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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

1960





ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960, in accordance with Article 15 (4) and (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and Circular 1/61 of the Ministry of Health.

During 1960, there was less acute notifiable disease in the population than during the previous year. The number of live births increased. There was an increase in the number of deaths, but no deaths were caused by tuberculosis and there was a reduction in the number of deaths due to respiratory infections compared with 1959.

The year 1960 was significant to the Council, for on the 1st April the Council ceased to have power to provide and maintain works of public water supply.

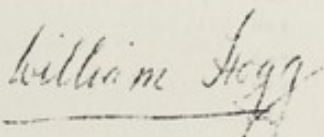
The Report contains no comment to which I wish the attention of the Council to be directed, but gives a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. W.H. Austin, Engineer and Manager to the Herefordshire Water Board, for information respecting the public water supplies within the Rural District. Also I must acknowledge assistance given me in the preparation of this Report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year by 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. L.R. Baldry, 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 am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

19th July, 1961

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to submit to you my annual report for the year 1880, in accordance with sections 15 (a) and (b) of the Public Health Act, 1875, and section 15 of the Public Health Act, 1890.

During 1880, there was less acute notifiable disease in the population than during the previous year. The number of live births registered during the year was 1,100,000, and the number of deaths registered was 250,000. The number of deaths registered during the year was 250,000, and the number of deaths registered during the year was 250,000.

The year has been distinguished by the fact that the Government has taken steps to have power to provide and maintain works of public utility.

The year has also been distinguished by the fact that the Government has taken steps to have power to provide and maintain works of public utility.

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Medical Officer of Health

1881 July, 1881

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

1 9 6 0

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 Abbotts
Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.	...	Bridstow
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	...	Brockhampton
Mr. G.G. Bevan	...	Foy
Brigadier R.P. Waller	...	Ganarew
Mr. T.G. Richards	...	Garway
Mr. J.L. Trafford	...	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. M. Howarth	...	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. 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:

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye 2214

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

* ϕ 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.

ϕ 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. (Resigned April 1960)

Mr. B.C. Chamberlain. (Appointed 31st May, 1960)

CLERK TO PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. O.J. Scruby

Telephone:

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Ross-on-Wye.

BOSS AND WITCHERNS BUREAU OF HEALTH

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.S.O.E., D.S.O.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE

Miss A.O. Goff

Telephone: Room 234
Cape Town Room: Room 234

MEDICAL HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SUPERVISOR AND
LABORATORY OFFICER

Mr. G.M. Kelly, I.B.I.S.A., A.S.B.H., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. G.W.J. Kelly, M.S.E.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.M.S.

Certificates as Inspector of Meats and other Foods
& Bacteriologist's Certificates

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

Mr. D.T. Prince, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.S.I.S.A., M.S.O.P., M.S.H.,
Grad. I.S.A.S. (Designated April 1950)

Mr. H.C. Campbell, (appointed 1st May, 1950)

CLERK TO PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. G.J. Kelly

Telephone: Room 234
Cape Town Room: Room 234

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	72,105
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.60)	...	3,691
Rateable Value	...	£70,210
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£265.9.3d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	11,810
Area comparability factor (births)	...	1.14
Area comparability factor (deaths)	...	0.88

Vital Statistics for the YearLive Births

Number of live Births	...	186
Live birth rate per 1000 population (crude)	...	15.7
Illegitimate live Births per cent of total live births	...	3.8%

Stillbirths

Number of Stillbirths	...	7
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	36.3
Total live and still births	...	193
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	...	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant deaths per 1000 total live births	...	5.4
Legitimate Infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	...	5.6
Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...	5.4
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	Nil
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	...	36.3

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 Linton and Whitchurch. All types of farming are found within the Rural District.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,810. The natural increase in population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 42. In the previous year the natural increase of population was 50.

The population is contained in 3691 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.2. The gross density of inhabited dwellings for the district is 0.05 dwellings per acre and the average number of persons per acre is 0.16.

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 186 (104 males and 82 females), and the crude live birth rate is 15.7 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 17.9 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 17.1 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.27.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 7 (4 male and 3 female). The illegitimate live births form 3.8% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 17.3 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

Seven stillbirths occurred, five more than in the previous year. The stillbirth rate is 36.3 per 1000 total births.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1960 is 19.7 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the Rural District during the year is 144 (73 males and 71 females). In 1959 there were 124 deaths attributed to the Rural District. This total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the Rural District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.03.

