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**Contributors**

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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953, in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 1/54 of the Ministry of Health.

My thanks are due to Colonel N. Blake for information respecting the water supplies provided within the area by the Ross Water Undertaking.

Also I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report, but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council; Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. E.O. Christopher, Rating Officer.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*William Hogg*

Medical Officer of Health.

24th May, 1954.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

New York, June 27, 1931.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. in relation to the proposed extension of the lease of the premises known as 210 East 39th Street, New York City, and to advise you that the same is being considered by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education is now holding public hearings on this matter and the same are being held at the New York Public Library, 5th Avenue, New York City.

I am sure that you will understand the reasons for this course and that you will be satisfied with the result. I am, Sir, very truly, your obedient servant.

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation of the cooperation of the Board of Education and of the Public Library in the handling of this matter.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

Edward S. Taylor, Secretary.

210 East 39th Street.

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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+ Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

+  $\phi$  Mr. C.W.J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.

+ Certificate as Meat Inspector.

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

Chairman - Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

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Mr. L. Drayson Russill.	...	Ballingham.
Mr. H.E. Sainsbury.	...	Brampton Abbots.
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Mr. S.R. Garner.	...	Pencoyd.
Mr. H.C. Teague.	...	Peterstow.
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Mr. A.E. Thompson.	...	Upton Bishop.
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Mr. C.T.N. Walker.	...	Walford.
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Mr. H.R. Biggs.	...	Welsh Newton.
Mr. S.W. Sharpley.	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. R.F.N. Aldrich-Blake.	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. H.S. Cumbley.	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. J. King.	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. R.F. Cotton.	...	Yatton.





SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the south of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye. The area is entirely rural in character. The scenery of the Wye Valley attracts visitors. Limestone quarries are worked at Whitchurch and Linton.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Area in acres.	...	72,105
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population.	...	11,790
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.53).	...	3,590
Rateable Value.	...	£44,411
Sum represented by a penny rate.	...	£174
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude).	...	14.3
Corrected live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	16.3
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	...	23.1
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude).	...	10.5
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	8.3
Area Comparability Factor (Births).	...	1.14
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths).	...	0.79

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births.</u>
Heading No.30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.	...	11.8
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live Births.	...	12.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live Births.	...	Nil



Population.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,790. The natural increase in population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 45.

This population is contained in 3590 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.38. The density of dwellings for the District is 0.049 dwellings per acre.

The largest parish is Llangarron with 5411 acres, whilst the smallest is Llandinabo with 500 acres. There are 28 parishes each exceeding 1000 acres. The parish having the largest population is Walford.

Births.

The number of live births registered as having occurred within the Rural District during the year is 169 (86 male and 83 female), and the crude live birth rate is 14.3 per 1000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor is 1.14 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 16.3 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 15.5 per 1000 population. The ratio male/female births is 1.04.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 9 (5 male and 4 female). The illegitimate live births form 5.3% of the live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 15.5 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths.

Four stillbirths occurred (3 male and 1 female), and the still-birth rate is, therefore, 23.1 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the corrected still birth rate for the Rural District is 0.39 per 1000 population, whilst the England and Wales stillbirth rate for the year is 0.35 per 1000 population.

Deaths.

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 124 (65 male and 59 female). This total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.10.

The crude death rate for the Rural District for the year is 10.5 per 1000 population, and applying the Area comparability factor of 0.79, the corrected death rate is 8.3 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year is 11.4 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death  
according to Sex and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1	0.07
9.	Other infective parasitic diseases.	-	1	1	0.07
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	-	3	3	0.20
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	6	6	0.40
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	-	4	4	0.27
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	3	8	0.54
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-	1	0.07
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	10	14	0.94
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	11	2	13	0.87
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	3	2	5	0.34
20.	Other heart diseases.	16	13	29	1.94
21.	Other circulatory diseases.	3	-	3	0.20
22.	Influenza.	1	1	2	0.13
23.	Pneumonia.	5	2	7	0.47
24.	Bronchitis.	6	2	8	0.54
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1	0.07
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	3	5	0.34
27.	Gastritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.07
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	2	2	0.13
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	1	2	0.13
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	3	1	4	0.27
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1	2	0.13
34.	All other accidents.	2	-	2	0.13
	All Causes.	65	59	124	8.32

Analysis of deaths by cause shows that the most frequent causes are heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 47 deaths. The death rate calculated from these causes is 3.15 per 1000 population (Corrected).

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 14 deaths (4 male and 10 female), and the corrected death rate from this cause is 0.94 per 1000 population.

