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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1946.



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Mr. Chairman, Councillor Miss Bryant and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1946. The report is submitted in accordance with Article 17 (4) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and Circular 13/47, of the Ministry of Health.

The Report gives a general account of the facilities provided for the promotion of the health of the community and contains no special item inserted upon instructions of the Council.

In general it can be stated that the health of the community was good; there was no serious epidemic during the year, births were relatively high and deaths were low.

It will be appreciated that I am indebted to my colleagues for much assistance in the preparation of the report, and I must acknowledge such assistance from Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council, Mr. C. Caddick, Surveyor, and Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector. I also have to thank these officers for their help most willingly given throughout the year.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support and the courtesy which the Council has shown me throughout the year. This has been an encouragement to me and has favoured smooth and efficient working in the Department.

The report contains also an Annual Report of the meteorological conditions prevailing which has been kindly provided by Mr. F.J. Parsons, of the Observatory, Ross-on-Wye. This report will be found to be most instructive.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Councillor Miss Bryant and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

William Hogg

Area Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1947.

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

Area (in acres)	1,004
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	4,776
Number of Inhabited Houses (End of 1946)	1,331
Rateable Value	£32,127
The Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£133.17.3.

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	20.9
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	NIL
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)..	17.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>Total Births.</u>
Heading No. 29. ... Puerperal Sepsis	NIL	NIL
Heading No. 30. ... Other Puerperal Causes	NIL	NIL

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	100.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	94.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	133.3

The Urban District forms a small country town on the River Wye, and lies upon the lower old red sandstone of the Devonian System. It is a centre for the surrounding Rural District. The industries located in the town include a brewery, timber and joinery works, a grain mill, and an oil recovery works. The town has considerable reputation as a holiday and health resort, and catering for the visitors forms an important trade for six months in each year.

The town has some reputation as a winter health resort, but the war conditions exerted an adverse effect. With the restoration and augmentation of amenities the importance of the town as a winter resort is likely to increase. The River Wye is one of the most beautiful rivers in the country and attracts large numbers of anglers each year.

Population:-

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 4,776. This has shown little tendency to variation for many years. On this figure the estimated average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.6. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 1.3, and the estimated average number of persons per acre is 4.8. It must not be forgotten that within the boundary of the Urban District there are areas of agricultural land, some of which is liable to flooding, and this reduces the actual housing density very considerably. The natural increase of the population i.e. the excess of deaths over births for the year was 19, which contrasts with a natural decrease of 7 for the year 1945.

Births:-

A total of 100 (51 males and 49 females) were registered giving a birth rate of 20.9 per thousand of the estimated resident population, compared with 19.1 for England and Wales.

The number of illegitimate live births was 15 (6 males and 9 females) which is 15% of the total live births.

Stillbirths:-

There were no stillbirths registered, which gave a rate of NIL per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths:-

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Urban District is 81, after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District. This gives a crude death rate of 17.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population. A Table of Causes of death according to sex is given at the end of this Report.

Infant Mortality:-

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 2.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, or 100 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths Due to Cancer:-

There were 5 deaths (3 males and 2 females) attributed to all forms of cancer, and the death rate from this cause is 1.0 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths Due to Diarrhoea under Two Years of Age:-

There were two male deaths attributed to diarrhoea in persons under the age of two years.

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

Laboratory Facilities:-

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, now maintained by the Medical Research Council and under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones, continued to provide a service for the usual clinical laboratory investigations, the examination of water and the bacteriological examination of milk and other foods.

The work carried out by the Laboratory is of great value to the Public Health Service and to the medical practitioners within the District.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out on behalf of the Department:-

Specimens Examined.

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice-cream Mix	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Water-Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Water-Chemical...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Bacteriological Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Ambulance Service:-

The Order of St. John maintains a motor ambulance at the Headquarters in Rede Cross Street, which is available for the inhabitants of the District on payment of scale charges. The Council makes an annual donation to the Order in return for an street accident service which is available at all times throughout the year.

