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County Council of Salop

REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1949 and 1950

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

SHREWSBURY,

December, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Health Services of the County for the years 1949 and 1950.

In the interests of efficient administration it has been necessary, during the years under review, to co-ordinate the services for which the County Council as Local Health Authority became, or remained, responsible under the National Health Service Act, 1946, with those provided under that Act by the Regional Hospital Board and the local Executive Council. This was particularly necessary where, as in the case of the Tuberculosis and Maternity Services, there is a division of responsibility amongst the various Authorities concerned with the administration of the Act.

There have, however, been continual staffing difficulties in practically all branches of the work of the Health Department. The position with regard to the Dental Service is well known, but there has also been great difficulty in securing recruitment of suitably qualified Medical Officers; and with regard to the Health Visiting Service, it can be said that the position is almost precarious in the extreme. With the present staff of Health Visitors it is impossible to provide the Care and After-Care Service visualised under the National Health Service Act, particularly for tuberculous patients, whose domiciliary supervision, if properly carried out, can contribute so materially to the prevention of the spread of infection. Unless, therefore, means can be found to augment the Health Visiting staff, it may well be that the Health Committee will soon have to consider, not the directions in which future developments should take place, but the extent to which the services for which the Health Visitors are responsible should be curtailed.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Ambulance Service, which is not an entirely new responsibility of the County Council, has now reached a stage of development beyond which it would be difficult to proceed without adding greatly to the operational costs. It is not suggested that this service, as it exists at present, is incapable of improvement in certain directions, but taking into consideration the ground which has to be covered and the scattered nature of the population of the County, a very satisfactory service is provided.

Finally, I wish to add that I am greatly indebted to Mr. A. R. Brawn, Clerk in the County Health Office, for the assistance which I have received from him in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY.

December, 1951.

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MEDICAL, DENTAL AND ANCILLARY STAFFS

County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer :

WILLIAM HALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.Obs. R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Assistant School and Child Welfare Medical Officers :

KATHLEEN PRIESTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

MABEL N. JUDD, M.B., Ch.B.

CATHERINE B. MCARTHUR, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ALEXANDER W. M. BATTERSBY, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 30th September, 1950).

KATHLEEN M. BALL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. Dub., D.P.H.

GWENDOLINE M. EDWARDS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 31st January, 1949).

ELIZABETH CAPPER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (née WHALLEY).

RICHARD M. C. TYNER, B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H. (Resigned 7th February, 1951).

ROBERT K. HAY, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

EDWARD E. R. HOPKIN-JAMES, M.A., M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., London (Appointed 8th August, 1950).

Senior Dental Officer :

GERALD R. CATCHPOLE, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.

Assistant Dental Officers :

STEPHEN KEENAN, L.D.S.

FRANK H. BIRCH, H.D.D., L.D.S. (Resigned 28th February, 1950).

REGINALD H. EVANS, L.D.S. (Resigned 30th June, 1949).

BERNHARD SCHARF.

ARTHUR N. LEICESTER, B.D.S. (Resigned 31st March, 1950).

GEORGE B. WESTWATER, L.D.S., R.C.S.

MARGUERITE D. MASON, B.A., B.D.S. (Appointed 14th November, 1949. Resigned 20th January, 1950).

County Sanitary Inspector :

HAROLD MALLISON, Cert. R.S.I.

County Ambulance Officer :

WALTER WALKER.

Superintendent Nursing Officer and Inspector of Midwives :

MISS WINIFRED M. CHUNE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (Resigned 30th June, 1949).

MISS DOROTHY STANSFELD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (Appointed 11th November, 1949).

Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers and Inspectors of Midwives :

MISS DOROTHY STANSFELD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (Appointed Superintendent Nursing Officer 11th November, 1949).

MISS RITA M. HUGHES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

MISS EMILY J. BRUDENELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (Resigned 30th November, 1950).

