

[Report 1967] / 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

1967



ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1967 in accordance with Article 15(4) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and Circular 1/68 of the Ministry of Health. This is the last Annual Report I shall submit as I retire tomorrow.

During 1967 the health of the population of the Urban District was good. The number of live births was less than in the previous year but there were fewer deaths. The incidence of acute infectious disease was very low.

The Report contains a meteorological report kindly supplied by Mr. F.J. Parsons, M.B.E., Meteorologist-in-Charge, County Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, giving a record of climatic conditions during the year.

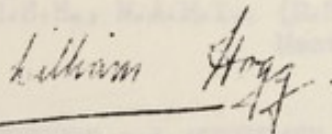
In the preparation of this Report, I acknowledge assistance from Mrs. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, and Mr. N. Brook, Chief Meat Inspector.

I also have to thank Mr. W.H. Austin, Engineer and Manager of the Herefordshire Water Board for information respecting the public water supplies of the Urban District.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

6th June, 1968

M. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to submit by postal report for the year 1907 in accordance with Article 12(4) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1907, and Circular 1/08 of the Ministry of Health. This is the last annual report I shall submit as I retire tomorrow.

During 1907 the health of the population of the Urban District was good. The number of live births was less than in the previous year but there were fewer deaths. The incidence of acute infectious diseases was very low.

The report contains a meteorological report kindly supplied by Mr. J. A. Foxton, M.B.S., Meteorologist-in-Charge, County Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, showing a record of climatic conditions during the year.

In the preparation of this report, I acknowledge assistance from Mr. E. Evans, Clerk to the Board, and Mr. E. H. Evans, Sanitary Inspector.

I also have the honor to acknowledge the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector of the Urban District in the supply of public water supplies of the Urban District. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the reports which have been given me in the discharge of my duties during the year.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. H. [Signature]

Medical Officer of Health

2nd Jan, 1908

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.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

Telephone:

Chepstow House,

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Ross-on-Wye.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, ENGINEER AND 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 (Inst. Municipal Engineers)

AUTHORISED MEAT INSPECTORS

CHIEF MEAT INSPECTOR

Mr. N. Brook, L.M.R.S.H., M.A.M.I., (R.S.H. Certificate in
Meat Inspection)

ADDITIONAL MEAT INSPECTOR and ASSISTANT TO PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Wm. Costelloe, A.M.R.S.H., A.M.I., M.T.D.C.C.
(R.S.H. Certificate of
Meat Inspection) A.R.I.P.H.H.
C.F.H.H.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	=	1,004
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.67)	=	2,073
Rateable Value	=	£239,132
Sum represented by a penny rate	=	£900
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	=	6,390
Area comparability factor (births)	=	1.11
Area comparability factor (deaths)	=	0.84

Vital Statistics for the Year

Number of live births	=	95
Live birth rate per 1000 population (crude)	=	14.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	=	2.1%

Stillbirths

Number of stillbirths	=	3
Rate per 1000 (live and still) births	=	30.6
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	=	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant deaths per 1000 live births	=	10.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	=	10.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	=	Nil
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 live births)	=	Nil
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births)	=	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live and still births)	=	30.6

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of maternal deaths	=	Nil
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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 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, rubber moulding, printing and some light engineering.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for 1967 was 6,390, an increase of 749 on the 1961 census population of the Urban District. This population occupied 2,073 dwellings, and the average number of persons per occupied dwelling was 3.1, and the average number of persons per acre was 6.4. The average number of occupied dwellings per acre was 2.0. The natural increase of population (excess of live births over deaths) for 1967 was 11.

Births

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year was 95 (50 male and 45 female). During the previous year 117 births were attributed to the District. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population was 14.9 and using the comparability factor of 1.11 for the District, the corrected live birth rate was 16.5 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1967 is 17.2 per 1000 population.

The number of live births that occurred out of wedlock was 2. This figure for 1966 was 6. Illegitimate live births represented 2.1% of the total live births.

Stillbirths

Three stillbirths were registered during the year. There was one stillbirth in the previous year.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1967 was 14.7 per 1000 total (live and still) births, and this rate for the Urban District is 30.6.

Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year was 84 (38 male and 46 female).

For the year 1966 there were 94 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 Urban District.

The crude death rate from all causes is 13.1 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate was 11.0 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate from all causes for the year for England and Wales was 11.2 per 1000 population.

The ratio of male/female deaths for the year was 0.82. Only 30 of the deaths occurred in persons under 65 years of age and 42 persons were over 75 years of age at death.

Various forms of heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), the most frequent cause of death, gave rise to 30 deaths. The corrected local mortality rate for the year for all forms of heart disease is 3.9 per 1000 estimated population.

