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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

OF THE DIVISION

FOR THE YEAR

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., F.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale.

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Chepstow House,

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING
DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, A.M. Inst. B.E.

Qualified Sanitary Inspector (Joint Board)

" Food Inspector (Royal Sanitary Institute)

" Building Surveyor (Inst. Municipal Engineers)

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 2373

Council Chambers,
Broad Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

STATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

REPORT OF THE SURVEY OF THE

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)	...	1,004
Population (1951 Census)	...	5,394
Number of inhabited houses (on 31.12.55)	...	1,596
Rateable Value	...	£38,923
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£150
Registrar General's Estimated Mid Year Population	...	5,320

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated Population (crude)	...	14.1
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated Population	...	14.4
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births	...	38.5
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated Population (crude)	...	17.9
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 estimated Population	...	14.5
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.02
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.81

Deaths from Maternal Causes

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

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live Births	...	40.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live Births	...	42.9
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 for the lower Wye Valley. 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. Industries located in the town include brewing, timber and joinery works, printing and some light engineering.

Population

The Registrar General's Estimate of the mid-year population is 5,320.

The Census population in 1921 was 4,701; 4,735 at the census of 1931 and 5,394 in 1951.

On the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.33. The average number of persons per acre is 5.3 and the average number of dwellings per acre is 1.59.

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

Births

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 75 (34 male and 41 female). During the previous year 93 births were attributed to the area. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 14.1 and using the comparability factor of 1.02 for the District, the corrected live birth rate is 14.4 per 1000 population, somewhat lower than the live birth rate for England and Wales - 15.0 per 1000 population.

The number of live births occurring out of wedlock is 5. Illegitimate births formed 6.6% of the total live births.

The adjusted legitimate live birth rate is 13.4 per 1000 estimated population and the adjusted illegitimate live birth rate is 0.96 per 1000 of the estimated population.

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 38.5 per 1000 total births. Based on the estimated population, the crude stillbirth rate is 0.56 per 1000 population. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales is 23.1 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 95, this figure being made up by 56 male deaths and 39 female deaths. For the year 1954, there were 98 deaths in the Urban District. 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 17.9 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate is 14.5 per 1000 of the estimated population. The death rate from all causes for the year for England and Wales is 11.7 per 1000 population.

The ratio of male deaths to female deaths for the year is 1.43. Various forms of heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20) gave rise to 30 deaths. The corrected mortality rate for the year for all forms of heart disease is 4.57 per 1000 estimated population.

Table of Causes of Death
According to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 est. Population.
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1	1	0.152
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	1	-	1	0.152
11.	" " , lung,				
	bronchus.	3	-	3	0.456
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	3	3	0.456
13.	" " , uterus.	-	1	1	0.152
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	8	1	9	1.370
16.	Diabetes	1	1	2	0.304
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	5	5	10	1.522
18.	Coronary Disease, angina.	5	4	9	1.370
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	2	2	4	0.609
20.	Other heart disease.	11	6	17	2.587
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	3	4	0.609
22.	Influenza.	1	-	1	0.152
23.	Pneumonia.	4	2	6	0.913
24.	Bronchitis.	1	2	3	0.456
26.	Ulcer of stomach, duodenum.	3	-	3	0.456
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.152
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	1	2	0.304
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate.	2	-	2	0.304
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	3	6	9	1.370
33.	Motor vehicle Accidents.	1	-	1	0.152
34.	All other Accidents.	2	-	2	0.304
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.152
All Causes		56	39	95	14.454

Cancer Deaths

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites is 17 (12 male and 5 female). The corrected death rate for all forms of cancer is 2.59 per 1000 estimated population.

Deaths due to Notifiable Infectious Disease

Pneumonia caused six deaths and was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death during the year. The corrected death rate is 0.91 per 1000 estimated population.

Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea

One death was attributed to these causes, giving a corrected death rate of 0.15 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis. The death rate for England and Wales for all forms of tuberculosis for the year is 0.15 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality

Three deaths of children under one year of age were recorded; in the previous year the figure was 7. The infant mortality rate is 40.0 per 1000 live births. This rate for the year for England and Wales is 24.9 per 1000 related live births.

Puerperal and other Maternal Deaths

I am pleased to record that no maternal deaths occurred within the Urban District. The death rate for 1955 from this cause for England and Wales is 0.64 per 1000 total live and still births.

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 examination of water, milk and other foods.

Chemical examinations are carried out by the Public Analysts, Ellis & 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, Hereford, on behalf of the Department:-

Urine	...	4
Swabs	...	4
Sputum	...	4
Faeces	...	3
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	45
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	29
Ice Cream	...	12
Water (bacteriological)	...	137
Food for organisms	...	5

The number of samples of water examined by chemical methods was two.

Ambulance Service

One ambulance and a utilicon/^{car} with three employed drivers are provided at the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters in Edde Cross Street, by the Herefordshire County Council. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade assist with this Service.

Public Mortuary

The Council maintains a small public mortuary, with facilities for post mortem examinations, at the Depot in Greytree Road.

The number of bodies received from the Urban District during the year was 2, whilst 10 bodies were received from outside the District

Disposal of the Dead

Limited use continued to be made of the Council's Cemetery in Walford Road, as only 3 interments took place during the year. Since the cemetery was opened in May 1945, the average number of interments has been less than 4 per annum.

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

No investigations were made under this section during the year.

Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences are situated at Homs Road Coach Park, Cross House, and at the Crofts. These were well maintained throughout the year under the management of the Council's Surveyor, Mr. A. Sharpe.

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 has 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.

Clinics

A minor ailments clinic for school children is held on Monday and Thursday mornings during school term, at Chepstow House.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Chepstow House also accommodates dental, speech-therapy and physiotherapy clinics each week, provided by the County Council.

The School ophthalmic clinic is held at Chepstow house when necessary.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeology

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 water supplies of the area.

The mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a supply of potable water throughout the District. This water is pumped from boreholes at Alton Court Works. In part of the District the Undertaking also provides 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.

A satisfactory supply of water was given to the Urban District with the exception of the higher parts of Overross where during peak periods of draw-off the supply was intermittent. The amount of water available over the twentyfour hours of the day was sufficient for all purposes.

During the year, 200 yards of 3" diameter water mains were constructed in connection with the Council's Berryfield Housing Estate.

The number of domestic supplies from the mains by services is 1557, and in addition 61 dwellings are supplied by 25 standpipes. The number of shops and offices, etc. supplied is 143.

The average daily consumption of potable water for 1955 for all purposes is 53.56 gallons per head of population. Non-domestic daily demand amounted to 16.24 gallons per head, giving a domestic consumption of 37.32 gallons per head per day. These figures show a small increase on comparison with the figures for the previous year.

Frequent water samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector both before and after chlorination. During the year 137 samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination; 92 samples were of chlorinated water and only one showed a scanty growth. Of 45 samples of untreated water, 37 were found to be sterile and 8 showed a scanty growth of organisms. Two samples of water were sent for chemical examination.

During the year, the Council decided to acquire the Ross Water Undertaking and opened negotiations in this matter.

Drainage and Sewerage

Public sewers extend throughout the Urban District; the number of premises not connected to the sewers being insignificant. The public sewers function satisfactorily except in the Lower Archenfield and Brookend areas, where flooding is prone to occur during heavy rainfall, the system being of the combined type taking storm and foul water. At the present time, all sewage is passed into the River Wye without any treatment.

