

Contributors

Ross and Whitchurch (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1959

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qcp8594y>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

Library

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959



1000/1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959 in accordance with Article 15 (4) and (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health.

Reasonable progress was made in the housing of aged persons, and very good progress was achieved by the Council in the provision of piped water supplies in the Rural District.

The population showed little change, but the number of live births was much less than in the previous year.

The incidence of acute notifiable disease fell significantly and the number of cases of tuberculosis diminished.

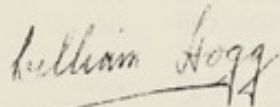
I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Colonel N. Blake for information respecting water supplies provided by the Ross Water Undertaking.

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,



Medical Officer of Health

15th June, 1960

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

1 9 5 9

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 Mansel
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	...	How Caple
Mr. R.J. Jenkins	...	Kings Caple
Mr. B.H. 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
Mrs. M. Allen	...	Ross Rural
Mr. M.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. Chim	...	Walford
Mrs. A.E. Hill	...	Walford
Major J.H. Vaughan	...	Welsh Bicknor
Mr. W.R. Morgan	...	Welsh Newton
Mr. C.J.B. Jones	...	Weston-under-Penyard
Mr. D.A. Harper	...	Weston-under-Penyard
Mr. H.S. Cumbley	...	Whitchurch
Mr. J. King	...	Whitchurch
Mr. R.F. Cotton	...	Yatton

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 PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. O.J. Scruby

Telephone:

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Woodside,
Ross-on-Wye.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	72,105
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.59)	...	3,652
Rateable Value	...	£69,767
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£264.13.3d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	11,820
Area comparability factor (births)	...	1.14
Area comparability factor (deaths)	...	0.88

Vital Statistics for the YearLive Births

Number of live Births	...	174
Live Birth rate per 1000 population	...	14.7
Illegitimate live Births per cent of total live births ..		5.2

Stillbirths

Number of Stillbirths	...	2
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	11.4
Total live and still births	...	176
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	...	5

Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant deaths per 1000 total live births	...	28.7
Legitimate Infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	...	24.2
Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	111.1
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...	28.7
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	28.7
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	...	39.8

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Maternal deaths	...	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	Nil

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.

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 50.

The population is contained in 3652 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.24. 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 174 (90 males and 75 females), and the crude live birth rate is 14.7 per 1000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor is 1.14 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 16.8 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 16.5 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.23.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 9 (6 male and 3 female). The illegitimate live births form 5.2% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 15.9 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

Two stillbirths occurred, and the stillbirth rate is therefore 11.4 per 1000 total births.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1959 is 20.7 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the Rural District during the year is 124 (59 males and 65 females). In 1958 there were 131 deaths attributed to the Rural District. 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 0.91

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 10.5 per 1000 estimated population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.88 the corrected death rate is 9.21 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1959 is 11.6 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 1,000 est. population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1	0.074
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	1	3	0.223
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	5	5	0.372
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.074
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms.	5	7	12	0.893
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-	1	0.074
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	14	18	1.339
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	9	6	15	1.116
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1	0.074
20.	Other heart diseases.	7	11	18	1.339
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	-	2	0.149
22.	Influenza.	1	3	4	0.298
23.	Pneumonia.	8	3	11	0.818
24.	Bronchitis.	2	2	4	0.298
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	0.074
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.149
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	1	2	0.149
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1	0.074
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.074
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	2	3	0.223
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	6	7	13	0.967
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1	0.074
34.	All other accidents.	1	2	3	0.223
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.074
All Causes		59	65	124	9.232

Analysis of deaths by cause shows the most frequent cause is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 34 deaths. The corrected death rate for all forms of heart disease is 2.53 per 1000 estimated population for the Rural District. In the previous year heart diseases accounted for 42 deaths.

