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Contributors

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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

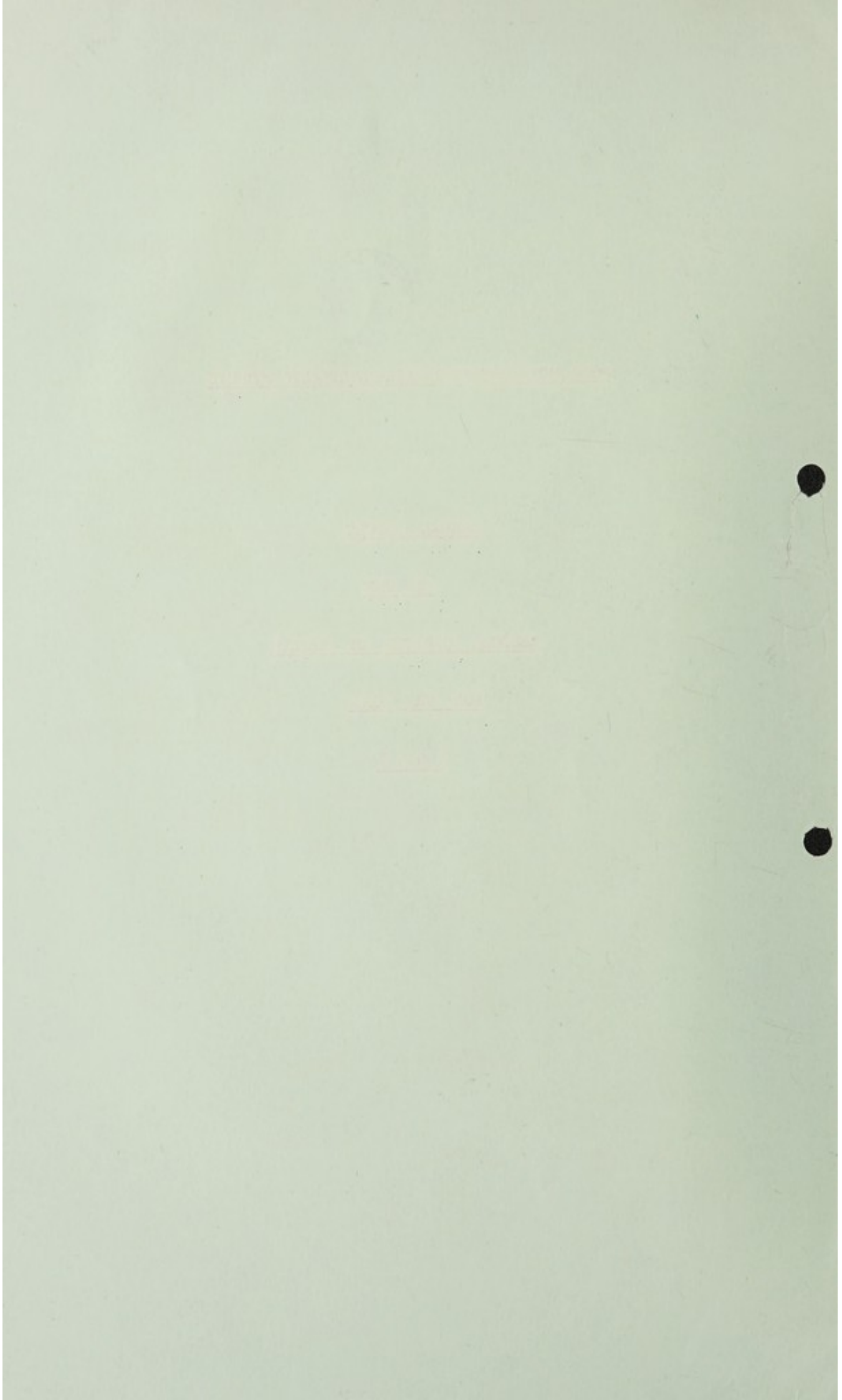
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1957



ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957. in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 1/58 of the Ministry of Health.

The birth rate was maintained and the death rate was low. Infectious disease was somewhat more prevalent than in the previous year.

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

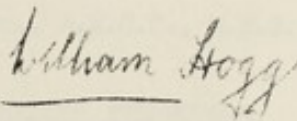
I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Colonel N. Blake for information respecting water supplies provided by the Ross Water Undertaking.

Also, I have to acknowledge assistance given me, not only in the preparation of this report, but in the discharge of my duties throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. H.B. Reynolds, 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,



Medical Officer of Health.