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 12.2 per 1000 estimated population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.88 the corrected death rate is 10.7 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1960 is 11.5 per 1000 population.

Table of Cause 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.
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	-	2	2	0.15
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	1	5	0.37
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.07
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.07
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	10	5	15	1.12
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	1	2	0.15
16.	Diabetes.	1	1	2	0.15
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	11	15	26	1.94
18.	Coronary disease.	11	7	18	1.34
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	3	1	4	0.29
20.	Other heart diseases.	10	12	22	1.64
21.	Other circulatory diseases.	3	5	8	0.60
22.	Influenza.	-	1	1	0.07
23.	Pneumonia.	5	-	5	0.37
24.	Bronchitis.	2	3	5	0.37
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1	0.07
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	2	3	0.22
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	-	1	0.07
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	5	9	14	1.04
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	4	1	5	0.37
34.	All other accidents.	-	2	2	0.15
35.	Suicide.	-	1	1	0.07
All Causes		73	71	144	10.69

Analysis of deaths by cause shows the most frequent cause is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 44 deaths. The corrected death rate for all forms of heart disease is 3.28 per 1000 estimated population for the Rural District. In the previous year heart disease accounted for 34 deaths.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

Deaths from strokes amounted to 26, an excess of 8 over the number in the previous year. Apoplexy was the second most frequent cause of death. The local corrected death rate from this cause was 1.94 per 1000 estimated population.

Cancer Deaths

In 1960 there were 24 deaths attributed to all types of cancer (14 males and 10 females) giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.79 per 1000 estimated population. In 1959, there were 21 deaths attributed to cancer. The death rate of all forms of cancer for England and Wales for 1960 is 2.1 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality

The number of babies under one year of age who died during the year is 1 male. The local infant mortality rate is 5.4 per 1000 live births and this rate for England and Wales is 21.7 per 1000 live births. In the previous year there were 5 infant deaths.

Neonatal Mortality

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

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Five deaths were attributed to pneumonia. The corrected death rate for the Rural District for 1960 from acute pneumonia is 0.37 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year, 11 deaths were attributed to pneumonia.

Tuberculosis Deaths

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis. The tuberculosis (all forms) death rate for England and Wales is 0.075 per 1000 population for 1960.

Influenza

Only one death was 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:-

Sputum	...	1
Faeces	...	36
Swabs	...	2
Urine	...	2
Water (bacteriological)	...	204
Ice Cream	...	39
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	56
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	66
Milk (biological)	...	6
Other foods	...	5

Three samples of sewage effluent were submitted to the Public Analysts, Ellis and 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 mortuary from the Rural District.

Hospitals

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

Ambulances

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth, for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

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

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

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

Four investigations were made under this section, all concerned with elderly persons. Admission to hospital was arranged for one of these persons, and in one instance the use of the County Home Help Service was sufficient. One case was kept under observation. Formal action for removal to hospital was necessary for one case, but the person concerned died from natural causes before an order was granted.

Residential Accommodation for the Aged

Residential accommodation for able bodied aged persons is provided at the Chestnuts, Ross-on-Wye. This Home is provided and managed by the Herefordshire County Council and was enlarged during the year to accommodate 42 persons.

The Rural District Council has provided at Fowbridge Gardens, Walford, an estate of 17 bungalows for aged persons, and a Warden's flat.

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

On the 1st April, 1960, the public waterworks owned by the Rural District Council and the Ross Water Undertaking, which provided public water supplies in the District were vested in the Herefordshire Water Board. This is a new Authority, set up by the Herefordshire Water Board Order 1959, for the purpose of providing adequate public water supplies within Herefordshire.

