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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

1 9 5 8



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1950

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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 1958 in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 22/58 of the Ministry of Health.

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

The number of live births was greater than in the previous year.

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 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; Mr. E.O. Christopher, Rating Officer and Mr. J.L. Joyce, Housing Manager.

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,

William Hogg

Medical Officer of Health

17th June, 1959

LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My dear Sirs and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the charter of the Board of Directors, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

The Board of Directors has held a meeting on the 12th inst. and has decided to refer the same to a committee of three members, to be selected by the Board, to report thereon at the next meeting.

The number of the letter was greater than in the previous

one, and I have the opportunity of expressing my thanks to you for the information regarding the proposed amendment to the charter of the Board of Directors.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. D. Thompson, Secretary

In conclusion, I have the pleasure of placing on record my appreciation of the manner in which the Board of Directors has conducted its business, and of the interest and energy which it has shown in the management of the affairs of the company.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. Thompson

General Office of the Board

17th June 1897

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

+~~/~~ 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.(Eng.), A.R.I.B.A., M.M.C.T., M.R.S.H.,
Grad.I.Str.E.

CLERK TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. O.J. Scruby

Telephone:

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

1 9 5 8

Chairman - Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.
Vice-Chairman - Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

Mr. J.L. Morton	...	Aston Ingham.
Mr. L. Drayson Russill	...	Ballingham.
Mr. J.H. Scudamore, J.P.	...	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.T. Richards	...	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..
Mr. R.J. Jenkins	...	Kings Caple.
Mr. G. Savidge	...	Lea
Mr. K.W. Barter	...	Linton.
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury	...	Linton.
Mr. J.F. Maclean	...	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. A. Cole	...	Peterstow.
Mr. H.T. Allen	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. A.C. Netting	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. J.H. Davies	...	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.
Major J.H. Vaughan	...	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.

Area (in acres)	...	72,105
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.58)	...	3,679
Rateable Value	...	£67,148
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£265
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	11,800
Area comparability factor (births)	...	1.14
Area comparability factor (deaths)	...	0.88

Vital Statistics for the Year

Live births	...	205
Live birth rate per 1000 population	...	19.80 (corrected)
Still-births	...	4
Still-birth rate per 1000 live and still births	...	19.14
Total live and still births	...	209
Infant deaths	...	4
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - total	...	19.51
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - legitimate	...	20.10
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - illegitimate	...	Nil
Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births	...	9.76
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	2.92
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	...	Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,800. The natural increase in population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 84.

The population is contained in 3679 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.21. The gross density of inhabited 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 205 (108 males and 97 females), and the crude live birth rate is 17.37 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 19.80 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 16.4 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.11.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 6 (2 male and 4 female). The illegitimate live births form 2.92% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 19.2 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

Four stillbirths occurred, and the stillbirth rate is therefore 19.14 per 1000 total births.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1958 is 21.6 per 1000 total (live and still births).

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 131 (75 males and 56 females). 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 1.34.

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 11.10 per 1000 estimated population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.88, the corrected death rate is 9.77 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1958 is 11.7 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death
according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.		Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1,000 est. population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1	0.075
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	1	1	2	0.149
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-	1	0.075
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.075
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.075
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	7	4	11	0.820
16.	Diabetes.	1	1	2	0.149
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	11	12	23	1.715
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	16	6	22	1.641
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	3	1	4	0.298
20.	Other heart disease.	6	10	16	1.193
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	3	4	0.298
22.	Influenza.	1	-	1	0.075
23.	Pneumonia.	6	3	9	0.671
24.	Bronchitis.	7	2	9	0.671
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1	0.075
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1	0.075
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	3	3	0.224
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.075
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	5	6	11	0.820
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3	0.224
34.	All other accidents.	1	1	2	0.149
35.	Suicide.	2	-	2	0.149
All Causes		75	56	131	9.771

Analysis of deaths by cause shows the most frequent cause is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 42 deaths. The corrected death rate for all forms of heart disease is 3.13 per 1000 estimated population for the Rural District.

