

[Report 1952] / Medical Officer of Health, Ross-on-Wye U.D.C.

Contributors

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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1952.





ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1952, in accordance with article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations and Circular 2/53 of the Ministry of Health.

The health of the population of the Urban District was good throughout the year; the incidence of acute infectious disease was very small, and the death rate from all causes was low.

The report contains a meteorological report for the year kindly supplied by Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, which records the climatic conditions prevailing.

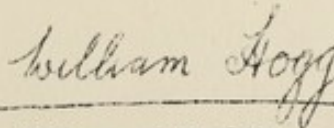
During the year, Mr. C.H. Caddick was obliged, through failing health, to cease to act as Surveyor to the Council. I have known him for many years as a most helpful colleague.

In the preparation of this report, I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given by Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council; Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council; and the Council's Housing Manager, Mr. N. Womack.

I also record my appreciation of the support given me in the discharge of my duties throughout the year by the Chairman and members of the Council.

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

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

5th June, 1953.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have to submit to you a report for the year ending 31st March 1922, in accordance with section 1 of the Land Revenue (General) Act, 1918, and section 2 of the Land Revenue (General) Act, 1920.

The general condition of the land revenue in the year ending 31st March 1922, is satisfactory. The amount of land revenue received during the year is Rs. 1,00,00,000, which is an increase of Rs. 10,00,000 over the year ending 31st March 1921.

The report contains a statistical report for the year ending 31st March 1922, which is accompanied by a statement of the land revenue received during the year, and a statement of the land revenue payable during the year.

During the year, Mr. J. L. Collins has acted as Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. Collins has acted as Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. Collins has acted as Deputy Commissioner.

In the preparation of this report, I have to acknowledge the assistance rendered to me by Mr. J. L. Collins, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. Collins, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. Collins, Deputy Commissioner.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me by Mr. J. L. Collins, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. Collins, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. Collins, Deputy Commissioner.

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

Your obedient servant,

John L. Collins

Deputy Commissioner

1st April 1922

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

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Miss A.O. Gale.

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DESIGNATED OFFICER

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Qualified Sanitary Inspector (Joint Board).

" Food Inspector (Royal Sanitary Institute).

" Building Surveyor (Inst. Municipal Engineers).

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MEMBER OF THE LEGAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE LEGAL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

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QUALIFYING INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND INSURANCE
REGULATED OFFICER

Mr. A.H. Shaw-Bateman, A.M. Inst. S.E.
Qualified Sanitary Inspector (Joint Board).
Food Inspector (Legal Sanitary Inspector).
Building Surveyor (Inst. Municipal Engineers).

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Doss-on-Wye.

Telephone:

Room 62

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	1,004
Population (1951 Census)	...	5,394
Number of inhabited houses (on 31.12.52)	...	1,587
Rateable Value	...	£34,995
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£136
Registrar General's Estimated Mid Year Population	...	5,271

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population (crude)	...	16.3
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	...	17.1
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births	...	33.7
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	12.5
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 estimated population	...	9.9
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.05
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.79

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births.</u>
Heading No.30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live Births.	...	23.3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live Births	...	24.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live Births	...	Nil

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye is a small country town, well known as a holiday centre to the lower Wye Valley. The Wye is a favourite river for anglers, and the town is recognised as an inland health resort suited for convalescence, especially during the winter months.

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, printing and some light engineering.

Population.

The Registrar General's Estimate of the mid-year population is 5,271.

The census population in 1921 was 4701; 4735 at the census of 1931 and 5394 in 1951.

On the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.32, which is a small reduction on the figure for 1951 (3.47). The average number of persons per acre is 5.25 and the average number of dwellings per acre is 1.58.

The natural increase of population for the year, that is the excess of live births over deaths is 20.

Births.

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 86 (42 male and 44 female). During the previous year 104 births were attributed to the area. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 16.3, and using the comparability factor 1.05 for the District, the corrected live birth rate is 17.1 per 1000 population, somewhat higher than that rate for England and Wales - 15.3 per 1000 population.

The number of live births occurring out of wedlock is 4 (3 male and 1 female). Illegitimate births formed 4.7% of the total live births.

The legitimate live birth rate is 15.6 per 1000 estimated population and the illegitimate live birth rate is 0.76 per 1000 of the resident population. When corrected by the area comparability factor these rates are respectively 16.3 and 0.8.

The number of males born exceeded the number of females born by 2, the ratio of male/female births being 0.954.