The number of dwellings within the Rural District supplied from the public water mains (excluding those on metered supplies), at the end of the year is given below:-

Public water supplies according to Parish

Aston Ingham	...	89
Ballingham	...	7
Brampton Abbotts	...	52
Bridstow	...	172
Brockhampton	...	3
Foy	...	9
Ganarew	...	24
Garway	...	61
Goodrich	...	125
Harewood	...	6
Hentland	...	93
Kings Caple	...	10
Hope Mansell	...	3
Lea	...	3
Linton	...	111
Llandinabo	...	2
Llangarron	...	163
Llanwarne	...	34
Marstow	...	43
Pencocyd	...	15
Peterstow	...	36
Ross Rural	...	119
St. Weonards	...	40
Sellack	...	55
Upton Bishop	...	15
Walford	...	256
Welsh Bicknor	...	7
Welsh Newton	...	2
Weston-under-Penyard	...	87
Whitchurch	...	227
Yatton	...	4
		<hr/>
Rural District		1873

During the year, $27\frac{3}{4}$ miles of new public water mains were laid in the Rural District, covering Whitecross, Sellack, Kings Caple, Foy, How Caple, Sollarshope, Ballingham Hill, Harewood End, Upton Bishop, Yatton, Weston-under-Penyard, Lea, Linton and Brampton Abbotts. All these mains were fully commissioned. In addition, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles of mains were laid in Whitchurch, Llangrove, Welsh Newton, Llanrothal, Pembridge and Broad Oak, but are not yet in use as it is necessary to instal pumping plant and build reservoirs. The construction of two new reservoirs was commenced, one of 250,000 gallons capacity at Deep Dene and the other of 100,000 gallons capacity at Howle Hill. When commissioned these reservoirs will double the existing storage capacity.

No new source of public water supply was utilised during the year, as the Castlebrook source yields an adequate supply for the requirements of the District, but improvements to increase storage and pumping facilities were commenced. A new 24" borehole at Castlebrook was begun on the 15th June and completed on the 27th August. A borehole pump of 30,000 g.p.h. capacity will be installed in this new borehole, thus duplicating the existing large borehole pump to correspond with the existing surface pumps. At present the output of Castlebrook Pumping Station depends on one borehole pump of 30,000 g.p.h. capacity with a stand-by for emergencies of only 10,000 g.p.h. capacity.

One inefficient source at Harewood End was abandoned during the year, and that area is now supplied through new mains from the Kesty Spring source at St. Weonards.

The 1½" diameter main at Peterstow was connected to the mains supplying Bridstow and Wilton to give these areas a better supply. Also in Bridstow many properties supplied by small diameter mains were transferred to the 3" main.

An old 2" diameter rising main, originally used to supply Brampton Abbots from the former Ross Water Undertaking mains was utilised to boost the pressure on the Greytrees Estate. A 4" main was laid from Brampton Abbots to this area, but it is not yet fully commissioned, owing to road improvement work.

Some 300 domestic supplies and 183 new meters were fitted during the year in the Rural District.

With the continued extension to public water mains through the Rural District, the areas experiencing water shortage become progressively fewer. However, in 1960 the Welsh Newton Common area continued to experience shortage and water was hauled in tanks throughout the year.

Samples of water from the public water supplies are taken by the Public Health Inspectors from time to time, and sent for bacteriological examination. The number of such samples taken during 1960 was 141, and 88 of these were of the Castlebrook supply. Three samples of the untreated water were reported as sterile, and this was found to be the condition of 66 samples of treated water in supply. However, 19 samples of the water in supply gave a small bacterial count, which is rather a high proportion for a chlorinated water.

The Llancloudy scheme was sampled on 13 occasions and the results showed that the water was sterile on 2 occasions, gave a small bacteriological count on 8 occasions, and 3 samples were not of good potable quality. The need for chlorination of this supply has been recognised for many years.

The Llanwarne and St. Weonards Scheme was sampled on 19 occasions and 5 of these samples were not sterile.

Copies of all reports on water supplies, except swimming pool water, are forwarded to the Engineer and Manager of the Herefordshire Water Board.

In addition to public water supplies, 45 samples of other water supplies were taken during the year and 19 of these were found not to be of good potable quality.

The County Water Board made good progress in the provision of public water supplies in the Rural District during the year but there is still a considerable field for improvement in water supplies within the District.

There are now very few standpipe supplies still in use on the public water supplies in the District.

No instance of appreciable solvent action on metals by the public water supplies came to my notice during the year. The hardness of the Castlebrook water tends to inhibit such action under normal conditions. The Castlebrook water does not contain any natural fluoride.

The only water supplies remaining under the responsibility of the Rural District Council are public wells and spouts.

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.

Three samples of effluent from the Hildersley Works were sent for chemical analysis; two of these did not comply with the Royal Commission Standards.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 150 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 75, and 19 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 22. It was necessary to make 70 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.

