

Contributors

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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956





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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 1956, in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 19/56 of the Ministry of Health.

The birth rate was maintained and the death rate was low. No significant outbreak of infectious disease occurred.

Satisfactory progress was made in housing, and considerable progress was achieved by the Council in the provision of adequate water supplies.

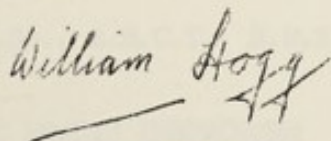
I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Colonel N. Blake for information respecting water supplies provided by the Ross Water Undertaking.

Also, I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report, but in the discharge of my duties throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council; Mr. G.E. Hardy, Public Health 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 during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Hogg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Medical Officer of Health.

1st August, 1957.

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale.

Telephone:

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Ross-on-Wye.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND
HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

+p Mr. C.W.J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.&Hy.

+ Certificate as Inspector of Meats and other Foods.

∅ Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

ASSISTANT TO ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR (Part-time for Public Health
Purposes)

Mr. D.T. Preece, B.Sc., A.M.C.T., M.R.S.I., Grad.I.Str.E.

CLERK TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. O.J. Scruby.

Telephone:

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Ross-on-Wye.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

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

Vice-Chairman - Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

Mr. F.E.M. Stallard	...	Aston Ingham.
Mr. L. Drayson Russill	...	Ballingham.
Mr. H.E. Sainsbury	...	Brampton Abbotts.
Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.	...	Bridstow.
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	...	Brockhampton.
Mr. G.G. Bevan.	...	Foy
Brigadier R.P. Waller	...	Ganarew.
Mr. A.N. Cole	...	Garway.
Mr. A.C. Morris	...	Goodrich.
Mr. H.W. Badger	...	Harewood End and Llandinabo.
Mrs. M.J. Williamson	...	Hentland.
Mr. T. Scott	...	Hope Mansell.
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	...	How Caple & Sollershope.
Mr. R.J. Jenkins.	...	Kings Caple.
Mr. G. Savidge.	...	Lea.
Mr. K.W. Barter	...	Linton.
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury	...	Linton.
Mr. J.F. Maclean, J.P.	...	Llangarron.
Mr. F.G. Scudamore	...	Llangarron.
Mr. J.R. Ravenhill	...	Llanrothal.
Mr. H.A. Gundy	...	Llanwarne.
Mr. G.W. Banfield	...	Marstow.
Mr. S.R. Garner	...	Pencoyd.
Mr. H.C. Teague	...	Peterstow.
Mr. H.T. Allen	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. A.C. Netting	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. R.W. Meredith	...	St. Weonards.
Mr. E.P.C. Whittall	...	Sellack.
Mr. T.W. Dew	...	Tretire and Michaelchurch.
Mr. A.T. Powell	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. A.E. Thomson	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. W. Chinn	...	Walford.
Mrs. A.E. Hill	...	Walford.
Mr. A.T. Richards	...	Welsh Bicknor.
Mr. W.R. Morgan	...	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, and the scenery of the Wye Valley attracts visitors. Limestone quarries are worked at Whitchurch and Linton. All types of farming are found within the Rural District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Area in acres	... 72,105
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	... 11,820
Number of inhabited houses	... 3,610
Rateable Value	... £69,377
Sum represented by a Penny rate	... £260
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude)	... 14.9
Corrected live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population	... 17.1
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	... 43.5
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude)	... 11.6
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population	... 10.2
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	... 1.15
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	... 0.88

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	... 28.4
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	... 29.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	... Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,820. The natural increase in population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 39.

This population is contained in 3610 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.27. The density of dwellings for the district is 0.05 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 176 (94 male and 82 female), and the crude live birth rate is 14.9 per 1000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor is 1.15 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 17.1 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 15.7 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.15.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 6 (3 male and 3 female). The illegitimate live births form 3.4% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 16.5 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths

Eight stillbirths occurred, and the stillbirth rate is therefore 43.5 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the corrected still birth rate for the Rural District is 0.77 per 1000 population. The England and Wales stillbirth rate for the year is 23.0 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 137 (75 male and 62 female). The 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 1.20.