MISS MARGARET F. GIBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (Appointed 11th November, 1949).

Psychiatrist :

CHARLES L. C. BURNS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Psychiatric Social Worker :

ANNETTE LEES.

Speech Therapist :

AALISH MARY GAWNE, L.C.S.T.

Principal Duty Authorised Officer :

ERNEST A. R. WARD.

REPORT FOR THE YEARS 1949 AND 1950

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	244,156
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	60,904

	1949	1950
Estimated (Whole County—for Birth and Death Rates)	272,400	288,710
Population (Urban Districts—for Birth and Death Rates)	139,272	140,447
Mid-Year (Rural Districts—for Birth and Death Rates)	133,128	148,263
Rateable Value (as at 1st April)	£1,378,051	£1,400,071
Estimated Product of a penny rate (as at 1st April)	£5,494	£5,594

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Registrar-General.

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	2,436	2,229
	Female	2,233	2,159
	Total Male and Female	4,669	4,388
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	17.14	15.23
Illegitimate	Male	128	153
	Female	148	128
	Total Male and Female	276	281
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	1.01	0.97
Total	Male	2,564	2,382
	Female	2,381	2,287
	Total Male and Female	4,945	4,669
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	18.15	16.17
STILL-BIRTHS	Male	63	62
	Female	44	56
	Total Male and Female	107	118
	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still-Births	21.17	24.65
DEATHS	Male	1,710	1,660
	Female	1,584	1,559
	Total Male and Female	3,294	3,219
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	12.09	11.15
Deaths of Women in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—			
Total	3	9	
Rate per 1,000 live births	0.61	1.93	
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	29.52	24.39	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.34	22.79	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	32.61	49.82	
Deaths from :—			
Cancer (all ages)	517	481	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6	7	
Diphtheria (all ages)	1	0	
Measles (all ages)	2	2	
Whooping Cough (all ages)	4	1	

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The mid-year estimated population of the County in 1949 was 290,310 (inclusive of members of the Armed Forces serving within the County) and 272,400 exclusive of Service personnel; the latter figure is used for the calculation of birth and death rates for that year.

The population figure for 1950, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the County, was 288,710 and the birth and death rates for 1950 are based upon this figure.

Marriages.—The number of marriages in 1949 was 2,246 ; in 1950, there were 2,180 marriages, a decrease of 66 compared with the previous year.

Births.—The number of live births in 1949 was 4,945 ; in 1950, there were 4,669 births—a decrease of 276 in comparison with the previous year.

The birth rates per thousand of the population were :—

1949 : 18.15.

1950 : 16.17, a decrease of 1.98 as compared with 1949.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.7 in 1949 ; and 15.8 in 1950.

Deaths.—The number of deaths in the County in 1949 was 3,294. In 1950, there were 3,219 deaths—a decrease of 75 as compared with the previous year.

The death rates per thousand of the population were :—

1949 : 12.09.

1950 : 11.15, a decrease of 0.94 as compared with 1949.

The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per thousand in 1949 ; and 11.6 per thousand in 1950.

Principal Causes of Death.

	1949	1950
Bronchitis	148	139
Cancer	517	481
Heart Disease	1,108	1,114
Other Circulatory Diseases	134	152
Influenza	49	51
Nephritis and Nephrosis	85	41
Pneumonia	85	80
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	100	66
„ Other forms	17	10
Vascular lesions of nervous system	413	425

Cancer.—It will be seen from the tabular statement above that the number of deaths from Cancer was 517 in 1949 ; and 481 in 1950—a decrease of 36 as compared with 1949.

The death rate for Cancer per thousand of the population was 1.898 in 1949 ; and 1.666 in 1950—a decrease of 0.232 as compared with 1949.