Still Births.

The number of stillbirths registered during the year is 3 (2 male and 1 female). All stillbirths occurred in wedlock and the stillbirth rate for the year is 33.7 per 1000 total births. Based on the resident population, the c r u d still birth rate is 0.57 per 1000 population, and the corrected rate being 0.60 per 1000 population. The still birth rate for England and Wales is 0.35 for the year.

Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 66, this figure being made up of 43 male deaths and 23 female deaths. For the year 1951 there were 79 deaths in the Urban District, 37 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 12.5 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate is 9.9 per 1000 of the estimated population. This figure is lower than the corresponding figure for 1951 (11.7). The death rate from all causes for the year for England and Wales is 11.3 per 1000 total population.

The ratio of male deaths to female deaths for the year is 1.87. The commonest cause of death is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), and this accounts for 17 male and 11 female deaths.

The corrected mortality rate for the year from all forms of heart disease is 4.2 per 1000 population. Next in frequency as cause of death is heading No.17 - vascular lesions of the nervous system - which gave rise to 8 deaths, with a corrected mortality rate of 1.2 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	0.30
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	1	-	1	0.15
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.15
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	-	3	0.45
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	1	1	0.15
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	4	8	1.20
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	1	3	4	0.60
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	3	-	3	0.45
20.	Other heart disease.	13	8	21	3.14
21.	Other circulatory disease.	5	2	7	1.04
23.	Pneumonia.	1	-	1	0.15
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-	1	0.15
25.	Other diseases of respir- atory system.	2	-	2	0.30
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	1	1	0.15
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	4	1	5	0.75
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	2	-	2	0.30
34.	All other accidents.	-	2	2	0.30
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.15
All Causes.		43	23	66	9.88

Cancer Deaths.

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites at 4 (3 male and 1 female) is somewhat lower than usual. The corrected death rate for all forms of cancer is 0.60 per 1000 population - the corresponding figure for 1951 was 1.48 per 1000 population.

Death due to notifiable Infectious Disease.

Pneumonia caused one male death, and is the only acute notifiable disease which caused death during the year. The corrected death rate is 0.15 per 1000 population. The death rate from pneumonia for England and Wales for the year is 0.47 per 1000.

Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.

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

Tuberculosis.

Two deaths were attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis and one to non-respiratory disease. All were male deaths. This gives a corrected tuberculosis death rate (all forms) of 0.45 per 1000. The rate for England and Wales is 0.24 per 1000 for the year. In 1951 two deaths were attributed to tuberculosis.

Infant Mortality.

Two deaths of children under one year of age were recorded. Both of these babies were legitimate male infants. The infant mortality rate is 23.3 per 1000 live births. This rate for the year for England and Wales is 27.6 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 at the County Hospital, Hereford continued to provide facilities for the usual clinical pathological investigations and the bacteriological examinations of water, milk and other foods.

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

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

Swabs	...	18
Sputa	...	4
Urine	...	3
Faeces	...	17
Milk (methylene blue)	...	37
Ice Cream	...	25
Water (bacteriological)	...	142
Artificial Cream	...	13

The number of samples of water examined by the Public Analyst was two. Three samples of milk were sent to the Worcester Laboratory for biological test; all were satisfactory.

Ambulance Service.

The St. John's Ambulance Brigade maintains two ambulances which serve the District and the adjacent Rural District. This service operates as part of the scheme of the Local Health Authority.

Public Mortuary.

The Council maintains a small public mortuary, with facilities for post mortem examinations.

The number of bodies received from the Urban District during the year was 8, whilst 7 bodies were received from outside the District.

Disposal of the Dead.

Very limited use continues to be made of the Council's Cemetery in Walford Road, as only 5 interments took place during the year.

Section 50 - National Assistance Act 1948.

One burial was carried out by the Council under this section of the Act.

Section 47 - National Assistance Act 1948.

Two investigations were made under this section; both concerned aged persons who were admitted to hospital as a result of informal action.

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences are situated at Hems Road Motor Park, Cross House, the Crofts and Wilton Road. These were well maintained throughout the year.

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, an X-ray department and an operating theatre.

The Alton Street Hospital provides accommodation for some chronic sick and also provides residential accommodation for mentally defective persons.

The absence of maternity home accommodation in the town caused the Council much dissatisfaction. Since maternity accommodation has been available in the town for many years, the Council considers that such accommodation should continue to be provided.