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 11.6 per 1000 population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.88, the corrected death rate is 10.2 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year is 11.7 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death
according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	1	1	0.074
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	1	-	1	0.074
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	-	1	0.074
11.	" " , lung, bronchus.	3	-	3	0.223
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	3	3	0.223
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.074
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	7	11	18	1.339
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	-	2	0.149
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	8	14	1.042
18.	Coronary disease.	8	5	13	0.967
20.	Other heart disease.	11	12	23	1.711
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	6	9	0.669
22.	Influenza.	1	1	2	0.223
23.	Pneumonia.	3	4	7	0.521
24.	Bronchitis.	5	4	9	0.669
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	1	4	0.298
26.	Ulcer of stomach, duodenum.	1	-	1	0.074
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1	0.074
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis.	-	1	1	0.074
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	3	-	3	0.223
31.	Congenital malformations	1	-	1	0.074
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	11	2	13	0.967
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	1	-	1	0.074
34.	All other accidents.	2	2	4	0.298
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.074
All Causes		75	62	137	10.242

Analysis of deaths by cause shows that the most frequent cause is heart disease (headings 18 and 20), accounting for 36 deaths. The corrected death rate from this cause is 2.68 per 1000 population.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 14 deaths (6 male and 8 female), and the corrected death rate from this cause is 1.04 per 1000 population.

Cancer Deaths

This year 26 deaths were attributed to cancer of all types (11 male and 15 female), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.93 per 1000 population.

Cancer was the second most frequent cause of death.

Infant Mortality

The number of babies who died under one year of age is 5 (4 male and 1 female). The infant mortality rate is 28.4 per 1000 live births; this rate for England and Wales is 23.8 per 1000 live births.

Neo-Natal Mortality

Four of the infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Seven deaths were attributed to pneumonia. The corrected death rate from acute pneumonia is 0.52 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis Deaths

Only one death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.074 per 1000 population and the tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales is 0.121 per 1000 population for the year.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Public Health Laboratory

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

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

Ice Cream	...	50
Water (bacteriological)	...	108
Urine	...	1
Faeces	...	26
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	103
Milk (biological)	...	24
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	134

Four samples of sewage effluent 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, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 8 bodies were admitted to the Public Mortuary from the Rural District.

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 of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth, for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

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

One burial was carried out by the Council under this section during the year.

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

One investigation was made under this section. No formal action was necessary - the person concerned was admitted to hospital.

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.

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 parts 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	...	172
Ross Rural	...	116
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. No extensions to the Ross Water Undertaking's mains were carried out in the District during the year.

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood End. These give a constant supply of potable water. In 1956 the St. Weonards and Llanwarne interim scheme was brought into operation.

Brampton Abbots Supply

Brampton Abbots is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. This scheme supplies 54 dwellings by services from the mains. The 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 dwelling houses supplied by services is 81 and 3 are supplied by standpipes.

Llangarron Supply

This supplies part of the parish of Llangarron, 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 151 dwellings by service, and 8 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.

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.

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

In addition to piped supplies provided by the Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals.

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

During the year further progress was made with respect to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme. I am indebted to Mr. R. Whitehouse, Resident Engineer, for the following account of the work carried out during the year:-

St. Weonards and Llanwarne Interim Scheme. During 1956 the Interim Water Supply Scheme for St. Weonards and Llanwarne, together with the 3" extension to Llandinabo and two short 1" Branch Mains was commissioned. Water has been continually supplied to this area since January 1956, and frequent samples have been tested with satisfactory results. The scheme has operated satisfactorily with only one slight interruption during the year.

Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme. During 1956 the laying of the water mains covering Coughton, Walford, Goodrich, part of Coppett Hill, Brelston Green, Whitchurch, Ganarew and Symonds Yat areas was completed, but several lengths remained to be tested before being finally taken over by the Council. Work at the Castlebrook Pumping Station had advanced as far as the installation of the pumping machinery. The low level supply reservoir at Deep Dean was constructed but not tested. It is expected that the above mentioned areas will be provided with a pure and wholesome supply of water before the winter of 1957.

The large number of separate water supplies renders control of potable water difficult. This difficulty will become progressively less with the development of the Comprehensive Scheme. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 108. Of these samples, 23 showed the water not to be of potable quality. One sample was submitted for chemical examination.

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

Springs of Welsh Newton Common failed in October 1955, and the Council was obliged to maintain a supply of water in four storage tanks to meet the needs of the residents in this area.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are short public sewers within the parishes of Lea, Walford, Upton Bishop, Goodrich and Ross Rural. No extensions of public sewers or new works for sewage disposal were carried out during the year.

Four samples of effluent were sent for chemical analysis.

During the year, the Public Health Inspectors made 152 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 69 and 6 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 14. It was necessary to make 96 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 property.

Rivers and Streams

No action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year. The absence of trade effluents and the regular collection of domestic refuse have promoted cleanliness of rivers and streams in the Rural District.

Closet Accommodation

The commonest type of closet in use in the District is the pail closet, and it is estimated that 55% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 10% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 35% 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 7 privies and 36 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 1 privy was replaced by a pail closet. Apart from conversions, 26 new water closets were provided during the year.

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

Public Cleansing

Throughout the year, a collection of domestic refuse was made from all accessible properties in the District by the Council. The collection is carried out by motor vehicle, provided with adjustable covers, and is supervised by the Public Health Inspector. With a single vehicle it has not been found possible to collect more frequently than once each month. About 80% of inhabited houses are included in the collection.

The domestic refuse is tipped on two sites, one at Deepdean, Walford parish and the other at Tre-essey, Llangarron parish. The use of two tips reduces mileage. During the year, the vehicle with its crew of two men travelled 11,000 miles conveying 540 loads. The average mileage per load was 20 miles. The 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 low. The condition of the tips was satisfactory throughout the year.

The Council has no duties in connection with street cleansing and there are no public baths or washhouses within the area. The settlement tanks and filters at the Council's housing sites are cleansed twice yearly by Contractors.

Swimming Baths and Pools

One swimming pool was open to the public on payment. This is situated at Glewstone and is provided with satisfactory purification plant.

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 75.

Camping Sites

The number of sites used for camping in the area during the year was 18; of these 6 were licensed 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 250.

Twenty inspections of sites were made, and 33 inspections of caravans were carried out. When sites are inspected attention is given to water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse disposal.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfection was required. When need for disinfection arises this is carried out by specialist contractors.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1956, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	11
Animals	...	7
Bakehouses	...	12
Camping Sites	...	20
Caravans	...	33
Dairies	...	25
Drainage	...	96
Drain Tests	...	152
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	2
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	2
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	24
Food Poisoning	...	1
Food Handling Byelaws	...	120
Food Premises	...	123
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	13
Housing (Other)	...	113

Inspections (continued)

Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	43
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	57
Infectious Disease	...	60
Knackers' Yards	...	5
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	16
Offensive Smells	...	16
Petroleum Stores	...	10
Schools	...	61
Sewage Disposal Works	...	9
Sewers	...	1
Shops	...	75
Sanitary Conveniences	...	19
Unsound Food	...	8
Water Supply	...	35
Work Places	...	17