Public Mortuary:-

A small public mortuary of two chambers is provided by the Council and is managed by the Surveyor to the Council. During the year 4 bodies were received at the mortuary from the Urban District and 7 from the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District. The public mortuary is well conducted and adequately furnished, four bodies can be accommodated with ease.

Public Conveniences:-

Public Conveniences are provided in the centre of the town and are well maintained.

Hospitals:-

The Ross Cottage Hospital is a voluntary hospital of 16 beds, and receives medical and surgical cases. The hospital is provided with an X-ray apparatus and a surgical operating theatre.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:-Water:-

I am indebted to Col. N. Blake, manager of the Ross Water Undertaking, for much of the following information pertaining to the water supplies of the area.

The mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of potable water throughout the District. This water is pumped from boreholes in the old red sandstone at the Alton Court Water Works. In part of the District, the Water Undertaking provides, in addition, a River Water Supply which is valuable for boiler and other industrial purposes, on account of its low hardness content of 6 - 7 parts per 100,000 against 26 parts per 100,000 in the Alton Court Supply.

The Alton Court Supply is of excellent quality for potable purposes, and as a further safeguard a continuous automatic chlorinator is inserted between the pumps and the reservoir.

The water supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year within the Urban District. The supply is constant and at a pressure sufficient for all parts of the area, including fire fighting purposes. During the year, 600 yards of new water mains, with a diameter of 8" diminishing to 5", were constructed from Millpond Street to Overcross near the new Three Crosses building site.

The number of dwelling houses and shops within the Urban District supplied by the mains is 1,433, this figure does not include several garage, garden, trough and trade supplies. The majority of the supplies are carried into the houses, but in some cases where old cottages exist the supply is by a standpipe in the yard to one or more dwellings.

The average daily consumption of potable water for 1946 was 42 gallons per head including that used for trade purposes.

The Alton Court (potable) Supply is adequate in quantity and is of satisfactory quality throughout the whole of the Urban District. Frequent samples are taken by the Public Health Department in addition to samples taken by the Ross Water Undertaking, and there is good co-operation between the Statutory Undertaking and the Officials of the Department.

Provision now exists for samples to be taken from the rising main before the water is treated by chlorination. It is generally found that the water as it issues from the borehole gives no growth on bacterial culture, and samples of water taken from the distribution mains are frequently sterile and only seldom give a plate count.

During the year two samples of water were submitted for chemical and 27 for bacteriological examination by the Department.

The whole of the population of the District appears to be supplied from the mains with the exception of the inhabitants of three dwellings situated some distance from the mains. These cannot exceed 10 persons in number.

The Alton Court Supply does not appear to have any appreciable solvent action upon metals, but the water, in the presence of sunlight, does tend to favour algal growth. This is a common occurrence with water from deep sources.

One public well in Corpus Christi Lane continues in service although little use is made of it. Numerous samples have been taken for a number of years but the water has always been of good potable quality.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

Public sewers extend throughout the area, and the number of premises not connected is insignificant. Whilst part of the system is very old, the sewers function fairly satisfactorily with the exception of the lower Archenfield and Brookend portions, where overloading and flooding occurs during times of heavy rainfall, as the system is of the combined type, taking both storm water and foul water.

The sewage is passed into the River Wye without treatment by three separate outfalls. The present system is not entirely satisfactory and preliminary treatment should be provided to improve the appearance of the river near to the outfalls. It would appear that screening and settlement would be adequate treatment under present conditions.

There were no extensions of private sewers constructed during the year, but a new public sewer, extending from the junction of Greytrees Road and Brampton Street up Ledbury Road as far as the new school site, was commenced during the year. This sewer was necessary to drain the proposed new school and the new houses being constructed on the Three Croases Estate for the Council.

All newly constructed drains are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspector. Twenty-three drain tests were made, six new drains were constructed for premises not being dwelling houses and seven old drains were repaired or reconstructed.

Rivers and Streams:-

The River Wye forms part of the boundary of the District. There are two small streams which pass through the District before joining the Wye, these are the Rudhall Brook and the Checkley Grove Brook. Frequent visits of inspection are made to these rivers for the purpose of prevention of pollution.