However, in April work commenced under Contract I for the construction of sewage disposal works and improvements in the sewerage system. When completed this contract will provide for the treatment of sewage arising from about one quarter of the town's population. During the year the completed work included preparation of the site for the works and construction of new public sewers to the following extent:-

235	lineal yards of	30	inch diameter.
165	"	"	"
239	"	"	"
844	"	"	"
102	"	"	"

All new drains are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspector. In 1955 there were 30 new drains constructed; 23 of these were in connection with dwelling houses and one existing drain was repaired. Altogether 56 drain tests and 168 drainage inspections were made during the year.

In connection with the Council's Berryfields Housing site 117 yards of 9 inch and 63 yards of 6 inch public sewer were constructed, and as a result of private development 50 yards of 6 inch private sewer was constructed in Cleeve Lane.

Rivers and Streams

The river Wye forms part of the boundary of the Urban District. Two small streams pass through the area - Checkly Brook and Rudhall Brook. For the prevention of nuisance the brooks were inspected on 125 occasions and a new interceptor was installed at a vehicle maintenance establishment. Two samples of effluent were submitted for analysis.

Closet Accommodation

Water closets are provided throughout the District. A small number of closets are not provided with flushing apparatus. The number of new closets provided during the year was 27 and no conversions were necessary.

Public Cleansing

The Council provides a weekly collection of domestic refuse with 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 - collection from business premises being made twice weekly in winter and three times each week during the summer.

The Council continued to supply, on hire purchase terms, approved sanitary dustbins. This scheme has resulted in the disappearance of unsuitable receptacles as dustbins. The Sanitary Inspector made 250 inspections during the year in connection with ashbins.

During the year, the Council considered disposal of refuse by incineration. This is certainly more expensive than disposal by tipping and for small towns offers no real advantages. The provision of a tip is necessary even where incineration is used.

The Council carries out regular cleansing of streets and public places. There are no public baths or washhouses in the town. Street cleansing is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor. The necessity for cleansing privies and cesspools does not arise.

Swimming Baths and Pools

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

Shops and Offices

The Sanitary Inspector made 116 shop inspections. No action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

There are 63 factories with mechanical power and 10 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year.

In addition, there were 6 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied. The number of inspections made under powers granted by the Act was 256. Four defects were referred to the Department by H.M. Inspector of Factories and as a result of action three defects were remedied.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1955, 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>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspect-ions.</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	14	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	63	164	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	6	78	-	-
Total	79	256	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector or.	By H.M. Inspector or.	
Want of cleanliness.	1	1	-	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	2	-	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	-	1	-
Total	4	3	-	4	-

Outworkers

There is one outworker registered with the Local Authority, engaged in the making of wearing apparel. These premises were inspected on four occasions and found to be satisfactory.

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
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	250
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	22
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	10
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	10
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	40
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	168
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	56
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	164
Food Handling Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	52
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	58
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	...	...	...	...	264
Housing (Other)	...	...	...	...	...	210
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	21
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	25
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	20
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	150
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	20
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	48
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	116
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	57
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	300

Inspections(continued)

Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	116
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	140
Water Courses	...	...	...	...	...	125
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	78

Notices Issued

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	63
Statutory re Housing	..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory under other Acts	..	...	...	...	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	37
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Domestic Baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains and Gullies cleared	..	...	...	...	...	51
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
New drains provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective eaves gutters repaired	..	...	...	...	...	14
Defective brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Flooded premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	5
Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sanitary fittings provided	..	...	...	...	...	12
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4

Camping Sites

Only one site within the Urban District was used for camping purposes during the year. No licences were granted by the Council 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. Two camping grounds exempt from this section of the Act, continued in use.

Common Lodging Houses

There is one common lodging house in the town. The number of inspections made during the year was 8. Returns from the keeper show that the beds were occupied 3450 times during the year. No case of infectious disease occurred in the common lodging house. The demand for this type of lodging house is less than in the early years of the century.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestation of houses by bed bugs was found during the year. Before tenants move into Council houses inspection is made by Mr. Womack, the Housing Manager, and when an infestation is found it is treated by the Council before the tenancy is commenced.

