

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Ross-on-Wye U.D.C.

Contributors

Ross-on-Wye (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1937

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/rf7vhpfm>

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.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer Of Health

FOR THE

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT.

1937

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer Of Health

FOR THE

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT

1937

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.

JAKEMANS LTD., HEREFORD.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

LEO FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerk :

MR. P. G. HANCOX.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES,
ALTON STREET, ROSS-ON-WYE.

TELEPHONE—Ross 214.

*Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and
Housing Designated Officer :*

MR. FRANK RICKETTS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

WALFORD ROAD, ROSS-ON-WYE.

TELEPHONE—Ross 262.

Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ALTON STREET,
ROSS-ON-WYE.
June, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ross-on-Wye Urban District
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937. The corresponding Report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

As regards Housing matters, the year has been a disappointing one, much work but little accomplished. I trust, however, that the Council, having put their hand to the plough, will go forward resolutely and not relax until Ross is freed from the canker of slum property.

It is a matter of sincere regret to me personally that this is my last Annual Report, and after four very happy years here, I wish to express my deep appreciation of the co-operation and good will shewn by every member of the Council, which has made my work a constant pleasure.

Finally, I wish to pay a tribute to the unfailing loyalty and invaluable assistance which I have always received from my colleague, Mr. Ricketts.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

LEO FAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

**SECTION A. : STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE
AREA.**

Area (in acres) : 923.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937 :
4,645.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate
Books : 1,273.

Rateable Value : £29,265.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £112 9s. 2d.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	68	35	33	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 15.8
	Illegitimate	5	1	4	
Stillbirths	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : 39.47
Deaths	82	40	42	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popu- lation—Crude 17.7 Modified by the Areal Comparability Factor (0.77) : 13.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(HEADINGS 29 AND 30 OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Legislation in Force.

The following Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws are in force in the area :—

Public Health (Amendment Act), 1890.

Public Health (Amendment Act), 1907.

Public Health (Amendment Act), 1925—became operative in early part of 1930.

Ross Improvement Act, 1865.

Bye-laws relating to New Streets and Buildings—adopted in 1925.

Bye-laws relating to Slaughter Houses—adopted in 1874.

Bye-laws relating to Nuisances—adopted in 1885.

Bye-laws relating to Water Closets—adopted in 1895.

Bye-laws relating to Removal of House Refuse—adopted in 1900.

SECTION B. : GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements for the examination or analysis of clinical material remain the same. The following were examined by Dr. Lowe at the County Laboratory, Hereford :—

Swabs for K. L. B.	17
Swabs examined for Streptococci ...	2
Sputa	61
Blood	2
Cerebo-spinal Fluid	1
Pus	1
Urine	2
Fœces	1

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious cases are removed to Hereford Rural District Council Isolation Hospital by the Hospital's own ambulance. Non-infectious cases are dealt with in a most satisfactory manner by the ambulance provided by the St. John Ambulance Association.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing facilities remain unchanged.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Ross Infant Welfare is held, as before, at the Congregational Church Room, Gloucester Road, on alternate Thursday afternoons. During 1937, 1,074 attendances were made in 26 sessions.

In addition to the Ante-Natal Clinic at the Public Assistance Institution, which has been in existence for several years, the County Council now provide an Ante-Natal Clinic at 15, Church Street, Ross, which is held fortnightly, on Thursdays.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held on alternate Thursday mornings at 2, Church Street, Ross.

Cases of Venereal Disease are referred to the Clinic at Hereford.

Hospitals.

Arrangements remain unchanged, but it is desirable to remind the Council once again that the existing agreement with the Hereford Rural District Council, whereby the Ross infectious cases may be removed to Stretton Sugwas Hospital, is seriously inadequate, and advantage should be taken of the first opportunity to extend its provisions.

Ross Cottage Hospital.

In-Patients	209
Out-Patients and Casualties	602
Surgical Operations...	110
X-Ray Treatments ...	93
Deaths	5

SECTION C. : SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Water Supply of Ross is of a deep well nature. It is of excellent quality, although hard, and would appear to be inexhaustible in quantity. Samples from three different points were submitted to chemical and bacteriological analysis, during the year, and shewed the water to be of a very high standard of purity.