Table of Deaths according to Sex and Cause

List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Persons
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	2	2	4
11.	" " lung, bronchus.	2	-	2
13.	" " uterus.	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	4	8
16.	Diabetes.	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	6	11	17
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	10	7	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1
20.	Other heart disease	3	9	12
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	1	1
23.	Pneumonia.	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis.	4	-	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	2	6	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	-	1	1
34.	All other accidents.	1	1	2
All Causes		38	46	84

Cancer Deaths

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites was 15 (8 males and 7 females). In the previous year there were 18 deaths from cancer. The corrected local death rate for all forms of cancer was 2.0 per 1000 estimated population. The cancer (all forms) death rate for England and Wales for 1967 is 2.3 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to Notifiable Infectious Disease

Pneumonia caused three deaths, and was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as a cause of death during the year; seven less than in 1966. The corrected pneumonia death rate for the Urban District was 0.4 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis.

The death rate for the year for England and Wales for all forms of tuberculosis is 0.042 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality

One baby under one year of age died during 1967. In 1966 there were no infantile deaths.

The infant mortality rate for the year for England and Wales was 18.3 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 England and Wales for 1967 from all maternal causes was 0.2 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, provides facilities for clinical pathological investigations and bacteriological examinations of water, milk and other foods.

Chemical examinations are carried out by the Public Analyst of Worcester, and biological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Worcester.

The following list gives the number of investigations made on behalf of the Department during the year:-

Urine	=	1
Faeces	=	18
Milk (Pasteurised)	=	41
Water (Bacteriological)	=	116
Ice Cream	=	2

Three samples of water, 3 of sewage effluent were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis.

In addition, 5 samples of raw milk were submitted to Worcester Public Health Laboratory for biological test.

Ambulance Service

One ambulance and a utilicon car with six employed drivers are provided at St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters in Edde Cross Street, by the Herefordshire County Council.

Public Mortuary

The Council maintains a small public mortuary with facilities for post mortem examinations at the Depot in Greytree Road. This is very useful to the town and surrounding district.

Disposal of the Dead

Limited use continued to be made of the Council's cemetery in Walford Road - two interments took place during the year.

Section 50 - National Assistance Act, 1948

No burials were carried out by the Council under this Section of the Act during the year.

Section 47 - National Assistance Act, 1948

No investigation was made under this section of the Act during the year.

Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences are situated at the Coach Park, at Cross House and at the Crofts. These are well maintained under the management of the Councils's Public Health Inspector and 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 an X-Ray Department, an operating theatre and an Outpatients' Department.

The Dean Hill Hospital provides residential accommodation for mentally defective patients and two wards for chronic sick.

Clinics

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

Infant Welfare Clinics are held weekly at Chepstow House on Thursday afternoons.

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

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeology

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye lies on Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System.

Water

All public water supplies in the Urban District are provided by the Herefordshire Water Board. The water is obtained from the pumping stations at Alton Court, Ross and Castlebrook, Walford.

There was a shortage of water in the Three Crosses area of the District during the year, of a few days duration. This was caused by a defect at Castlebrook.

All dwellings are supplied from the public mains by service pipes with the exception of 33 houses supplied from 7 standpipes. There are no public standpipes in the town.

There is co-operation between the Department and the Herefordshire Water Board to ensure that all new mains are sterile before being brought into commission.

The following new water mains were constructed in the Urban District by the Herefordshire Water Board during the year:

Housing Site	- Ryefield Road	=	26 yds.	3 inch dia.	main
"	" - Overross	=	108 "	3 "	" "
"	" - Tanyard Lane	=	97 "	3 "	" "
"	" - Cleeve Lane	}	= 383 "	3 "	" "
"	" - Chase View Road				

The water for the public supply is chlorinated at the pumping stations.

The water has no appreciable solvent action upon ordinary metals and is of good potable quality.

There are no public wells within the District.

Eightytwo samples of potable water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all were found to be sterile. Three samples of water from public mains were sent for chemical examination, which showed the water to be suitable for human consumption but hard.

Total hardness varied from 324 - 344 parts per million and temporary hardness varied from 260 - 276 parts per million (hardness as calcium carbonate). The fluorine content, not verified during the year, is about 0.2 parts per million, which is insufficient to prevent dental decay.

Drainage and Sewerage

Public sewers extend throughout the Urban District and the number of premises not connected to these sewers is negligible. The system is the combined type taking both storm and foul water.

Three samples of sewage effluent from the Council's treatment plant were sent for chemical examination to the Public Analyst and these complied with the Royal Commission standards.