19th June, 1958.

REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE

... ..

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the investigation of the

The report was examined and the results are as follows:

... ..

I am sure that the results of the investigation will be of great value to the

... ..

... ..

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,
... ..

Medical Officer of Health

1911

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:

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Chepstow House,

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

+~~o~~ 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.
~~o~~ 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:

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

GENERAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

William Hays, M.D., S.S., S.H.S., L.S.D., D.S.M., F.R.S.E.

REPORT TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

Mr. A. J. ...

Director, Bureau of Health

Washington, D.C.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. A. J. ...

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. C. V. ...

Continued as Inspector of Health and other duties.
State Inspector's Certificate.

REPORT TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

Mr. A. J. ...

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. C. V. ...

Washington, D.C.

Director, Bureau of Health

Telephone

Room No. 121

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

1957

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 (Deceased November)	...	Brampton Abbots.
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 and 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. Chirn	...	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	...	11,790
Number of inhabited houses 31.12.57.	...	3,613
Rateable Value	...	£67,078
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£265
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	15.9
Corrected live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population	...	18.2
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	15.7
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude)	...	10.9
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population	...	9.6
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.14
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.88

Deaths from Maternal Causes

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

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	5.3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	5.7
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 60.

This population is contained in 3613 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.26. The gross 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 188 (90 male and 98 female), and the crude live birth rate is 15.9 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 18.2 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 16.1 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 0.92.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 10 (6 male and 4 female). The illegitimate live births form 5.3% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 17.2 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

Three stillbirths occurred, and the stillbirth rate is therefore 15.7 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the corrected still-birth rate for the Rural District is 0.29 per 1000 population. The England and Wales stillbirth rate for the year is 22.4 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 128 (62 male and 66 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 0.94.

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 10.9 per 1000 estimated population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.88, the corrected death rate is 9.6 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for 1957 for England and Wales is 11.5 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 est. population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	-	2	0.149
3.	Syphilitic disease.	1	1	2	0.149
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3	3	6	0.448
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	0.149
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	3	3	0.224
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	5	11	0.821
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-	1	0.075
16.	Diabetes.	-	2	2	0.149
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	11	15	1.119
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	8	6	14	1.044
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	2	1	3	0.224
20.	Other heart disease.	15	14	29	2.163
21.	Other circulatory disease.	3	1	4	0.298
22.	Influenza.	2	1	3	0.224
23.	Pneumonia.	3	3	6	0.448
24.	Bronchitis.	2	1	3	0.224
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	1	3	0.224
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.149
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.075
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1	1	0.075
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	1	9	10	0.746
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1	2	0.149
34.	All other accidents.	1	1	2	0.149
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.075
All Causes		62	66	128	9.550

Analysis of deaths by cause show that the most frequent cause is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 46 deaths. The corrected death rate for all forms of heart disease is 3.4 per 1000 estimated population.

Cancer Deaths

In 1957 there were 22 deaths attributed to all types of cancer (11 male and 11 female), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.6 per 1000 estimated population.

Infant Mortality

The number of babies under one year of age who died is 1 (female). The infant mortality rate is 5.3 per 1000 live births; this rate for England and Wales is 23.0 per 1000 live births.

Neo-Natal Mortality

The infant death occurred within the first four weeks of life.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Six deaths were attributed to pneumonia. The corrected death rate for the Rural District for 1957 from acute pneumonia is 0.45 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis Deaths

Two deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The local adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.149 per 1000 estimated population and the tuberculosis (all forms) death rate for England and Wales is 0.107 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, County Hospital, Hereford, remain unchanged.

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

Ice Cream	...	48
Water (bacteriological)	...	200
Urine	...	6
Faeces	...	20
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	78
Milk (biological)	...	17
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	114

Four samples of sewage effluent and four 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, 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

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

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

Five investigations were made under this section, all concerned with elderly persons. The admission to hospital was arranged for two of these persons, and the admission of another to a home for the aged. In two cases no action was necessary as the persons concerned were receiving adequate care and attention.

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	...	6

All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings but seven other dwellings in Bridstow are 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 55 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 83, and 3 others 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 154 dwellings by service, and 7 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 1 standpipe on this supply. Chlorination treatment is provided.

Harewood End Supply

This small water scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. The scheme supplies 30 dwellings.

During October and November, the borehole ceased to yield water for about four weeks and water had to be hauled to maintain a reasonable supply.