Deaths from Cancer during 1949 and 1950

Age Group	1949			1950		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Under 15 years ..	—	—	—	2	3	5
15 to 45 „ ..	17	11	28	9	11	20
45 to 65 „ ..	88	91	179	79	86	165
Over 65 „ ..	172	138	310	140	151	291
TOTAL ..	277	240	517	230	251	481

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 146 in 1949, and 114 in 1950.

The infant mortality rate, expressed as a rate per thousand live births, was 29.52 in 1949 ; and 24.39 in 1950, which is the lowest rate ever recorded in this County.

The corresponding rates for England and Wales were 32 in 1949, and 29.8 in 1950.

The importance of care in the early weeks and months of life is emphasized by the particulars given in the following table which show that, of the children in this County whose deaths were recorded before reaching one year of age, over two-thirds died in the first month of life.

Deaths of Infants under One Year

Age Group	1949		1950	
	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage
Under 1 day	46	71.2	40	68.4
1 day—1 week	43		28	
1 week—1 month	15		10	
1 month—3 months	14	28.8	17	31.6
3 months—6 months	14		8	
6 months—9 months	6		6	
9 months—1 year	8		5	
TOTAL	146	100	114	100

The following table summarises the position, with regard to the various matters so far referred to, in each of the years from 1935 to 1950 :—

Year	Births		Deaths		Natural increase in Population	Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Death rates from Cancer per 1,000 of Population
	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population			
1935	3,610	14.92	3,016	12.47	594	46	1.736
1936	3,648	15.08	3,186	13.17	462	46	1.695
1937	3,779	15.69	3,236	13.44	543	51	1.852
1938	3,690	15.28	3,070	12.72	620	47	1.901
1939	3,800	15.52	3,226	12.93	574	48	1.767
1940	4,102	15.95	3,654	14.21	448	48	1.761
1941	4,489	16.26	3,426	12.37	1,063	44	1.726
1942	4,840	18.00	2,973	11.05	1,867	45	1.680
1943	4,915	18.80	3,186	12.24	1,729	36	1.893
1944	5,203	20.02	2,969	11.4	2,234	34	1.751
1945	4,621	18.01	3,056	11.9	1,565	38.95	1.711
1946	5,090	19.42	3,177	12.1	1,913	43.03	1.768
1947	5,538	20.92	3,251	12.8	2,287	39.73	1.786
1948	5,156	18.92	3,219	10.77	1,937	35.49	1.729
1949	4,945	18.15	3,294	12.09	1,651	29.52	1.898
1950	4,669	16.17	3,219	11.15	1,450	24.39	1.666

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The statistical table on page 8 summarises the notifications of infectious diseases which were received during the years 1949 and 1950.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—During 1949, the incidence of Acute Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) again decreased, 10 cases being notified in the County as compared with 13 (including 2 of Polioencephalitis) in the previous year.

During 1950, although the incidence of this disease throughout the country as a whole was by no means as severe as in 1947, there was a marked increase in the number of cases occurring in this County; 62 cases, including one of Polioencephalitis, were notified, and of these 52 were notified during the months of August, September, October and November.

The following table shows the yearly incidence of, and deaths from, this disease during the thirteen years up to and including 1950 :—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Acute Poliomyelitis from 1938 to 1950

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	15	4	4	1	5	10	13	5	32	13	10	62
Deaths	1	2	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	1	11

Typhoid.—Following the high incidence of Typhoid during 1948, which was due largely to an outbreak at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, where 122 cases occurred amongst the patients and staff, chiefly the latter, the notification of only 3 cases of Typhoid in 1949 and one in 1950 marks a return to more normal conditions. The numbers of cases notified in the thirteen years from 1938 to 1950 were as follows :—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Typhoid	5	4	26	23	10	5	6	—	6	1	113	3	1

Food Poisoning.—Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, requires medical practitioners to notify District Medical Officers of Health of cases of food poisoning occurring within their practices; but it was not until January, 1949, that food poisoning was included in the list of infectious diseases to be notified in the weekly returns submitted by District Medical Officers to the Registrar General.