During the year, Stage 3 of the Sewerage Scheme continued and the following new public sewers were constructed:-

172	lin.	yards	of	8"	diameter	sewer
56	"	"	"	9"	"	"
208	"	"	"	12"	"	"
56	"	"	"	15"	"	"
935	"	"	"	18"	"	"
564	"	"	"	21"	"	"
360	"	"	"	27"	"	"
257	"	"	"	30"	"	"
28	"	"	"	36"	"	"

The scheme, when completed, will improve drainage in parts of the town and relieve flooding which occurs during heavy storms, as a new storm water overflow was constructed.

The Council's Consulting Engineer is preparing plans for increasing the capacity of the sewage disposal works which are now working at full capacity.

All new drains were inspected and tested by the Public Health Inspector. The number of drain tests made was 33, and 68 new drains were constructed. Four existing drains were reconstructed or repaired.

All sewage passes to the Council's Disposal Works at Lower Cleeve for treatment, and the treated effluent passes to the River Wye.

No private sewers were constructed during the year.

Rivers and Streams

The River Wye forms part of the boundary of the Urban District, and two small streams pass through the area.

Regular inspection and removal of debris is carried out.

Closest Accommodation

Water closets are provided throughout the District.

Sixtyeight new water closets were constructed during the year. The need for conversion does not arise.

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 a week. In summer, collection from food premises is made three times each week. Waste paper is collected when necessary.

The Council carried out regular cleansing of streets and public places. Street cleansing is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor. The need for cleansing of cesspools and privies does not arise.

There are no public baths or washhouses in the town.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Small swimming pools for instructional purposes are situated at the Grammar School and the Secondary Modern School. Their use is restricted to the pupils of the schools. One factory provides a swimming pool for the use of employees.

Bacteriological examination of 46 samples of water taken from swimming pools showed the water to be satisfactory.

There are no swimming pools open to the public on payment within the Urban District.

Shops and Offices

Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act, 1963

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number registered at end of year</u>	<u>Number of Registered Premises receiving General Inspection</u>	<u>No. of Persons employed in registered Premises</u>
Offices	22	22	191
Retail Shops	111	111	440
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	2	31
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	16	16	77
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Total	151	151	739

The number of visits made to registered premises during the year was 254.

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

One holding was inspected under this Act during the year, and found to comply with the Act. Only three holdings are registered with the Council.

Factories Act, 1961

There were 47 factories with mechanical power and 5 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year. In addition, there were 11 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	29	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers's premises)	11	231	-	-
Total	63	260	3	-

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	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences (b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	4	-
Total	4	3	-	4	-

Outworkers

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

One factory with mechanical power was registered for the first time during the year.

Four workplaces subject to the Act were erased from the Register during the year.

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 25(20) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959:-

Inspections

Accumulations	=	2
Agriculture (.H. & W. Prov.) Act.	=	1
Animals	=	3
Ashbins and Ashpits	=	8
Bakehouses	=	2
Burial Grounds	=	8
Camping Sites	=	122
Canteens	=	23
Caravans	=	11
Dairies	=	19
Drainage	=	29
Drain Tests	=	2
Factories (with mechanical power)	=	29
Food Poisoning	=	1
Food Handling Byelaws	=	6
Food Premises	=	10
Houses (Consolidate Regulations 1925 & 1932)	=	2
Housing (Other)	=	80
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	=	9
Infectious Disease	=	1
Licensed Victuallers's Premises	=	13
Markets	=	62
Nuisances	=	21
Offensive Smells	=	5
Public Conveniences	=	44
Public Mortuaries	=	12
Petroleum Stores	=	15
Refuse Tips	=	92
Schools	=	18
Sewage Disposal Works	=	54
Sewers	=	195
Sanitary Conveniences	=	15
Smoke Observations	=	1
Slaughterhouses	=	5
Stalls	=	49
Swimming Baths and Pools	=	63
Unsound Food	=	59
Water Supply	=	2
Water Courses	=	27
Work Places	=	231
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	=	254
Rats and Mice	=	276

Notices Issued

Informal	=	48
Statutory re Housing	=	3
Statutory under other Acts	=	2

Summary of Defects Remedied

Domestic Baths provided	=	28
Drains and Gullies cleared	=	19
Drains repaired	=	4
New drains provided	=	21
Defective floors repaired	=	4
Defective roofs repaired	=	7
Defective eaves gutters repaired	=	12
Defective brickwork repaired	=	8
Defective windows repaired	=	4
Defective chimneys repaired	=	3
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	=	5
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	=	3
Filthy and Verminous premises cleansed	=	2
Flooded premises cleared	=	2
New Gullies provided	=	32
Paving repaired	=	1
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	=	1
Staircases repaired	=	1
New sinks provided	=	28
Sanitary fittings provided	=	28
Stoves repaired	=	1

Camping Sites - Public Health Act 1936. Section 269
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

Two 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.

