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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

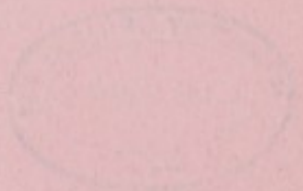
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951.





ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951, which is submitted in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

In the Report various birth and death rates, and notification rates are based upon the estimated mid-year population of the Urban District. Since the number is relatively small, rates based upon it are subject to considerable fluctuation by small changes in the actual statistics, and whilst the rates are interesting, their use for purposes of comparison is limited and excessive importance should not be placed upon them.

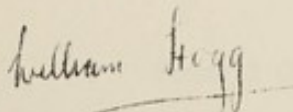
Included in the contents, is an Annual Meteorological Report, kindly furnished by Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, which gives accurate record of the climatic conditions prevailing in the District. My thanks are due to Mr. Parsons for the care and trouble he has taken in the preparation of the meteorological report.

I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council; Mr. C. Caddick, Surveyor to the Council; Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council and Mr. N. Womack, the Council's Housing Manager.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the help and support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have always given me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Area Medical Officer of Health.

10th June, 1952.



ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres).	...	1,004
Population (Census Figure).	...	5,394
Number of inhabited houses (on 31.12.51).	...	1,539
Rateable Value.	...	£34,395
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	...	£135
Registrar General's Estimated Mid Year Population....		5,345

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population (crude).	...	19.5
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population.	...	20.6
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births.	...	63.1
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude).	...	14.8
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 estimated population.	...	11.7
Area Comparability Factor (Births).	...	1.06
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths).	...	0.79

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

Heading No.30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total births.
		Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live Births.	...	9.6
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live Births.	...	10.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live Births.	...	Nil



The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye is a small country town on the River Wye in the south of the County of Hereford. It is an old town best known as a holiday centre for visitors to the lower Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean. The town is recognised as an inland health resort, particularly suited for convalescence after debilitating diseases, especially during the winter months, for the climate is mild.

The town has adequate gas, water and electricity services and enjoys good travel facilities by road and rail. A weekly paper of local news is printed and published within the Urban District. The area of the Urban District is 1004 acres.

Catering for visitors forms an important source of employment especially during the second and third quarters of the year. Industries located in the town include brewing, timber and joinery works, agricultural milling, oil recovery works and printing.

#### Population.

1951 was a census year and the census population was 5,394.

The census population was 4701 in 1921 and 4,735 at the census of 1931. There was no census in 1941.

The census population gives an increase of 659 persons (or 13.9%) on the 1931 census population. The Census Preliminary Report shows the resident population to be formed of 2,574 males and 2,820 females, with a male/female ratio of 0.906.

On the Registrar General's estimated mid year population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.47, which is a small reduction on the figure for 1950 (3.52). The average number of persons per acre is 5.32, and the average number of dwellings per acre is 1.53. The net housing density is, of course, higher, as the district contains substantial areas of ground which are unsuitable for building purposes, chiefly on account of liability to flooding.

The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths is 25, which is to be compared with a natural increase in population for 1950 of 2.

#### Births.

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 104 (58 male and 46 female). During the previous year 83 births were attributed to the area. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 19.5; an increase on the rate of the previous year (15.72) and using the comparability factor (1.06) for the District, the corrected live birth rate is 20.6 per 1000 population, somewhat higher than that rate for England and Wales, which is 15.5 per 1000 population for the year.

The number of live births occurring out of wedlock is 5 (1 male and 4 female), a reduction of 3 upon the figure for 1950. The illegitimate births formed 4.8% of the total live births, somewhat less than the corresponding ratio for the previous year (9.6%).

The legitimate live birth rate is 18.5 per 1000 estimated population and the illegitimate live birth rate is 0.9 per 1000 of the resident population.

The number of males born exceeded the number of females born by 15, the ratio male/female births being 1.35. This ratio is to be compared with that for 1950 of 0.84.

#### Still Births.

The number of stillbirths registered during the year is 7 (4 male and 3 female). One stillbirth was illegitimate, and the stillbirth rate for the year is 63.1 per 1000 total births - an increase on that rate for the year 1950 (34.9). Based on the resident population, the stillbirth rate is 1.3 per 1000 population - a figure somewhat higher than that for England and Wales of 0.36 for the year.

#### Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 79, this figure being made up of 37 male deaths and 42 female deaths. For the year 1950 there were 81 deaths in the Urban District, 40 of these being male deaths. The total number of deaths is obtained after deducting the deaths of non-residents and adding the deaths of residents who died outside the boundary of the Urban District.

The crude death rate from all causes is 14.8 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate is 11.7 per 1000 of the estimated population. This figure is lower than the corresponding figure for 1950 (12.27). The death rate for the year for England and Wales (from all causes) is 12.5 per 1000 total population.