Twelve inspections of water courses were made during the year.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that 42% of the inhabitants are still obliged to rely upon pail closets and about 48% have the use of 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 65 pail closets and 10 privies were converted to water closets. Apart from conversions, 25 new water closets were provided during the year.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets other than those on the Council's property.

No public conveniences are provided by the Council but need for these exists in the Whitchurch area. The parish has a large influx of day visitors during the holiday season.

Public Cleansing

Throughout the year, the Council carried out the collection of domestic refuse from all accessible properties. It is estimated that 85% of dwellings are included in the collection. Collection is carried out by a motor refuse vehicle, of 10 cubic yards capacity provided with covers, tipping gear and a crew of two men. The collection is supervised by the Public Health Inspector.

With only one vehicle, it is only possible to make a collection once in each month. During the year, the vehicle travelled 12,559 miles and conveyed 630 loads; an average of 19 miles per load.

Disposal of the refuse is by tipping. The use of the tip at Tre-essey, Llangarron was discontinued, and new tips commenced at Doward Quarry, Whitchurch, and Owm Maddock, Garway, in addition to the tip at Deep Dean, Walford.

The Council does not itself undertake the emptying of septic tanks and cesspools and privies, but engages a contractor for this work in respect of its own properties.

The Council has no responsibility for street cleansing, this being a duty of the highway authority - the Herefordshire County Council.

There are no public baths or wash-houses in the Rural District.

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. It is provided with 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 17 occasions samples of the pool water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all samples were satisfactory.

Shops and Offices

The number of shops and offices within the District is small and no action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936 in connection with shops. The number of inspections of shops was 58.

Camping Sites - Public Health Act 1936 Section 269
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 Section 3

The number of sites used for camping in the Rural District during the year was 39, 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 1,144.

Seventeen inspections of camping sites were made and 25 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 increased and accounts for the rise in the number of campers during the season.

Two applications for licences made under Section 3 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 were received during the year.

Eradication of Bed BugsHydrogen Cyanide Regulations (Fumigation of Buildings) Regs. 1951

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfestations were required. When need for disinfestation arises this is usually carried out by specialist contractors using hydrogen cyanide.

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, Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1960 furnished in accordance with Article 25(20) Public Health Officers Regulations 1959:-

Inspections

Accumulations	=	5
Agriculture (S.H. & W. Prov.) Act.	=	57
Animals	=	3
Bakehouses	=	10
Camping Sites	=	17
Canteens	=	2
Caravans	=	25

Inspections (continued)

Control of pests	=	169
Dairies	=	22
Drainage	=	70
Drain Tests	=	150
Filthy and Verminous Premises	=	3
Factories (with mechanical power)	=	20
Food Handling Byelaws	=	73
Food Premises	=	65
Housing	=	275
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	=	19
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	=	53
Infectious Disease	=	77
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	=	6
Nuisances	=	18
Offensive Smells	=	10
Overcrowding	=	17
Petroleum Stores	=	21
Refuse Tips	=	2
Schools	=	49
Sewage Disposal Works.	=	4
Sewers	=	2
Shops	=	58
Sanitary Conveniences	=	4
Stalls	=	19
Swimming Baths and Pools	=	17
Unsound Food	=	12
Water Supply	=	220
Water Courses	=	12
Work Places	=	299

Notices Issued

Informal	=	35
Statutory re Housing	=	8

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	=	5
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	=	157
Ditches cleared	=	6
Domestic baths provided	=	72
Drains and Gullies cleared	=	10
Drains repaired	=	6
Drains reconstructed	=	10
New drains provided	=	75
Defective floors repaired	=	37
Defective roofs repaired	=	48
Defective eaves gutters repaired	=	36
Defective brickwork repaired	=	14
Defective Coppers remedied	=	2
Disinfections after infectious Disease	=	2
Defective windows repaired	=	23
Defective chimneys repaired	=	10
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	=	41
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	=	12
Closets repaired or renewed	=	4
Dairies improved	=	2
New gullies provided	=	6
Inspection chambers repaired	=	1
Old drains sealed	=	22
Paving repaired	=	62
Privies converted to water closets	=	10
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	=	57

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

Staircases repaired	=	9
New Sinks provided	=	39
Soil pipes repaired	=	4
Sanitary fittings provided	=	83
Stoves repaired	=	2
Moveable dwellings removed	=	5
New urinals provided	=	1
Urinals repaired	=	1
Ventilation improved	=	39
Wells cleaned or repaired	=	2
Miscellaneous defects remedied	=	36