Cancer Deaths

In 1958 there were 16 deaths attributed to all types of cancer (9 males and 7 females), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.19 per 1000 estimated population.

Infant Mortality

The number of babies under one year of age who died is 4 (2 male and 2 female); the infant mortality rate is 19.14 per 1000 live births and this rate for England and Wales is 22.5 per 1000 live births. In the previous year there was only one infant death.

Neo-Natal Mortality

Two of the infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. The neo-natal mortality rate for the Rural District for 1958 is 9.76 per 1000 live births.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Nine deaths were attributed to pneumonia. The corrected death rate for the Rural District for 1958 from acute pneumonia is 0.671 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis Deaths

One death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The local adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.075 per 1000 estimated population and the tuberculosis (all forms) death rate for England and Wales is 0.100 per 1000 population for the year.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREAPublic 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:-

Swab	...	1
Urine	...	1
Water (bacteriological)	...	220
Ice Cream	...	33
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	67
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	87
Milk (biological)	...	24

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 9 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

Four investigations were made under this section, all concerned with elderly persons. The admission to hospital was arranged for three of these persons and the remaining case was kept under observation as no action was necessary.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeology

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

Bridstow	...	172
Ross Rural	...	117
Walford	...	43
Weston-under-Penyard	...	6

All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings except seven 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.

The following new mains were laid in Bridstow parish during the year, by the Undertaking:-

158 yards of 4" main
415 " " 3" "
167 " " 2" "
237 " " 1½" "

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway, Harewood End, St. Weonards, Llanwarne, Llandinabo, Walford, Goodrich, Whitchurch, Ganarew and Marstow.

Brampton Abbotts Supply

Brampton Abbotts is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. This scheme supplies 57 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 and it was necessary to cut off the supply at nights for a few weeks in August and September. Thereafter the supply improved. The water is put into supply without treatment. The number of dwelling houses supplied by services is 83, and 3 others 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 153 dwellings by services, and 7 dwellings are supplied by standpipes.

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 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.

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

The following extensions to water mains were completed during the year:-

- (1) The mains were extended to the lower slopes of Coppett Hill, Goodrich.
- (2) Further extensions were carried out at Symonds Yat and water from the mains is now available to all houses in that area within the Rural District.
- (3) The mains were extended from Walford Village to Hom Green.
- (4) An extension from Kerne Bridge to Bishopswood via Leys Hill and Sunnybank was completed.
- (5) Small mains extensions were carried out at Brelstone Green, Goodrich and Sellarsbrook.
- (b) A further main extension to the lower slopes of Leys Hill was commenced.

During 1958, Contract No.3, which will supply the higher parts of Walford Parish, that is Howle Hill, Howle Green, Forest Green and Kiln Green was virtually completed. The new pump house at Deep Dean and the reservoir at Howle Hill, capacity 100,000 gallons, are almost finished, and will be put into commission very shortly.

Contract No.4, covering Old Forge, Marstow, Glewstone, Pencraig, Peterstow, Sellack, Foy, Hoarwithy, Carey and Ballingham is progressing well and part of the mains have been taken over by the Council for the supply of water. This contract includes the scheme for the Doward area.

Contract No.5, comprising low level scheme to supply Pontshill, Ryeford, Weston-under-Penyard as far as Kingstone, and a scheme from the Howle Hill Reservoir to supply Lea, Aston Ingham, and Aston Crews as far as Upton Bishop, was commenced.

At the end of the year the numbers of dwellings supplied from the comprehensive water scheme were:-

Ganarew	...	14
Goodrich	...	114
Marstow	...	7
Walford	...	74
Whitchurch	...	183

From the mains of the St. Weonards and Llanwarne Interim Scheme the numbers of dwellings connected to the mains were:-

Llandinabo	...	5
Llanwarne	...	37
St. Weonards	...	24

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.