Other Infestations

Seventeen other infestations were abated by the Sanitary Inspector; these concerned ants, flies and wasps.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs one rodent operator who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and additional help is provided when necessary. Altogether, 1059 inspections were made under this Act during the year. The number of treatments carried out were 38.

	Premises inspected.	Total Infest- ations.	Rats		Mice	No. of proper- ties treated.	Stat- utory Notices.
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dwelling Houses	292	32	-	30	2	32	-
Agricultural Properties	7	1	-	1	-	1	-
All other (including business premises)	41	5	-	5	-	5	-
Total	347	38	-	36	2	38	-

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

The number of licences granted by the Council for the storage of petroleum spirit was 20.

Heating Appliance Regulations, 1953

Twenty two inspections were made under these Regulations resulting in 4 heating appliances being withdrawn from sale.

Ten premises were inspected with respect to the disposal of old storage batteries.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Unfortunately, once again no Council houses were completed, or under construction during the year, and as a result the Council's list of housing applications at the end of the year was increased from 269 to 312. The number of temporary dwellings occupied on the Camp Meadow Estate on 31st December, 1955 was 31, and in addition 5 temporary dwellings at The Close, hree Crosses, were occupied throughout the year.

Three of the temporary dwellings on the Camp Meadow Estate were demolished during the year.

Whilst the number of temporary dwellings in occupation has slowly diminished, more rapid progress in this direction, is very necessary. These buildings are no longer suitable for human occupation.

The number of permanent dwellings constructed and owned by the Council is 312. All housing estates are under the management of Mr. N. Womack, the Council's Housing Manager.

Private enterprise completed 15 new dwellings and a further 8 were under construction at the end of the year.

During the year 474 housing inspections were made in respect of 151 dwelling houses, and 63 of these were rendered fit for human habitation by informal action and one by formal action by the Council. No Demolition Orders or Closing Orders were made by the Council during the year.

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem as only 4 dwellings are known to be overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949. Section 20

Four dwellings were reconditioned with the aid of grants made by the Council. One advance for house purchase was made by the Council during the year.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

At the commencement of the year there were 7 distributors registered with the Council but in the course of the year this number was reduced to 4. The number of dairies situated within the Urban District is three, and the number of dairy inspections made was 40.

There are no pasteurization plants in the District, but a certain amount of pasteurized milk is sold. Two supplementary licences were issued by the Council for the sale of pasteurized milk and 4 distributors were licenced for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

The number of samples of milk sent to the Public Health Laboratory was 43. All (25) samples of pasteurized milk complied with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, and 13 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk complied with the standard required by the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 but 3 samples failed to comply.

In addition, 2 samples of milk were sent to the bacteriologist for specific organisms - both were satisfactory.

There was no evidence at any time during the year, that the consumption of milk caused acute disease in the inhabitants of the area

Ice Cream

No manufacture of ice cream was carried out within the Urban District during the year but 30 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. Twelve samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results showed that 8 samples complied with provisional grade 1 standard, 2 samples were provisional grade 2 and 2 were provisional grade 3.

The number of inspections of premises used for storage or sale was 25. There was no evidence that the consumption of ice cream caused acute infectious disease.

Water Cress

No special action was necessary by the Department in connection with the sale of this foodstuff. It grows in natural conditions in the vicinity of the town, and small supplies from commercial beds are also sold in the town.

Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish within the area is small. No action by the Department was necessary and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food. Small quantities of oysters from Colchester and cockles from Swansea form the greater part of this trade.

Meat

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 62

Three slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council. There are no knackers' yards situated within the Urban District.

All animals slaughtered are inspected, after slaughter, by the Sanitary Inspector. Altogether 1738 carcasses were inspected during the year.