#### Cancer Deaths.

This year 21 deaths were attributed to cancer of all types (5 male and 16 female), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.40 per 1000 population.



Infant Mortality.

The number of babies under the age of one year who died is 2 (males). Both were legitimate infants, and the infant mortality rate is 11.8 per 1000 live births; this rate for England and Wales is 26.8 per 1000 live births.

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

No infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

One death was attributed to scarlet fever and seven deaths were caused by pneumonia. These were the only acute notifiable diseases causing death. The corrected death rate from infectious disease is 0.54 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis Deaths.

Only one death is attributed to tuberculosis. The adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.07 per 1000 population and the tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales is 0.20 per 1000 population.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREAPublic Health Laboratory.

The facilities available to the District at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, remained unchanged.

The following table gives the number of investigations undertaken on behalf of the Department during the year:-

Swabs	...	9
Sputum	...	1
Urine	...	3
Faeces	...	1
Ice Cream	...	43
Milk for organisms.	...	1
Milk for tuberculosis.	...	2
Milk (methylene blue test).	...	28
Water (Bacteriological)	...	107

In addition, 5 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analysts, Ellis & Turner, for chemical examination.

Public Mortuary.

The Council has facilities for reception of bodies from the Rural District at the Public Mortuary, Homs Road, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 9 bodies were removed from the Rural District to the Public Mortuary.



Hospitals.

There are no hospitals situated within the District, which is served by hospitals at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth.

Ambulances.

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50.

No burials were carried out by the Council under this section during the year.

Care of the Aged and Infirm - National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

Three investigations were made under this Section; in all cases formal action was unnecessary. One person was admitted to hospital as a result of informal action and arrangements were made for the other two persons to be admitted to an Aged Persons' Home when accommodation became available.

Difficulty in dealing with these cases arises through lack of sufficient suitable accommodation. Moreover, aged persons are not always willing to enter institutions which are a long distance from their usual environment.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The District is formed of Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System, with an outcrop of limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the parishes of Walford and Whitchurch, along the southern boundary of the District, there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone.

The Old Red Sandstone is represented chiefly by red and green sandstones and marl with outcrops of Old Red Conglomerate in some areas.

Water Supplies.

In the area immediately surrounding the Urban District, the mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of wholesome water at adequate pressure in the parish of Ross Rural, and in part of the parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the Ross Water Undertaking's mains in these parishes are:-

Bridstow	...	162
Ross Rural	...	111
Walford	...	43
Weston-under-Penyard	...	5



All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings with the exception of 7 dwellings in Bridstow supplied by standpipes.

The water of the Ross Water Undertaking is obtained from boreholes at Alton Court Works. The water is of good potable quality although somewhat hard. No preliminary treatment other than chlorination, is provided. Facilities exist for obtaining samples of the water before treatment, and tests show that the number of organisms per 100 c.cs. of untreated water is very low. No extensions to the Ross Water Undertakings mains were carried out in the Rural District during the year.

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood. These give a constant supply of potable water.

#### Brampton Abbots Supply.

Brampton Abbots is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. This scheme supplies 53 dwellings by service from the mains and 2 dwellings are supplied by standpipe. Reservoir capacity is 25,000 gallons in two reservoirs.

#### Garway Supply.

This scheme makes use of a spring on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to variation according to rainfall, but is adequate for present demand. The water is put into supply without treatment. The number of dwellings supplied by services is 81, and 3 are supplied by standpipes.

#### Llangarron Supply.

This supplies part of Llangarron parish and utilises spring water pumped to the reservoir. The water is passed into supply without treatment, and is sufficient for present demands. The scheme supplies 157 dwellings by service, and 10 dwellings are supplied by standpipes.

The power for the pump is furnished by a water wheel with a diesel set as a reserve. Flooding of the river is liable to interfere with this supply.

An improvement scheme was carried out during the year. The work included laying 395 yards of 3" main and 414 yards of 2" main, replacing the old  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " mains.

#### Llancloudy Supply.

This is a separate scheme serving the Llancloudy area of Llangarron parish. Spring water is collected and piped to 21 dwellings. There is one standpipe on this supply. Chlorination treatment is provided. Two samples were submitted for examination during the year; both showed the water to be of satisfactory potable quality.



Harewood End Supply.

This small water scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. The original works had a shallow well and pump driven by water wheel and auxiliary engine but to meet increased demand a lined borehole was constructed, 6" diameter to a depth of 180 feet, and a submerged electric pump provided. The original features of the scheme are retained for emergency use. The scheme supplies 30 dwellings.