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.

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

St. Weonards and Llanwarne Interim Scheme During 1957 the Interim Water Supply Scheme for St. Weonards and Llanwarne, including the 3" extension to Llandinabo, continued to function satisfactorily. Frequent samples have been tested with satisfactory results. Seventy dwellings are connected to these public water mains.

Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme During 1957 Contract No.2 covering Coughton, Walford, Goodrich, part of Coppett Hill, Brelstone Green, Whitchurch, Ganarew and Symonds Yat areas has been completed and put into commission, and a continuous supply of pure water has been provided to these areas for the whole of the year. In addition Contract No.3 covering the higher ground of Walford Parish and also supplying the necessary head for future Contracts to supply water to the north part of the Rural District Council's area has been commenced and is now about thirty percent complete. It is anticipated that Howle Hill, Howle Green, Forest Green and Bishopswood areas will be supplied within the next twelve months, and Contracts 4 and 5 covering Glewstone, Peterstow, Sellack, Hoarwithy, Carey, Ballingham, Great Doward, Hope Mansell, Lea, Aston Crews, Linton, Upton Bishop, Upton Crews, Crow Hill, Weston-under-Penyard and Kingstone are far advanced and work will start in 1958.

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 200. Of these samples, 49 showed the water not to be of potable quality. Four samples were submitted for chemical examination.

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. Some contamination of the supply to the Pontshill Council houses was detected in the early part of the year and remedied.

Springs on Welsh Newton Common which failed in October 1955, continued to remain dry throughout the year, 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. There was a failure of supply at the Yatton Council houses for four months and haulage of water was required during this period. Many private shallow wells failed during the months of August, September and October.

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 from the Hildersley works were sent for chemical analysis.

During the year, the Public Health Inspectors made 104 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 6 and 8 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed cleared or repaired was 44. It was necessary to make 62 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 50% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 10% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 40% 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 40 pail closets and 4 privies were converted to water closets. Apart from conversions, 42 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 for 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 9,600 miles conveying 530 loads. The average mileage per load was 18 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 contract.

Swimming Baths and Pools

One privately owned swimming pool was open to the public on payment during the year. This is provided with satisfactory purification plant. Eight samples of water from the pool were sent for bacteriological examination, two of these showed a small count.

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 55.

Camping Sites

The number of sites used for camping in the area during the year was 17; of these 5 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.

Nine inspections of camping sites were made and 22 caravan inspections were carried out. When sites are inspected attention is given to water supply, sanitary accommodation, refuse disposal and spacing.

With increasing popularity of trailer caravans, the number of campers in the District during summer months is bound to increase.

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 1959, 1957 furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	2
Animals	...	5
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	3
Bakehouses	...	2
Camping Sites	...	9
Caravans	...	22
Dairies	...	16
Drainage	...	62
Drain Tests	...	104

Inspections (continued)

Factories (without mechanical power)	...	1
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	13
Food Handling Byelaws	...	55
Food Premises	...	56
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	20
Housing (Other)	...	97
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	25
Ice Cream(Registered Premises)	...	64
Infectious Disease	...	76
Knackers' Yards	...	2
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	3
Offensive Smells	...	9
Petroleum Stores	...	14
Schools	...	30
Sewage Disposal Works	...	18
Sewers	...	7
Shops	...	55
Sanitary Conveniences	...	10
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	10
Unsound Food	...	4
Water Supply	...	241
Water Courses	...	12
Work Places	...	32

Notices Issued

Informal	...	27
Statutory re housing	...	12

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	37
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	124
Ditches cleared	...	6
Domestic baths provided	...	44
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	21
Drains repaired	...	5
Drains reconstructed	...	18
New drains provided	...	94
Defective floors repaired	...	29
Defective roofs repaired	...	32
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	17
Defective brickwork repaired	...	14
Defective Coppers remedied	...	2
Disinfections after infectious Disease	...	5
Defective windows repaired	...	21
Defective chimneys repaired	...	6
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	30
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	5
Closets repaired	...	11
Dairies improved	...	2
New Gullies provided	...	10
Old drains sealed	...	12
Paving repaired	...	4
Privies converted to water closets	...	4
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	29
Staircases repaired	...	5
New sinks provided	...	37
Soil pipes repaired	...	4
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	47
Moveable Dwellings removed	...	2
Stoves repaired	...	4
Ventilation improved	...	19
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	8
Water Supplies provided	...	322