Meat found to be unfit for human consumption is collected and buried on the refuse tip by the Council's workmen, as it is no longer possible to secure disposal by combustion.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in
whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing		Sheep and			
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	261	1	25	1056	395	Nil
Number inspected	261	1	25	1056	395	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	4	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	12	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.816	100	-	1.515	2.025	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.381	-	-	-	0.759	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 and Slaughter of Animals
(Amendment) Act, 1954

Six slaughtermen were licensed by the Council for the slaughter of animals other than horses.

Other Foods - Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

There are 19 establishments in the town concerned with processing, preservation or manufacture of food, all being registered by the Council under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. Six of these process meat, including brawn and sausage manufacture, and ham boiling. There are 9 bakeries, a brewery which also makes soft drinks and 2 fish frying establishments. The number of inspections of these food premises made during the year was 58.

Improvements were obtained in 7 registered premises.

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>
1	Ox Carcase	Disease.
2	Ox Heads	"
2	Ox Lungs	"
2	Ox Livers	"
4	Sheep Carcases.	Disease & Trauma.
4	Sheep Heads	Disease.
6	" Lungs	"
15	" Livers	"
3	Pig Carcases.	"
5	Pig Heads.	"
7	Pig Lungs.	"
9	Pig Livers.	"
226 lbs.	Beef	Decomposition.
40 lbs.	Veal - Pressed.	"
11 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Ham.	"
14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Bacon.	"
41 lbs.	Sausages.	"
6 lbs.	Corned Beef.	"
2 lbs.	Brawn.	"
80 stones	Fish.	"
16 lbs.	Fish Cakes.	"
30 carcasses	Dressed Poultry.	"
1 carcass	Turkey.	"
13 lbs.	Butter.	"
28 lbs.	Egg Pulp.	Blown Tins.
58 lbs.	Fruit Pulp.	" "
36 lbs.	Bottled Fruit	Fungus.
4 lbs.	Mincemeat.	Decomposition.
73 lbs.	Beans.	"
3 cwts.	Potatoes.	"
277 tins	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.	Blown Tins.

Byelaws as to 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, and their application has resulted more hygienic handling of food.

Food Poisoning. Food and Drug Act, 1938, Section 17

No notifications of suspected food poisoning were received during the year.

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

The low incidence of acute notifiable disease which prevailed throughout the Urban District during 1954 continued during 1955. Only 34 notifications were received, and the incidence of notifiable disease steadily diminished as the year advanced; no notifications were received during the final quarter of the year. The notification rate for acute notifiable disease for the year is 6.4 per 1000 estimated population. The Urban District was free from diphtheria, scarlet fever, poliomyelitis, enteric fevers and meningococcal infection throughout the year.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease
in each Quarter for 1955

Disease.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Year.
Measles.	-	2	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough.	19	6	4	-	29
Dysentery.	-	1	1	-	2
All Diseases.	19	10	5	-	34

Whooping Cough

This was the most prevalent acute infectious disease of the year, as 29 cases were notified. The incidence was greatest during the first quarter and steadily decreased during the second and third quarters, and the disease disappeared before the final quarter. The incidence rate of the disease is 5.45 per 1000 of the estimated population of the Urban District. With one exception all the patients were under 10 years of age, the age group 5 - 9 years showing maximum incidence (13 cases). Altogether 18 families were affected; in 12 instances only 1 case occurred, whilst 3 families gave rise to 2 cases each; two others experienced 3 cases each and 1 family had 5 cases. Direct contact seemed an important factor in the spread of the disease. There were no deaths attributed to this disease.

Immunisation of young children against whooping cough is available at the Infant Welfare Clinics held twice weekly at Chepstow House.

Measles

In the previous year, the District had been almost free from measles and increased prevalence was to be expected, but this did not occur as only two notifications were received. Both cases occurred during the second quarter. The incidence rate is therefore 0.37 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Dysentery.

In the year 1955, the incidence of Sonne's Dysentery increased in many parts of the country. However, within the Urban District the increase was limited to two cases only. In the previous year the District had been entirely free from this infection.