The ratio of male deaths to female deaths for the year is 0.88. The commonest cause of death is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), and accounts for 8 male and 17 female deaths. The mortality rate from these headings is 4.9 per 1000 population. The second commonest cause of death is cancer of all sites (headings 10 and 14), the mortality rate from these headings being 1.48 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death  
According to Sex and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 est. Population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	-	2	0.296
3.	Syphilitic disease.	1	-	1	0.148
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1	1	0.148
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	1	2	3	0.443
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	3	7	1.035
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-	1	0.148
16.	Diabetes.	-	2	2	0.296
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	1	7	8	1.182
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	3	4	7	1.035
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	2	3	0.443
20.	Other heart disease.	4	11	15	2.217
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	-	1	0.148
22.	Influenza.	1	-	1	0.148
23.	Pneumonia.	2	3	5	0.739
24.	Bronchitis.	2	1	3	0.443
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	1	2	0.296
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	3	2	5	0.739
26.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	4	-	4	0.591
32.	Other defined and ill defined disease.	3	2	5	0.739
34.	All other accidents.	2	-	2	0.296
35.	Suicide.	-	1	1	0.148
<u>All Causes.</u>		<u>37</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>11.69</u>

#### Cancer Deaths.

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites at 10 (5 male and 5 female) is a reduction on that for 1950 (11). The corrected death rate for all forms of cancer is 1.48 per 1000 of the estimated population, which compares with the corresponding rate of 1.67 per 1000 for 1950.

#### Deaths due to notifiable Infectious Disease.

Pneumonia caused 5 deaths (2 male and 3 female). The corrected death rate from notifiable infectious disease is 0.74 per 1000 population. This figure is somewhat higher than that for the previous year, and higher than the death rate from pneumonia for England and Wales (0.61 per 1000 for the year).

#### Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.

I am very glad to report that there were no deaths attributed to these causes.

Tuberculosis.

Two male deaths were attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis. This gives a corrected tuberculosis death rate of 0.296 per 1000 estimated resident population, which is higher than the rate for the previous year but lower than the rate for England and Wales (0.31 per 1000 population for 1951). In 1950 only one death was due to this disease.

Infant Mortality.

One death of a child under one year was recorded, which represents a decrease on the figure (2) for the previous year. This child was legitimate, and the infant mortality rate was 9.6 per 1000 live births - a figure that compares very favourably with the rate for the year for England and Wales of 29.6 per 1000 live births.

Puerperal and other Maternal Deaths.

No deaths are recorded as due to puerperal or other maternal causes. This experience is identical with that of the previous year.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREALaboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory moved from the County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford to the County Hospital, Hereford, in the early part of the year, but continued to provide facilities for the usual clinical pathological investigations, the bacteriological examinations of water, milk and other foods.

Chemical laboratory investigations are carried out by the Public Analysts, Ellis and Turner, 17, Russell Street, Gloucester, and occasional specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester.

The following table shows the number of the various specimens examined by the Public Health Laboratory on behalf of the Department:

Swabs.	...	16
Sputa.	...	11
Urine.	...	3
Faeces.	...	226
Milk (for organisms).	...	11
Milk (methylene blue).	...	16
Ice Cream.	...	20
Water (Bacteriological)	...	120
		<u>423</u>

The number of samples of water examined by the Public Analysts was 7. One sample of milk was submitted to the Worcester Laboratory for biological test for tuberculosis - the result was negative.

Ambulance Service.

The St. John's Ambulance Brigade maintains two motor ambulances at the Edde Cross Street Station, which serve the Urban District and the surrounding Rural District. This service operates as part of the scheme of the Local Health Authority.

Public Mortuary.

The Council maintains a small public mortuary at the depot in Homs Road, with facilities for post mortem examinations. This is under the management of the Council's Surveyor, and is well conducted and maintained in a very satisfactory condition.

The number of bodies received from the Urban District during the year was 8, whilst 12 bodies were received from outside the District.

Disposal of the Dead.

Very limited use seems to be made of the Council's new Cemetery in Walford Road, as only two interments took place during the year. Since the Council's Cemetery was opened on 17th May 1945 only 17 burials have taken place. This may indicate some increased preference for cremation on the part of the population.

Section 50, National Assistance Act 1948.

Two burials were carried out by the Council under this section of the Act.

Public Conveniences.

During the year, the new public conveniences at Homs Road Motor Park, and at the Cross House site were completed and opened to the public, and are very satisfactory. The conveniences provided by the Council in the Crofts, and in Wilton Road were well maintained throughout the year. The additional public conveniences have been of considerable benefit.

Hospitals.

There are two hospitals in the town under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The Ross Cottage Hospital has 16 beds. It has facilities for medical and surgical cases, and an X-ray Department.

The Alton Street Hospital provides accommodation for a few chronic sick cases. The small maternity ward was closed throughout the year. The hospital also provides residential accommodation for a number of mentally deficient persons.

Nursing Homes.