Clinics.

A minor ailments clinic for school children is held on Monday and Thursday mornings during school term, at the Old Drill Hall.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every fortnight on Thursday afternoons, at the Congregational Church Room.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The whole of the area is situated on Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System.

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 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.

The Alton Court supply is of good potable quality and continuous automatic chlorination is applied to the rising main. The supply is adequate in quantity for all demands. At peak draw-off periods some of the houses on the high ground at Overcross suffer from lack of pressure, but houses which are provided with 24 hour storage tanks suffer no inconvenience. A booster is installed to improve supply to part of Three Crosses Housing Estate.

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

258 yards of 4" main for Merrivale Building Estate to supply 43 houses and connecting with the Eastfield Road main supplying Tudorville. This new main should increase pressure in the Tudorville area.

The number of dwelling houses supplied by the mains is 1637 by services, and 64 are supplied by 25 standpipes. These figures do not include garage, garden, trough and trade supplies.

The average daily consumption of potable water for 1952 was 46.39 gallons per head of population. Non-domestic demand amounted to 15.05 gallons per head, giving a domestic consumption of 31.34 gallons per head per day.

The Urban Council has drawn the attention of the Undertaking to certain low pressure supplies within its district, and negotiations are taking place between the Council and the Undertaking with a view to improving the pressure and if possible, providing a full pressure supply over the 24 hours.

Frequent samples are taken by the Department, and provision exists for samples to be taken from the rising main before the water is treated by chlorination. During the year 138 samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Ten samples gave a growth of organisms on culture; the remaining 124 samples were sterile. In addition, 2 samples of water were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. The Alton Court supply does not appear to have any appreciable solvent action upon metals, but the water, in the presence of bright sunlight does favour algal growths.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Public sewers extend throughout the area, and the number of premises not connected is insignificant. The public sewers function fairly satisfactorily except in the lower Archenfield and Brockend areas, where flooding occurs during periods of heavy rainfall. The system is of the combined type, taking both storm water and foul water. The sewage is passed into the river Wye without treatment. The Council is proposing to complete the first stage of the new sewage disposal works within two years. This will treat the sewage from not more than one third of the town.

All newly constructed drains are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspector. During the year, 52 drains were constructed, of which 47 were in connection with dwelling houses, and 16 existing drains were reconstructed and repaired.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Wye forms part of the boundary of the Urban District. Two small streams pass through the area - Checkley Brook and Rudhall Brook. Frequent inspections are carried out to ascertain possible sources of pollution. One sample of trade effluent was sent for chemical examination. The Millpond was cleansed on two occasions.

Closet Accommodation.

Water closets are provided throughout the District. A small number of the closets are not provided with flushing apparatus. The number of new closets provided during the year was 52.

Public Cleansing.

The Council provides a weekly collection of domestic refuse, by means of a motor vehicle.

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 old town tip on Homs Road is still used for tipping road sweepings and excavated earth and rubble.

The Council continued to supply, on hire purchase terms, approved sanitary dustbins. The scheme has resulted in the disappearance of unsuitable receptacles as dustbins. The Sanitary Inspector made 58 visits during the year in connection with ashbins.

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.

The Sanitary Inspector made 93 shop inspections. One new water closet was provided and new washing facilities were provided in one shop.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

There were 58 factories with mechanical power and 10 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year.

In addition there were 19 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied. The number of inspections made under powers granted by the Act was 429. Three defects were found and one defect was referred to the Department by H.M. Inspector.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1952, for the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye, in the County of Hereford.

<u>Part I of Act</u>				
1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).				
<u>Promises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	10	15	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	58	186	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (except outworkers premises).	19	228	-	-
Total	87	429	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instit'd.</u>
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>		
			<u>By H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector.</u>	
Inadequate ventilation	-	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	1	1	-
Total	3	4	2	1	-

Outworkers.

There are two outworkers registered with the Local Authority, one engaged in the making of wearing apparel, and the other in making umbrellas.

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	...	...	...	...	16
Ashbins and Ashpits.	...	...	...	...	58
Bakehouses.	...	...	...	...	30
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	3
Common Lodging Houses...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies	...	...	...	...	51
Drainage	...	...	...	...	173
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	52
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	18
Factories (without mechanical power)...	...	...	...	...	15
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	186
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	6
Food Handling Byelaws...	...	...	...	...	40
Housing	...	...	...	...	210
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	23
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)...	...	...	...	...	34
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	2
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	36
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	221
Shops	...	...	...	...	93
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	16
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	87
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	144
Work Places	...	...	...	...	228

Notices Issued.