Notices Issued

Informal	...	14
Statutory re housing	...	50

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	29
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	118
Ditches cleared	...	6
Domestic Baths provided	...	43
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	14
Drains repaired	...	7
Drains reconstructed	...	7
New drains provided	...	75
Defective floors repaired	...	32
Defective roofs repaired	...	44
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	19
Defective brickwork repaired	...	14
Defective Coppers remedied	...	3
Disinfections after infectious Disease	...	1
Defective windows repaired	...	27
Defective Chimneys repaired	...	10
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	21
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	9
Closets repaired	...	15
Dairies improved	...	6
New Gullies provided	...	14
Old Drains sealed	...	17
Paving repaired	...	12
Privies converted to water closets	...	5
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	36
Staircases repaired	...	10
New sinks provided	...	40
Soil pipes repaired	...	4
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	45
Stoves repaired	...	6
Moveable Dwellings removed	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	27
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	11
Water supplies provided	...	73
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	44

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

During the year the number of premises registered as factories diminished and there are now 15 factories within the area registered with the Local Authority - 14 of these being factories with mechanical power.

Factory Form 572 (revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1956, for the Rural District of Ross and Whitchurch in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the 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	1	2	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	24	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	142	357	-	-
Total	157	383	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred</u>		
		<u>to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector</u>	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

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 in the area during 1956 is recorded by the following table:-

	Premises inspected.	Total Infest- ations.	Rats		Mice	No. of proper- ties treated.	Stat- utory Not- ices.
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	12	9	-	9	-	9	-
Dwelling Houses	64	23	-	23	-	-	-
Agricultural Properties	76	38	-	38	-	-	-
All other (including business) Premises	8	4	-	4	-	-	-
Total	160	74	-	74	-	9	-

Knackers' Yards

One knacker's yard was closed during the year and now only one exists within the Rural District.

Byelaws made by the Council under Section 58 of the Food and Drug Act, 1938 control these premises. Five inspections were made during the year.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued. Eight new Council houses were completed and occupied, whilst a further 22 were under construction at the end of the year.

The completed dwellings were situated at Lea. These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 302.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction</u>
Brampton Abbotts	14	-
Bridstow	42	-
Brockhampton	14	-
Garway	12	-
Goodrich	-	20
Hentland	24	-
How Caple	4	-
Kings Caple	8	-
Lea	48	2
Linton	6	-
Llangarron	26	-
Llanwarne	12	-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Under Construction</u>
Marstow	8	-
Peterstow	3	-
Ross Rural	2	-
Upton Bishop	4	-
Walford	52	-
Welsh Newton	1	-
Weston-under-Penyard	4	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Yatton	4	-
	<u>302</u>	<u>22</u>

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed 16 dwellings, and 11 were under construction at the end of the year.

Housing Act 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding

No improvement in overcrowding was achieved during the year. At the beginning of the year 8 houses were known to be overcrowded. Two cases were relieved during the year but 2 new cases came to the notice of the Department and at the end of the year 8 dwellings were overcrowded.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	171
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	5
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	110

Houses demolished or closed during the Year

1. Housing Act 1936		
(a) Demolished as a result of informal procedure (Section 11)	...	3
(b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	...	16
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	...	Nil
2. Housing Act 1949		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3(1) and 3(2)	...	Nil
3. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2)	...	1

Houses repaired during the Year

1. Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... Nil
2. Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice:
Houses in which defects were remedied
 - (a) By Owners ... Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil
3. Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16):
Houses made fit
 - (a) By Owners ... Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil
4. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ... 45

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year was 41. The number of dairy inspections made was 25.

There are no milk pasteurising, sterilising or processing plants situated within the Rural District. Eight distributors' licences for the sale of tuberculin tested milk, 12 for the sale of tuberculin pasteurised milk and one for the sale of sterilised milk, were granted by the Council during the year.

Twentyfour samples of milk were sent for biological examination for tuberculosis and Br. abortus infection. All samples submitted for biological test were found to be satisfactory except one which was infected with Br. abortus. No action was necessary, as I was satisfied that no danger to health arose in this milk supply.

Of 32 samples of tuberculin tested milk submitted for examination 6 failed to comply with the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949. The number of samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination was 103 and 9 of these failed to comply with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949. Seven unsatisfactory samples concerned one retailer. A warning was issued to this vendor respecting the labelling of his milk.