Two sites were licensed under Section 3 of Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at any time did not exceed 50 persons.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the town.

Eradication of Bed BugsHydrogen Cyanide Regulations (Fumigation of Buildings) 1951

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, and no buildings were disinfested with hydrogen cyanide.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Council employs one rodent operator who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. This work averages about 24 hours per week.

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1 No. of properties in District.	2,259	4
2 (a) No. of properties inspected following notification	Nil	4
(b) No. infested by (i) Rats	Nil	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil
3 (a) No. of properties inspected for rats and mice	280	Nil
(b) No. infested by (i) Rats	280	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil

No sewers were infested with rats during the year. The brook course and tips were inspected on 4 occasions.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928

No new licences were granted by the Council for the storage of petroleum spirit, and one storage installation was discontinued during the year. There were 18 storage installations in use at the end of the year.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

No premises within the Urban District were licensed as animal boarding establishments.

SECTION D - HOUSING

During the year 10 Council dwellings were completed but none were under construction at the end of the year.

At the end of the year the Council owned 543 permanent dwellings.

Private persons completed 47 new houses in the Urban District and had 44 houses under construction at the close of the year.

The repair by owners of 32 unfit dwellings was obtained as a result of informal action. Three unfit dwellings were repaired after formal action.

The number of housing inspections made was 82.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	=	35
2. Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	=	Nil
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.	=	35

Housing Act 1957. Part IV. Overcrowding

Overcrowding of dwellings is not a big problem in the town. Three dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the beginning of the year. No cases came to the notice of the Council during the year.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958. Part II. Section 30

During the year the Council made 6 grants under this section for the improvement of dwelling houses. These grants were discretionary grants and brought the total number of such grants made by the Council to 73.

House Purchase and Housing Act 1959. Part II. Section 4

During the year the Council made 3 grants under this section for the improvement of dwellings by provision of standard amenities.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958. Part II. Section 43.
House Purchase and Housing Act 1959. Section 3

The Council made 4 loans under these sections to assist persons in house purchase. These brought the total number of loans granted to 152.

Houses Demolished

(1)	In Clearance Areas	=	Nil
(2)	Not in Clearance Areas	=	Nil

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

(1)	After informal action:		
	(i) by Owner	=	32
	(ii) by Local Authority	=	Nil
(2)	After formal action:		
	(i) by Owner	=	3
	(ii) by Local Authority		Nil

Houses let in Lodgings

There is only one house let in lodgings in the town.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk - Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The Urban District is a specified area and all milk sold retail is designated milk, i.e., pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested milk. The number of inspections of dairies made during the year was 19.

Ten milk distributors were registered with the Council. There is one dairy situated within the Urban District but no plants for the pasteurisation of milk. No action was necessary under the Regulations.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

All licences granted under these Regulations are issued by the Herefordshire County Council, which is the Food and Drug Authority.

Forty samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and 38 were found to comply with the Regulations. The two unsatisfactory samples came from the same distributor; both failed to comply with the methylene blue test.

Five samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for biological test and were found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream

One automatic ice cream making machine is registered and is the only manufacture of ice cream in the town.

There are 32 premises registered for storage and sale of ice cream.

There was no evidence that consumption of ice cream caused acute disease in the population.

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 supplies from commercial beds are also sold in the town.

Shell Fish

The sale of shellfish in the town 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, mussels and cockles form the greater part of this trade. With the development of frozen foods the sale of fresh fish is diminishing.

MeatSlaughterhouses Act 1958

One licensed slaughterhouse continued in use throughout the year.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year was 47,676, a decrease of 19,420 on the total for the previous year. All meat was inspected before leaving the abattoir. Unsound meat is stained before being removed by contractors. Livers affected with fluke are sent for processing into dog food. All other unsound meat is sent for manufacture into fertiliser.

Insulated refrigerated vehicles are used for the transporting of meat, except short duration journeys.