The small private nursing home in the Urban District was closed by the occupier in July, and as a result, there is no longer any maternity accommodation in the town.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The whole of the area is situated upon hills formed from Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System. These rocks are exposed in parts of the town, and frequently encountered in works of excavation. The stone is somewhat porous and of varying degrees of hardness. It does not withstand the effects of weather. During wet periods, springs arise from the rocks but rapidly dry up when rainfall diminishes.

Water.

I am indebted to Colonel Blake, Manager of the Ross Water Undertaking for the following information respecting 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 good potable quality, and as a further safeguard, a continuous automatic chlorinator is inserted between the pumps and the reservoir. A new auxiliary engine and pump, with a capacity of 3,000 gallons per hour, was installed at the Alton Court Works.

The supply is quite adequate in quantity for all demands, and the pressure is satisfactory in all parts. In the Urban District a booster is installed to secure adequate pressure in part of the Three Crosses Housing Estate.

During the year the following extensions of water mains were carried out:-

- 303 yards of 3" main for the Wallhouse Estate.
- 70 yards of 2" main in Redhill Road.
- 123 yards of 2" main at Wilton Bridge.
- 17 yards of 3" main at Wilton Bridge.

The number of dwelling houses supplied by the mains, within the Urban District is 1537 by services and 64 are supplied by 25 standpipes. These figures do not include garage, garden, trough and trade supplies. In the course of the year, one domestic standpipe supply was converted to a service supply.

The average daily consumption of potable water for 1951 was 46.73 gallons per head, including that used for trade purposes. This latter amounted to a consumption of 13.99 gallons per head, giving a domestic consumption of 32.74 gallons per head per day, which shows a small increase on the corresponding figure for 1950 (30.76).

Frequent samples are taken by the Public Health Department in addition to the samples taken by the Ross Water Undertaking, and there is good co-operation between the Statutory Undertaking and the officials of the Public Health Department. Provision exists for samples to be taken from the rising main before the water is treated by chlorination. Thirtyfive samples of untreated water were taken during the year. It is generally found that the water as it issues from the boreholes gives no growth on culture, and samples of water taken from the distribution mains are frequently sterile and seldom give a plate count.

During the year 120 samples of water were submitted by the Department to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, for bacteriological examination. Only 18 samples of water gave a growth of organisms on culture; the remaining 102 samples were sterile. In addition, 7 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination, including two of the water before chlorination.

Ross Water Undertaking during 1951 was able to carry out its commitments for the supply of water to its statutory area and in addition, to certain parts of the adjoining Rural District. The mean pumping level throughout the year was higher than it has been for many years.

The Alton Court supply does not appear to have any appreciable solvent action upon metals, chiefly as a result of its hardness, but the water, in the presence of bright sunlight does tend to favour algal growths. This is a common occurrence with water from deep sources.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

Public sewers extend throughout the area, and the number of premises not connected is insignificant. Part of the system is very old, but the sewers function fairly satisfactorily except in the Lower Archenfield and Brookend areas, where over-loading and flooding occurs during the times of heavy rainfall. The system is of the combined type, taking both storm water and foul water. The Alton Road sewer is not very efficient as the existing fall is inadequate for the sewage flow.

The sewage is passed into the River Wye without treatment, by four separate outfalls. The present system is not satisfactory and some form of treatment should be provided to improve the appearance of the river near the outfalls. The Council gave instructions to its Consulting Engineers, to prepare a sewage disposal scheme and proposals are before the Minister at the time of writing.

All newly constructed drains are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspector. During the year 63 new drains were constructed, of which 61 were in connection with dwelling houses, and 5 existing drains were reconstructed and repaired.

#### Rivers and Streams.

The River Wye forms part of the boundary of the Urban District, the town being situated on the eastern bank. Two small streams pass through the area - the Checkley Brook and the Rudhall Brook. Frequent inspections of the rivers and streams are carried out to ascertain possible sources of pollution.

#### Closet Accommodation.

Water closets are provided throughout the district and no privies or pail closets exist. A small number of the closets are not provided with flushing apparatus. The number of new water closets provided during the year was 63.

#### Public Cleansing.

The Council provides a weekly system of domestic refuse collection throughout the whole of the area. During the summer months in the congested central parts of the town more frequent collection is made where necessary. Collection is made by means of a motor vehicle, which was renewed during the year, the existing 10 cubic yard capacity vehicle being replaced by one of 12 cubic yard capacity.

The collection is placed under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and disposal is made by means of tipping at Deep Dean, Walford, in the adjoining Rural District. In addition to domestic refuse, the Council undertakes the collection of certain types of trade refuse on payment.

The condition of the refuse tip used by the Council at Deep Dean, situated at high altitude and four and a half miles from the town, was satisfactory. The surprising feature of the tip is the rapidity with which the excavated area is being made up. The Urban District Council transports approximately 46 tons of refuse to the tip each week. The old town tip on Homs Road is still used for tipping road sweepings and excavated earth and rubble.