Cancer Deaths

In 1959 there were 21 deaths attributed to all types of cancer (7 males and 14 females), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.56 per 1000 estimated population. In 1959, there were 16 deaths attributed to cancer. The England and Wales death rate from all forms of cancer for 1959 is 2.1 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality

The number of babies under one year of age who died during the year is 5 (2 male and 3 female); the infant mortality rate is 28.7 per 1000 live births and this rate for England and Wales is 22.0 per 1000 live births. In the previous year there were 4 infant deaths.

Neo-Natal Mortality

All of the infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. The neo-natal mortality rate for the Rural District for 1959 is 28.7 per 1000 live births.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Eleven deaths were attributed to pneumonia. The corrected death rate for the Rural District for 1959 from acute pneumonia is 0.818 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year 9 deaths were attributed to pneumonia.

Tuberculosis Deaths

One death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The local adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.074 per 1000 estimated population and the tuberculosis (all forms) death rate for England and Wales is 0.085 per 1000 population for the year.

Influenza

Four deaths were attributed to influenza.

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:-

Faeces	...	111
Swabs	...	2
Urine	...	3
Water (bacteriological)	...	410
Ice Cream	...	33
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	70
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	85
Milk (biological)	...	7
Other foods	...	5

Four samples of sewage effluent and six 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 7 bodies were admitted to this 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. Sect. 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

Three investigations were made under this section, all concerned with elderly persons. Admission to hospital was arranged for one of these persons and the remaining cases were kept under observation as no formal action was necessary.

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.

Public 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-u-Penyard.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the Ross Water Undertaking's mains in these parishes at the end of the year were:-

Bridstow	...	172
Ross Rural	...	118
Walford	...	43
Weston-under-Penyard	...	4

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

In June, the Undertaking obtained a metered supply at Peterstow from the water mains of the Rural District Council. This water was passed into the Undertaking's mains supplying 88 houses in the higher parts of Bridstow. These consumers now have a continuous supply at a pressure of about 80 lbs.

The Council maintained excellent progress with its Comprehensive Water Scheme designed to provide an adequate supply of potable water at suitable pressure throughout the Rural District.

I am indebted to Mr. W.R. Whitehouse, Water Engineer, for the following description of new works of water supply carried out during the year:-

"During 1959 the following Contracts were completed and commissioned.

Contract 3 - comprising mainlaying, reservoir and pumping station to serve the high level portions of Walford Parish.

Contract 4 - comprising the extension of mains on the Low Level System to serve Old Forge, Marstow, Glewstone, Pencraig, Peterstow, Hoarwithy, Ballingham, Sellack and Foy, and the Dward in Whitchurch Parish.

Contract 5 - comprising extension of mains on the High Level System from Howle Hill to serve Lea, Aston Ingham, Aston Crews, Cliffords Mesne, Gorsley, Linton and Upton Bishop, and on the Low Level System to serve Pontshill, Ryeford and Weston-under-Penyard.

Contract 4 is now fully completed, but contracts 3 and 5 still have some small branch mains and many House Service Connections to be constructed - this work is in hand by both Contract and Direct Labour. In addition, three extensions are in hand, under contract 4, one from Peterstow to St. Owen's Cross, one from Sellack to Whitecross and one from Llandinabo to Harewood End. The first extension is now completed, and the second well in hand.

Contract 7 was started on 12th November, 1959, and is scheduled to be completed in 21 months from that date; and is to supply Phocle Green, Gatsford, Brampton Abbots, Foy, How Caple, Brockhampton and Kings Caple, on the Low Level System and Bromsash, Yatton and Sollershope on the High Level System and also linking up at Crow Hill to supply Upton Bishop from the west. Although mains have been laid, tested, reinstated in Upton Bishop we are to date unable to supply this village until either the Linton Overbridge on the Ross Spur Motorway is completed or our mains are laid from Castle End to Crow Hill.

Contract 7 also includes for doubling our storage capacity at both Deepdean and Howle Hill, bringing the total storage to 500,000 gallons and 200,000 gallons respectively.