Closet Accommodation:-

The water closet is the type of closet in use almost exclusively throughout the area. One privy still exists in connection with trade premises, and is receiving consideration. No conversions were therefore secured.

Public Cleansing:-

The Council provides a weekly collection of domestic refuse throughout the District, the collection is made more frequently in the more congested central parts of the town during the summer months. The open horse cart continued in service during the year, but I am pleased to report that the Council decided to acquire a new modern motor vehicle in order to improve the service. The Council undertakes the removal of certain types of trade refuse upon payment.

There is much improvement required in the containers provided by private individuals for domestic refuse. It is doubtful if one third of the dwellings are provided with a properly constructed dust bin with a lid. Pails, boxes, and powder-drums seem for the most part to be doing service as ash bins. This renders the collection a dirty business, takes up more time of the collectors, and favours the putrefaction of the contents. The absence of lids to these make-shift receptacles, encourages domestic animals to interfere with the contents and promotes rats and flies. The general provision of a properly constructed sanitary ash bin for each dwelling should be the purpose of the Council in the near future. When achieved this would discourage rats and flies and thus lessen the risk of alimentary infections in the population and render the collection of refuse a cleaner and quicker operation.

The refuse disposal is by tipping, and whilst every effort is made to keep offence to the minimum, fully controlled tipping is not possible owing to the inadequate supply of covering material. Nevertheless, the use of gas liquor, gammexane dressings and a certain amount of spade work kept the tip in a reasonable condition throughout the year.

The life of the tip is now becoming exhausted and the Council secured tipping facilities at Deep Dene, Coughton, about 2½ miles from the centre of the town. This site is excellent for its purpose and will give facilities for about sixty years. It will be used when the new motor collection vehicle is obtained.

Where necessary the Council can undertake the cleansing of privies and cesspools, but under normal conditions there is no demand for this work as both privies and cesspools hardly exist.

The Council also carries out the cleansing of public places and streets, Present day labour shortages renders the maintenance of high standard of cleanliness very difficult.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

I am indebted to Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement furnished under Article 27(18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections:-

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Filthy and Verminous Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	868

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	45
Statutory (re Housing)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory (other Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/>
Total ..						<u>53</u>

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness remedied	..	...	...	...	...	6
Spouting repaired	..	...	...	...	...	4
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
General woodwork repairs	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired	..	...	...	...	...	3
New drains provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
New W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rats and mice infestations	...	...	...	...	...	163
Vermineous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	2
Disinfections after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rain water cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/>
Total ...						<u>241</u>

Common Lodging Houses:-

At the beginning of the year, there were three registered common lodging houses, but in March, one of these was closed by the keeper. The need for these places is much less great than formerly and two such establishments appear to be fully adequate for present day needs.

The daily returns made by the keepers show the beds to have been occupied 9,186 times during the year. The premises are regularly inspected and kept in a satisfactory manner.

Petroleum Act:-

The number of licences granted by the Council for the storage of petroleum was 19 and 2 licences were issued for the storage of calcium carbide.

Shops and Offices:-

No action was necessary by the Council's Officers under the Shops Act, 1934, or under the Public Health Act 1936, in connection with these premises.

Camping Sites:-

The public health officers continued to exercise close supervision upon sites capable of being used for this purpose. Five sites were used as camping grounds, three of these being sites subject to a licence issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area on any particular day did not exceed 100 persons.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:-

In the course of the year, 2 dwellings owned by the Local Authority were found to be infested with bed bugs and were disinfested with a bed bug spray containing D.D.T. No other dwellings were found to be so

infested.

The Council does not take any special action to insure that the belongings of new tenants are free from vermin before moving into Council Houses, but relies upon the knowledge of the Housing Manager and the Sanitary Inspector. This is a difficult matter at the present time and is probably intensified by the considerable sale and purchase of secondhand furniture. Consequently, occasional infestations will occur. One method to overcome this would rest in the disinfection of tenants' belongings in the course of transit.

In the two dwellings already mentioned the disinfection was carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

Factories Act, 1937:-

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority was 22, and the number without mechanical power so registered was 42, at the end of the year.