Drainage and Sewerage.

This subject was discussed in my last Annual Report and there has been no occasion to alter the opinions then expressed. The scheme for partial treatment has not been formally submitted to the Ministry of Health because the Engineer has stated that a survey of the existing sewers is an essential preliminary. It would appear that an early submission of this scheme is in the best interests of the Town.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no complaint about pollution of rivers and streams.

Closet Accommodation.

Thirty-five water-closets have been installed during the year:
9 at new houses,
22 at existing houses, and
4 at other buildings.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse is collected, as heretofore, by Carts, every part of the Town being visited at least once weekly. It is deposited at the Town Tip. The condition of the Town Tip has been the

subject of repeated complaints. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, it becomes obligatory for a local authority to make a charge for the removal of trade refuse. Trade refuse in Ross is chiefly paper and it is the greatest cause of trouble at the Tip. It is possible that alternative arrangements for the disposal of this excessive paper will materially improve the existing conditions.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See the Report of the Sanitary Inspector herewith appended.

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, has not been put into operation by this Council, no inspector having been appointed.

Smoke Abatement.

No action required.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no (a) public, (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public, in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was necessary.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools are satisfactory. School class-rooms were disinfected on three occasions. Both the Senior and Junior Council Schools were closed for a fortnight in January on account of Influenza, and the Junior School was again closed for three weeks in November on account of measles.

SECTION D. : HOUSING.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	138
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	215
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	89
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	103
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	41
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	16

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	12
--	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	23
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	23
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	164
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	52
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.

Although over two years have elapsed since the confirmation of the Clearance Orders in respect of 87 houses, the actual work of building the new houses at Over-Ross has still be to commenced. A survey carried out during the year revealed another 40 houses in the Town, which apparently, are only fit for demolition. The

problem of the derelict sites is possibly acting as a deterrent to a more energetic drive against slum housing, but it must be remembered that the unæsthetic appearance of these sites is not a valid reason for allowing human beings to grow up in insanitary conditions.

Overcrowding.

The number of cases of overcrowding remain almost identical with that of last year, i.e., 23. This is inevitable, as no new houses suitable for the working classes have been erected during 1937.

SECTION E. : INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are five registered producers of milk in the district, one of whom is a Certified Grade "A" producer. All premises were visited at intervals and found to be satisfactory. Four samples of milk were submitted to bacteriological examination and proved to be satisfactory. Bacteriological examination of milk is carried out by the County Council.

Meat and other Foods.

The carcasses of all animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected for the presence of disease. Examination of dressed poultry, fruit and vegetables is also carried out at the Poultry Market and the Town Hall.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	582	1	92	1019	989
Number inspected ...	582	1	92	1019	989
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	1	7	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	68	—	—	7	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.7%	—	1%	1.4%	1.4%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.2%	—	—	—	—

The number of Ante-Mortem examinations carried out was :—

<i>Cattle excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
52	1	20	150	525

SECTION F. : PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was only one case of Diphtheria during the year and the number of cases of Scarlet Fever shewed a welcome drop to eight. Unfortunately, for various reasons, some of which were more apparent than real, it was deemed advisable to move five of the eight cases into hospital. The average cost of removal and maintenance was £12 2s. 7d. per case which is equivalent to a weekly charge of £2 16s. 5d.

School class-rooms were disinfected on three occasions. In my opinion, the release of formalin fumes in such cases has a purely symbolical effect and can only be regarded as a placebo to an incompletely enlightened public opinion. Such "disinfection" is no substitute in schools or elsewhere for a generous application of soap and water and free ventilation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

DISEASE.	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>* Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	5	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	10	—	3
Erysipelas	5	1	—

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases According to Age.

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.												<i>To- tals.</i>
	<i>Un- der 1</i>	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 <i>and over.</i>	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	8
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	5	—	1	—	10
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	5
TOTALS	—	—	—	1	1	6	4	1	6	2	5	—	26

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1936, there were 18 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register. During the year, 15 fresh cases were notified (12 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary), and 8 cases were removed on account of death, recovery or change of residence, leaving 25 cases on the Register at the end of 1937.

New Cases of Mortality during 1937.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	5	2	1	3	1	1	—

Causes of Death.