As a result of sampling it was found that the water in the borehole at Perryfields was seriously polluted. Unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the supplies to the Council's houses at Harewood End, Brockhampton and Pontshill.

The number of samples of domestic drinking water submitted for bacteriological examination was 207, of these 136 were samples of water provided by the Council. The number of samples taken from the St. Weonards and Llanwarne Interim Scheme was 27. Nine samples of water were taken from the Castlebrook Borehole before treatment, seven of these were sterile and two gave a small bacterial growth.

Springs on Welsh Newton Common remained 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.

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 was 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 80 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 56 and 7 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed, cleared or repaired was 14. It was necessary to make 59 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 48% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 10% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 42% 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 26 pail closets and 4 privies were converted to water closets. Apart from conversions, 26 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 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 85% of inhabited houses are included in the collection.

With domestic refuse tipped on two sites, one at Deep Dean, Walford Parish, and the other at Tre-essey, Llangarron Parish, mileage is reduced. During the year, the vehicle travelled 9,700 miles conveying 539 loads of 10 cubic yards each. 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 under 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. Thirteen samples of water from the pool were sent for bacteriological examination, all failed to yield any bacterial growth.

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 31.

Camping Sites

The number of sites used for camping in the area during the year was 16; 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 320. The majority of campers in this District are Boy Scouts.

Nine inspections of camping sites were made and 16 caravan inspections were carried out. When sites are inspected attention is given to water supply, sanitary accommodation, refuse disposal and spacing.

The popularity of trailer caravans for camping purposes seems to increase steadily.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfestations were 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 1958, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	5
Animals	...	1
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	7
Bakehouses	...	14
Camping Sites	...	9
Caravans	...	16
Dairies	...	21
Drainage	...	59
Drain Tests	...	80
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	1
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	35
Food Handling Byelaws	...	79
Food Premises	...	81
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	2
Housing (Other)	...	186
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	30
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	44
Infectious Disease	...	56
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	1
Nuisances	...	41
Offensive Smells	...	18
Petroleum Stores	...	38
Schools	...	13
Sewage Disposal Works	...	12
Sewers	...	6
Shops	...	31
Sanitary Conveniences	...	16
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	13
Unsound Food	...	4
Water Supply	...	224
Water Courses	...	10
Work Places	...	160

Notices Issued

Informal	...	33
Statutory re Housing	...	5
Statutory under other Acts	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	42
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	130
Ditches cleared	...	6
Domestic baths provided	...	30
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	19
Drains repaired	...	6
Drains reconstructed	...	14
New drains provided	...	47
Defective floors repaired	...	33
Defective roofs repaired	...	46
Defective gutters repaired	...	23
Defective brickwork repaired	...	11
Defective coppers remedied	...	3
Disinfections after infectious disease	...	2
Disinfestations	...	1
Defective windows repaired	...	18
Defective chimneys repaired	...	4
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	27
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	7
Closets repaired	...	6
Dairies improved	...	2
New gullies provided	...	14
Gully covers provided	...	4
Inspection chambers repaired	...	2
Old drains sealed	...	5
Paving repaired	...	4
Privies converted to water closets	...	4
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	35
Staircases repaired	...	6
New sinks provided	...	31
Soil pipes repaired	...	6
Sanitary fittings provided	...	39
Stoves repaired	...	2
Moveable dwellings removed	...	4
New urinals provided	...	4
Ventilation improved	...	1
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	28
Water supplies provided	...	5
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	38

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority as factories was 16, and of these 15 are factories with mechanical power.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1958, 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 Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	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	15	35	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	111	388	-	-
Total	127	424	-	-

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.	
	-	-	-	-

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

As a result of the decision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food not to enter into further contracts for rodent destruction after 31st March, 1958, a Joint Committee for the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act was formed by the three adjoining County Districts of Hereford Rural, Ledbury Rural and Ross and Whitchurch Rural. The Joint Committee operates a scheme similar to that formerly provided by the Ministry. It employs an Inspector and one operative, each with his own transport. Almost without exception, contracts formerly held by the Ministry have been renewed with the Joint Committee. Experience during the nine months in which the present contract system has been in operation suggests that it is efficient. At the end of the year contracts were in force in respect of 58 agricultural properties in this Rural District.