The Council's scheme for the supply, on hire purchase terms, of an approved sanitary dustbin to occupiers, continued to operate very successfully. This scheme has resulted in the disappearance of numerous unsightly and unsuitable receptacles which have been used as dustbins. It has tended to abate nuisance and enabled the refuse to be collected cleanly and rapidly. The Sanitary Inspector made 400 visits during the year in connection with ashbins.

Where necessary, the Council can undertake the cleansing of privies and cesspools, but under normal conditions there is no demand for this work, as privies and cesspools do not exist in the Urban District.

The Council carries out regular cleansing of streets and public places. There are no public wash houses or baths in the town.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or swimming pools open to the public within the area.

#### Shops and Offices.

No action was necessary during the year under provisions of the Public Health Act 1936, with regard to shops or offices within the District. The Sanitary Inspector made 150 shop inspections



Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

There were 56 factories with mechanical power and 8 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year. These numbers are identical with those of the previous year. In addition, there were 16 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied. The number of inspections made under powers granted by the Act was 191. Two defects were found, and two defects were referred to the Department by H.M. Inspector. These defects related to defective ventilation and defective sanitary accommodation.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1951, for the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye, in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	8	16	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	56	95	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (except outworkers premises).	16	80	-	-
Total	80	191	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.		Number of cases in which	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector or.	By H.M. prosecutions were instit'd.
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective.	1	-	-	1
Inadequate Ventilation.	1	-	-	1
Total	2	-	-	2

Outworkers.

There is one outworker registered with the Local Authority, engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

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. ....	140
Ashbins and Ashpits. ....	400
Bakehouses. ....	18
Camping Sites. ....	4
Common Lodging Houses. ....	16
Dairies. ....	23
Drainage. ....	210
Drain Tests. ....	96
Filthy and Verminous Premises... ..	12
Factories (without mechanical power)..	16
Factories (with mechanical power). ....	95
Food Poisoning. ....	24
Food Handling Byelaws. ....	58
Housing. ....	85
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens... ..	14
Ice Cream (Registered Premises). ....	22
Infectious Disease. ....	156
Outworkers Premises. ....	1
Rats and Mice. ....	291
Schools. ....	12
Shops. ....	150
Unsound Food. ....	157
Water Supply. ....	154
Work Places. ....	80

Notices Issued.

Informal. ....	29
Statutory re housing. ....	3
Statutory under other Acts. ....	3

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed. ....	2
Ditches cleared. ....	16
Drains and Gullies cleared. ....	9
Drains repaired. ....	3
Drains reconstructed. ....	3
New drains provided. ....	63
Defective floors repaired. ....	2
Defective roofs repaired. ....	7
Defective eaves and gutters repaired..	7
Defective brickwork repaired....	9
Disinfections after Infectious Disease.	24
Defective chimneys repaired. ....	2
Defective windows repaired. ....	2
Dampness of Walls and Floors remedied.	7
Dairies improved. ....	1
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed.	5
Old Drains sealed. ....	12

Camping Sites.

The number of sites used for camping purposes within the area was three and two licences were issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of these two sites. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at one time did not exceed 24 persons.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is now only one common lodging house in the town. The need for this type of accommodation is steadily diminishing. The number of inspections made during the year was 16. Returns from the keeper show that the beds have been occupied 5850 times during the year. No case of notifiable disease occurred in a common lodging house, but two cases of open pulmonary tuberculosis resided there for some time during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One Council house and two other dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs. The Sanitary Inspector carried out disinfection by means of a liquid spray, the effective principle of which is the substance known as D.D.T. Before tenants move into a Council house, inspection for infestation of bed-bugs is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and cases are reported to the Council for instructions. At the present time it is the practice of the Council to have the tenants' belongings disinfested with D.D.T. or hydrogen cyanide, when an infestation is found.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs one rodent operator, who is provided with additional help as necessary. During the year, 13 minor infestations with rats were discovered, and one with mice in the schools. Altogether 291 inspections were made under this Act during the year.

The number of treatments carried out was 12. All treatments appear to have been successful apart from the Wye Street area, where a defect in the sewer facilitates re-infestation.

## (a) Infestations.

	Total.	Notified by Occupier.	Otherwise Discovered.	Rats		
				Major	Minor	Mice
Local Authority's Properties.	1	-	1	-	1	-
Dwelling Houses.	6	-	6	-	6	-
Business Premises.	4	-	4	-	4	-
Agricult- ural Properties.	1	-	1	-	1	-
Total	12	-	12	-	12	-

One minor infestation of rats at Alton Street Hospital, and one of mice in schools.

## (b) Measures of control.

	Property inspect- ed.	No. of inspect- ions.	Informal Notice served.	Notices served under Section 4.	Treatment carried out.
L.A. Properties.	7	10	-	-	1
Dwelling Houses.	60	100	-	-	6
Business Premises.	40	160	-	-	4
Agricult- ural Properties.	7	21	-	-	1
Total	114	291	-	-	12

SECTION D - HOUSING.

