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**Contributors**

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HEALTH  
A 29 MAY 59  
C.R. - 85

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1958



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1950

PHYSICS 551

LECTURE NOTES

BY

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958 in accordance with Article 17, subsection 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Circular 22/58 of the Ministry of Health.

The incidence of acute notifiable disease in the Urban District was very low during 1958 but it does not seem possible that this low incidence will continue.

The number of births remained almost unchanged, and there was a fall in the number of deaths.

Progress was made during the year in housing, although there still exist some housing difficulties. Nevertheless, more residents than ever before are living in better housing conditions. Work of constructing the second stage of sewage disposal works continued, and when completed all sewage from the town will be treated before discharge.

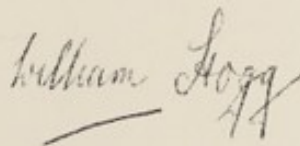
As usual, the Report contains a meteorological report kindly supplied by Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, which gives a record of the climatic conditions of the year.

In the preparation of this Report, I have to acknowledge assistance given by Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council; Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, Public Health Inspector to the Council; Mr. A.B. Aird, Surveyor to the Council; and the Council's Housing Manager, Mr. W. Elliott.

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 am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

13th May, 1959.

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye.

Mr. Chairman and Members:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the report of the Committee on the Administration of the Government of the District of Columbia.

The Committee on the Administration of the Government of the District of Columbia has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the report of the Committee on the Administration of the Government of the District of Columbia.

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Very respectfully,  
The Chairman

National Bureau of Health

Washington, D.C.

1935

1935-36

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.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND  
HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER

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

Qualified Public Health Inspector (Joint Board)

" Food Inspector (Royal Sanitary Institute)

" Building Surveyor (Int.Municipal Engineers)

Telephone:-

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Council Chambers,

Ross-on-Wye.

1900-1910 WITH THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC IN THE DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., F.R.S.E.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	1,004
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.58)	...	1,641
Rateable Value	...	£60,554
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£241. 0. Od.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	5,290
Area comparability factor (births)	...	1.03
Area comparability factor (deaths)	...	0.66

Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Births	...	86.0
Live birth rate per 1000 population	...	16.74 (Corrected)
Still-births	...	2.0
Still-birth rate per 1000 live and still births	...	22.73
Total live and still-births	...	88.0
Infant deaths	...	1.0
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - total	...	11.63
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - legitimate	...	12.34
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - illegitimate	...	Nil
Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births	...	11.63
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	5.81
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still-births	...	Nil

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye is a small country town, 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 timber and joinery works, printing and some light engineering.

### Population

The Registrar General's mid-year population is 5290. The Census population in 1921 was 4,701; 4,735 at the census of 1931 and 5,394 in 1951.

On the estimated mid-year population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.22. The average number of persons per acre is 5.26 and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 1.63.

The number of live births was identical with the number of deaths.

### Births

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 86 (45 males and 41 females). During the previous year 85 births were attributed to the area. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 16.26 and using the comparability factor of 1.03 for the District, the corrected live birth rate is 16.74 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1958 is 16.4 per 1000 population.

The number of live births occurring out of wedlock is 5; this figure for 1957 was 3.

The adjusted legitimate live birth rate is 15.77 per 1000 estimated population and the adjusted illegitimate live birth rate is 0.97 per 1000 estimated population.

### Still Births

The number of stillbirths registered during the year is 2. Both of these occurred in wedlock. The stillbirth rate for the year is 22.73 per 1000 total births. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1958 is 21.6 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

### Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 86; this figure being made up from 45 male deaths and 41 female deaths.

For the year 1957, 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 16.26 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate is 10.73 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 1.09. 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 3.743 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.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	1	1	0.125
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1	3	0.374
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	0.249
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	4	4	0.499
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.125
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	2	1	3	0.374
16.	Diabetes.	-	2	2	0.249
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	7	11	1.373
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	8	1	9	1.123
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	2	2	0.249
20.	Other heart disease.	10	9	19	2.371
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	2	3	0.374
23.	Pneumonia.	6	1	7	0.874
24.	Bronchitis.	2	1	3	0.374
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-	2	0.249
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1	1	0.125
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	2	5	7	0.874
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3	0.374
34.	All other accidents.	1	2	3	0.374
All Causes		45	41	86	10.729

Cancer Deaths

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites was 10 (4 male and 6 female). The corrected death rate for all forms of cancer is 1.247 per 1000 estimated population. The cancer death rate for England and Wales for 1958 is 2.124 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to Notifiable Infectious Disease

Pneumonia caused seven deaths and was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death during the year. The corrected pneumonia death rate is 0.874 per 1000 estimated population.

Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea

No deaths were attributed to these causes.

Tuberculosis

One death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The death rate for the year for England and Wales for all forms of tuberculosis is 0.100 per 1000 population, and the local tuberculosis death rate is 0.125 per 1000 estimated population.

Infant Mortality

One infant under one year of age died during 1958. In the previous year this figure was Nil. The infant mortality rate for the year for England and Wales is 22.5 per 1000 live births. The local infant mortality rate is 11.63 per 1000 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 1958 for England and Wales is 0.43 per 1000 total (live and still) births from these causes.

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

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, provides facilities for clinical pathological investigations and bacteriological examination of water, milk and other foods.

Chemical examinations are carried out by the Public Analysts, Ellis and Turner of Gloucester; and biological 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	...	1
Vomit	...	1
Swabs	...	14
Faeces	...	1
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	51
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	48
Ice Cream	...	6
Water (bacteriological)	...	139

Four samples of water and 4 of effluent were sent for chemical analysis.

In addition, 21 samples of milk were submitted to Worcester Public Health Laboratory for biological test.

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 Ross-on-Wye 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 Greytrees Road.

The number of bodies received from the Urban District during the year was 7, whilst 11 bodies were received from outside the Urban District.

Disposal of the Dead

Limited use was made of the Council's Cemetery in Walford Road, as only 6 interments took place during the year. This cemetery was opened in 1945.

Section 50 - National Assistance Act 1948

No disposals were carried out by the Council under this section of the Act.

Section 47 - National Assistance Act 1948

One investigation was made under this section during the year respecting an aged man living alone. No formal action was necessary in this case.

Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences are situated at the Coach Park; Cross House and at the Crofts. These were well maintained throughout the year under the management of the Council's Surveyor.

Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The Ross Cottage Hospital has 15 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 weekly on Thursday afternoons at Chepstow House.

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

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeology

The whole of the Urban District is situated on Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System.

Water

I am indebted to Colonel N. Blake, Manager of 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.

The number of domestic supplies from the mains by services is 1640, and in addition 61 dwellings are supplied by 25 standpipes.

The average daily consumption of potable water for 1958 for all purposes is 48.15 gallons per head of population. Non-domestic daily demand amounted to 10.21 gallons per head, giving a domestic consumption of 37.94 gallons per head per day. The figure for domestic consumption shows a small increase on the previous year's figure.

Houses in the higher parts of Overross received an intermittent supply during peak draw off periods, but those houses with storage tanks received a satisfactory supply. The Ross Secondary Modern School, which has suitable storage, averaged 5,914 gallons per day during term time.

During the year the following new water mains have been laid:-

Camp Meadow	-	75 yards of 3" main
Merrivale	-	200 yards of 3" main

Frequent water samples are taken by the Public Health Inspector before and after chlorination. During the year 138 samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination; 92 samples were of chlorinated water and only two were not sterile. Of 46 samples of untreated water, 31 were found to be sterile and 15 showed a small growth of organisms. Four samples of water were sent for chemical examination, and were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

Public sewers extend throughout the Urban District and the number of premises not connected to these sewers is negligible. The sewers function fairly satisfactorily except in the Brookend, Greytree Road and Weston Grove areas, where flooding is prone to occur during periods of heavy rainfall. The system is of the combined type taking both foul and storm water.

During 1958, sewage from about one quarter of the town was subject to treatment at the sewage disposal works before discharge into the River Wye.

Work was commenced on the second stage of the Sewage Disposal Scheme and in that connection the following new public sewers were constructed:-

168 yards of 6" sewer	80 yards of 36" sewer
110 yards of 9" sewer	70 yards of 39" sewer
295 yards of 12" sewer	

In addition 178 yards of 9" private sewer were constructed.

I give below a short account of the Sewage Disposal Works which has been supplied by Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, the Public Health Inspector.