CAUSE.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Influenza	1	2	3
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	—	2
Other tuberculosis	1	—	1
General paralysis of insane, tabes, etc.	1	—	1
Cancer	5	5	10
Diabetes	1	—	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	2	2	4
Heart Disease	8	15	23
Other circulatory diseases	3	4	7
Bronchitis	4	—	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	2	4
Other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
Peptic ulcer	2	—	2
Acute and chronic nephritis	1	3	4
Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc.	1	2	3
Other violence	3	—	3
Other defined diseases	1	7	8
ALL CAUSES	40	42	82

**ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1937,
OF MR. F. J. PARSONS, Meteorologist-in-Charge.**

THE OBSERVATORY,
ROSS-ON-WYE.

Table Shewing Temperatures for the Year in Degrees F.

MONTH.	MEAN TEMPERATURE		EXTREMES.	
	Actual	Difference from Normal	Maximum	Minimum
January	42.7	+3.3	54	27
February	43.5	+3.5	56	29
March	39.2	-3.4	55	25
April	49.5	+2.4	63	34
May	53.9	+0.6	77	34
June	57.6	-1.0	78	41
July	61.3	-0.6	80	45
August	62.1	+1.3	83	45
September	56.7	+0.1	75	38
October	50.5	+1.0	66	33
November	40.7	-2.9	54	22
December	38.2	-2.1	54	23
YEAR	49.7	+0.2	83 (Aug. 6th)	22 (Nov. 21st)

Table Shewing Sunshine and Rainfall for the Year.

MONTH.	SUNSHINE in Hours.		RAINFALL in Inches.	
	Total.	Difference from Normal.	Total.	Difference from Normal.
January	40.3	-13.7	4.03	+1.49
February	58.4	-11.4	3.51	+1.49
March	101.4	-12.2	4.11	+1.74
April	102.2	-39.8	1.89	-0.04
May	199.1	+11.9	2.38	+0.27
June	184.0	-20.0	1.06	-0.86
July	126.1	-63.1	3.41	+1.14
August	202.4	+21.3	0.87	-1.65
September	152.5	+14.4	2.30	+0.18
October	82.8	-15.0	3.45	+0.26
November	52.6	-10.1	1.19	-1.48
December	48.1	- 1.4	2.15	-0.58
YEAR	1349.9	-139.1	30.37	+1.98

NOTES ON THE YEAR.

The first quarter of the year shewed the heaviest rainfall, i.e., 11.65 inches, since rainfall records began in 1818.

Despite a heavy rainstorm on St. Swithin's Day, the following month was unusually dry.

For the sixth year in succession, the Summer was fine and dry, particularly in the holiday month of August.

Ross-on-Wye occupied third place among Inland Resorts for sunshine, there being only 73 sunless days in the whole year. As in previous years, the winter sunshine figures were again very high, the December figures, for instance, being considerably higher than those in the Channel Islands.

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WALFORD ROAD,
ROSS-ON-WYE.

31st January, 1938.

*ANNUAL REPORT and SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK
of Mr. Frank Ricketts, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector
and Sanitary Surveyor to the Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council,
for the Year ended 31st December, 1937.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year, eight cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were notified, and after investigation, reports on these were furnished to the Medical Officer of Health. For the year, 1936, nineteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were admitted to the Hereford Rural District Council Isolation Hospital at Stretton Sugwas. Five notices were submitted to Head Teachers of Schools relative to Infectious Cases and three classrooms were disinfected.

Disinfection.

Disinfection was carried out at ten premises.

Water Supply.

Six samples of water were collected from the Town Supply at different points and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examinations. The results of these examinations proved that the water had maintained the high standard shewn by previous examinations.

Two samples of water were also collected from a container at Lower Cleeve Cottage, receiving spring water by gravitation. On examination, this water was also certified as being fit for general domestic use.

Sewage Disposal.

The number of new houses and other new buildings for which the Water Carriage System has been provided is eleven, and the number of drains renewed or repaired is ten. Other buildings—4.

All this work was tested, and where any defects were found, they were made good and re-tests carried out. The number of tests applied total 134.

Lavatory Accommodation.

Ten lavatory conveniences have been provided at 9 new houses, 22 at other dwellings, and 4 at a building other than a dwelling.