Complaints of atmospheric pollution by the emission of offensive fumes were received in connection with two factories and informal action was taken which secured abatement of this nuisance. One defective water closet and wash basin was found in a factory, and the repairs were secured. One factory was found to be infested with cockroaches and was disinfested by a D.D.T. spray.

Outworkers:-

There were no school closures on account of infectious disease during the year.

SECTION D. - HOUSING:-

No new dwellings were completed by the Council or by private owners during the year, but construction of 18 Council Houses and 2 dwellings for private owners was proceeding at the end of the year. All building work makes very slow progress at the present time, the chief causes being shortage of labour and of building material.

During the year, a number of families moved into the huts situated at the old army camp in camp meadow. At the end of the year 25 families composed of 96 persons were in occupation of huts. In order to be in a position to exercise some control over this occupation, the Council eventually agreed to accept responsibility for the management of this estate.

The huts on the site are not satisfactory as permanent dwellings as they were not intended to be permanent and are defective in many necessary domestic facilities. However, certain facilities have been installed and as a temporary home, they serve to accommodate persons with no other provision.

The occupation of these huts made no significant change to the number of applications for houses on the Council's list, as the occupiers were new families created within the war years, and a number of applications for huts was received in excess of the number available. At the end of the year, there were 400 applications for houses still on the Council's list.

Much of the additional work arising from the management of this estate fell upon the Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector, who made a total of 90 inspections during the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	23
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	81
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	...	23
(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 ...	...	Nil

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	16
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Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year:-

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

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	...	22
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
(a) By owners ...	...	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	...	Nil

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 ...	...	Nil

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

Housing Act, 1936, - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	16
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	24
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	100
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	8
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	...	4
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	22
(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

All the dwellings under construction for the Council are of the permanent orthodox type, no prefabricated houses either temporary or permanent have been accepted. In view of the high cost of building and the shortages of labour and building materials, it is difficult to see how much progress can be made without accepting the principle of prefabrication.

At the end of the year sixteen dwellings were known to be overcrowded, involving 24 families and a total of 100 persons. The Council has endeavoured to secure abatement, and in 4 instances affecting 22 persons, overcrowding was relieved. Significant progress in the relief of overcrowding can only be achieved by the erection of new dwellings.

Van Dwellings:-

There was little change in the tendency for van dwellings to migrate into the area and 22 inspections were made with satisfactory results.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-Milk:-

At the end of the year, there were 5 wholesale purveyors, and 13 retail purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority. Cow-sheds and dairies were regularly inspected, 28 such inspections having been made. No action was taken under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. All the registered premises are connected to the water mains and have an abundant supply of water of potable quality. One sample of water was taken from registered premises for bacteriological analysis and found to be of a very satisfactory quality.

Over one third of the milk sold within the area appears to receive heat treatment but is not sold as pasteurised milk. Complaints regarding the keeping quality of this milk were not infrequent during the warmer months.

Twenty-eight samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and whilst 17 samples were satisfactory, 9 samples could not be so regarded. One sample of milk was submitted for biological test for tuberculosis and was found to be satisfactory.

There are no pasteurisation plants situated within the area and no licences or supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurised milk were granted by the Council.

Ice Cream:-

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 6, and 9 premises were registered for the storage and sale of this product. This food, although somewhat less palatable than that of pre-war years, seems to be very popular and has a considerable sale. Four samples of the mix used by manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination and found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Water Cress:-

No special action by the Department was necessary in connection with the sale of this foodstuff.

Shell Fish:-

The sale of shell fish within the area is very small, mussels have never been popular and oysters are an expensive food at the present time. A small sale of cocked and salted cockles, obtained from Newport, appears to form the bulk of the trade in this class of fish at the present time. No action was necessary regarding these foods.

Meat:-

There are no slaughter houses in operation within the Urban District boundary at the present time; all slaughtering being carried out at Hereford. The Sanitary Inspector assists with the meat inspection at the Abattoir and attended on 24 occasions.