Agricultural, Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions Act 1956Sections 3 and 6

The number of inspections carried out under Section 3 of this Act on farms and agricultural holdings within the District was 57. The number of such properties inspected was 30. All properties in the Rural District to which the Act applies have not yet been inspected. No formal action by the Council was necessary.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority as factories was 18. All of these are factories with mechanical power.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1960, for the Rural District of Ross and Witchurch in the County of Hereford

PART I OF ACT

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register.	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 ...	18	20	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	94	282	-	-
Total	112	302	-	-

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted
	Found	Remedied To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-

There are no outworkers registered with the Council.

Petroleum Regulations

The number of new licences granted for the storage of petroleum spirit was 2, and no existing installations for storage were discontinued during the year.

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.

Ninetynine such contracts were in operation with this Council during 1960.

The following table shows the work carried out in the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District. The number of inspections made during the year was 323.

	Premises inspected	Total Infestations	R a t s		Mice	No. of properties treated	Statutory Notices
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties.	4	4	-	4	-	12	-
Dwelling Houses	81	29	-	29	-	28	-
Agricultural Properties	72	32	2	30	-	686	-
All other (including business) Premises	12	8	-	8	-	10	-
Total	169	73	2	71	-	736	-

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.

SECTION D - HOUSING

The erection of new Council houses during the year was limited to the completion of 7 bungalows for aged persons at Fowbridge Gardens, Walford. These brought the total number of dwellings erected by the Council to 349. In addition, the Council owned 12 dwellings acquired by purchase at various times.

In 1960, four post-war Council houses were sold, bringing the number of such sales to 6. The parish with the greatest number of Council houses is Walford with 68 houses.

Private persons completed 18 dwellings in the Rural District in 1960; these were located in the following parishes:-

Brookhampton	...	1	Ross Rural	...	2
Goodrich	...	1	St. Weonards	...	1
Hentland	...	1	Sellack	...	1
Lea	...	1	Sollershope	...	1
Llangarron	...	1	Upton Bishop	...	1
Marstow	...	1	Weston-u-Penyard	...	2
Peterstow	...	1	Whitchurch	...	3

Private persons had 19 houses under construction at the end of the year, in the following parishes:

Aston Ingham	...	1	Ross Rural	...	3
Ballingham	...	1	St. Weonards	...	1
Goodrich	...	1	Tretire	...	1
Harewood End	...	1	Walford	...	1
Linton	...	1	Welsh Newton	...	1
Llangarron	...	1	Weston-u-Penyard	...	1
Llanwarne	...	1	Whitchurch	...	1
Peterstow	...	2			

Housing Act 1957. Part IV. Overcrowding

At the beginning of the year, five dwellings were overcrowded and two 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 six dwellings remained overcrowded.

In no instance did a recurrence of overcrowding take place after action for abatement.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	275
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	8
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	117

Houses closed during the Year

Housing Act 1957		
Unfit houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	8

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied

		By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	...	225	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	

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

The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings = 27

House Purchase and 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 1960, 51 standard grants were made by the Council.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act 1899

During the year the Council made 18 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 FoodMilk and Dairies Regulations 1949Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

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 9, an increase of 2 on the figure for the previous year. The number of dairy inspections made was 22 and improvements were secured in 2 dairies as a result of informal action.

Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960

The number of licences granted by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk was 7, and these are the last such licences which the Rural District Council will issue for on the 1st October, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 came into force and transferred the issue of all milk dealers' licences to the Food and Drug Authority, which is the Herefordshire County Council.

The enforcement of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations remains a function of the Rural District Council.

Ten samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for examination and all, except one, complied with the Regulations.

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

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The number of supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurised milk issued by the Council was 9. In future such licences will be issued by the Herefordshire County Council as the Food and Drug Authority. In 1960 the number of samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination was 56, of which only one sample failed to comply with the Regulations.

The number of samples raw milk submitted for biological examination was 6; all were found to be satisfactory.

A complaint of abnormal taste in milk was investigated and found to be caused by phenolic compounds. Representations to the appropriate Local Authority remedied the complaint.

At no time during the year was the consumption of milk suspected of causing disease in any of the inhabitants of the Rural District.

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.