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 was 36. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 57. Conditions of storage and sale were satisfactory. There is no manufacture of heat treated ice cream carried out 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 50. Fortythree of these were classified as provisional grade 1, five as provisional grade 2 and two were classified as provisional grade 3. This shows an improvement on the results of the previous year. 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 small. No illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

Shell Fish

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

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the area. All meat is obtained by traders from abattoirs of adjacent Districts.

During the year the Council issued 3 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954, for the slaughter of all animals.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All Diseases</u> <u>except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

There are six 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. The number of inspections of registered premises during the year was 123. No formal action was necessary as a result of inspection, as all premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

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>
2 x 7 lb. tins	Apricots	Perforated tins.
1 x 7 lb. tin	"	Blown tin.
2 x 6 lb. tins	Ox Tongue	Mould and decomposition.
1 x 7½ lb. tin	Peas	Blown tin
1 x 7 lb. tin	Peaches	" "
1 x 6¾ lb. tin	Pineapple	Mould.
5 x 15 oz. tins	Pineapple Juice	Defective tins.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is buried on the refuse tips under the supervision of the Public Health 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 120 inspections were made under these byelaws.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

Anthrax Order 1938 - Diseases of Animals Acts

One notification of Anthrax occurring in an animal was received during the year.

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

The incidence of acute infectious disease in the Rural District was quite low - only 63 notifications were received; 48 of these in the first half of the year. The notification rate is 5.33 per 1000 estimated population.

The Rural District was entirely free from diphtheria, enteric fevers and acute poliomyelitis throughout the year.

Confirmed Cases of Acute Infectious Disease
in each Quarter

Disease	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Scarlet Fever	-	2	1	1	4
Whooping Cough	4	4	4	3	15
Measles	4	16	2	-	22
Dysentery	-	11	-	-	11
Pneumonia	3	2	1	2	8
Erysipelas	-	2	1	-	3
All Diseases	11	37	9	6	63

Measles

Altogether 22 cases of measles were notified, 16 of these being received in the second quarter. The incidence was very low, the notification rate being 1.86 per 1000 estimated population, and the disease was mild. No deaths were attributed to the disease. Only 16 households were involved, three of which gave rise to 9 notifications. Most of the notifications arose in the west of the District, in the parishes of Garway, Llangarron, Whitchurch, St. Weonards and Hentland. The number of males and females infected were identical.

Whooping Cough

Only 15 notifications of whooping cough were received during the year, and whilst the notification rate was very low (1.27 per 1000 estimated population) the incidence remained steady over the year. All the patients, except one, were under ten years of age. There were no deaths or special incidence as regards sex.

Dysentery

In the second quarter of the year there was a small outbreak of Sonné Dysentery in Bridstow parish, affecting younger children. It was not possible to find the origin of the infection, but the circumstance common to all cases was attendance at the same school. There were 11 confirmed cases and the infection was rapidly brought under control.

Pneumonia

Eight notifications of pneumonia were received although this number did not indicate the true incidence as seven deaths were caused by the disease. The period of maximum incidence was the first half of the year.

Analysis of notified cases according to
certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	1	2	7	-	-	-	1	-	15
Measles	-	1	-	1	3	12	5	-	-	-	-	22
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	3	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Dysentery	-	1	2	2	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	11
All Diseases	-	5	4	4	7	26	7	-	3	3	4	63

Other Diseases

Three notifications of erysipelas were received in the second and third quarters.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 94 cases of tuberculosis on the register (70 respiratory and 24 non-respiratory). During the year 17 cases were added (16 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory); of these 11 were new cases (10 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory). Eight new infections occurred in males.

The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 13 (10 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 98 cases remained on the Register, (76 respiratory and 22 non-respiratory).

There was one death attributed to respiratory disease, giving a corrected death rate from tuberculosis of 0.074 per 1000 population. Three respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case were regarded as having recovered.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1956

Age Groups.	New Infections				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55+	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	2	-	1	-	1	-	-