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

The number of premises registered as factories remained unchanged - 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 1957, 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).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect- ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	13	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	152	422	-	-
Total	167	436	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred to H.M. Inspector.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	by H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or defective.	1	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 in the area during 1957 is recorded by the following table:-

	Premises inspected.	Total Infestations.	Rats		Mice	No. of properties treated.	Statutory Notices.
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	20	13	-	13	-	-	-
Dwelling Houses	95	48	-	46	2	3	-
Agricultural Properties	98	58	2	56	-	-	-
All other (including business) Premises	16	8	-	8	-	-	-
Total	229	127	2	123	2	3	-

Knackers' Yards

One knacker's yard is situated within the Rural District.

Byelaws made by the Council under Section 58 of the Food and Drug Act, 1938, control these premises. Two inspections were made during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued. The number of new Council houses completed and occupied during the year was 26, whilst a further 16 were under construction at the end of the year.

The completed dwellings were situated at Goodrich and Lea. These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 328.

Unless further house construction is commenced, the Council's house building will come to an end somewhat prematurely. The need for more new dwellings is evident from the number of unsatisfied applications before the Council. No houses specially constructed for the aged have as yet been erected although there is need for such dwellings.

Council House, Complete and under Construction

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Under Construction</u>
Brampton Abbotts	14	-
Bridstow	42	-
Brockhampton	14	-
Garway	12	-
Goodrich	24	16
Hentland	24	-
How Caple	4	-
Kings Caple	8	-
Lea	50	-
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>328</u>	<u>16</u>

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed 16 dwellings, and 8 were under construction at the end of the year.

Housing Act 1957, Part IV - Overcrowding

Some improvement in overcrowding was achieved during the year. At the beginning of the year 8 houses were known to be overcrowded. Six cases were relieved during the year but one new case came to the notice of the Department. At the end of the year only 3 dwellings were known to be overcrowded.

No dwellings have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps to secure abatement of overcrowding.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	161
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	12
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	141

Houses demolished or closed during the Year

1. Housing Act 1957
- (a) Demolished as a result of informal or formal procedure under section 17(1) ... 3
- (b) Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35 (1) ... 11

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
After informal action by Local Authority	157	Nil
After formal notice under Public Health Acts	5	Nil
After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil
Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	33	Nil

Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949. Section 20

- (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of new dwellings by the conversion of buildings ... Nil
- (b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings ... 44

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk

On 1st October 1956, the Rural District became a specified area and only tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk can be sold by retail in the District.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year was 28. The number of dairy inspections made was 16.

There are no milk pasteurising, sterilising or processing plants situated within the Rural District.

The number of licences issued for the sale of pasteurised milk was 14, and 10 were issued in respect of the sale of tuberculin tested milk. One licence was granted for the sale of sterilised milk

Informal action secured improvement in two dairies.

Seventeen 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.

Of 36 samples of tuberculin tested milk submitted for examination 14 failed to comply with the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949. Four distributors were concerned in these unsatisfactory samples.

The number of samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination was 78 and 11 of these failed to comply with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

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 41. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 64. 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 48. Fortyseven of these were classified as provisional grade 1 and one as provisional grade 2. This shows an improvement on the results of the previous year. There was no reason to suspect this food as the cause of 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 16 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954, for the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs.

Unsound Food

The following list gives particulars of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
16 oz Tin	Baked Beans	Blown tin.
8 oz. Tin	" "	" "
19 oz. Tin	Beetroot	" "
13 oz. Tin	Fruit Cocktail	" "
11 oz. Tin	Mandarin Orange	" "
10 oz. Tin	Soup	" "
6 lb. Tin	Peaches	" "
1 lb. Tin	"	" "
29 oz. Tin	Pears	" "
4 x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Tins	Pineapple	" tins
1 lb. Tin	Stewed Steak	" tin
8 oz. Tin	Strawberries	" "
14 oz. Tin	Tomatoes	" "

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

No special examination of stocks or particular consignments of food was necessary during the year.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

A survey of all premises has been made and informal action taken to secure compliance. However, the absence of adequate piped water supplies has caused some difficulty in the provision of additional fittings but these instances are being pursued.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 15
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 55 inspections were made under these byelaws.