Other Water Supplies.

A small water scheme at Yatton supplies 4 Council houses; and 42 Council houses at Coughton are supplied from a small scheme.

The number of dwellings in the District supplied from public water mains is 478.

In addition to the piped supplies provided by the Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals. These private mains give supplies in the parishes of Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Hope Mansel, How Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pencoyd, Weston, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Weonards and Welsh Newton. These schemes utilise water from a variety of sources. The number of dwellings supplied in each case varies from 2 to 73 in the largest. The total dwellings supplied from these private mains is estimated to be 463.

The remaining dwellings are supplied from wells, and a number depend upon the collection of rainwater. The wells are usually of the shallow type and cannot be regarded as satisfactory sources of potable water.

New water schemes for the supply of Council houses were constructed at Llanwarne, Hentland, Weston-under-Penyard and Goodrich. The Llanwarne scheme uses impounded spring water which is pumped to reservoir of 1600 gallons capacity to supply the 12 new dwellings.

At Hentland, a lined borehole 6" diameter was constructed to a depth of 195 feet. The yield on test was 700 gallons per hour, and was considered adequate for the supply of 16 houses.

At Weston, on the site for new Council houses, a borehole 120 feet deep yielded 500 gallons per hour, but the water was excessively hard.

At Goodrich, on the site proposed for 40 Council houses, a borehole 140 feet deep was constructed and the yield was 780 gallons per hour.

During the year, further progress was made in the preliminary work to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme, and two contracts were signed. These contracts cover the construction of boreholes at Castlebrock, and the laying of trunk mains for the first stage. It was not possible to commence work on the St. Weonards and Llanwarne interim water scheme before the close of the year.

The large number of separate water supplies render control of potable water difficult. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 107, and the number of samples submitted for chemical examination was 5. Of these samples submitted for examination, 48 showed the water not to be of potable quality.



Regular inspections and proper maintenance of Local Authority Schemes were carried out during the year. No evidence of any drinking water having a significant solvent action upon metals was found during the year.

The public well at Linton became dry in September and water was provided by carriage to storage tanks.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

There are three lengths of public sewer within the District, in Upton Bishop, in Goodrich and at Hildersley. No extensions of public sewers were made during the year. The sewage disposal works for Goodrich sewer now appear to be working more satisfactorily.

New sewage disposal works were constructed in connection with sites for new Council houses at Lea; Llanwarne and Bridstow. These will treat the effluent from 48 new dwellings.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 164 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 50, and 24 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 14. It was found necessary to make 196 inspections in connection with drainage.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks other than those on the Council's own property.

#### Rivers and Streams.

The River Wye divides the District into eastern and western parts. The River Garron runs through the western part, receiving its tributary the Gamber at Llangarron, and finally joins the Wye at Goodrich. These rivers and streams are clean and no action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year.

#### Closet Accommodation.

The commonest type of closet in use in the District is the pail closet, and it is estimated that 65% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 10% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 25% have the use of water closets. The reason for the continued wide use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies.

During the year 6 privies and 15 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 10 privies were converted to pail closets. Fairly satisfactory progress continued to be made in the provision of closet accommodation. Apart from conversions, 50 new water closets were provided during the year.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets other than those on the Council's property. No public conveniences are provided by the Council, but need of provision in the Whitchurch area exists. This parish has a significant influx of day visitors during the holiday season.



Public Cleansing.

Throughout the year, a collection of domestic refuse was made in all parts of the District by the Rural District Council. The collection is carried out by a motor collection vehicle, provided with adjustable covers, and is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. With a single vehicle it has not been found possible to make a collection more frequently than once a month from all accessible houses (about 80% of inhabited dwellings).

The domestic refuse is tipped on two sites, one situated at Deep Dean, Walford parish, and the other at Tre-essey in Llangarron parish. The use of two tips reduces mileage. During the year, the vehicle with its crew of two men travelled 10,350 miles, conveying 536 loads. The average mileage per load was 19.3 miles. The domestic refuse collected has a low organic content, being chiefly composed of bottles, tins and other incombustible articles. The risk of spontaneous combustion on the tips is, therefore low. The condition of the tips was satisfactory throughout the year.

The Council has no duties in connection with street cleaning, and there are no public baths or washhouses within the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the District.

Shops and Offices.

The number of shops and offices within the District is small, and no action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with shops. The number of inspections of shops was 59.

Camping Sites.