Considerable progress was made under Contract 2 of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme in 1958. All sewers, including the 12" rising main were completed, and work on two pumping stations was well advanced.

At the Sewage Disposal Works, the second biological bed, the balancing tank and the storm water tanks and sludge beds were completed. Work on the office and stores, the re-circulation pump house and two additional humus tanks made very substantial progress. The construction of the sludge digestion tank was commenced.

Four samples of sewage effluent were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. These were satisfactory.

All new drains are inspected and tested by the Public Health Inspector. The number of drain tests made was 90, and 80 new drains were constructed. One existing drain was 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 - Checkly Brook and Rudhall Brook. For the prevention of nuisance the brooks were inspected on 61 occasions.

#### 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 90, and no conversions were necessary.

#### Public Cleansing

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

The collection is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. Disposal is by 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 summer, collection from food premises is made three times each week. The Council continued to provide, on hire purchase terms, approved sanitary dustbins, and supplied 41 dustbins during the year. This scheme has resulted in the disappearance of unsuitable receptacles as dustbins.

The Council carries out regular cleansing of streets and public places. Street cleansing is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor.

There are no public baths or wash-houses in the town.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools

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

#### Shops and Offices

The Public Health Inspector made 39 shop inspections. No action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

There were 53 factories with mechanical power and 8 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year.

In addition, there were 9 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied. The number of inspections made under powers granted by the Act was 289.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1958, 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 the Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	8	18	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	74	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	9	197	-	-
Total	70	289	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	2	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
Total	2	3	-	3	-

Outworkers

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

The Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Six premises were inspected under this Act. No action was necessary by the Department.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

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

Inspections

Agriculture Act, 1956	...	6
Animals	...	2
Bakehouses	...	30
Burial Grounds	...	5
Camping Sites	...	38
Caravans	...	42
Common Lodging Houses	...	28
Dairies	...	27
Dangerous Structures	...	1
Drainage	...	42
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	18
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	74
Flooding	...	180
Food Poisoning	...	4
Food Handling Byelaws	...	44
Food Premises	...	17
Housing	...	187
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	25
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	8
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	13
Markets	...	102
Public Conveniences	...	38
Public Mortuaries	...	34
Public Health Act, Section 58	...	5
Petroleum Regulations	...	78
Refuse Collection	...	75
Refuse Disposal	...	49
Schools	...	20
School Kitchens	...	7
Sewage Disposal Works	...	80
Sewers	...	91
Shops	...	39
Slaughterhouses	...	250
Water Supply	...	206
Water Courses	...	61
Work Places	...	197

Notices Issued

Informal	...	37
Statutory re Housing	...	2
Statutory under other Acts	...	3

Summary of Defects Remedied

Ashbins provided	...	41
Accumulations removed	...	1
Ditches cleared	...	3
Domestic baths provided	...	4
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	14
Drains repaired	...	1
Drains reconstructed	...	1
New drains provided	...	80
Defective roofs repaired	...	9
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	9
Defective brickwork repaired	...	3
Disinfections after infectious disease	...	2
Disinfestations	...	5
Defective windows repaired	...	3
Defective chimneys repaired	...	3
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	8
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed	...	2
Flooded premises cleared	...	14
New gullies provided	...	2
Inspection chambers repaired	...	4
Paving repaired	...	1
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	2
New sinks provided	...	5
Soil pipes repaired	...	1
Sanitary fittings provided	...	9
Stoves repaired	...	4
Moveable dwellings removed	...	1
New urinals provided	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	1
Water supplies provided	...	4
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	3

Camping Sites

Three sites within the Urban District were used for camping purposes during the year. No licences were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 as these sites are exempt from this Section. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at any time did not exceed 45 persons.

Common Lodging Houses

The only Common Lodging House was closed during November. The number of inspections made during the year was 28. No case of infectious disease or infestation occurred in the Common Lodging House. The demand for this type of accommodation has greatly declined. Disinfestation was carried out after closure.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

One Council house was found to be infested with bed bugs during the year and was disinfested by the Local Authority with a liquid insecticide. Before tenants move into a Council house, inspection is made by the Housing Manager and Public Health Inspector, and when infestation is found it is treated before the tenancy commences.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs one rodent operator who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector, and additional help is provided when necessary. This work averages about 24 hours per week. The number of treatments carried out was 45.