Slaughter Houses.

Three premises are Registered and three Licensed for the purpose of carrying on the Slaughtering of Animals, the meat of which is for human consumption.

These buildings are regularly inspected, and any contraventions are dealt with at the time of my daily visits.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

As in previous years, the inspection of meat has been systematically carried out in the slaughter houses, and the number of carcasses examined was 4,030, rather less than last year.

The particulars relative to the meat surrendered are recorded in the summary annexed hereto. Incidentally, it will be noted that the number of livers affected with parasitic disease has considerably increased, which involves a serious monetary loss to the butchers.

The standard of meat put on the market is of equal quality to that recorded in past years.

The Council has decided to make compulsory, from the 1st April next, Section I. of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, applying to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs.

Poultry Market (New Theatre).

Circumstances arose which made it important to keep the dressed poultry brought into the Town under keener observation, as rough stuff was being put on the market.

At the end of January and the beginning of February, ten fowls' livers were found to be affected with Tuberculosis. To prevent any misunderstanding or contention on the part of the vendors, these were sent to the County Veterinary Officer for examination, and he confirmed the diagnosis. Later in the year, another liver was found to be affected in like manner, which had come from the same farm as some of the others. This was also sent to the County Veterinary Officer, attention being called to the point in question. I was informed that an investigation would be made with a view to ascertaining the prevailing conditions existing at the farm.

Ten chickens were withdrawn from the Auction Market, being in the early stage of decomposition, and were therefore considered unmarketable.

Seven diseased rabbits were seized, condemned and ordered to be destroyed under written authority of a Justice of the Peace.

The total number of dressed poultry examined was 2,101, and the number of rabbits 583. Also a considerable amount of fruit and vegetables. All goods taken to this market are sold by auction.

The additional attention given has brought about a considerable improvement in the standard of dressed poultry, and those vendors who bring first class goods into the Market are now obtaining much improved prices than was formerly the case.

Town Hall.

All dressed poultry and rabbits brought to this market and deposited for sale, come under my personal inspection. The approximate number examined being some 720 carcasses. Unlike the Poultry Market, these goods are not auctioned, but sold, mostly to regular customers, consequently, greater care is exercised in dressing and the quality is compatible.

Common Lodging Houses.

The Registered Common Lodging Houses within the town number three, these having been visited at various periods during the year, were found to be kept in a satisfactory state. The keepers are required to send in daily returns of the lodgers staying in the houses and these show the beds to have been occupied 19,290 times during the year, 1,960 times less than the previous year.

Factory and Workshop Act.

Eighteen premises are registered as Factories, six as Factory-bakehouses, thirty-five as Workshops, six as Workshop-bakehouses, five as Work-places and three as Home-workers, totalling seventy-three. The number of inspections made was eighty-six and one contravention was discovered and rectified. The employment is carried on under favourable conditions and, on the whole, the standard is good.

Milk and Dairies Order.

Five persons are registered as producer retailers, seven persons within the Urban district are registered as retailers, and there are nine retailers registered from the Rural district. One of the producers is licensed to sell Certified Grade "A" milk, other Grade "A" milk being supplied by retailers from the Rural district.

All premises within the Urban district are visited at intervals, and were found to be satisfactory. In two cases the walking ways to the cowhouses have been improved.

Housing Acts.

One hundred and thirty-six houses were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, of which 14 were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation. Ten of these have been repaired, and 4 are being improved and put in satisfactory order.

A further special Survey of 41 cottages has been made, all of which were found to be totally unfit for human habitation. Thirty of these are situated on twelve proposed Clearance Areas and eleven on individual sites. Reports on these have been submitted to the Council and those on the individual cottages have been considered by the Housing Committee, the Sub-Committee having viewed the properties. In three cases, offers to put the cottages in compatible condition have been accepted.

The progress in the erection of new houses to rehouse the 56

families living in declared Clearance Areas, has not matured to the extent one would wish.

This work has only proceeded so far as obtaining estimates, all of which were too high. If the lowest of these had been accepted, the rent and rates of the cottages would have to have been fixed at a sum round about 9/- weekly, unless an increased grant could have been obtained. The all-in rent, now paid by the occupiers of the Council houses, viz. :—6/6 weekly, is the limit to which these people can go, and in some cases it is a hard task to pay this amount.