	Premises inspected.	Total Infest- ations.	Rats		No. of proper- ties Mice.	Stat- utory Not- treated.	ices.
			Major.	Minor.			
Local Authorities' Properties	14	12	-	12	-	12	-
Dwelling Houses	84	54	-	54	-	14	-
Agricultural Properties	91	57	4	53	-	106	-
All other (including business) Premises	12	7	-	7	-	2	-
Total	201	130	4	126	-	134	-

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 although not so rapidly as in the last four years. The number of new Council houses completed and occupied during the year was 16, whilst a further 18 were under construction at the end of the year.

The completed dwellings were situated at Goodrich. These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 344.

I am pleased to report that the Council has commenced the erection of small bungalows for the housing of aged persons.

Council Houses, Complete and under Construction

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Under Construction</u>
Brampton Abbots	14	-
Bridstow	42	-
Brockhampton	14	-
Garway	12	-
Goodrich	40	-
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	18
Welsh Newton	1	-
Weston-under-Penyard	4	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Yatton	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	344	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed 10 dwellings, and 14 were under construction at the end of the year.

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV - Overcrowding

An improvement in overcrowding was achieved during the year. At the beginning of the year 3 houses were known to be overcrowded within the meaning of Section 77 of the Housing Act, 1957. One was relieved during the year so that only two dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year.

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)	...	268
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	6
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	150

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)	...	Nil
(b) Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	19

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied

	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	137	Nil
After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	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	...	37

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk

The Rural District is a specified area and only tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk can be sold retail in the District.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year was 33. The number of dairy inspections was 21.

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

The number of supplementary licences issued by the Council for the sale of pasteurised milk was 15, and 21 licences 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 one dairy and informal action also secured the removal of material stored in a dairy, and the provision of name and address of a distributor on vehicles.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949

Twenty samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for examination and 13 conformed to the standard of such milk. Six of the samples found not to conform were from one dealer.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949

The number of samples of pasteurised milk sent for examination was 61 and 56 of these conformed to the standard of the Regulations. Three samples failed to conform and in two instances laboratory conditions invalidated the samples.

Six samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted for examination and whilst 4 conformed to the standard, 2 of the samples failed - the test showed that the milk had not been pasteurised.

Twentyfour samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for biological test. All were found to be free from tuberculosis but one sample was found to be infected with *Brucella abortus*. Further investigation failed to yield further positive information.

Ice Cream

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 1, and the number registered for storage and sale was 34. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 44. Conditions of storage and sale were satisfactory. There is no manufacture of heat treated ice cream in the Rural District; the manufacturer uses a cold mix.

The number of samples of this food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year was 33. All of these were classified as provisional grade 1. There was no reason to suspect this food as a 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 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 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.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954. Section 3

During the year the Council issued 20 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954. Three of these licences were in respect of the slaughter of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs; one was in respect of the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs, six permitted the slaughter of sheep and pigs and ten the slaughter of pigs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

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

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>
2 x 10 lbs.	Cooked Ham	Blown Tins
3 x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Sliced Peaches	" "
2 x 8 ozs.	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 has secured compliance in almost all premises.

A survey of school kitchens and canteens was completed and the Local Education Authority agreed the necessary work of improvement, and this is in progress.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 15Byelaws 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 limited; the sale of food from vehicles is usual. Since the adoption of the byelaws attention has been given to vendors' vehicles. During the year 79 inspections were made under these byelaws.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 26Food Poisoning

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

Diseases of Animals Acts. Anthrax Order, 1938

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

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

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 81. No formal action was necessary as a result of inspection.