	Premises inspected.	Total Infestations.	Rats		Mice	No. of properties treated.	Statutory Notices.
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dwelling Houses	157	44	-	41	3	44	-
Agricultural Properties	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other (including business) premises	50	1	-	1	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Twentyone licences were granted by the Council for the storage of petroleum spirit.

Heating Appliance Regulations, 1953

Twelve inspections were made under these Regulations.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Reasonably good progress continued to be made by the Council in the provision of new houses as 48 Council houses were completed and occupied and 30 were under construction at the end of the year.

At the year end the Council owned 400 permanent dwellings, or 24% of the inhabited houses within the Urban District.

During the year the rehousing of tenants from the temporary dwellings in Camp Meadow Estate was completed. Only 5 temporary dwellings at the Close remain in occupation.

Private persons completed 18 dwellings and 12 were under construction at the end of the year.

Little progress was made in dealing with unfit dwellings but 2 unfit dwellings and 1 temporary dwelling were demolished and 2 temporary dwellings closed. There remain some 40 seriously unfit dwellings still in occupation.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	56
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2
3. 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	...	54
4. Number of unfit dwelling houses made fit by owner, and houses in which defects were remedied after informal action	...	54

Housing Act 1957, Part IV - Overcrowding

At the beginning of the year one dwelling was known to be overcrowded within the meaning of Section 77 of the Act. Eleven further cases of overcrowding came to the notice of the Department during the year. However, as a result of action by the Council, three cases of overcrowding were abated, so that at the end of the year 9 dwellings were known to be still overcrowded.

Proceedings under the Housing Act 1949. Section 20

Two grants were made by the Council for the improvement of dwellings.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk

The Urban District is a specified area and all milk sold by retail is designated milk, i.e., pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested milk. The number of inspections of dairies made during the year was 27.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council was six. There are 3 dairies situated within the Urban District but no plants for the pasteurisation or processing of milk. No sterilised milk is sold within the town.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Four supplementary licences were granted by the Council for the sale of pasteurised milk. The number of samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination was 48. Of this number, 37 complied and 4 failed to comply with the Regulations. In seven instances the tests were invalidated as a result of laboratory conditions.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The number of dealers' licences granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk was 4. The number of samples of Tuberculin tested milk sent for examination was 3; all complied with the Regulations. In addition, 21 samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for biological examination and all were reported to be free from tuberculosis and brucella infection.

There was no evidence at any time during the year that any disease was communicated to the population by the consumption of milk.

Ice Cream

No manufacture of ice cream was carried out within the Urban District during the year but 35 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. Six samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and all samples complied with provisional grade 1 standard.

Eight inspections of premises used for storage or sale were made. 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 Whitstable and mussels and cockles from the Gower coast form the greater part of this trade.

MeatFood and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 62

One licensed slaughterhouse continued in use.

All animals slaughtered are inspected after slaughter by the Public Health Inspector. Altogether 1738 carcasses were inspected during the year - this is 107 more than in the previous 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 excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	287	-	12	1157	282	-
Number inspected	287	-	12	1157	282	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	1	1	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	-	8.33	0.086	1.77	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.35	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

There are no knackers' yards situated within the Urban District.

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

Seven slaughtermen were licensed by the Council for the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs. No licences were issued permitting the slaughter of horses.

Other Foods - Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There were 17 premises in the town concerned with processing, preservation or manufacture of food, all being registered by the Council under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Seven of these process meat, including brawn and sausage manufacture, and ham boiling. There are 7 bakeries and 2 fish frying establishments. The number of inspections of these food premises made during the year was 44.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Under these Regulations improvements were obtained in 9 food premises. No prosecutions were necessary under the Regulations, which were well observed.

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>
3	Pigs Plucks	Pleurisy.
1	Pigs Head	Tuberculosis.
1	Pigs Shoulder	Contusion.
1	Pigs Leg	"
1	Pigs Leg	Abscess.
1	Pigs Carcase & Organs	Abscesses.
1	Sheep Viscera	Enteritis.
1	Calf hindquarter	Contusion.
1	Ox Liver	Fascioliasis.
63 lbs.	Pork	Contusion.
104 lbs.	Beef	Bone Taint.
6 lbs.	Veal	Trauma.
8 lbs.	Ham	Decomposition.
52 lbs.	Sausages	"
12 lbs.	Butter	"
5½ lbs.	Cheese	Deterioration.
28½ stones	Fish	Decomposition.
364 tins	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	Blown and damaged tins, etc.