Registered premises were inspected 65 times during the year. No formal action was necessary as a result of inspection of these premises.

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 of this food was 39. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 53. 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.

Thirtynine samples of this food were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year. All of these, except nine 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 13 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1958. One of these licences was in respect of the slaughter of horses, cattle, goats, sheep and pigs; one in respect of the slaughter of sheep, cattle and pigs; one permitted the slaughter of sheep and pigs, one the slaughter of horses and cattle and nine the slaughter of pigs only.

Diseases of Animals Acts. Anthrax Order 1938

No notification of disease occurring in animals was received 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. No additional installations were made 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 does take place, and since the adoption of the byelaws attention has been given to vendor's vehicles. During the year 73 inspections were made under these byelaws.

Food and Drugs Act 1955. Section 26Food Poisoning

Three cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

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

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>
1 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tin	Cooked Shoulder	Decomposition.
1 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tin	" "	"
19 lbs. 9 ozs. (4 pieces)	" "	"
6 x 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs. tins	Gammon Ham.	Blown tins.
2 x 12 lbs. tins	" "	Decomposition
1 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. tin	Ham.	Blown tin
17 x 6 lbs. tins	Peaches	" tins.
1 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. tin	Pork Shoulder	Decomposition
1 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. tin	Shrimps	"
120 x 2 lbs. jars	Tomatoes	Blown and defective jars.

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.

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 except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases 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 carcases 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	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

For the second successive year there was a reduction in the incidence of acute notifiable disease in the Rural District, as only 53 cases occurred, whereas in the previous year 162 cases were notified. The difference in these figures was due to the complete freedom from measles and a reduced incidence of dysentery during 1960. The notification rate for acute diseases for the Rural District was 4.5 per 1000 estimated population. In addition to freedom from measles, the Rural District continued to be free from diphtheria, enteric fevers and acute poliomyelitis.

Confirmed Cases of Acute Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year
Pneumonia	-	-	-	3	3
Whooping Cough	1	24	4	9	38
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	2
Dysentery	9	-	1	-	10
All Diseases	10	24	6	13	53

Whooping Cough

This was the most prevalent acute notifiable disease during 1960 as 38 cases occurred, giving a whooping cough notification rate for the Rural District of 3.2 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year only 5 cases of the disease occurred. All except 5 patients were under the age of 10 years, and the group giving the greatest number of cases was the over 5 years and under 10 years group. The number of females involved was slightly greater than the number of males, the ratio being 11:8

The number of households involved was 20 and 11 of these each gave rise to a single case. Two dwellings experienced 4 cases each and 5 dwellings each accounted for three cases.

There was some localisation of the disease, for the numbers according to parish were:-

Brampton Abbotts	=	12 cases	7 households
Weston-u-Penyard	=	9 "	4 "
Ross Rural	=	4 "	2 "
Lea	=	5 "	2 "
Marstow	=	7 "	4 "
Linton	=	1 case	1 household

Excepting Marstow, the above parishes are adjacent and form an area on the east of the Ross-on-Wye Urban District.

In only three instances was it possible to obtain a clear history of contact with a previous case. The disease was not unduly severe and there were no deaths.

Dysentery

Ten cases of dysentery were notified in 1960, and there were 41 cases of the disease notified in the Rural District in 1959. All cases were under 15 years of age and were members of one family. The origin of the infection was not found.

Scarlet Fever

A case of scarlet fever occurred in the third quarter of the year and a further case was notified in the final quarter. Both patients were children and there was no connection between the cases.

For over two years the Rural District had been free from the disease.

Pneumonia

Only three notifications of pneumonia were received, all in the fourth quarter of the year.

Five deaths were attributed to this disease - compared with 11 in the previous year.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain
Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	10
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	2	5	5	3	18	3	-	2	-	-	38
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
<u>All Diseases</u>	-	3	7	7	4	23	6	-	2	1	-	53

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 95 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 75 being in respect of respiratory disease. During the year 7 cases of respiratory disease and one of non-respiratory disease were added, and of these 2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory cases were new infections.

The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 5 (respiratory). At the end of the year 98 cases (77 respiratory and 21 non-respiratory) remained on the register. Of the 5 cases removed from the register 2 cases had recovered.

No deaths in the Rural District were attributed to tuberculosis. The 1960 death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for England and Wales is 0.075 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1960

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