The number of sites used for camping in the area during the year was 26, of these 20 are registered under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time was 150. All sites were inspected during the season, 105 inspections being made, and attention was given to water supply, refuse disposal and closet accommodation. Camping appears to be increasing in popularity.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed-bugs, and no disinfection was required.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses within the Rural District.



Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1953, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Accumulations	...	...	...	32
Animals	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	32
Camping Sites	...	...	...	57
Caravans	...	...	...	48
Dairies	...	...	...	21
Drainage	...	...	...	196
Drain Tests	...	...	...	164
Factories (without mechanical power).	...	...	...	47
Factories (with mechanical power)...	...	...	...	43
Food Handling Byelaws...	...	...	...	54
Food Premises	...	...	...	28
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	...	...	75
Housing (Other)	...	...	...	563
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	12
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	59
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	12
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	...	...	20
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	461
Schools	...	...	...	37
Sewage Disposal Works	..	...	...	96
Sewers (Private)	...	...	...	42
Shops	...	...	...	59
Unsound Food	...	...	...	27
Water Supply	...	...	...	264
Work Places	...	...	...	195

Notices Issued.

Informal	...	...	...	73
Statutory re housing	...	...	...	21
Statutory under other Acts	...	...	...	2

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations	...	...	...	19
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed.	...	...	...	116
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	...	...	27
Drains repaired	...	...	...	11
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	3
New drains provided	...	...	...	74
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	21
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	52
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	29
Defective brickwork repaired	...	...	...	27
Defective Coppers remedied	...	...	...	6
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	9
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	18
Defective chimneys repaired...	...	...	...	11
Dampness of Walls and Floors remedied.	...	...	...	28
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	5
Closets repaired	...	...	...	16

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued).

Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	1
Privies converted to water closets.	...	...	...	6
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	25
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	10
New sinks provided	...	...	...	17
Soil pipes repaired	...	...	...	8
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	...	...	41
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	13
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	19
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	16
Water Supplies provided	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous Defects remedied	...	...	...	174

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

There are 42 factories within the area registered with the Local Authority, 20 of these being factories with mechanical power. Altogether 90 inspections were made. One new building was erected during the year.

Factory Form 572 (revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1953, for the Rural District of Ross and Witchurch in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

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

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspect-ions.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	22	47	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	20	43	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	40	195	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>



## 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. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or defective.	-	1	-	-

There are no outworkers on the Register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs a part time Pests Control Officer in conjunction with the Hereford Rural and Ledbury Rural District Councils. His work during 1953 is recorded by the following table:-

	Premises Inspected.	Total Infestations.	Rats		No. of properties treated.	Statutory Notices.
			Major	Minor		
Local Authorities' Properties.	3	6	-	6	9	-
Dwelling Houses	70	20	2	18	-	-
Agricultural Properties.	250	82	14	68	-	-
All other (including business) premises.	20	4	1	3	-	-
Total	343	112	17	95	9	-

One instance of three cases of Weil's Disease simultaneously in one household was probably due to infection conveyed by rats.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued satisfactorily, as 32 new houses were completed and occupied, whilst a further 58 houses were under construction, but incomplete at the end of the year.

The completed dwellings were situated at Bridstow (4) and Walford (28). These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 234, located according to parish as shown in the following table:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under construction.</u>
Brampton Abbotts	14	-
Bridstow	34	8
Brockhampton	14	-
Garway	12	-
Hentland	8	16
How Caple	4	-
Kings Caple	8	-
Lea	16	24
Linton	6	-
Llangarron	26	-
Llanwarne	-	12
Marstow	8	-
Peterstow	3	-
Ross Rural	2	-
Upton Bishop	4	-
Walford	52	-
Welsh Newton	1	-
Weston-under-Penyard	4	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Yatton	4	-
	<u>234</u>	<u>60</u>

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed 18 dwellings, whilst 12 houses were under construction but incomplete at the end of the year.