Pneumonia.

No notifications of pneumonia were received, but six deaths were attributed to this cause, giving an adjusted death rate for the year of 0.91 per 1000 estimated population for the Urban District. Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death.

Notifiable Infectious Disease according to Age,
during 1955

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+
Measles	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	6	4	13	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
All Diseases	5	7	4	15	-	1	1	1	-

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 57 cases on the tuberculosis register, 44 of these being of respiratory disease. During the year, 3 cases were added, all of these being in respect of respiratory disease, 2 of which were new infections.

The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 6 (respiratory), so that the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was 54 (41 respiratory and 13 non-respiratory).

There were no deaths caused by tuberculosis. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis is 0.15 per 1000 population for England and Wales for 1955.

The incidence rate of new infections of tuberculosis (all forms) in the Urban District for the year is 0.37 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1955

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

County Observatory,

Ross-on-Wye.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1955

A DRY YEAR with big contrasts
in TEMPERATURE

The year 1955 had several outstanding meteorological features, chief of which were:-

- (a) COLDEST MARCH since 1916
- (b) COLDEST MAY day on record
- (c) DULLEST June on record followed by the brightest July on record
- (d) Low rainfall from July to October, inclusive, establishing a new record.
- (e) Four "absolute droughts"
- (f) Warm Summer following a cold Spring

Rainfall in 1955 was short of normal by 1.28 inches. The wettest month was May whose rainfall was the highest since 1932. By contrast the months of July and August were very dry, August's rainfall being the lowest since 1940, whilst the combined rainfall for these two months, 1.14 inch, established a new low record. By the end of October, only 3.51 inches had been registered in the four months July to October - easily eclipsing the previous record of 4.75 inches for the same period in 1911. The November rainfall was practically equal to the total for July - October.

For the second year in succession, April rainfall was low. There were four instances of "absolute drought" - or rainless period of at least 15 days, viz:- 17 days in April; 19 days in July - August; 15 days in August - September and 28 days from November 11th to December 8th (inclusive). This last drought was not only the longest of the year but the longest on record for that time of year.

June was a wet month for the second year running and the heavy rainfall on the 3rd almost coincided in date with the memorable Whitsuntide fall in the previous year.

Mean temperature for the year was within 0.1 deg. of normal but the first six months were cold (with the sole exception of April) while the second half of the year was warmer than usual (except October).

The Winter was prolonged into March whose mean temperature was actually 0.9 deg. below that of a normal January; but the coldest month was February, which was the coldest since its names' sake in 1947. Snow fell on the 24th and 25th - about 3 inches deep.

For the fourth year running January temperature was below normal - being the lowest since 1947. Snow fell early in the month, to a depth of 3 inches, and again on the 13th and 14th reaching a depth of 5 to 6 inches. After more snow on the 19th a thaw set in. Frosts were severe at times in January and February, but were most frequent in March. In fact there had not been a colder March since 1916. April opened with a sharp frost - the last of the season. But at Bournemouth (Hurn Airport) air frost was registered on several nights, even after the middle of the month, temperatures falling to 27 or 28 deg. F.

It was the warmest April for six years.

A cold wet May followed, but fortunately no air frost was recorded, whereas at Bournemouth there were two nights with air frost in May! It was the coldest May since 1941. Remarkably cold weather occurred on the 17th, rain turning to sleet, the worst instance of sleet in May since 1915. The maximum temperature for the day was only 40.3 deg. - the lowest ever registered on any day in May! The bad character of the month was only retrieved at Whitsun when warm sunny weather was enjoyed.

June was disappointing - though not quite as bad as in the previous year, but July, by contrast was the warmest since 1949. In fact, not until July did the Summer really get under way. On 24 days shade temperature exceeded 70 deg. (including six of 80 deg. and more). August was even warmer - the warmest since 1947 and the warmest month of the year. On four days the 80 deg. level was reached or exceeded, making 12 days all told with temperature up to that figure. On the 1st and 19th the minimum temperature was 65 deg. - the highest for August since 1911.