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

These byelaws have resulted in more hygienic handling of food. Fortyfour inspections were made under these byelaws. No contraventions were found.

Food Poisoning

One notification of food poisoning was received during the year. The clinical features of the disease and other evidence suggested that this was a case of staphylococcal food poisoning but the food conveying the infection was not identified.

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

The incidence of acute notifiable disease during 1958 in the Urban District was low, as only 33 notifications were received compared with 207 in the previous year. This difference in the figures was a result of a very low incidence of measles.

The Urban District was free from acute poliomyelitis, diphtheria, dysentery and enteric fevers throughout the year. The period of greatest prevalence of disease was the third quarter of the year.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease  
in each Quarter for 1958

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Year.</u>
Measles	1	2	-	-	3
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	-	5	6
Whooping Cough	2	3	17	1	23
All Diseases	4	6	17	6	33

Measles

Only three cases of measles occurred; all in the first half of the year. The patients were children and there were no deaths. In 1957 there were 160 notifications of measles.

Whooping Cough

This was the most prevalent acute notifiable disease during 1957, but the number of notifications received was 23 compared with 41 in the previous year. All of the patients were children under 15 years of age, and no fatalities occurred. Only fourteen households were involved, one accounting for 7 notifications. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in eight instances.

Pneumonia

The incidence of pneumonia was slightly greater than in 1957 as 6 notifications were received compared with 4 in the previous year. All patients were over 15 years of age. Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death. Seven deaths occurred.

Other Infectious Diseases

During the months of January and February, chicken pox was very prevalent in the younger members of the community. At the same time, herpes zoster affected a number of residents. The occurrence of these two diseases at the same time of the year is well recognised.

In February, influenza became prevalent.

Notifiable Infectious Disease according to certain  
Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	1	3	13	2	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
All Diseases	-	2	2	1	3	16	3	1	2	1	2

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 57 cases on the tuberculosis register, 45 of these being of respiratory disease. During the year 9 cases of respiratory disease and one of non-respiratory disease were added. Five cases of respiratory disease and one of non-respiratory disease were new infections.

The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 17 (14 respiratory), so that the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was 50 (40 respiratory and 10 non-respiratory).

One death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The death rate for 1958 for England and Wales for all forms of tuberculosis is 0.10 per 1000 population. The corrected local tuberculosis death rate is 0.125 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis  
New Cases and Mortality during 1958

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	2	3	-	1	-	1	-	-

During the year, the Regional Mobile Mass Radiography Unit visited the town from 14th - 24th April. The total number of persons X-rayed by the Unit was 4,418, and of these 2,555 were residents of the Urban District.

## COUNTY OBSERVATORY,

ROSS-on-WYE.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1958

WETTEST YEAR since 1951, was the DULLEST on record with the most sunless summer!

The outstanding features of the Meteorology of 1958 were the high rainfall - particularly during the last four months - and the persistent lack of sunshine, this element being deficient in every month except January and May, and markedly so during the summer which was the dullest on record since registration of sunshine began in 1914. The year's sunshine was also the lowest on record during this period.

Other notable occurrences were the very wet September, whose rainfall has only twice been exceeded since records began in 1859 - (in 1871 and 1876), the record rainfall of 2.16 inches for a June day, the mild autumn, and the cold spring, in particular the month of March which was January-like in its low temperature. April experienced the coldest Easter for 21 years.

Thunderstorms were more frequent than usual, especially during the autumn, extending into October.

For the second year in succession there was no air frost in October. September had not been warmer since 1949.

The months in which temperature was markedly above normal were February, September and October - the last named having the largest excess warmth, whilst March experienced the greatest deficiency in warmth. It was in fact the coldest March since 1919.

Nevertheless the year was a trifle warmer than the average.

Apart from June, the summer months were actually deficient in rainfall; even so, the entire summer suffered from lack of sunshine!! June's deficiency was the highest for any month - nearly 64 hours, August following with a 50½ hours' shortage.

In the matter of warmth only August of the Summer months was warmer than average, but the deficiency in July (the warmest month) was slight.