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding showed some increase during the year. At the beginning of the year three houses were known to be overcrowded and two cases were found during the year. Five cases were relieved during the year, and at the end of the year 19 overcrowded dwellings were known to the department.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... 385
- (b) Number of inspections made for the above purpose. ... 427



2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	75
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	87
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	8
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	57

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.	...	49
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.		
	(i)	By Owners	...	Nil
	(ii)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	2
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
	(i)	By Owners	...	2
	(ii)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
3.		Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	...	9
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	Nil



4.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	... 1
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	... Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	... 19
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein.	... 20
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	... 133
(d)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	... 21
(e)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	... 5
(f)	Number of persons concerned in (e) above.	... 43

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

Section 2.	The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation.	... Nil
Section 4.(a)	The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	... Nil
(b)	The number of dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	... Nil
Section 15.(a)	The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses and other buildings.	... Nil
(b)	The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority.	... Nil
Section 20.(a)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings.	... Nil
(b)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings.	... 2

HOUSING SURVEY

The systematic survey of all houses within the District having a rateable value of £12 or less has now been completed. Each property surveyed has been classified into one of the following Groups:-

- Group 1. Houses fit in all respects for habitation.  
 Group 2. Houses requiring minor repairs and/or alterations.  
 Group 3/4. Houses requiring major repairs and/or alterations.  
 Group 5. Houses unfit for human habitation.

The classifications within each Parish are as follows:-

Parish.	Group 1.	Group 2.	Groups 3/4.	Group 5.	Total.
Aston Ingham.	6	47	39	8	100
Ballingham.	1	8	19	5	33
Brampton Abbotts.	5	7	30	4	46
Bridstow.	14	33	62	14	123
Brockhampton.	27	8	21	1	57
Foy.	7	13	34	-	54
Ganarew.	-	6	21	8	35
Garway.	19	26	40	3	88
Goodrich.	3	16	73	12	104
Harewood.	-	2	9	1	12
Hentland.	1	29	54	7	91
Hope Mansel.	-	3	39	-	42
How Caple.	16	8	11	-	35
Kings Caple.	5	19	25	7	56
Lea.	10	13	36	4	63
Llandinabo.	1	1	5	2	9
Linton.	10	25	149	3	187
Llangarron.	12	38	107	34	191
Llanrothal.	1	8	22	3	34
Llanwarne.	1	15	35	14	65
Marstow.	3	15	54	9	81
Pencoyd.	1	8	25	1	35
Peterstow.	-	15	34	3	52
Ross Rural.	19	25	34	1	79
St. Weonards.	11	27	58	10	106
Sellack.	-	16	42	9	67
Sollershope.	4	1	11	2	18
Tretire.	2	4	14	3	23
Upton Bishop.	18	19	79	1	117
Walford.	28	34	178	25	265
Welsh Bicknor.	1	1	13	4	19
Welsh Newton.	2	7	29	8	46
Weston/Penyard.	5	15	117	25	162
Whitchurch	6	42	143	35	226
Yatton.	2	3	20	3	28
Totals.	241 (8.8%)	557 (20.2%)	1682 (61.2%)	269 (9.8%)	2749 (100%)



SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year was six. The number of dairy inspections made was twentyone.

There are no pasteurising plants or milk sterilizing plants within the area. One supplementary licence for the sale of pasteurized milk and four supplementary licences for the sale of tuberculin tested milk, were issued by the Council during the year.

Two samples of milk were sent for biological examination for tuberculosis; both samples were free from tuberculosis bacillus. One sample of milk was submitted for bacteriological examination for pathogenic organisms and was found to be satisfactory. In addition, 28 samples of ungraded milk were sent for methylene blue test. Of these, 4 samples failed to conform to the test; these samples were obtained from two separate dairies.

There was no evidence during the year that milk consumed in the area had caused any acute disease in man.

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 2, and the number registered for the storage and sale increased from 14 to 29 during the year. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 59. Conditions were satisfactory generally. There is no manufacture of heat-treated ice cream carried on in the Rural District. Both manufacturers use a cold mix.

The number of samples of this food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year was 43; and 28 of these were classified as provisional grade 1, and 9 as provisional grade 2, three samples were provisional grade 3 and only one was classified as provisional grade 4. This is fairly satisfactory but shows no real improvement on the results of previous years. There was no reason to suspect this food of causing acute disease in the population.

Water Cress.

This food grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area and the sale of water cress during the year is very small. No illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish appears to be very small and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food. There are no fishmongers in the Rural District; supplies are obtained from adjacent towns.

Meat.

There are no slaughterhouses in operation within the area, as these have remained closed since the early war period. All meat is obtained by traders from the Regional Abattoirs of the Ministry of Food. Meat exposed for sale is inspected.

During the year, the Council issued 4 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

	Carcases inspected and condemned				
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	2
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	100%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-

There are eight bakeries, one factory for preserved meat, and one factory for the manufacture of soft drinks registered with the Council under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1936.



Unsound Food.