The following list shows the amount of meat and other foods found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	54 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
Meat pies	...	...	...	...	...	80 pies.
Tinned meat (6 lbs.)	...	...	...	...	...	15 tins.
Tinned Meat (2½ lbs.)	...	...	...	...	...	1 tin.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	41½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	54 stone.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	85 lbs.
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	100 lbs.
Dried fruit	...	...	...	...	...	86 lbs.
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	470 tins.

There were no cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning reported during the year.

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease during the year was quite low, only 32 notifications being received, of which, 11 were with respect to scarlet fever and 9 related to pneumonia. All scarlet fever patients were persons under fifteen years of age and the disease was of a very mild type necessitating removal to hospital in only one instance. Two cases of scarlet fever occurred in each of two dwellings.

One case of cerebro-spinal fever in a child was notified and treated in hospital.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease during the year, the figures relate only to confirmed cases in the civilian population:-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING YEAR 1946

Disease.	Confirmed cases.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	11	1	-
Pneumonia	9	-	6
Dysentery	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	11
Pneumonia	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	9
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

The first quarter of the year gave rise to six notifications of primary pneumonia of the influenzal type resulting in deaths. The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease according to sex in each quarter.

NOTIFICATIONS ACCORDING TO QUARTERS.

Disease	1st. Quarter.		2nd. Quarter.		3rd. Quarter.		4th. Quarter.		Year.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	1	2	1	1	-	-	4	2	6	5
Pneumonia	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	6	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	2	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	6	7	2	1	3	5	4	4	15	17

Only one case of diphtheria was notified, this occurred in an adult who had not previously been immunised; the disease was mild.

The efficiency of notification is very satisfactory and the Council's public health officers co-operate willingly with the medical practitioners of the area.

One death was attributed to cerebro-spinal fever and four to influenza. Pneumonia accounted for the death of six of the inhabitants, and two children under two years of age died from diarrhoea.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Whilst there has never been unbounded enthusiasm displayed by the inhabitants for diphtheria immunisation, some slight progress was made with this work throughout the year. Altogether 43 children under fifteen years of age completed courses of prophylactic,

39 of these being children under 5 years of age. This total has been achieved only with the willing assistance given by the medical practitioners in the area.

At the end of the year, the records showed that of an estimated population of 363 under five years of age, 154, or 42.5% had received a complete course of prophylactic, and in an estimated population of 630 persons aged over five years and under fifteen years, 470 or 74.5% had completed courses. If these results are combined, it is found that 624 children under fifteen years of age, or 62.6% had completed courses of prophylactic and were presumed immunised.

These results are shown in tabular form below:-

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.								
Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st, December, 1946								
Age at 31.12.46 .. i.e. Born in Year.	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5 - 9 1937-41	10 - 14 1932-36	Total Under 15
Number Immunised	2	23	55	44	30	202	268	624
Estimated mid-year population 1946	363					630		993

Whilst no notifications were received of diphtheria in persons under fifteen years of age and no deaths were attributed to this disease, the position cannot be regarded as satisfactory, for it would appear that there is still a significant number of children who have never received any prophylactic treatment. It is possible that the records do not show the true position and may understate the position, but this error cannot be large. It would seem therefore, that the year's freedom from diphtheria is not due to the immunity of the susceptible population.

There is little opportunity of giving reinforcing doses of prophylactic, as only 5 such injections were given. Reinforcing doses are necessary at intervals of about five years, if the initial high degree of protection is to be maintained. If a child is immunised before the age of one year, reinforcing doses should be given at the ages of 5 years, 10 years and 14 years. This is probably adequate to give life long protection.

No schick testing is carried on as a routine at the present time. The preparations used for treatment are alum precipitated toxoid for primary courses and reinforcing doses in younger children, and toxoid-antitoxin floccules for use in older children.

An increased propaganda effort appears to be indicated if improved results are to be obtained. This is not entirely a matter for the Urban District Council for County Councils now have responsibility for immunisation and co-ordinated joint action would seem to be best for the maximum results.

Scabies:-

During the year, 11 cases of scabies were notified to the Department and appropriate action was taken.