Food and Drugs Act 1955 Section 26
Food Poisoning

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

Diseases of Animals Acts

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

<u>Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part</u>						
	<u>Cattle excluding Cows.</u>		<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>		<u>Pigs. Horses.</u>
<u>Number killed (if known)</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Number inspected</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis 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 refriger- ation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

There are five bakeries, one factory for preserved meat, and one factory for the manufacture of soft drinks registered with the Council under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. The number of inspections of registered premises during the year was 56. No formal action was necessary as a result of inspection.

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

The incidence of acute notifiable infectious disease during 1957 was greater than in the previous year; altogether 127 notifications were received compared with 63 during 1956. The increase was caused by an increased prevalence of measles and whooping cough. As usual the first six months of the year showed heavier incidence than the second half of the year. The notification rate is 10.8 notifications per 1000 population.

The Rural District was free from diphtheria, enteric fever and acute poliomyelitis during the year.

Confirmed Cases of Acute Infectious Disease
in each Quarter

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1st. Qt.</u>	<u>2nd Qtr.</u>	<u>3rd Qtr.</u>	<u>4th Qtr.</u>	<u>Year.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	1	4
Whooping Cough	9	16	9	1	35
Measles	10	52	1	6	69
Dysentery	-	6	-	-	6
Pneumonia	3	1	-	4	8
Erysipelas	-	2	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	1	3
All Diseases	24	78	12	13	127

Measles

This disease was the most prevalent infection of the year, particularly during the second quarter; altogether 69 notifications being received. The parishes chiefly affected were Walford (16), Linton (15), Llangarron (8) and Goodrich (5). The parishes of Lea, Weston-under-Penyard and Ross Rural remained free from infection.

The sexes were equally involved and the age of maximum incidence was the over five and under ten years group. The disease was of moderate severity but caused no deaths. There were 45 households involved; 28 of these experienced one case, 12 each experienced two cases, 4 otherwise each accounted for three cases and one family had five cases. Of the total number of patients, a clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 18 instances. The incidence rate is 5.9 per 1000 estimated population. In 1956 only 22 notifications of measles were received.

Whooping Cough

The total number of notifications of whooping cough received was 35, more than twice the number in the previous year. The disease continued to be endemic during the first nine months of the year, with the greatest incidence during the second quarter. The notification rate is 3.0 per 1000 estimated population.

Whooping Cough (continued)

Almost all of the patients were under 10 years of age, the age group of highest incidence being the over 5 years and under 10 years group. The number of males affected was 19 and the number of females was 16. There were 20 separate households involved; thirteen dwellings each experienced one case, whilst two experienced two cases each and four others each accounted for three cases. The remaining house gave rise to six cases and placed Foy parish in second place of incidence. The greatest incidence was in Whitchurch parish, 12 notifications being received. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 11 instances. The disease was usually of moderate severity but there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever

Four notifications of scarlet fever were received - the same number as in the previous year. The notification rate is 0.34 per 1000 estimated population. The disease was of a mild type.

Dysentery

Six notifications of dysentery were received, all of Sonne type and in respect of persons living in the same dwelling. The notification rate is therefore 0.5 per 1000 estimated population.

Pneumonia

The number of notifications of pneumonia received was 8. The notification rate is 0.67 per 1000 estimated population. Most of the cases occurred in the first and fourth quarters of the year, and six patients died. Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease which caused death in the resident population.

Analysis of notified cases according to
certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	2	3	4	6	3	14	2	-	1	-	-	35
Measles	2	2	8	10	6	35	5	1	-	-	-	69
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	2	1	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Dysentery	-	1	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
All Diseases	4	6	14	17	13	55	7	1	5	2	3	127

Other Diseases

Two notifications of erysipelas were received in the second quarter. At the beginning of the second quarter chickenpox became prevalent in Sellack parish - at least 12 children were infected. The infection thereafter disappeared until the fourth quarter when it reappeared in the adjacent parish of Upton Bishop.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter influenza of the "Asian" type appeared in the Rural District and spread quite rapidly. The disease could generally be described as of short duration, but three deaths were attributed to the infection.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 98 cases of tuberculosis on the register (76 respiratory and 22 non-respiratory). During the year 9 cases were added (8 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory); of these 8 were new cases (7 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory).

The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 9 (6 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 98 cases remained on the register (78 respiratory and 20 non-respiratory).

There were two deaths attributed to respiratory disease, giving a corrected death rate for the Rural District from tuberculosis of 0.149 per 1000 estimated population. Three respiratory cases and three non-respiratory cases were regarded as having recovered. The death rate for England and Wales for 1957 for respiratory tuberculosis was 0.095 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1957

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



