1955.

The proposed scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the town of Pershore is still an urgent necessity.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. HOLMES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.