Meat found to be unfit for Human Consumption
at Abattoir during 1967

<u>Oxen</u> <u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
1	Bullock Carcase	Traumatic Pericarditis
1	" "	Pyæmia
1	Cow Carcase	Bilateral Pyelonephritis
3	" "	Oedema and emaciation
1	" "	Septic Mastitis
2	" "	Johne's Disease
1	" "	Multiple Fractures
1	" "	Anaemia - advanced
1	" "	Septic Metritis
1	" "	Toxaemia

Carcass Parts

202 lbs.	Hindquarter	Trauma
168 lbs.	Trimings	Bruising
24 lbs.	Flank and Brisket	Peritonitis
66 lbs.	Forequarter	Decomposition
94 lbs.	Buttock	Bone Taint
18 lbs.	Point ends Brisket	Presternal calcification
18 lbs.	Flank	Gastrocele
28 lbs.	Clod and Sticking	Abscess formation
34 lbs.	Leg	Atrophy
32 lbs.	Topside and Silverside	Abscess formation
20 lbs.	Brisket	Localised C/Bovis Cysts

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
	<u>Oxen</u>	
	<u>Offal</u>	
624	Livers	Fascioliasis
490	"	Abscesses
66	"	Hydatid Cysts
28	"	Bacterial Necrosis
19	"	Cirrhosis
3	"	Cloudy Swelling
2	"	Fatty Degeneration
173 Prs.	Lungs	Pleurisy
104 Prs.	"	Hydatid Cysts
31 Prs.	"	Pneumonia
25 Prs.	"	Flake Abscesses
9 Prs.	"	Abscesses
6 Prs.	"	Emphysema
11	Spleens	Peritonitis
2	"	Haematoma
1	"	Congestion
1	"	Decomposition
12 Prs.	Kidneys	Retention Cysts
6 Prs.	"	Nephritis
6 Prs.	"	Infarcts
4 Prs.	"	Abscesses
4 Prs.	"	Hydronephrosis
2 Prs.	"	Pyelonephritis
11	Udders	Mastitis
13	Hearts	Decomposition
12	"	Pericarditis
2	"	Cloudy Swelling
2	"	Cysticercus Bovis
1	"	Abscess
1	"	Myocarditis
4	Heads	Cysticercus Bovis
3	"	Decomposition
4	"	Abscesses
3	"	Actinobacillosis
1	"	Tuberculosis
8	Thick Skirts	Peritonitis
2	" "	Decomposition
2	" "	Contamination
1	" "	Fibrosis
6 Sets	Stomachs and Intestines	Abscess formation
8 "	Ditto	Johne's Disease
2 "	Ditto	FlyBlown
2	Tails	Malformation
2	"	Contamination
1	Uterus	Metritis
	<u>Calves</u>	
3	Carcases	Septic Pneumonia
4	"	Immaturity
1	"	Imperfect Bleeding
1	"	Septic Peritonitis
1	"	Oedema and Emaciation
1	"	Pleurisy and Peritonitis
4 Prs.	Kidneys	Fibroplastic Nephritis

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
	<u>Sheep</u>	
7	Lamb Carcasses	Oedema and Emaciation
2	" "	Immaturity
3	" "	Imperfect Bleeding
2	Ewe Carcasses	Anaemia and Emaciation
2	" "	Anaemia - advanced
2	" "	Severe Bruising
1	" "	Lymphatic Leukaemia
1	" "	Pulpy Kidney Disease
1	" "	Anasarca
1	" "	Laceration
1	" "	Malformation
1	" "	Septic Pneumonia and Pleurisy
1	" "	Septic Pleurisy
1	" "	Pyaemia
1	" "	Neoplasms
1	Ram Carcase	Toxaemia
1	Side Mutton	Hypostasis
	<u>Carcase Parts</u>	
48 lbs.	Lamb and Mutton	Arthritis
14 lbs.	Leg Lamb	Atrophy
86 lbs.	Lamb & Mutton	Fractures
20 lbs.	Forequarter	Septic Pleurisy
69 lbs.	Lamb and Mutton	Bruising
12 lbs.	Mutton	Abscesses
20 lbs.	Forequarters	Pleurisy
14 lbs.	Legs	Hypoplasia
27 lbs.	Breast and Loins	Peritonitis
53 lbs.	Saddle and Loin Lamb	Blood Splashing
13 lbs.	Shanks Lamb	Trauma
470	Livers	Fascioliasis
350	"	C. Tenuicollis
115	"	Necrotic Foci
163	"	Parasitic Cysts
25	"	Bacterial Necrosis
20	"	Neoplasms
11	"	Abscesses
7	"	Contamination
5	"	Fatty Degeneration
110	Lungs	Muellerius Capillaris
42	"	Pneumonia
38	"	Pleurisy
12	"	Contamination
12	"	Congestion
7	"	Hydatid Cysts
3	"	Melanosis
16	Tops	Pneumonia and Pericarditis
15	"	Regurgitated Stomach contents
74	Plucks	Hydatid Cysts
17	"	Contamination - Vermin
11	"	Pneumonia and Pericarditis
11	"	Pneumonia and Fascioliasis
5	"	Septic Pneumonia
8	"	Decomposition
14	Heads	Multiceps Multiceps
10	"	Contamination
5	"	Contagious R. stular Dermatitis
1	"	Neoplasm