Only one day (July 8th) had a shade temperature as high as 80 deg. In addition, however, seven other days had readings up to, or above 75 deg. viz.: - in May (2), July (3), August (1) and September (1).

The first occasion with a reading of 70 deg. or more was on April 30th and the last on September 14th.

The warmest nights occurred in August and September. On seven nights temperature did not fall below 60 deg. - the warmest night, that of September 2nd/3rd having a minimum of 62 deg.

Fog was more prevalent than usual during the autumn and early winter due to the still, stagnant, humid atmosphere and the sodden state of the ground resulting from the unusually heavy rainfall. The autumn was one of the dullest, wettest and quietest on record, there being a complete absence of gales or high winds.

Snow fell in January and February, but was not heavy, the maximum depth being under one inch. There were snow showers in March. The coldest day was February 7th (max. temp. only 32 deg.).

No droughts, absolute or partial, occurred. Indeed after May there was never one dry week! On five days a rainfall of 1 inch or more was registered viz: in June (1), in September (2), in October (1) and November (1).

October established a new high barometer record viz. - 30.733 inches on the 23rd.

Subjoined are the usual Tables of Statistics.

TABLE I

## AIR TEMPERATURE (in shade) deg. Fahr.

as registered in a Stevenson Screen - thermometer bulbs 4 feet above short grass.

Month	Mean	Deviation from Normal	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	39.5	+ 0.1	56	27	12	24
February	42.7	+ 2.6	58	14	27	7
March	39.7	- 3.2	60	30	21	10
April	46.1	- 1.4	72	30	27	3
May	53.8	+ 0.5	75	1; 2	37	28
June	57.7	- 0.9	74	16	42	5
July	61.5	- 0.3	80	8	43	24
August	61.4	+ 0.5	76	10	43	26
September	59.1	+ 2.4	77	5	42	26
October	52.4	+ 2.7	63	18	35	18;31
November	44.1	+ 0.2	58	6; 7	26	11
December	41.3	+ 0.9	56	27; 28	26	2
Year	49.9	+ 0.3	80	July 8	12	Jan. 24

\* Normals are for the 70 year period, 1881 to 1950.

TABLE II

## EARTH TEMPERATURE (deg. Fahr.)

Month	Mean Values				Ground Frost <sup>φ</sup>	
	At One Feet	Deviation from Normal. *	At Four Feet.	Deviation from Normal. *	Lowest Reading on Grass.	Nights of Frost.
January	39.2	- 0.6	43.4	+ 0.7	7	24 12
February	41.1	+ 1.2	43.2	+ 0.2	18	18 13
March	40.3	- 2.0	42.9	- 0.5	12	10 16
April	45.1	- 2.6	44.8	- 1.9	16	13 12
May	54.2	+ 0.3	51.0	+ 0.1	27	28 4
June	58.9	- 1.3	55.1	- 0.7	30	18 1
July	63.7	+ 0.5	59.2	0.0	36	24 0
August	62.0	- 0.5	59.8	- 0.4	37	26 0
September	60.1	+ 1.3	59.6	+ 0.6	33	26 0
October	53.8	+ 1.7	56.0	+ 0.9	29	18;31 2
November	47.0	+ 1.6	51.5	+ 1.6	18	11 9
December	42.1	+ 0.8	46.7	+ 0.8	21	2 11
Year	50.6	0.0	51.1	+ 0.1	7	Jan. 24 80

\* Normals are for 30 years 1921 to 1950

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

TABLE III

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

Height of Gauge above Mean Sea Level: 223 feet

Month	Total Depth.	Deviation from Normal. *	Highest Daily Fall.	Date	No. of Rain-days. †	Duration of Rainfall. Hrs. & 10ths.
January	2.08	- 0.39	0.55	4	18	51.1
February	4.94	+ 2.87	0.87	9	15	92.2
March	1.02	- 0.95	0.24	25	8	33.9
April	0.55	- 1.35	0.29	25	7	17.2
May	2.15	+ 0.02	0.50	22	19	39.2
June	3.73	+ 1.81	2.16	2	18	40.7
July	2.19	- 0.17	0.65	27	18	34.2
August	1.90	- 0.60	0.84	21	18	22.0
September	6.22	+ 3.84	1.53	14	17	48.2
October	3.41	+ 0.38	1.46	3	16	30.9
November	3.11	+ 0.42	1.08	2	14	58.2
December	3.20	+ 0.44	0.61	18	20	58.1
Year	34.50	+ 6.32	2.16	June 2	188	525.9