Informal	...	...	...	...	43
Statutory re housing	...	...	...	...	-
Statutory under other Acts	..	...	...	...	12

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	6
Drains and Gullies cleared	..	...	...	...	16
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	16
New drains provided	...	...	...	...	52
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Defective eaves gutters repaired	.	...	...	...	4
Defective brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Disinfections after infectious disease.					2
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Defective chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Dampness of walls and floors remedied..					8
Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies improved	...	...	...	...	1
Filthy and verminous premises cleansed.					13
New Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	5
Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired...					4
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	1
New Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	4

Camping Sites.

The number of sites used for camping purposes within the area was three and two licenses were 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 at any time did not exceed 20 persons. One camping ground is exempt from this section of the Act.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one common lodging house in the town. The number of inspections made during the year was 9. Returns from the keeper show that the beds were occupied 5115 times during the year. No case of notifiable disease occurred in this common lodging house.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs one rodent operator, who is provided with additional help as necessary. During the year 6 minor infestations with rats were discovered. Altogether, 221 inspections were made under this Act during the year. The number of treatments carried out was 46.

(a) Infestations.

	Total.	Notified by Occupier.	Otherwise discovered.	Rats		Mice.
				Major	Minor	
Local Authority's Properties.	1	-	1	-	1	-
Dwelling Houses.	5	5	-	-	5	-
Business Premises.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agricult- ural Properties	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	5	1	-	6	-

(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.	4	50	-	-	1
Dwelling Houses.	17	51	-	-	17
Business Premises.	14	120	-	-	28
Agricult- ural Properties.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	35	221	-	-	46

SECTION D - HOUSING

The Council's house construction continued and 20 Council houses were completed and occupied during the year. Absence of facilities for the treatment of sewage prevented further house construction being commenced.

Private owners were able to complete 24 dwellings and a further 15 dwellings for private owners were under construction but incomplete when the year ended.

The Council was unable to make much progress with re-housing operations, with the housing demand still far from satisfied, but 8 temporary dwellings were demolished as being unfit for human habitation and the occupants re-housed. The total number of housing inspections made was 210, and 37 dwellings were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation; 26 were subsequently rendered fit after informal action during the year.

The Camp Meadow Estate of temporary dwellings, continued to provide accommodation. At the end of the year 45 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 well managed throughout 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).	...	37
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	210
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) 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 preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	37

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.	...	26
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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.	...	37
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(i)	By Owners	...	11
(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.	...	7
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein.	...	14
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein.	...	80
(d)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	...	5
(e)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	...	Nil
(f)	Number of persons concerned in (e) above.	...	Nil

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding within the District showed some small increase. At the end of the year 7 dwellings were known to be overcrowded.

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

No action was taken under this act during the year.

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; these numbers being reduced to six at the end of the year. The number of inspections made during the year was 51. One dairy was improved. There are no pasteurisation plants situated within the Urban District, but a certain amount of pasteurised milk is sold in the area. One supplementary licence was granted by the Council for the sale of pasteurised milk, and five for the sale of tuberculin tested milk.

The number of samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory was 37. Ten samples of pasteurised milk taken at different periods of the year complied with the Regulations. Of tuberculin tested milk 26 samples were taken and 8 of these failed to comply with the standard. Six of the unsatisfactory samples were taken from one dairy. Three samples of milk were submitted for biological test for tuberculosis and were satisfactory. 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. Twentyfive samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results showed that 13 samples complied with provisional grade 1 standard, 7 samples were provisional grade 2 and 3 samples were of provisional grade 4. Two of the samples were not tested under standard conditions. These results show an improvement in cleanliness.

The number of inspections of premises used for the manufacture, storage or sale was 34. There was no evidence that consumption of ice cream caused 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.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish within the area is small. No action by the Department was necessary in connection with the sale of shell fish, and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food.

Meat.

There are no slaughterhouses in regular operation within the Urban District, but one slaughterhouse is licensed and used occasionally, the carcass being removed immediately after slaughter to the Central Abattoir at Hereford.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, Section 3.