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
	<u>Pigs</u>	
5	Pig Carcases	Pyæmia
4	" "	Septicæmia
3	" "	Imperfect Bleeding
3	" "	Gut Oedema
2	" "	Septic Pneumonia
2	" "	Septic Enteritis
1	" "	Scirrhus Cord and Acites
1	" "	Peritonitis
1	" "	Decomposition
1	" "	Jaundice
1	" "	Immaturity
1	" "	Emaciation
1	Sow "	Uraemia
1	" "	"
1	Sucking Pig	Umbilical Pyæmia
	<u>Parts</u>	
284 lbs.	Pork	Abscesses
79 lbs.	"	Arthritis
68 lbs.	"	Fractures
24 lbs.	"	Atrophy
30 lbs.	"	Bruising
22 lbs.	"	Metaplasia
13 lbs.	"	Lipomatous Atrophy
8 lbs.	"	Melanosis
16	Pig Heads	Abscesses
2	" "	Atrophic Rhinitis
2	" "	Meningitis
7	" "	Tuberculosis
1	" "	Lymphadenoma
62 lbs.	Pig Skins	Erythema
3 lbs.	" "	Urticaria
128	Plucks	Pneumonia and Adhesion
133	"	Pneumonia and Ascaria
12	"	Pneumonia and Abscesses
8	"	Hydatid Cysts
4	"	Contamination - Vermin
545	Livers	Ascaria, Cirrhosis, Hepatitis
637 Prs.	Lungs	Pneumonia
362 Prs.	"	Congestion
275 Prs.	"	Pleurisy
105	Pig Tops	Pneumonia and Pericarditis
22	" "	Pleurisy and Pericarditis
20	" "	Pneumonia and Adhesions
8	" "	Decomposition
54	Hearts	Pericarditis
4	Kidneys	Hydronephrosis
4	"	Retention Cysts
3	"	Nephritis
2 Prs.	Sow Udders	Mastitis

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned, in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding		Calves	Sheep and		Horses
	Cows	Cows		Lambs	Pigs	
Number killed (if known)	8340	255	72	24819	14190	Nil
Number inspected	8340	255	72	24819	14190	Nil
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	2	11	12	28	128	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1278	93	8	1410	1199	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.31	40.8	29.9	5.0	9.35	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	7	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	0.4	Nil	Nil	0.05	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Ten slaughterman's licences were issued by the Council for the slaughter of cattle, sheep, pigs and goats. No licences were issued permitting the slaughter of horses.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

These Regulations are being observed and enforcement is in many cases unnecessary as most traders wish to improve their hygienic standards.

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>
237 lbs.	Fish	Decomposition
287 tins	Miscellaneous foods	Blown tins, etc.
207 lbs.	Meat	

All unsound food is collected by the Council's staff and buried on the refuse tip at Deep Dean.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

There are 14 premises in the town concerned with processing, preservation, or manufacture of food, registered with 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 4 bakeries and 3 fish frying establishments in the town. The number of inspections made of registered premises during the year was 10.

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

No action was necessary under these Byelaws, which have resulted in more hygienic handling of food.

Food and Drugs Act 1955. Section 26 - Food Poisoning

Three cases of food poisoning occurred within the Urban District during the year. Two of these were of typhimurium infection and the third was of Salmonella Heidelberg infection. One typhi-murium infection occurred in a person recently arrived from Spain and had certainly been acquired in that country. The origin of the other infections was not discovered.

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

The incidence of acute notifiable disease in the Urban District during the year was much lower than in 1966 resulting from a reduced prevalence of measles. Apart from this disease only one case of erysipelas and four cases of whooping cough were notified. Almost all the notifications were received during the first half of the year. The notification rate was 6.25 per 1000 estimated population.

Throughout the year the Urban District continued to be free from scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fevers, poliomyelitis and dysentery.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease
in each Quarter during 1967

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
Measles	20	12	3	-	35
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	4	-	-	4
All Diseases	21	16	3	-	40

Measles

Thirtyfive measles notifications were received compared with 153 in 1966. The disease appeared in the Urban District in the first quarter and continued to occur during the second quarter.

As usual all the patients were under fifteen years of age and sexes were equally affected. Altogether 27 households were affected, 20 each experienced one case and 6 gave rise to two cases each. The measles notification rate was 5.4 per 1000 estimated population.

Whooping Cough

Only four cases of whooping cough were notified, all occurred in the same house in the second quarter.