The following food was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
345 lbs.	Beef.	Decomposition.
14 x 4 oz. tins	Cherries.	Blown tins.
1 x 12 oz. tin	Corned Beef.	Decomposition.
2 tins	Condensed Milk.	Blown tins.
4 tins	Evaporated Milk.	" "
1 tin	Grape fruit Juice.	Decomposition - damaged tin.
1 tin	Ham and Veal Loaf.	Blown tin.
35 lbs.	Lamb.	Decomposition.
3 tins	Meat Loaf.	Blown tins.
1 tin	Peas.	" tin.
6 tins	Plums.	" tins.
16½ lbs.	Pork.	Decomposition.
48	Pork Pies.	"
5 tins	Sardines.	Blown tins.
1 tin	Steak and Kidney.	" tin.
1 tin	Tomatoes.	" "
1 tin	Tomatoe Juice.	Decomposition - damaged tin.
1 tin	Tomatoe Soup.	Blown tin.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is buried on the refuse tips under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Byelaws as to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in Open Air.

There are no markets held within the Rural District, and the sale of food from stalls is very limited. Since the adoption of the Byelaws more attention has been given to vendors' delivery vans and vehicles. During the year 54 inspections were made under the Byelaws.

Food Poisoning.

No notifications of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning were received during the year.

Anthrax Order No.1938.

No notifications of Anthrax occurring in animals were received during the year.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of acute notifiable disease during the year showed an increase on the very low incidence during the year 1952. Altogether 482 notifications were received, of which 412 were notifications of measles. The Rural District was entirely free from diphtheria, enteric fever and meningococcal infection.



Measles.

This disease was the most prevalent infection. It appeared in January and spread rapidly during the first half of the year, and disappeared during the third quarter. Most of the patients were children between 5 and 10 years of age. The notification rate was 34.9 per 1000 population, whilst that rate for England and Wales for the year was 12.36 per 1000 population. Every parish was involved in this widespread infection but fortunately there were no deaths.

Reasons for the heavy incidence of measles is that there has been no heavy incidence since 1949, and the fact that the disease is highly infectious.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year
Acute Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic.	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery.	-	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	5	1	1	-	7
Measles.	169	222	21	-	412
Pneumonia.	3	2	1	1	7
Whooping Cough.	-	13	22	15	50
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	1	-	-	3
All Diseases	179	240	46	17	482

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was the second most frequent acute infection, but was much less frequent than measles. Altogether there were 50 cases notified; these occurred during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of the year, incidence being highest in the 3rd quarter. Thirty dwellings were involved, 14 of these each giving rise to more than one case. The incidence rate is 4.2 per 1000 population, whilst the rate for England and Wales is 3.58 per 1000 population.

Scarlet Fever.

Only 7 notifications were received. Five of these arose in the first quarter of the year, whilst the last quarter was free from the disease. There did not appear to be any connection between the cases. The incidence rate was 0.6 per 1000 population, which is to be compared with the England and Wales rate of 1.39 per 1000 population. Unfortunately one death occurred, and the corrected death rate from scarlet fever is 0.07 per 1000 population.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain  
Age Groups.

Disease	Age										
	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	N.K.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	6	56	76	211	41	7	9	3	2	0	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-
Whooping Cough	4	9	4	29	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	11	66	83	243	45	8	13	3	7	1	2

Pneumonia.

There were seven notifications of pneumonia received during the year. This incidence was largely confined to the first half of the year (5 cases). Five of the patients were over 50 years of age and two were under 10 years of age. Seven deaths were attributed to this disease but I regret to say that not one of the fatal cases was a notified one. However, with the exception of pneumonia, I am satisfied that the efficiency of notification by the medical practitioners in the area is reasonably good.

The notification rate for pneumonia was 0.59 per 1000 population and this rate for England and Wales is 0.84. The corrected death rate from pneumonia for the Rural District is 0.47 per 1000 population, whilst the national rate from the same cause is 0.55 per 1000 population.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The Rural District was fortunate as regards acute poliomyelitis, as only one case occurred and that was of the non-paralytic form.

Other Diseases.

Only one case of erysipelas and one case of dysentery were notified. The dysentery was caused by the Sonné organism.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.



Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 88 cases of tuberculosis on the register (60 respiratory and 28 non-respiratory). During the year 12 cases were added (11 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory); of these 4 were new cases of respiratory disease. The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 12 (8 respiratory and 4 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 88 cases remained on the register (63 respiratory and 25 non-respiratory). There was one male death attributed to respiratory disease, giving a corrected death rate from tuberculosis of 0.07 per 1000 population. Two respiratory cases and three cases of non-respiratory disease were regarded as having recovered.

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Groups.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-