The mean minimum temperature was the highest since 1932.

September was summerlike, especially the opening week, but no very high temperatures occurred. Its rainfall was the lowest for 15 years.

October was mild during the first fortnight, with temperature reaching 69 deg. on the 10th - the warmest October day for five years. On the 15th occurred the first air frost of the Autumn (shade temperature down to 26 deg.).

November and December were both mild months with a welcome excess of rain. On November 4th temperature exceeded 60 deg. It was the highest November reading for 7 years.

The Summer of 1955 was less warm than those of other years - such as 1949 for instance. It was also less sunny than several previous summers, July being the only outstanding month. The dull, cold, wet June prevented the summer of 1955 from challenging comparison with previous warm dry bright summers.

Bright sunshine set up one new record - the brilliant July. In the first 17 days of the month over 170 hours were registered. At times the sun's rays were powerful enough to raise the solar thermometer to 140 deg. F. both in July and August.

Two days were outstandingly bright, viz., Whit-Monday with 15½ hours (or 94 per cent of sun's time above horizon) and July 4th with 15 hours (90 per cent).

October had its best duration of sunshine since 1921.

The 1955 record of sunshine was the highest since 1949. June had the greatest deficiency and August the ^{smallest} surplus. July's excess was as high as 3 hours per day! January had its lowest total since 1921, and December was the dullest for 25 years.

Thunderstorms were confined to the month of July.

TABLE I

AIR TEMPERATURE (in shade) deg. Fahr.

Month	Mean	Deviation from Normal	*	E X T R E M E S			
				Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	37.3	- 2.1		54	10	16	15
February	35.3	- 4.8		56	7	12	28
March	38.5	- 4.4		55	24	21	22
April	49.9	+ 2.4		66	20	27	1
May	50.2	- 3.1		68	30, 31	34	17
June	57.6	- 1.0		74	6	39	10
July	63.9	+ 2.1		83	17	45	5
August	65.1	+ 4.2		85	22, 23	41	8
September	58.3	+ 1.6		73	2, 3, 6, 7	39	19
October	49.1	- 0.6		69	10	22	16
November	44.9	+ 1.0		61	4	22	1
December	43.9	+ 3.5		57	7, 28	24	19, 22
Year	49.5	- 0.1		85	Aug. 22 " 23	12	Feb. 28

* Normals are for 70 years, 1881 to 1950.

TABLE II

EARTH TEMPERATURE (deg. Fahr.)

In the Ground

Month	At One Ft.	Deviation from Normal.*	At Four Feet.	Deviation from Normal.*	Lowest Reading on Grass.	Date.	No. of Nights with Ground Frost. †
January	39.1	- 0.7	44.0	+ 1.3	4	15	13
February	37.9	- 2.0	42.6	- 0.4	4	27	23
March	38.1	- 4.2	40.8	- 2.6	10	31	25
April	47.9	+ 0.2	45.7	- 1.0	17	1	11
May	51.6	- 2.3	49.8	- 1.1	25	11	4
June	59.1	- 1.1	54.8	- 1.0	28	10	1
July	65.7	+ 2.5	59.7	+ 0.5	37	5	0
August	65.7	+ 3.2	62.4	+ 2.2	31	8	0
September	60.1	+ 1.3	61.8	+ 2.8	32	19	0
October	51.6	- 0.5	56.2	+ 1.1	14	16	11
November	45.8	+ 0.4	50.8	+ 0.9	15	1	11
December	43.1	+ 1.8	46.9	+ 1.0	14	19	10
Year	50.5	- 0.1	51.3	+ 0.3	4	15 Jan. 27 Feb.	109

* Normals are for 30 years, 1921 - 1950

† Ground frost occurs when temperature falls to 30 deg. or less.