Pneumonia

No notifications were received but 3 deaths were attributed to the disease.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 48 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 39 of these being in respect of respiratory disease. During the year 3 cases of respiratory disease were added to the register, all of these being new infections.

Two cases of respiratory disease were removed from the register during the year; so that 49 cases remained on the register at the end of the year, 40 of these being in respect of respiratory disease.

There were no deaths in the Urban District attributed to tuberculosis during 1967.

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COUNTY OBSERVATORY,

ROSS-ON-WYE.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1967 (by F.J. PARSONS,
F.R.Met.Soc.)

The chief features of the weather during 1967 were the record high rainfall in May, the destructive frosts of early April and May, and the warm dry Summer.

It was also the sunniest year since 1959 and the warmest since 1961.

The Spring was unusually windy - especially in March. The warm January and February ended the mildest winter for 10 years.

For the second year in succession rainfall exceeded the 100 year average and was the highest since 1960.

Thunderstorms were rare. The one on August 10th was quite local, as no rain fell in the surrounding villages, which enjoyed brilliant sunshine.

Four days had a rainfall exceeding one inch viz. two in May, one in August, and one in October. There was one "absolute drought" - lasting 23 days, from May 31st to June 22nd (inclusive).

Although December was the coldest month its mean temperature exceeded the average. March and October were exceptionally mild.

In the matter of sunshine June was the brightest month. In the week ended on the 17th, 84 hours were recorded. Not since 1962 had June sunshine exceeded the average. Of the other months February was the brightest since 1949 and March had not been brighter since 1961. The summer had rather more than the average sunshine, but the autumn was deficient. The greatest deficit occurred in April. The year's total of sunless days (52) was the lowest since 1949. Not since 1961 had there been a year with sunshine above average.

In the matter of temperature July was the warmest month, whilst June and August were just up to average. On two days temperature exceeded 80 deg. The reading of 82 deg. on 17th was the highest in July for 8 years and the highest for any month since September 1961. There had not been a warmer July since 1959, nor a sunnier June since 1962.

The frost on April 1st was the most severe April frost of this century and has only once been exceeded; whilst on May 3rd occurred the worst May frost since 1941, causing widespread damage to crops. By contrast March had no air frost until the last two days - the first air frost since February 18th!!

Snow was confined to December which had its heaviest fall since 1950.

October had its highest rainfall since 1960.

The usual Tables of Statistics are appended.

TABLE I

SHADE TEMPERATURE (deg. FAHR.)

At 4 ft. above ground (Thermometers in STEVENSON SCREEN)

Month	Mean	Deviation from Normal. *	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	41.1	+ 1.7	55	27	23	9
February	42.6	+ 2.5	55	1	26	8
March	45.7	+ 2.8	65	21	31	30
April	47.4	- 0.1	71	17	25	1
May	51.5	- 1.8	73	11	28	3
June	58.7	+ 0.1	75	14, 18	41	9, 13
July	62.9	+ 1.1	82	17	45	9
August	60.8	- 0.1	77	22	45	5, 21, 30
September	57.3	+ 0.6	69	26	38	8
October	52.2	+ 2.5	65	7	38	18
November	42.6	- 1.3	59	11	25	18
December	40.7	+ 0.3	55	22	17	11
Year	50.3	+ 0.7	82	July 17	17	Dec. 11th

* Normal values are for 70 years 1881 - 1950

COLDEST DAY: December 8th, maximum temperature 30 deg.

WARMEST NIGHT: July 29/30th, minimum temperature 64 deg.
 There were 7 nights on which temperature
 did not fall below 60 deg. - 5 in July and
 one each in August and September.

TABLE II

EARTH TEMPERATURE (deg. FAHR.)

Month	M E A N S				No. of Nights with ground frost. *	Lowest reading	Date
	At One Foot	Deviation from Normal. ϕ	At Four Feet	Deviation from Normal. ϕ			
January	40.3	+ 0.5	43.7	- 0.1	14	14	9
February	41.9	+ 2.2	44.3	+ 1.6	11	16	18
March	44.6	+ 2.2	45.3	+ 1.8	12	20	31
April	47.5	+ 0.2	47.0	+ 0.3	6	14	1
May	53.5	- 0.6	51.0	0.0	3	18	3
June	61.0	+ 0.9	56.4	+ 0.6	0	33	13
July	64.7	+ 1.6	60.0	+ 0.8	0	39	9
August	62.9	+ 0.5	60.8	+ 0.6	0	40	30
September	59.0	+ 0.3	59.0	0.0	0	32	8, 21
October	54.1	+ 1.8	56.3	+ 1.2	2	28	22
November	44.5	- 1.1	49.7	- 0.4	11	18	18
December	41.8	+ 0.2	46.0	- 0.1	17	4	11
Year	51.3	+ 0.3	51.6	+ 0.5	76	4	Dec. 11th