There are now 758 domestic supplies and 138 agricultural supplies connected to the Comprehensive Scheme."

The following new public water mains were completed during the year:-

5,380	lineal yards	8"	diameter	
7,591	"	6"	"	
4,357	"	5"	"	
11,436	"	4"	"	
31,774	"	3"	"	
11,263	"	2"	"	and less.

The total length of all sizes from 8" to 1" diameter was over 40½ miles.

Brampton Abbots Supply

The Council's scheme for the supply of Brampton Abbots consists of a bulk supply from the mains of the Ross Water Undertaking and a reservoir capacity of 25,000 gallons. This scheme supplies 52 dwelling houses by services, and will ultimately be supplied from the public mains of the comprehensive supply.

Garway Supply

This scheme is based on the collection of water from a shallow spring on high ground, the yield being subject to variation with the local rainfall. During the year shortage of water was experienced and it was necessary to restrict supply for four weeks until an augmentation supply from the comprehensive mains was provided. The number of dwelling houses supplied is 65.

Llangarron Supply

This scheme supplies part of Llangarron Parish and uses spring water pumped to a reservoir. The water is passed into supply without treatment.

On the 25th June fire broke out in the pumping house, which was severely damaged. As a result there was a shortage of water in the area of supply. This was overcome by the Council obtaining a bulk supply of water from a privately owned borehole. Seven samples of this water showed it to be of potable quality.

Llancloudy Supply

This scheme supplies the Llancloudy area of Llangarron Parish. Spring water is collected and piped to supply 21 dwellings. There is one standpipe on the supply. Chlorination of the water is necessary. Four samples of this water taken during the year were found to be of potable quality.

Harewood End Supply

This small water scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. It supplies 30 dwellings. Three samples of water were reported as being of good potable quality.

Llanwarne Interim Scheme

This public scheme uses spring water pumped to a reservoir and forms an interim scheme for the supply of the parishes of Llanwarne, Llandinabo and St. Weonards, and which will ultimately be supplied from the mains of the comprehensive scheme. The number of dwellings supplied is 89.

The number of samples of water of this scheme submitted for examination was 27. Five of these samples were not of good potable quality.

Supply Deficiencies

In addition to the temporary shortage of water in Garway and Llangarron, the springs on Welsh Newton Common failed throughout the year and the Council was obliged to convey water. Shortage was also experienced at Llanrothal and Ballingham; an emergency supply was eventually provided in the last named parish.

In Hentland Parish, the St. Owen's Cross Supply, which supplies the Perryfield Council Housing Estate, was found to be polluted. The source of the pollution was not found and after using chlorination as a temporary measure, the Council had a new public main constructed to provide a pure supply in this area.

During the year, 410 samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. Of this number 168 samples were from the Comprehensive Scheme mains and 14 from Castlebrook Boreholes. In addition 68 samples were taken from other Council supplies. Six samples of water from the Council's supplies were submitted for chemical examination and all were of good potable quality.

Other Water Supplies

In addition to public water supplies, piped water supplies in private ownership exist in the parishes of Lea, Brockhampton, How Caple, Weston-u-Penyard, Whitchurch, Hentland, Hope Mansel, Upton Bishop, Walford and Ganarew. With the development of the Council's Comprehensive Scheme, the usefulness of some of these supplies may diminish.

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.

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; one of these did not quite comply with the Royal Commission Standards.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 115 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 60 and 5 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed, cleared or repaired was 12. It was necessary to make 64 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.

In Walford it was necessary to enlarge the disposal works of the Coughton Place Estate to treat the effluent from Lowbridge Gardens Estate.

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

It is estimated that 45% of the inhabitants are still obliged to rely upon pail closets and a like proportion use water closets. The remaining 10% still have to use privies. The reason for the continued use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies but the position improves each year.

During the year 48 pail closets and 6 privies were converted to water closets. Apart from conversions, 22 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 10,850 miles conveying 550 loads of 10 cubic yards each. The average mileage per load was 19 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.