The Council's house construction continued to make steady progress throughout the year. Eighteen Council houses were completed and occupied during the year, whilst a further 20 Council dwellings were under construction, but incomplete at the end of the year.

Private owners were able to complete 5 dwellings and a further 10 dwellings for private owners were under construction but incomplete when the year ended. The total number of dwellings completed was 23, whilst 30 remained under construction.

During 1951, a great deal of progress was made with respect to the Council's new Wallhouse Estate. This is somewhat small but makes some contribution to the provision of new dwellings. Unfortunately the work has not yet begun on the new Tudorville estate, this being a result of the Council's inability at the present time, to carry out the sewage disposal scheme. However, the provision of more dwelling houses continues to be a most pressing need, and it is hoped that this difficulty will soon be overcome.

The continuing high cost of building at the present time necessitates a rent considerably higher than those of pre-war Council houses, and whilst the post-war Council houses are superior to the older ones in amenities, the higher rent is a feature not entirely compatible with the promotion of health, since it tends to reduce standards of living.

There are some occupied dwellings in the town, which have deteriorated to such an extent that they can scarcely be regarded as suitable for human habitation. Nevertheless, the Council has felt itself unable to make much progress with re-housing operations, with the housing demand largely unsatisfied. However, 10 temporary dwellings were demolished, being no longer fit for human habitation and the occupants were re-housed. The total number of housing inspections made was 85, and 23 dwellings were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation; 20 were subsequently rendered fit after informal action.

The control of building operations, does in my opinion, tend to restrict the work of maintenance. High costs, shortage of materials and labour, and inability to obtain licences for building work are factors which discourage high standards of maintenance.

The Camp Meadow Estate, of temporary dwellings, continued to provide accommodation throughout the year. This consisted of 45 housing units in the former Drill Hall Camp, at the beginning of the year, but since these buildings are of temporary construction, some had so deteriorated as to be no longer of use, whilst some additional accommodation was provided by adaptation. As a result, at the end of the year, 53 housing units were in use. The Estate has been of some benefit in relieving temporary difficult housing conditions, but it is necessary to re-house the occupants in permanent houses as early as possible. The Estate was managed very well during the whole of the year by the Council's Housing Manager, Mr. N. Womack.

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 above purpose.	...	85
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head 1(a)), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above 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.	...	Nil
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	23

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.	...	21
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	... Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
		(i) By Owners.	... Nil
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	... Nil

2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	3
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
	(i) By Owners.	...	2
	(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
3.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	...	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	Nil
4.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	...	Nil
(b)	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)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	...	2
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein.	...	5
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein.	...	21
(d)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	...	1
(e)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	...	2
(f)	Number of persons concerned in (e) above.	...	21

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding within the District remained almost stationary and of no great significance; at the end of the year only two dwellings were known to be overcrowded.

One Council house again became overcrowded after the Council had relieved overcrowding by providing a dwelling for one family.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Section 2.	The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of work rendering dwellings fit for habitation.	... Nil
Section 4. (a)	The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	... Nil
	(b) The number of new dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	... Nil
Section 15 (a)	The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses or other buildings.	... Nil
	(b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority.	... Nil
Section 20 (a)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings.	... Nil
	(b) The number of grants made for the improvement of dwellings.	... Nil

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

At the beginning of the year there were seven dairies and seven distributors registered with the Council, and these numbers remained unchanged throughout the year. The number of inspections made of these premises throughout the year was 23. One dairy was improved during the year. There are no pasteurisation plants situated within the Urban District, but a certain amount of milk sold in the area is retailed as pasteurised milk. One supplementary licence was granted by the Council for the sale of pasteurised milk and two for the sale of tuberculin tested milk.

Fifteen samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue test as a routine check. Eight samples of pasteurised milk taken at different periods of the year complied with the Regulations. Of tuberculin tested milk seven samples were obtained and three of these failed to satisfy the test. All three samples were taken from one particular dairy.

Three samples of milk were submitted for biological test for tuberculosis and were reported as free from infection. There was no evidence, at any time during the year, that the consumption of milk had caused any acute disease in man.

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of Ice Cream was 2, and 30 premises were registered for the storage and sale of this product. In the previous year, 7 premises were used for manufacture and 27 for storage and sale. This food continues to be popular and has a considerable sale. Twenty samples of ice cream offered for sale within the District were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results showed that 10 samples complied with the provisional grade 1 standard, 2 samples were provisional grade 2, 1 sample was provisional grade 3, whilst no less than 7 samples were of provisional grade 4.

The provisional grade 4 samples were obtained from three premises, one of which was concerned with manufacture. As a result of representation, the quality of the ice cream was rapidly raised at two registered premises (including the manufacturer), whilst the remaining retailer abandoned the sale of ice cream when the facts were explained to him.