Three licences were granted to slaughters by the Council 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>
24 lbs.	Jellied Meat.	Blown tins.
21½ stone	Fish.	Decomposition.
7 dozen jars	Fish paste.	"
217½ lbs.	Ham.	Blown and damaged tins.
4 lbs.	Veal and Ham.	ditto
114 lbs.	Beef.	Bone taint.
150 lbs.	Cheese.	Decomposition.
1 Kilo	Tomatoes.	Blown tins.
3 lbs.	Sausage.	Decomposition.
8½ lbs.	Bacon.	"
101 tins	Miscellaneous foodstuffs.	Blown tins.

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

These Byelaws, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into operation on 13th November, 1950. Non-compliance with the byelaws was found on four occasions. Two offences concerned failure to take steps reasonably necessary to protect food from animals, and on two occasions there was failure to display the name and address of the vendor.

Food Poisoning.

Two sporadic cases of food poisoning were notified. In both cases it was impossible to discover the cause of infection, but the first case was due to infection with Salmonella Dublin, and the second the more usual Salmonella Typhi-murium. Two cases of suspected food poisoning were notified, but after careful investigation no confirmatory evidence of the diagnosis was obtained.

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

The number of confirmed cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year was nine. This low incidence of infectious disease is unusual and cannot be maintained for any long period. It arises from a relative freedom from measles and whooping cough, and a reduction in the incidence of pneumonia.

From the table shown below it will be seen that the second quarter of the year gave the maximum incidence.

Throughout the year the Urban District was free from diphtheria, crsipelas, dysentery, enteric fevers, meningococcal infection and acute poliomyelitis.

The five acute infections notified gave an incidence rate of 1.71 per 1000 population.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease
in each Quarter.

Disease.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	-	-	1
Measles.	-	2	-	1	3
Whooping Cough.	-	2	-	-	2
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	-	1
All Diseases	2	4	1	2	9

Scarlet Fever.

One case occurred in the first quarter of the year.

Measles.

Only three cases were notified, two of these occurred in the second quarter and the remaining case in the final quarter.

Whooping Cough.

Two notifications of whooping cough were received in the second quarter.

The efficiency of notification within the Urban District is good, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the 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.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain
Age Groups.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
All Diseases	1	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	1	-

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 57 cases on the tuberculosis register, 43 of these being of pulmonary disease. During the year 7 names were added, 4 of these being in respect of respiratory disease. Of the additions, three cases of respiratory disease and two of other forms of the disease represented new infections.

The number of cases removed from the register was also 7 (4 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory) so that the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was unchanged.

There were three male deaths caused by tuberculosis, one being caused by non-respiratory disease. The corrected death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for the year is 0.45 per 1000 population, one third of this rate being caused by non-respiratory disease.

The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for the year for England and Wales is 0.24 per 1000 population.

The incidence rate of new infections of tuberculosis (all forms) in the Urban District for the year is 0.95 per 1000 population.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
35+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	-	3	-	2	2	-	1	-

County Observatory,

Ross-on-Wye.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1952

A YEAR OF CONTRASTS

Coldest September on Record.

The year 1952 was not lacking in contrasts. Chief among its meteorological features were a mild Spring and cold Autumn. It was the coolest year since 1931.

January established a new high record for sunshine, whilst September proved to be the coldest since temperature records began 80 years ago. Autumnal weather set in much earlier than usual, and after August every month was deficient in warmth.

The greatest excess warmth occurred in May which had not been warmer since 1922, although equalled in 1947. March was outstandingly mild in spite of a brief return to wintry conditions with snow towards the end of the month. Not for 30 years had there been snow late in March.

The Summer was marred by a wet August, which however, somewhat retrieved its reputation in its last fortnight. June and July were dry fine months and the mean temperature for the Summer differed little from normal - July being the warmest month.

There were only three days on which temperature in shade rose to 80 deg. or more - all in July, viz. the 1st (85 deg.) and the 21st and 22nd (80 deg.) August was very equable, temperature never exceeding 73 deg. Its rainfall was not only the heaviest of the year but made it the wettest August since 1931.

Snow was experienced in the last week of November, which month had not been colder since 1925.

The autumn was the coldest since 1919.

Bright sunshine was noteworthy for the great excess in January which coupled with a high duration in the preceding December and following February made the winter of 1951-52 the sunniest on record with 250 hours.

There was very little thunder - apart from sharp thunderstorms on July 6th, and in August. Some warm nights occurred early in July; one night having the high shade minimum of 64 deg. (July 1st/2nd). Some unusually high solar temperatures were registered in July - 140 deg. and and upwards, with 147 deg. as the highest reading on the 20th.