During the year the use of a third tip in the Whitchurch area was obtained.

Swimming Baths and Pools

From April to September, one privately owned swimming pool was open to the public on payment. This was maintained in a satisfactory state and is provided with a satisfactory purification plant. The pump circulates 7,000 gallons hourly and is pumping from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m., alternating with 24 hour pumping. The purification is effected by chlorine and ozonisation. Daily 5,000 gallons of pool water are extracted and a similar quantity of fresh water added. In addition, the bottom of the pool is brushed and the surface skimmed.

On 16 occasions samples of the pool water were submitted for bacteriological examination and in only one instance was the water not sterile.

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 44.

Camping Sites

The number of sites used for camping in the District during the year was 44, and 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 586.

Seventeen inspections of camping sites were made and 48 caravan inspections 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 each year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfestations were required. When need for disinfestation 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, furnished in accordance with Article 25(20) Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	6
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	12
Bakehouses	...	10
Camping Sites	...	17
Caravans	...	48
Dairies	...	6
Drainage	...	64
Drain Tests	...	115
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	10
Food Poisoning	...	10
Food Handling Byelaws	...	79
Food Premises	...	80
Housing	...	174
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	32
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	60
Infectious Disease	...	68
Knackers' Yards	...	1
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	4
Nuisances	...	27
Offensive Smells	...	13
Hotel Conveniences	...	26
Petroleum Stores	...	16
Schools	...	49
Sewage Disposal Works	...	14
Sewers	...	7
Shops	...	44
Sanitary Conveniences	...	7
Stalls	...	21
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	18
Unsound Food	...	6
Water Supply	...	417
Water Courses	...	21
Work Places	...	170

Notices Issued

Informal	...	46
Statutory re Housing	...	12
Statutory under other Acts	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	6
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	142
Ditches cleared	...	4
Domestic Baths provided	...	46
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	17
Drains repaired	...	5
Drains reconstructed	...	12
New drains provided	...	60
Defective floors repaired	...	28
Defective roofs repaired	...	39
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	31
Defective brickwork repaired	...	18
Defective Coppers remedied	...	4
Disinfections after infectious Disease	...	3
Defective windows repaired	...	16
Defective chimneys repaired	...	8
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	35
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	6
Closets repaired	...	4
Dairies improved	...	3
Flooded premises cleared	...	4
New gullies provided	...	8
Gully covers provided	...	1
Inspections chambers repaired	...	2
Old drains sealed	...	4
Paving repaired	...	2
Privies converted to water closets	...	6
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	38
Staircases repaired	...	6
New sinks provided	...	35
Soil pipes repaired	...	4
Sanitary fittings provided	...	147
Stoves repaired	...	5
Moveable dwellings removed	...	7
Urinals repaired	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	34
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	19
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	25

Agricultural, Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions Act, 1956Section 3

The number of inspections carried out under Section 3 of this Act, on farms and agricultural holdings within the District was 113. No formal action was required by the Department. Suitable sanitary Accommodation and washing accommodation sufficient for the needs of the workers was found on the premises inspected.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority as factories was 16; all of these are factories with mechanical power.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1959, 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.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	16	23	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	78	314	-	-
Total	94	337	-	-

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	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act is administered on behalf of the constituent Councils by a Joint Committee formed by the three adjoining Rural Districts of Hereford, Ledbury and Ross and Whitchurch. The Joint Committee employs one whole time inspector and two operatives, and enters into contracts with occupiers for keeping premises free from rodents.

The following table shows the work carried out in the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District.

	Premises inspected	Total Infest- ations	R a t s		Mice	No. of proper- ties treated	Statut- ory Notices
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	7	1	-	11	-	15	-
Dwelling Houses	80	53	-	53	-	62	-
Agricultural Properties	214	254	-	254	-	527	-
All other (including business) Premises	12	8	-	8	-	27	-
Total	313	326	-	326	-	631	-

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. One inspection was made during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory

SECTION D - HOUSING

The erection by the Council of new dwellings continued during the year but was limited to the construction of bungalows for aged persons at Fowbridge Gardens, Walford. At the end of the year, eleven of these were completed and occupied, whilst seven were under construction.