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year there were 49 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 23 pulmonary and 26 non-pulmonary cases. During the year, 18 cases were added to the Register, 15 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary, of these 11 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary were with respect to new cases. Sixteen cases were removed from the Register,

12 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore, 51 cases remained on the Register, 26 pulmonary and 25 non-pulmonary.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5+	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	2	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
45+	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55+	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	4	3	-	1	3	1	-

CAUSES OF DEATH.

No.	Cause	Male	Female	Total.
2	Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	1	1
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	-	4	4
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	1	-	1
8	Syphilitic Disease.	-	1	1
9	Influenza.	3	1	4
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	1	1	2
16	Cancer of all other Sites.	2	1	3
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	2	3	5
19	Heart Disease.	12	8	20
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	1	-	1
21	Bronchitis.	2	2	4
22	Pneumonia.	2	4	6
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	-	1	1
25	Diarrhoea Under 2 Years.	2	-	2
26	Appendicitis.	-	1	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases.	-	2	2
28	Nephritis.	6	5	11
31	Premature Birth.	2	2	4
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury and Infancy Diseases.	2	-	2
33	Suicide.	-	1	1
36	All Other Causes.	5	-	5
	All Causes.	43	38	81

As usual, it will be seen that most deaths were attributed to heart disease.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT:-

I am indebted to Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist-in-charge, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, for the following report for the year 1946:-

HIGHEST RAINFALL AND LOWEST SUNSHINE FOR TEN YEARS.

The year 1946 was one of high rainfall, deficient sunshine and generally unsettled weather, especially during the summer months. The abnormal rainfall of August and September resulted in one of the most disastrous harvests in record.

The driest month was October, during which occurred the only "absolute drought" of the year, a period of sixteen days passing without rain. The wettest month was November, but the combined rainfall of August and September (8.79 inches) was the highest for those months since 1927. July had a low rainfall in Herefordshire, but not over England as a whole. The year's rainfall was the heaviest since 1936. It will be seen that on two dates rainfall exceeded one inch in 24 hours. The following Table sets out the chief features of the monthly rainfall. The river Wye was in vdry high flood during the third week in September, and a northerly gale probably prevented the water rising even higher.

TABLE I. RAINFALL (IN INCHES).

Month.	Total.	Difference from Normal.	Highest Daily Fall.	Date.	Number of Rain-Days (.005 inch or more)
January	2.77	+0.23	.77	9	11
February	1.74	-0.28	.52	2	13
March	1.03	-1.34	.28	20	10
April	2.29	+0.36	.98	4	8
May	3.72	+1.61	1.22	25	13
June	1.51	-0.41	.23	9	19
July	0.89	-1.38	.30	17	7
August	4.59	+2.07	1.31	9	20
September	4.20	+2.08	.93	3	17
October	0.77	-2.42	.30	19	9
November	4.86	+2.19	.82	19	21
December	2.56	-0.17	.42	8	18
Year	30.93	+2.54	1.31	August 9	166

As regards temperature the year differed but little from normal, the mean temperature exceeding normal by only 0.2 deg.

Outstandingly warm months were February (for the second year in succession) and April (for the fourth year running). March was noteworthy for the warm week with which it ended, when shade temperature reached 70 deg. for the first time since 1929. There have been only four other occasions on which 70 deg. has been reached or exceeded in March:- one in 1918 and three in 1929.

Summer-like heat was again experienced in April. It is worthy of remark that at no time was temperature in May as high as it had been in the preceeding March and April, infact believed to be without precedent!

Over two months elapsed after the April heat-wave before summer temperature returned, when 75 deg. occurred on June 23rd, the only warm day that June experienced. Indeed June was more deficient in warmth than any other month of the year and was the coolest June since 1927. August, too, was below normal warmth, being cooler than in any year since 1924, and temperature was never higher than 73 deg. registered on Bank Holiday.