TABLE III

RAINFALL (In Inches)
24 hours to 9 a.m. daily (G.M.T.)

Height of Gauge above Mean Sea Level: 223 feet.

Month	Total Depth.	Deviation from Normal. *	Highest Daily Fall.	Date.	No. of rain days. ϕ	Duration of Rainfall. Hrs. & 10ths.
January	3.26	+ 0.79	0.50	6	17	70.2
February	1.45	- 0.62	0.34	6	14	37.0
March	2.12	+ 0.15	0.77	22	9	31.1
April	0.90	- 1.00	0.42	28	11	17.3
May	5.12	+ 2.99	0.84	26	17	68.9
June	3.81	+ 1.89	1.65	3	13	54.2
July	0.59	- 1.77	0.48	13	2	1.8
August	0.55	- 1.95	0.21	13	6	7.1
September	1.06	- 1.32	0.47	4	9	10.5
October	1.31	- 1.72	0.39	18	8	19.6
November	3.50	+ 0.81	0.89	10	9	49.0
December	3.23	+ 0.47	0.80	11	20	60.6
Year	26.90	- 1.28	1.65	June 3	135	427.3

* Normals are for 90 year period, 1861 - 1950

ϕ A Rain-day is one with at least .005 inch of rain.

TABLE IV

BRIGHT SUNSHINE (In Hours and Tenths)

Month	Duration.	Deviation from Normal. *	Highest day's record.	date.	Number of sunless days.
January	35.0	- 17.4	7.3	18	18
February	83.1	+ 14.4	6.7	16	5
March	159.3	+ 43.1	10.7	31	2
April	174.0	+ 23.5	13.0	24	1
May	207.2	+ 21.8	15.2	30	4
June	126.8	- 74.5	12.4	18	2
July	274.5	+ 93.9	15.0	4	1
August	186.1	+ 13.9	12.9	8	1
September	157.5	+ 26.7	11.7	6	0
October	128.3	+ 30.2	10.0	6	3
November	50.1	- 8.6	6.8	1	10
December	35.2	- 15.4	5.3	18	10
Year	1617.1	+ 151.6	15.2	May 30	57

* Normals are for 35 year period, 1916 - 1950

TABLE V

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (in inches of mercury)

Height of Barometer Cistern above Mean-Sea-Level
226 feet.

All values given below have been corrected for
Mean Sea Level and temperature 32 deg. Fahr.

Month.	Mean Pressure.	Deviation from normal. $\times$	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	29.772	- 0.188	30.490	1	28.896	16
February	29.686	- 0.310	30.346	28	28.990	4
March	30.080	+ 0.077	30.446	4	29.253	23
April	30.191	+ 0.245	30.644	18	29.793	28
May	29.932	- 0.056	30.458	30	29.336	17
June	29.984	- 0.048	30.278	22	29.490	12
July	30.133	+ 0.057	30.430	8	29.704	3
August	30.101	+ 0.121	30.260	10	29.896	31
Sept.	30.024	- 0.012	30.410	30	29.646	14
October	30.001	+ 0.033	30.434	1	29.126	19
Nov.	30.094	+ 0.179	30.682	16	29.210	9
Dec.	29.783	- 0.182	30.580	4	28.806	15
Year	29.982	+ 0.002	30.682	Nov. 16	28.806	Dec. 15

$\times$ Normals are for 30 years, 1921 - 1950

TABLE VI

RELATIVE HUMIDITY and PREVAILING WIND

Saturation = 100 per cent.

Month	Mean Percentage Humidity.	Prevailing Wind Direction.	Percentage of all Observations.
January	85	E	20
February	79	NE	20
March	70	NE	29
April	70	SW	33
May	71	W	29
June	75	SW	31
July	70	NE	35
August	73	NE	20
September	75	W	34
October	77	SW	26
November	83	SW	17
December	83	SW	30
Year	76	SW	27

J. J. Parsons

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER