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

The incidence of acute notifiable disease during 1958 was greater than in the previous year; the number of notifications received was 318 giving a notification rate of 26.9 per 1000 estimated population. The rise in incidence was caused chiefly by the increased prevalence of measles and whooping cough.

The Rural District was free from diphtheria, enteric fevers, dysentery 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	4	1	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	7	6	40	11	64
Measles	105	122	8	1	236
Pneumonia	7	2	-	-	9
Erysipelas	1	-	2	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	1
All Diseases	124	131	51	12	318

Measles

The year 1958 showed considerable prevalence of measles during the first half of the year; 236 notifications were received giving a morbidity rate for measles of 20.0 per 1000 estimated population.

The disease appeared in the seventh week of the year, spread very rapidly and attained maximum prevalence in the fourteenth week, when 43 notifications were received. Thereafter the incidence began to fall although there were two slight increases during June. The disease then disappeared.

All patients, except two, were children under fifteen years of age. The group showing the greatest incidence was the over five years and under ten years group. The number of males affected was 120 compared with 116 females.

The number of households involved was 136; of these 68 each had once case, 44 each had two cases whilst the remaining 24 each experienced three or more cases. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 85 instances. The main stress of the disease fell on the parishes of Bridstow (36), Peterstow (16), Sellack (16), Hentland (26), St. Leonards (36), Goodrich (18), Lea (14), Weston-under-Penyard (27), Marstow (11) and Whitchurch (13).

Whooping Cough

There was an increase in the number of cases as compared with the previous year, as 64 notifications were received. The notification rate for the year was therefore 5.42 per 1000 estimated population. The disease was endemic during the year although there was a marked increase in prevalence in the third quarter. The majority of patients were children of school age. The number of males affected was 30. The number of households involved was 39; of these 22 each gave rise to a single case and 12 each had 2 cases. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in only 12 cases.

The parish of Walford experienced 29 cases, all but two of which were notified during the months of August and September. Apart from this there was no localisation of the disease.

Pneumonia

The number of notifications received was 9, giving a pneumonia notification rate of 0.76 per 1000 estimated population. The final quarter was the period of greatest incidence. Four cases were males.

Scarlet Fever

Five cases of scarlet fever were notified; the notification rate for scarlet fever was 0.42 per 1000 estimated population. Although four cases occurred in the first quarter, there did not seem to be any connection between the cases.

Erysipelas

Three notifications of erysipelas were received; all the patients were over 25 years of age.

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	1	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	1	4	10	4	7	38	-	-	-	-	-	64
Measles	4	7	14	11	25	129	44	1	1	-	-	236
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	1	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	7	11	24	15	34	171	45	3	5	1	2	318

Other Diseases

During the first quarter of the year, chickenpox was prevalent in the younger sections of the population of the District.

In May a single case of undulant fever occurred but in spite of careful investigation the source of infection was not found.

In Brampton Abbots parish a mild outbreak of gastro-enteritis, chiefly affecting children, occurred in July. The symptoms persisted up to three days. Bacteriological investigation failed to yield any positive result and the disease disappeared as quickly as it appeared.

An increased prevalence of influenza appeared in the Rural District in February and continued until some time in the following month. The disease was of a relatively mild type.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 98 cases of tuberculosis on the register (78 respiratory and 20 non-respiratory). During the year 16 cases were added (13 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory); of these 9 were new cases (7 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory).

The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 10 (8 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory).

At the end of the year, therefore, 104 cases remained on the register (83 respiratory and 21 non-respiratory).

One death was attributed to respiratory disease, giving a corrected death rate for the Rural District from tuberculosis of 0.075 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1958 for tuberculosis was 0.100 per 1000 population (all forms). The number of male cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year was 63, whilst the number of females was 41.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1958

Age Groups.	New Infections				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25+	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	4	1	1	1	-	-	-