November was the warmest of the autumn months, and there have been only two warmer Novembers (in 1944 and 1945). On two days temperature

rose to higher levels than had hitherto been registered in November. On the 4th., a maximum of 67 deg. was recorded (17 deg. above normal), and on the 5th., a reading of 65 deg. The previous highest November temperature, 64 deg. occurred in 1938. A feature of the autumn months was the high average minimum temperature viz:- 51.9 deg. in September and 44.0 deg., in November.

Earth temperatures are given in a separate Table together with the number of ground frosts in each month and the lowest temperature registered on the grass.

It will be seen that as a result of the dull cool summer earth temperatures were deficient at both depths:-

Table II. AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE (deg. Fahr.).

Month.	Mean Temp.	Difference from Normal.	Extremes			
			Highest.	Date.	Lowest.	Date.
January	38.1	-1.3	55	11	19	21
February	44.5	+4.5	57	7	22	28
March	42.3	-0.3	70	29	24	9
April	50.5	+3.4	74	3	32	11
May	51.3	-2.0	68	(29) (30)	32	16
June	55.5	-3.1	75	23	42	(7) (14)
July	61.8	-0.1	81	12	45	17
August	58.3	-2.5	73	5	40	(18) (27)
September	57.7	+1.1	75	28	42	18
October	50.1	+0.6	68	1	25	30
November	47.7	+4.1	67	4	32	2
December	38.6	-1.7	51	11	16	21
Year	49.7	+0.2	81	July 12	16	Dec. 21

Table III. EARTH TEMPERATURE (deg. Fahr.).

Month.	Mean Temp. at one foot.	Difference from Normal.	Mean Temp. at four feet.	Difference from Normal.
January	39.5	-0.4	44.1	+0.4
February	43.2	+3.5	44.5	+1.7
March	41.1	-1.0	43.0	-0.5
April	50.2	+3.1	48.4	+2.1
May	53.1	-0.8	51.2	+0.6
June	57.7	-2.6	54.8	-1.0
July	62.6	-0.7	58.9	-0.3
August	60.4	-2.0	59.0	-1.1
September	58.0	-0.5	57.7	-1.2
October	53.4	+1.9	55.6	+0.9
November	47.8	+3.0	50.7	+1.0
December	39.7	-1.1	45.6	+0.1
Year	50.6	+0.2	51.1	+0.2

EARTH TEMPERATURE (Contd.)

Month.	Number of nights of ground frost.	Lowest temp. on grass. (deg. F.)	Date.
January	19	13	16
February	7	14	28
March	15	15	1
April	12	23	11
May	4	26	16
June	0	33	7
July	0	37	7
August	0	34	18
September	0	34	18
October	4	19	30
November	3	27	23
December	20	16	21
Year	84	13	January 16

Bright sunshine was so much below normal that 1946 was the dullest year since 1936, as well as the wettest !.

For the second successive year, April was the brightest month, and it also had the largest excess of sunshine above the normal. December, too, was notably sunny. Of the summer months only July was up to average for sunshine, the first fortnight providing the finest weather of the season as well as the brightest day of the year.

The autumn season was the most deficient in sunshine though not so sunless as in 1945. July saved the summer period, although June fell short of normal by 70 hours and August by 64. 1946 was the third consecutive year with less than normal sunshine.

June had not had less sunshine since 1916, and for a duller August one must go back to 1922, whilst October's record was the lowest since 1915. By contrast December had more sunshine than at any time since 1929.

TABLE IV. BRIGHT SUNSHINE (in Hours and Tenths).

Month	Total.	Difference from Normal.	Highest day's Record.	Date.	Number of Sunless days.
January	49.5	-4.4	7.0	14 & 17	15
February	72.6	+5.3	9.3	27	11
March	110.3	-3.7	10.4	25	10
April	193.8	+49.6	12.4	14	2
May	165.0	-19.8	11.4	9	3
June	137.4	-70.2	13.8	13	2
July	134.6	+2.8	14.8	7	0
August	117.6	-64.1	11.0	15	3
September	102.4	-35.0	9.8	15	1
October	64.9	-33.0	7.7	10	8
November	39.9	-21.7	7.3	4	12
December	69.0	+19.1	7.1	4	8
Year.	1307.0	-175.1	14.8	July 7	75