The Council now owns 360 dwellings, the majority of these being new dwellings constructed subsequent to 1945. The parish with the largest number of Council houses is Walford, there being a total of 68 dwellings in the four estates in the parish.

Private owners completed eleven dwellings during the year and 13 others were under construction at the end of the year.

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV. Overcrowding

At the beginning of the year, two dwellings were overcrowded and four new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year. It was possible to secure relief of overcrowding in one case so that at the end of the year, there remained five dwellings overcrowded. There was therefore an increase in overcrowding in the District in 1960. In no instance did recurrence of overcrowding take place.

There are 150 applicants for houses on the Council's register and 32 applicants for aged persons' bungalows, making a total of 182. Whilst a certain proportion of these may not be live applications, the figures suggest that there is still an unsatisfied demand for houses.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	267
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	7
3. Number of dwelling house (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	128

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)	...	5

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied

	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	153	Nil
After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

Proceedings under Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958 (Part 2) Section 30

(a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of new dwellings by the conversion of buildings	...	2
(b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings	...	27

Section 43

During the year the Council made 8 loans for the purpose of assisting persons in house purchase.

House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959 (Part 2)

Section 4

This section provides assistance in the provision of standard amenities in dwellings, that is a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom, a washbasin, a hot water supply, a water closet, and facilities for storing food. During 1959, eight standard grants were made by the Council.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899

During the year the Council made 7 advances to persons wishing to acquire dwellings under this Act.

There can be no doubt that the grants towards the improvement of dwellings have resulted in a raising of the standard of housing in the Rural District.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 - 59

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 7. The number of dairy inspections was 6.

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

Informal action was taken to obtain improvement in two dairies.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949

The number of licences granted by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk was 17. Fifteen samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and twelve of these complied with the Regulations. Two of the unsatisfactory tests were obtained from one distributor.

Seven samples of raw milk were sent for biological test - all were shown to be free from tuberculosis and undulant fever.

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

The number of supplementary licences granted by the Council for the sale of pasteurised milk was 15 and one licence was granted for the sale of sterilised milk.

The number of samples of pasteurised milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory was 65, and 60 of these complied with the Regulations. Three samples failed to comply and two tests were invalidated.

At no time during the year was milk suspected of causing disease in humans.

Ice Cream

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 1, and the number registered for the storage and sale was 35. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 60. 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, except two in provisional grade 2, 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 shellfish 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 Act, 1958. Section 3

During the year the Council issued 15 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1958. Two of these licences were in respect of the slaughter of horses, cattle, goats, sheep and pigs; two were in respect of the slaughter of sheep, cattle and pigs; three permitted the slaughter of sheep and pigs and eight the slaughter of pigs only.

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

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>& 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>
7 x 12 lbs. tins	Cooked Ham	Blown tins
1 x 4 lb. tin	" "	" tin

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 was made and informal action has secured compliance in all premises with the exception of certain school kitchens and canteens. Improvement of these continued during the year.

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

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year. This was caused by Salmonella Thompson, the patient being a farm worker. It seemed possible that infection was caused by handling fertiliser or animal feeding stuff.

One person, who was a carrier of Salmonella Mishmar Haemek, was kept under supervision during the year.

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

The incidence of acute notifiable disease during 1959 was less than in the previous year as only 162 notifications were received against 318 in 1958. This difference was a result of a reduction in the incidence of measles, whooping cough and pneumonia. The notification rate for acute disease in 1959 is 13.7 per 1000 estimated population.

Throughout the year, the District remained free from scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria and poliomyelitis.