Prevention and Abatement of Overcrowding.

Three new cases of overcrowding have come under observation during the year. Ten cases have been abated, leaving twenty-three cases on the register at the end of the year.

As the Council houses become vacated, families now living under overcrowded conditions will be removed thereto. Provision is also being made in the building scheme under consideration, to rehouse the larger families in houses of the four bedroom type.

Cinematograph Act.

Visits for the purpose of inspection were made during the year to Picture Palaces in the town. No causes for complaint were found in the sanitary conditions, including lavatory accommodation, and certificates to this effect were issued to the Clerk of the Peace to place before the Licensing Authority.

The Summary of Sanitary work performed during the year is annexed hereto.

Yours obediently,

FRANK RICKETTS.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK PERFORMED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR 1937.

CLERICAL.

Statutory Notices served, Section 91, P. H. A. 1875	..	Nil.
Proceedings taken	Nil.
Convictions	Nil.
Informal Notices issued	31
Informal Notices complied with	31
Letters sent out (P. H. A.)	195
Meat Regulations : Surrender forms issued	21
Notices to Schools re Infectious Disease	5
Number of Reports presented to Committee	15

HOUSING—CLERICAL.

Letters sent out	11
Number of Reports on Surveys	41
Number of Reports presented to Committee	7

PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.

Number of cases on the Register at the commencement of the year	30
New Cases during 1937	3
Total	33
Cases dealt with	10
Cases outstanding	23

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Reports to M.O.H. re notified cases	8
Notices to Schools	5
Cases admitted to Hereford R.D.C. Isolation Hospital :		
Scarlet Fever	5
Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	1
	—	7
Houses at which disinfection was carried out	10
Bedding and bedclothing treated	10
Shelters disinfected	5
School classrooms disinfected	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples submitted for analysis :—		
Town Supply	6
Other than Town Supply	2
	—	8
Reported fit for general domestic use	8

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Drains provided for new houses	11
New drains provided, or repaired, for existing houses	10
New drains provided, or repaired, for other buildings	4
TESTS CARRIED OUT : Hydraulic	91
Smoke	43
	—	134

LAVATORY ACCOMMODATION.

Provided for new houses	9
Provided for existing houses	22
Provided for other buildings	4
	—	35
Stopped drains cleared	16
Defective drains improved	13
Nuisances found and abated	25
Miscellaneous visits under P. H. and other Acts	625

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS.

CARCASES AND ORGANS EXAMINED :		Beef ..	583	
		Veal ..	92	
		Mutton ..	921	
		Lamb ..	1445	
		Pork ..	989	
			<hr/>	4030
SURRENDERED :	Beef Livers	63		
	Sheep Livers	7		
	Pig Livers	7		
		<hr/>		77
SURRENDERED :	Carcase of beef with all organs ..	1		
	Carcases of pork	7		
	Carcases of mutton	7		
	Small meat	170-lbs.		
	FISH—7-lb. tin of Prawns, 7-lb. box			
	of Golden Cutlets			14-lbs.
	Approximate number of visits to Slaughter Houses ..	2,600		
	Dressed Poultry examined	2,821		
	Rabbits examined	583		
	SURRENDERED : Fowls' Livers	11		
	SEIZED : Rabbits	7		
	Approximate number of visits to Town Hall and Poultry			
	Market	200		
	Licences granted to slaughter or stun animals ..	17		
	Licences granted to store petroleum spirit ..	17		
	Licences granted to store carbide of calcium ..	7		

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

Wholesale purveyors	5
Retailers only in Urban Area	7
Retailers registered from other Areas	9

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

PERSONS REGISTERED :		Factories	18
		Factory Bake-houses	6
		Workshops	35
		Workshop Bake-houses	6
		Work-places	5
		Home-workers	3
		<hr/>	73
	Number of Inspections made	86	
	Contraventions	1	
	Remedied	1	

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number Registered	3
Number of times beds have been occupied ..	19,290

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Registered—3 ; Licensed—3	6
---------------------------------	---

Signed : FRANK RICKETTS,
Sanitary Inspector and
Sanitary Surveyor.