TABLE I

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (In Inches of Mercury)
corrected for Mean Sea Level and Temperature 32 deg. F.
Barometer Cistern is 226 ft. above Mean Sea Level.

Month	* Mean Value	Difference from Normal.	E X T R E M E S			
Month	Value	Normal.	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	29.873	- 0.071	30.554	7	29.004	31
February	30.160	+ 0.202	30.735	5	29.102	1
March	29.835	- 0.193	30.236	1;14	29.363	29
April	29.994	+ 0.032	30.400	3	29.157	21
May	30.018	- 0.004	30.560	24	29.312	4
June	30.049	+ 0.002	30.396	4	29.586	1
July	30.119	+ 0.101	30.450	5	29.893	13
August	29.888	- 0.094	30.275	22	29.253	6
September	29.974	- 0.052	30.486	16	29.306	30
October	29.858	- 0.084	30.360	8	28.972	13
November	29.964	0.000	30.380	13;14	29.320	21;27
December	29.886	- 0.042	30.604	4;7	29.026	13
Year	29.968	- 0.017	30.735	Feb. 5	28.972	Oct. 13

* Note: these values are the means obtained from readings made six times daily at three hourly intervals between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. (G.M.T.).

TABLE II

Month	* PREVAILING WINDS	
	Direction	Percentage of all observations.
January	SW and W	both 34
February	W	28
March	E	21
April	SW	24
May	W	20
June	W	36
July	W	33
August	W	28
September	W	33
October	SW	25
November	W	20
December	S	26
Year	W	28

* From Observations made six times daily at three hourly intervals, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. G.M.T.
There were only two outstanding gales - October 28th and December 17th both from WEST to NORTH-WEST.

TABLE III

AIR TEMPERATURE (in degrees Fahr.).
Thermometer Bulbs 4 feet (above grass) - in a
Stevenson Screen.

Month	Mean	Difference from Normals.	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	38.6	- 0.8	55	10	18	27
February	38.7	- 1.4	55	29	23	5
March	45.3	+ 2.4	57	8;10;20	29	15;27;28
April	49.4	+ 1.9	72	18	29	1;2;3
May	56.1	+ 2.8	79	18;19	39	13
June	58.1	- 0.5	79	27;28	40	3;7;8;16
July	62.7	+ 0.9	85	1	43	16
August	61.2	+ 0.3	73	6;26;29	44	21
September	51.9	- 4.8	70	23	33	20
October	48.9	-0.8	60	27;28	26	11
November	40.5	- 3.4	58	2	22	29
December	38.4	- 2.0	53	19;22;23	19	5
Year	49.1	- 0.5	85	July 1	18	Jan. 27

Note The NORMAL Mean temperatures are for the 70 years 1881 - 1950. The mean daily maximum temperature for September was only 59.0 deg. (4.4 deg. under normal) - the lowest on record, whilst the mean daily minimum 44.9 (4.1 deg. below normal) has only once been lower (in 1877) but was equalled in 1912.

TABLE IV

EARTH TEMPERATURES (in degrees Fahr.)

Month	M E A N S in 1 9 5 2				No. of Nights with ground frost.*	Low- est Read- ing.	Date.
	At One ft.	Difference from Normal.	At Four Feet.	Difference from Normal.			
January	39.2	- 0.6	43.8	+ 1.1	19	8	27
February	37.7	- 2.2	41.0	- 2.0	25	14	5
March	44.7	+ 2.4	44.4	+ 1.0	11	20	26
April	47.8	+ 0.1	46.7	0.0	7	19	3
May	56.6	+ 2.7	52.3	+ 1.4	2	29	9;13
June	59.8	- 0.4	56.6	+ 0.8	1	30	16
July	63.4	+ 0.2	59.5	+ 0.3	0	34	16
August	62.8	+ 0.3	60.6	+ 0.4	0	38	21
September	56.1	- 2.7	57.9	- 1.1	7	28	6;8
October	50.3	- 1.8	53.2	- 1.9	7	20	11
November	44.1	- 1.3	49.2	- 0.7	16	12	25
December	39.0	- 2.3	43.4	- 2.5	18	10	2
Year	50.1	- 0.5	50.7	- 0.3	113	8	Jan.27

Means are for 30 years, 1921 - 50.