It is to be noted that 7 samples classified as provisional grade 4, were obtained in the months of July, August and September, and the provisional grades 2 and 3 samples were obtained in September. The provisional grade 1 samples were obtained in the months of May, July and September.

The number of inspections of premises used for manufacture, storage or sale was 22. There was no evidence that the consumption of ice cream produced any acute infectious disease.



Water Cress.

No special action by the Department was necessary in connection with the sale of this foodstuff. It is found growing in natural conditions in the vicinity of the town, and this forms the chief source of supply at the present time.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish within the area is very small, as these foods have never been popular in the District. No action by the Department was necessary in connection with the sale of shell fish, and no case of illness was attributed to the consumption of shell fish.

Meat.

There are no slaughter houses in regular operation within the Urban District boundary at the present time, but one slaughter house is licensed and used occasionally, the carcass being removed immediately after slaughter to the Central Abattoir at Hereford. With this single exception, all slaughtering is carried out in the Abattoir at Hereford. No slaughtering took place in the Urban District during the year.

Other Foods.

Regular inspection of foods exposed for sale in the shops and markets is made by the Sanitary Inspector, and the following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
363 lbs.	Cooked Ham.	Putrefaction.
18 stone	Fish.	"
41 lbs.	Salmon.	"
12 lbs.	Smoked Salmon.	"
1 gallon	Bismark Herrings.	Deterioration.
6 lb. tin	Jellied Veal.	Blown tin.
321 tins	Miscellaneous.	" tins.
2 - 6 lb. tins	Meat.	" tins.
10 lb. tin	Peaches.	" tin.
67 lbs.	Beef.	Bone taint.
47½ lbs.	Veal.	Immaturity.

Byelaws as to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

These Byelaws, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into operation on 13th November, 1950. The Byelaws give a considerable degree of control over the handling, etc. of food but are possibly insufficient so far as the handling of meat is concerned. Wartime conditions caused a deterioration in the standards of food handling, wrapping and delivery. It will take some years before this is overcome.

Food Poisoning.

Only one case of food poisoning was notified. This case was originally regarded as Sonné dysentery infection but bacteriological examination showed that it was really due to *Salmonella enteritidis*. The cause of infection was not discovered, and it is probable that it was acquired in some other area. There were no deaths caused by food poisoning or suspected food poisoning.

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

The total number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year was 174 - which is to be compared with the figure of 67 for 1950. This increase arises chiefly from the increased prevalence of measles, whooping cough and dysentery in the first six months of the year. These diseases together gave rise to 157 notifications. The experience of the first half of the year stands in sharp contrast to the final six months, since 163 notifications were received in the first half of the year and only 12 in the remaining months.

Only 7 of the acute notifiable diseases gave rise to notifications, and the notification rate for all diseases was 32.4 per 1000 population. Scarlet fever was the only disease showing a reduction in incidence.

The year was one of prevalence of the virus diseases, in the earlier months measles occurred, followed later by mumps and towards the end of the year chicken pox became common.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease  
in each Quarter.

Disease.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Scarlet Fever.	2	2	-	-	4
Measles.	27	5	2	1	35
Whooping Cough.	30	10	3	-	43
Pneumonia.	8	-	2	1	11
Erysipelas.	1	-	1	-	2
Dysentery.	35	43	-	-	78
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	1
All Diseases.	103	60	9	2	174

Only one notification of puerperal pyrexia and two of erysipelas were received.

Whooping Cough.

This disease had appeared in the final quarter of 1950 and increased during the first quarter of the year under review but rapidly declined in the second quarter. The number of cases notified was 43, the incidence being somewhat higher in females (26 cases) than in males (17 cases). In 1950, 23 cases were notified so that the incidence almost doubled. The disease was of moderate severity but fortunately there were no deaths. The maximum incidence was the under 5 years group, particularly those over one year and under five years, as 26 notifications concerned patients of these ages. The attack rate per 1000 population, according to notifications received, is 7.9. This figure for England and Wales is 3.87 per 1000 population.

Measles.

The number of cases of this disease which were notified was 35 (20 male and 15 female). The maximum prevalence occurred during the first quarter, being a continuation of the spread which occurred during the last quarter of 1950. The disease was much less frequent after the first quarter of the year. Most of the patients were children between five and 10 years of age (23), and 3 of the remaining cases were adults. The disease was moderately severe but there were no deaths. Eighteen of the notifications arose in eight households; six dwellings each giving rise to 2 cases and two others each giving rise to 3 cases. The attack rate for the year for the Urban District is 6.49 per 1000 population, whilst that for England and Wales is 14.07 per 1000 population. During 1950, the Urban District incidence was lower, as only 20 notifications were received during that year.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of notifications received was 4 (2 male and 2 female), all of these occurring in the first half of the year. The disease was very mild and there were no deaths. The incidence gives a notification rate of 0.74 per 1000 population, whilst the figure for England and Wales is 1.11 per 1000 population. The incidence is therefore, very much less than that of the previous year when 14 cases were notified. All cases occurred in different households.