Confirmed cases of Acute Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Dysentery	19	13	8	1	41
Whooping Cough	1	4	-	-	5
Measles	14	99	-	-	113
Erysipelas	1	1	1	-	3
All Diseases	35	117	9	1	162

Measles

Measles was the most prevalent acute notifiable infection during the year, 113 notifications being received, giving a measles notification rate of 9.6 per 1000 estimated population. This number was just less than half of that experienced in the previous year. As usual all cases of measles occurred in the first six months of the year, the second quarter being the period of maximum incidence. With two exceptions all the patients were children under fifteen years of age; the age group showing the maximum incidence being the over 5 years and under 10 years group. There were more females than males involved the ratio being 50/63.

There was no particular localisation of the disease - no parish was immune from infection. The disease was of moderate severity but there were no deaths. The number of families involved was 59, of which 32 experienced a single case. In one instance 9 cases occurred in the same family.

Dysentery

Dysentery was second in frequency to measles, 41 notifications being received. The incidence was highest in the first quarter of the year when 19 cases were notified. Thereafter, it steadily declined and the disease almost disappeared in the fourth quarter. The maximum number of cases occurred in Brockhampton parish, where three households gave rise to 14 cases. In Aston Ingham, 12 cases were notified, two of these being re-infections after the primary infection had been cleared up. All these cases occurred in one household.

The disease was always Sonne infection and it seems difficult to clear up in large families, no doubt as a result of the closer contact between persons.

Most of the patients were children under fifteen years of age. The number of males (25) was greater than the number of females.

There were no deaths caused by the disease. The dysentery notification rate was 3.47 per 1000 estimated population.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of whooping cough was very low as only 5 notifications were received, of which 4 occurred in the second quarter. The whooping cough notification rate was 0.42 per 1000 estimated population. All patients were under ten years of age and there were no deaths.

Pneumonia

Although no notifications of pneumonia were received, 11 deaths were attributed to this disease, giving a crude pneumonia death rate for the year for the Rural District of 0.93 per 1000 estimated population.

Analysis of notified cases according to
certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total
Dysentery	1	-	6	4	3	15	8	-	4	-	-	41
Whooping Cough	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	4	3	11	9	7	62	15	-	2	-	-	113
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
All Diseases	7	4	17	13	11	78	23	-	7	1	1	162

Other Diseases

Three cases of erysipelas were notified. All of the patients were adults over 35 years of age and there was no contact between the cases.

In the first quarter of the year, mumps became prevalent in the District - the patients were mostly children. Somewhat later, during the second quarter, simultaneously with the occurrence of measles, cases of chickenpox began to appear. This disease persisted during the year and was quite frequent in the final quarter. Again most of the patients were children.

There were a few cases of glandular fever during the last three months of the year. These seemed to be localised in the parishes of Ross Rural, Peterstow and Goodrich, but no explanation for this distribution was apparent.

In February, some cases of influenza occurred, involving both children and adults. The main symptoms were headache, pyrexia and sore throat associated with pains and aches in various joints and bronchitis. Unfortunately four deaths were attributed to this disease.

To sum up the experience of the year it may be said that 1959 was a year of relative freedom from bacterial diseases but with significant incidence of virus disease.

The efficiency of notification is reasonably good and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the medical practitioners who have so readily co-operated with me in the discharge of my duties.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year, there were 104 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 83 being in respect of respiratory disease. During the year 10 cases of respiratory disease were added, of which 3 were new infections. No case of non-respiratory disease occurred during the year.

The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 14 (13 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, 95 cases (74 respiratory and 20 non-respiratory) remained on the register. Of the 14 cases removed from the register, 5 cases (4 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) had recovered.

The notification rate for the Rural District for all forms of tuberculosis was 0.25 per 1000 estimated population. The corrected death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for the District is 0.074 per 1000 estimated population. The 1959 death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for England and Wales is 0.085 per 1000 population and this rate for respiratory tuberculosis is 0.077 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1959

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