The number of ground frosts in September is highest on record. The year's total number of ground frosts 113 is highest since 1933.

* Ground frosts occur when temperature is 30 deg. F or less.

TABLE V

RAINFALL (in Inches)
For 24 hours to 9 a.m. daily.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Depth.</u>	<u>Difference from Normal.</u>	<u>Highest daily fall</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of rain- days.</u>	<u>Duration of Rainfall. Hrs. & 10ths.</u>
January	1.98	- 0.49	.55	30	16	26.2
February	0.39	- 1.68	.23	10	5	10.3
March	1.85	- 0.12	.52	4	18	41.7
April	2.03	+ 0.13	.36	6	17	39.6
May	3.70	+ 1.57	.87	4	15	54.4
June	1.61	- 0.31	.32	5;8	12	23.7
July	1.10	- 1.26	.52	5	4	11.1
August	4.82	+ 2.32	1.46	4	16	47.5
September	1.83	- 0.55	.89	8	11	23.9
October	3.61	+ 0.58	.57	18	17	61.8
November	3.76	+ 1.07	.73	26	18	79.3
December	1.54	- 1.22	.33	18	18	30.8
Year	28.22	+ 0.04	1.46	Aug. 4	167	450.3

Normals cover the 90 years 1861-1950.

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

The fall of 1.46 on August 4th was the highest in August since 1942.

There were three absolute droughts:- (a) February 17th to March 2nd (inclusive) .. 15 days; (b) July 8th to 30th inclusive .. 23 days; (c) August 19th to September 7th inclusive .. 20 days.

An Absolute Drought is a Period of at least 15 successive days without measurable rain.

TABLE VI

RELATIVE HUMIDITY - Percentage of Saturation

<u>Month</u>	<u>Mean %</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Mean %</u>
January	78	July	69
February	77	August	78
March	78	September	77
April	72	October	79
May	73	November	83
June	71	December	85

YEAR: 77%

These means are derived from observations of the wet and dry Bulb thermometers made six times daily at three-hour intervals from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

TABLE VIIBRIGHT SUNSHINE: In Hours and 10ths.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Total Duration.</u>	<u>Difference from normal.</u>	<u>Best day's record.</u>		<u>Number of sunless days.</u>
			<u>duration.</u>	<u>date.</u>	
January	95.8	+ 43.4	7.3	19	5
February	89.8	+ 21.1	8.1	4;27	6
March	100.7	- 15.5	9.0	10	5
April	156.0	+ 5.5	12.6	25	2
May	196.9	+ 11.5	14.3	21	5
June	199.2	- 2.1	15.3	23	2
July	186.3	+ 5.7	14.3	5	0
August	161.8	- 10.4	12.8	29	1
September	131.3	+ 0.5	9.5	1:25	2
October	100.9	+ 2.8	9.8	5	5
November	78.7	+ 20.0	8.0	11	11
December	63.8	+ 13.1	6.6	4	8
Year	1561.2	+ 95.7	15.3	June 23	52

January was the sunniest on record and November was the brightest since 1925. For the fifth year in succession December was exceptionally sunny.

Normals for sunshine cover the 35 year period 1916 to 1950 inclusive. The records began in 1914.

S. J. Parsons

Meteorologist - in - Charge.



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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Year	Population	Area	Population per square mile
1900	1,229,000	77,300	15.8
1910	2,377,000	77,300	30.7
1920	3,712,000	77,300	48.0
1930	5,039,000	77,300	65.2
1940	6,927,000	77,300	89.6
1950	11,340,000	77,300	146.7
1960	15,700,000	77,300	203.1
1970	20,000,000	77,300	258.7
1980	23,700,000	77,300	306.5
1990	27,000,000	77,300	349.3
2000	30,000,000	77,300	388.1
2010	34,000,000	77,300	440.0
2020	38,000,000	77,300	491.6
2030	42,000,000	77,300	544.8
2040	46,000,000	77,300	597.8
2050	50,000,000	77,300	650.7
2060	54,000,000	77,300	703.6
2070	58,000,000	77,300	756.5
2080	62,000,000	77,300	809.4
2090	66,000,000	77,300	862.3
2100	70,000,000	77,300	915.3

The above table shows the population of the State of California by county from 1900 to 2100. The population is projected to increase from 1,229,000 in 1900 to 70,000,000 in 2100. The population density is projected to increase from 15.8 persons per square mile in 1900 to 915.3 persons per square mile in 2100.