Dysentery.

During the fourth quarter of 1950 a few cases of dysentery occurred and the infection continued to spread during the first quarter of the year under review. Towards the end of the second quarter the disease disappeared. All cases were of Sonne infection and the increased prevalence in the district coincided with a similar phenomenon throughout the country. Altogether there were 78 cases (36 male and 42 female), 35 of these occurred in the first quarter. The age of maximum incidence was the 5-10 year group. This form of dysentery is relatively mild and many cases had few symptoms. The control of the disease is difficult as the infection is by no means rare and many missed cases seem to occur. Fortunately it responds well to modern treatment. The incidence rate is 14.46 per 1000 population.

Pneumonia.

The incidence of pneumonia was greater during 1951 than in 1950, as 11 notifications were received compared with 2 in the previous year. Over one half of the cases, or more correctly 8 in number occurred during the first quarter, the sexes being equally affected. The morbidity rate is 2.0 per 1000 population, whilst the rate for England and Wales for the year is 0.99 per 1000.

Other Infectious Diseases.

The year 1951, so far as the Urban District is concerned, was characterised by the prevalence of the virus diseases. At the beginning of the year measles was particularly common. This was followed by a few cases of herpes zoster in the early Spring. At the beginning of July, mumps appeared in the area - there were at least 7 cases. In the September to October period 2 or 3 cases of benign meningitis were recognised, and in the succeeding month there was an outbreak of bornholm disease. The extent of this was considered to be about 25 cases, and included adults as well as children. This disease appeared to travel rather slowly across the surrounding Rural District and then spread in the town.

In December there was an outbreak of chicken pox, affecting chiefly younger children, and the number of cases was not less than 20.

It will be noted that although the virus diseases occurred frequently no cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) were encountered.

The Urban District remained free from diphtheria, meningococcal infection and typhoid fever.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain  
Age Groups.

Disease.	Age										N.K.
	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	5	14	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	2	3	4	23	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	2	1	3	-	1	-	1	2	1	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	5	8	15	24	9	1	11	3	2	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Diseases.	12	27	34	63	9	4	14	5	5	1	1

The efficiency of notification within the Urban District is very good, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the kind co-operation and help which I have always received from the medical practitioners in the area in all matters related to the health of the population.

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year, there were 55 cases on the register, 39 pulmonary and 16 non-pulmonary. During the year 11 cases were added to the register (10 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary) and of these 8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary were new cases. The number of cases removed from the register was 9 (6 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary). There were two deaths attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951

Age Periods.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	4	5	1	-	2	-	-	-

County Observatory,

Ross-on-Wye.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1951

Wettest Year since 1924.

The outstanding feature of the weather during 1951 was the high rainfall, particularly during the first five months and again during the late summer and early autumn, when frequent rain seriously curtailed and delayed harvesting operations. It was the wettest year since 1924.

But the wettest month of all was November, whose rainfall had not been exceeded since 1929. By contrast the months of June, July and October were very dry. In fact the summer was fine and bright (apart from August) - although the weather was generally cool, the only really warm spell occurring in mid-July when on two days shade temperature rose to 80 deg. or more.

The year was the coolest since 1942, but its mean temperature was only a trifle under normal. This was chiefly due to the mild autumn and early winter. There have only been two warmer Novembers viz:- in 1938 and 1939.

The year opened with a fall of snow, up to four inches in depth, but a thaw on the 5th caused it to disperse. There was further snow and sleet in February but not enough to cover the ground.

The spring of 1951 was the coolest for ten years. The low temperature combined with the excessive rainfall greatly retarded farming activities.

The only new record achieved during the year was the very low barometer reading of 28.104 inches at 10 p.m. on February 4th, which beat the previous low record of 28.112 inches made on December 4th 1876.

It is worthy of notice that the warmest day in June had a temperature no higher than 73 deg. in shade. Not since 1916 has the temperature been lower for June's warmest day!

Fog was unusually prevalent in October.

The usual Statistical Tables are appended.

TABLE I

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (In Inches of Mercury)corrected for Mean Sea Level and Temperature 32 deg. F.

Month	Mean Value	Difference from Normal.	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	29.746	- 0.266	30.428	16	28.943	12
February	29.566	- 0.422	30.350	28	28.104	4
March	29.734	- 0.262	30.430	3	28.615	13
April	29.960	+ 0.014	30.328	22	29.126	9
May	29.968	- 0.036	30.300	14	29.403	27
June	30.012	- 0.028	30.372	30	29.760	9
July	30.085	+ 0.073	30.372	1	29.616	10;11
August	29.823	- 0.242	30.228	23	29.410	28
September	29.960	- 0.056	30.350	20	29.362	13
October	30.104	+ 0.166	30.460	24	29.660	21
November	29.604	- 0.338	30.556	26	28.996	8
December	29.929	- 0.003	30.455	21	28.922	28
Year	29.874	- 0.107	30.556	Nov. 26	28.104	Feb. 4

Note: The Barometer Cistern is 226 feet above Mean Sea Level. Observations are made at three hourly intervals (6 a.m. to 9 p.m.).

TABLE II

AIR TEMPERATURE (in degrees Fahr.)

Month	Mean	Difference from Normal.	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	40.5	+ 1.1	54	19	20	29
February	39.9	- 0.2	49	8;28	28	15
March	40.4	- 2.5	56	23	26	5
April	45.5	- 2.0	71	24	31	22
May	50.3	- 3.0	68	24	35	12
June	57.5	- 1.1	73	30	41	9
July	61.8	0.0	81	19	45	16
August	59.1	- 1.8	73	1	41	15
September	57.8	+ 1.1	71	4	38	29
October	49.3	- 0.4	64	14	26	23
November	47.8	+ 3.9	58	7	29	26
December	43.7	+ 3.3	55	16	22	11
Year	49.5	- 0.2	81	July 19	20	Jan. 29

NORMALS are for 70 years, 1881 to 1950

TABLE III

## EARTH TEMPERATURE (degrees F.)

Read at 9 a.m. daily.

Month	M E A N S				No. of nights		Date.
	At One Ft.	Difference from Normal.	At Four Ft.	Difference from Normal.	with ground frost.	Lowest Temp.	
January	39.8	0.0	42.6	- 0.1	14	12	29
February	39.5	- 0.4	42.2	- 0.8	19	19	28
March	40.9	- 1.4	42.5	- 0.9	15	17	1
April	46.0	- 1.7	45.1	- 1.6	14	20	17;22
May	50.6	- 3.3	48.6	- 2.3	6	22	11
June	58.2	- 2.0	54.2	- 1.6	1	30	9
July	62.2	- 1.0	57.9	- 1.3	0	36	30
August	60.9	- 1.6	59.0	- 1.2	0	33	15
September	58.7	- 0.1	58.0	- 1.0	0	35	17
October	52.5	+ 0.4	54.9	- 0.2	6	19	23
November	47.9	+ 2.5	50.6	+ 0.7	5	19	26
December	43.5	+ 2.2	47.0	+ 1.1	15	15	11
Year	50.1	- 0.5	50.2	- 0.8	95	12	29

N.B. The NORMALS are for the 30 years 1921 to 1950.  
Ground Frost = Temp. 30 deg. F. or less.

TABLE IV

## RAINFALL (in Inches).

for 24 hours to 9 a.m. daily.

Month	Total Depth.	Difference from normal.	Highest daily fall.	Date.	No. of rain-days.	Duration
						of Rainfall Hrs. & 10ths.
January	2.61	+ 0.14	0.50	5	17	52.5
February	4.25	+ 2.18	0.86	4	18	57.5
March	3.69	+ 1.72	0.50	31	21	66.6
April	2.17	+ 0.27	0.79	8	14	40.4
May	3.19	+ 1.06	0.93	26	17	57.1
June	0.74	- 1.18	0.28	21	8	11.8
July	0.71	- 1.65	0.21	10	6	6.1
August	3.32	+ 0.82	0.63	11	19	37.4
September	3.37	+ 0.99	1.73	25	16	31.5
October	0.82	- 2.21	0.42	20	12	10.4
November	7.12	+ 4.43	1.00	4	24	111.5
December	2.76	0.00	0.68	28	17	47.8
Year	34.75	+ 6.57	1.73	Sept. 25	189	530.6

NORMALS cover the 90 years 1861 - 1950.

A rain-day is one on which the fall is .005 inch or more.

N.B. The fall of 1.73 inch on Sept. 25th occurred during a "Cloud Burst" which passed over the Lower Wye Valley doing great damage below Monmouth.  
The total number of rain days is the largest for any year since 1927.



TABLE VBRIGHT SUNSHINE (in Hours and 10ths)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Duration</u>	<u>Difference from normal</u>	<u>Best Day's Record Duration</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Sunless Days</u>
January	46.0	- 6.4	7.5	15	12
February	57.5	- 11.2	7.9	28	3
March	77.4	- 38.8	10.4	30	9
April	196.2	+ 45.7	12.7	24	2
May	148.1	- 37.3	14.0	31	4
June	225.2	+ 23.9	14.9	8	2
July	192.7	+ 12.1	12.6	1	0
August	149.0	- 23.2	11.0	1	3
September	88.3	- 42.5	8.4	2	3
October	104.1	+ 6.0	8.9	12	6
November	66.5	+ 7.8	7.9	1	10
December	64.5	+ 13.9	6.5	6	9
Year	1415.5	- 50.0	14.9	June 8	63

Only once (in 1945) has September had less sunshine.

N.B. NORMALS are for 35 years 1916 to 1950.

*Fredrick J. Parsons*

Meteorologist - in - Charge.