 ϕ Normals are for 40 years 1921 - 1960* Ground frost occurs when temperature is below 32 deg. F.
No. of nights of ground frost was lowest since 1960

TABLE III

RAINFALL (in Inches)

Diameter of Gauge 5 inches.
Height of rim above ground 12 inches
Height of Gauge above Mean Sea-level 223 feet

Month	Total Depth	Deviation from normal. ϕ	Highest Daily Fall	Date	No. of Rain Days. \times	Rainfall Duration (Hrs. & 10ths)
January	2.32	- 0.41	.57	22	17	50.6
February	3.25	+ 1.19	.80	16	12	60.1
March	2.03	+ 0.06	.73	8	12	29.9
April	0.71	- 1.17	.19	10	10	21.2
May	6.22	+ 4.06	1.44	3	24	89.5
June	0.44	- 1.51	.18	25	4	6.9
July	0.79	- 1.52	.24	27	11	17.1
August	2.75	+ 0.25	1.28	10	13	25.1
September	3.21	+ 0.79	.96	11	19	52.9
October	5.30	+ 2.32	1.50	16	26	73.1
November	1.54	- 1.28	.69	4	14	32.7
December	2.46	- 0.34	.53	22	16	41.2
Year	31.02	+ 2.44	1.50	Oct. 16	178	500.3

ϕ Normals are for 100 years 1861 - 1960

\times A rain-day is one with at least .005 inch in 24 hours to 9 a.m. (G.M.T.)

TABLE IV

BRIGHT SUNSHINE (In hours and 10ths)

as registered by the standard CAMPBELL-STOKES recorder
 35 feet above ground - on the Anemometer Tower

Month	Total Duration	Deviation from normal \times	Highest daily record	Date	Number of sunless days
January	55.9	+ 2.8	7.1	2	15
February	91.8	+22.9	8.5	23	4
March	157.2	+43.1	9.9	29	1
April	110.1	-42.9	12.0	17	3
May	164.0	-22.9	11.8	9, 29	2
June	227.7	+28.5	14.3	16	1
July	191.8	+10.5	12.6	10	1
August	154.3	-15.6	11.2	21	1
September	116.5	-13.4	9.3	20	2
October	88.8	- 8.8	10.0	2	4
November	69.7	+11.4	7.5	17	9
December	64.4	+14.6	6.8	10	9
Year	1492.2	+30.2	14.3	June 16	52

\times Normals are for 45 years 1916 - 1960

The number of sunless days was the lowest since 1949

In the sun's rays temperature reached or exceeded 140 deg. F.
 on 9 days viz:- 7 in July and 2 in August.
 Highest reading 144 deg. on July 11th, Aug. 17th and 27th

TABLE V

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (in Inches of Mercury)

Corrected for Mean Sea-Level and Temperature 32 deg. FAHR.

Height of Cistern above Sea-Level: 226 feet

Month	Mean	Deviation from Normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	30.032	+ .072	30.715	14	29.376	29
February	29.927	- .069	30.638	5	29.004	19
March	29.996	- .007	30.585	16	28.852	9
April	30.087	+ .141	30.532	28	29.494	20
May	29.755	- .233	30.278	31	29.237	4
June	30.164	+ .132	30.452	17	29.770	25
July	30.038	+ .061	30.384	9	29.673	7
August	29.955	- .025	30.330	20	29.329	14
September	29.873	- .139	30.408	9	29.152	5
October	29.734	- .234	30.341	18	29.032	4
November	29.960	+ .045	30.724	22	28.717	2
December	30.091	+ .126	30.676	3	29.237	25
Year	29.968	- .012	30.724	Nov. 22	28.852	March 9

TABLE VI

WIND DIRECTION and RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Prevailing Wind	Percentage of observations %	Relative Humidity %		
			Mean Percentage	Lowest Value	Date
January	South-West	30	88	58	2, 3
February	South-West	26	80	43	21
March	South-West	43	69	29	21
April	North-East	26	72	30	15
May	South-West	28	76	30	2
June	South-West	26	71	35	9
July	South-West	41	71	33	22
August	South-West	32	74	38	5, 7, 21
September	South-West	28	79	44	6
October	South-West	48	80	46	18
November	South-West	25	85	52	3
December	South-West	32	85	61	29, 31
Year	South-West	30	77	29	March 21st

♠ Made six times DAILY * 100 per cent = saturation