\* Normals are for 90 years 1861 - 1950

† A rain-day is one with .005 inch or more 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	62.0	+ 9.6	7.1	13	11
February	52.5	-16.2	9.7	26	10
March	98.1	-18.1	8.6	6	7
April	143.9	- 6.6	11.9	29	1
May	198.3	+12.9	12.4	4	0
June	137.5	-63.8	14.0	15	2
July	175.7	- 4.9	13.1	24	0
August	121.6	-50.6	11.8	2	1
September	95.0	-35.8	9.4	26	2
October	95.6	- 2.5	8.7	16	7
November	38.4	-20.3	8.0	13	16
December	34.3	-16.3	4.6	14	18
Year	1252.9	-212.6	14.0	June 15	75

\* Normals are for 35 years - 1916 to 1950.

In the sun's rays temperature readings of 140 deg. and 141 deg. were recorded in June and 139 in August and September this value being very high (and rare) for September.

TABLE V

## BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (in Inches of Mercury)

Height of Barometer Cister 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. *	E X T R E M E S Highest	Date.	Lowest	Date.
Jan.	29.861	- 0.0999	30.623	15	28.772	10
Feb.	29.854	- 0.142	30.641	3	28.958	11
March	29.874	- 0.129	30.443	21	29.170	28
April	30.096	+ 0.150	30.526	11	29.480	4
May	29.911	- 0.077	30.476	1	29.096	16
June	29.902	- 0.130	30.325	13	29.262	25
July	29.915	- 0.062	30.396	8	29.401	13
August	29.835	- 0.145	30.275	3	29.466	21
Sept.	29.950	- 0.062	30.352	11	29.088	30
Oct.	30.101	+ 0.133	30.733	23	29.178	1
Nov.	30.186	+ 0.271	30.682	21	29.669	2
Dec.	29.649	- 0.316	30.482	1	28.712	15
Year	29.928	- 0.052	30.733	Oct. 23	28.712	Dec. 15

\* Normals are for 30 years 1921 - 1950

Observations are made at 3 hourly intervals, six times daily.

TABLE VI

## RELATIVE HUMIDITY and PREVAILING WIND

From observations made six times daily - at 3 hour intervals.

Month.	Prevailing Wind Direction.	Percentage.	Relative Humidity (Saturation = Mean Percentage. 100%)
January	West	25	82
February	South-West	30	79
March	East	40	73
April	North-East	22	67
May	South-West	42	71
June	South-West	27	74
July	South-West	32	75
August	South-West	40	79
September	South-West	23	83
October	South-West	22	83
November	East	31	89
December	South-West	20	88
Year	South-West	29	79

*J. Parsons*

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER

TABLE V

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE

Percentage change in temperature during the period of January

All values given below have been corrected for mean sea level and compared to day zero.

Month	Temperature	Percentage Change	Standard Deviation	Significance
Jan	29.00	-0.00	0.00	
Feb	28.50	-0.17	0.00	
Mar	28.00	-0.33	0.00	
Apr	27.50	-0.50	0.00	
May	27.00	-0.67	0.00	
Jun	26.50	-0.83	0.00	
Jul	26.00	-1.00	0.00	
Aug	25.50	-1.17	0.00	
Sep	25.00	-1.33	0.00	
Oct	24.50	-1.50	0.00	
Nov	24.00	-1.67	0.00	
Dec	23.50	-1.83	0.00	
Year	25.00	-0.00	0.00	

Percentage change for 30 years (1951-1980) is not available. Observation was made at 5 hourly intervals six times daily.

TABLE VI

RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND PRECIPITATION

From observations made six times daily - at 5 hour intervals.

Month	Relative Humidity (%)	Precipitation (mm)
Jan	85	0
Feb	80	0
Mar	75	0
Apr	70	0
May	65	0
Jun	60	0
Jul	55	0
Aug	50	0
Sep	45	0
Oct	40	0
Nov	35	0
Dec	30	0
Year	65	0

RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND PRECIPITATION