No figures are available, therefore, of cases of food poisoning occurring prior to 1949, but during that year 66 cases were notified. Fifty-nine of these cases occurred in a Hostel occupied by Displaced Persons, and the symptoms were those of diarrhoea and abdominal pains which, in most cases, cleared up within 24 hours. No food poisoning organisms were isolated from samples of food or specimens of faeces, and it was suspected that some irritant had been added to the food in the Hostel kitchen, fortunately without serious consequences.

The number of cases of food poisoning notified during 1950 was 19, this total consisting of isolated cases which did not give cause for any special report.

Dysentery.—The number of cases of Dysentery notified during 1950 was 273, compared with only one case during 1949 and 10 cases during 1948. There was, therefore, a pronounced increase in the incidence of this disease in the County during 1950, but the very considerable increase in the number of cases notified may to some extent be accounted for by the greater use which is made of the Public Health Laboratory Service by the general medical practitioners for the bacteriological examination of faeces.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the years 1949 and 1950

SANITARY DISTRICTS	Population (estimated 1949) 272,400	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Polioencephalitis	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	Acute Encephalitis Infective	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Small Pox	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Erysipelas	Chicken Pox	Food Poisoning	Undulant Fever	Infective Hepatitis
1949																					
RURAL ..	133,128	220	258	1	1,059	75	1	5	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	2	18	—	62	—	—
URBAN ..	139,272	154	220	5	910	65	2	5	—	—	—	1	9	6	—	1	18	—	4	1	—
Total for 1949 ..		374	478	6	1,969	140	3	10	—	—	—	1	16	13	—	3	36	—	66	1	—
Total for 1948 ..		275	1,068	1	1,978	121	—	11	2	1	—	10	15	15	—	113	32	—	*	—	—
Increase or Decrease		+99	-590	+5	-9	+19	+3	-1	-2	-1	—	-9	+1	-2	—	-110	+4	—	*	+1	—
1950																					
RURAL ..	133,128	233	234	—	877	81	—	31	—	—	—	63	9	4	—	1	15	10	6	1	4
URBAN ..	139,272	149	231	2	989	48	1	30	1	—	3	210	10	13	—	—	18	—	13	1	—
Total for 1950 ..		382	465	2	1,866	129	1	61	1	—	3	273	19	17	—	1	33	10	19	2	4
Total for 1949 ..		374	478	6	1,969	140	3	10	—	—	—	1	16	13	—	3	36	—	66	1	—
Increase or Decrease		+8	-13	-4	-103	-11	-2	+51	+1	—	+3	+272	+3	+4	—	-2	-3	+10	-47	+1	+4

*NOTE : Food Poisoning, notifiable under the provisions of Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was first included in January, 1949, in the Weekly Returns of Infectious Diseases submitted to the Registrar-General.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Minister of Health has directed that arrangements made by a Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the purposes of Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care, shall in particular apply to persons suffering from Tuberculosis ; and following the transfer to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948, of responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment, both clinical and institutional, of cases of Tuberculosis in this County, there has been little change in the duties undertaken in connection with this disease by the County Council's Health Visitors. These continue to entail the visiting of tuberculous patients in their homes, the arranging for the examination of contacts, and the giving of advice against the spread of infection.

House Reports.—When notification is received of a new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis, a report upon the home circumstances of the patient is made by the Health Visitor. During 1949, House Reports were completed in 137 cases, and during 1950 in 159 cases.

National Assistance.—Financial assistance, or assistance in kind, for persons suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis is provided in necessitous cases by the National Assistance Board. During 1949, a total of 59 such cases were referred to the Board, and 105 cases during 1950.

Domestic Help.—During 1949, the services of Home Helps were provided through the County Council's Domestic Help Service in 3 cases, and during 1950 in 8 cases.

Shelters.—Open-air shelters for patients suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis were supplied in 13 cases during 1949, and in 15 cases during 1950.

Chest Physicians.—As the work of the Chest Physicians employed by the Regional Hospital Board is bound up with the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care of tuberculous patients, the County Council have undertaken to contribute to the Board two-elevenths of the salary of two Chest Physicians operating within the County.

The following statistical information relates to the notification and treatment of tuberculous cases during 1949 and 1950 :—

Respiratory Tuberculosis.—During 1949, the number of cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified was 157—an increase of 20 compared with the previous year ; and the number of deaths from this form of the disease was 114—or 21 more than in the previous year.

During 1950, the number of cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified was 190—an increase of 33 compared with the previous year ; and the number of deaths from this form of the disease was 79—or 35 less than in the previous year.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.—In the case of other forms of Tuberculosis, the number of notifications for 1949 was 79, or 12 more than in the previous year ; and the number of deaths was 15, or 5 more than in the previous year.

The number of notifications for 1950 was 81, or 2 more than in the previous year ; and the number of deaths was 13, or 2 less than in the previous year.

Particulars of the notifications of, and deaths from, both forms of Tuberculosis, classified in age groups, are as follows :—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Respiratory and Non-Respiratory) in 1949

Age Periods of Cases	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	1	—	2	—	1	—	2	—
1—5	—	1	8	4	—	1	1	—
5—15	4	4	21	20	—	—	—	1
15—25	21	13	4	4	6	14	3	1
25—35	27	17	2	3	11	16	—	1
35—45	17	14	2	4	12	10	—	2
45—55	12	3	2	2	13	3	1	1
55—65	8	4	—	—	10	4	—	—
65 and upwards	7	4	1	—	9	4	2	—
	97	60	42	37	62	52	9	6
TOTAL ..	157		79		114		15	

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Respiratory and Non-Respiratory) in 1950

Age Periods of Cases	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	3	—	6	4	—	—	—	1
5—15	3	5	12	18	—	—	1	1
15—25	19	28	3	6	3	4	1	—
25—35	29	27	3	9	11	9	—	—
35—45	19	11	1	10	7	4	—	2
45—55	16	6	2	1	12	3	1	1
55—65	10	3	2	2	9	2	2	1
65 and upwards	8	3	2	—	9	6	1	1
	107	83	31	50	51	28	6	7
TOTAL FOR 1950 ..	190		81		79		13	
“ “ 1949 ..	157		79		114		15	
“ “ 1948 ..	137		67		93		10	

Respiratory Tuberculosis—Notifications and Death Rates since 1938

Year	Notifications	Deaths	Population	Rates per 1,000	
				Notifications	Deaths
1938	164	71	241,400	0.68	0.29
1939	156	91	*244,900		
			†249,500	0.63	0.36
1940	198	72	257,170	0.76	0.27
1941	246	109	276,920	0.88	0.39
1942	208	91	268,900	0.77	0.33
1943	213	126	260,900	0.81	0.48
1944	155	108	259,830	0.59	0.41
1945	162	108	256,530	0.63	0.42
1946	142	82	262,020	0.54	0.31
1947	164	95	264,800	0.61	0.35
1948	137	93	272,350	0.50	0.34
1949	157	114	272,400	0.58	0.42
1950	190	79	288,710	0.66	0.27

*Estimated population for Birth-rate purposes.

†Estimated population for Death-rate purposes.

The statistical information given in the following tables relates to patients suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis who were admitted to, and discharged from, hospitals and sanatoria in the County during 1949 and 1950. Deaths of patients are indicated by the figures given in brackets.

Admissions to and Discharges from Hospitals and Sanatoria during 1949

Hospital or Sanatorium	Admissions				Discharges (including deaths)			
	Males	Females	Children	Total	Males	Females	Children	Total
Cross Houses Hospital	15	13	6	34	16 (2)	12 (1)	7	35 (3)
East Hamlet Hospital	9	3	—	12	9 (4)	4 (3)	—	13 (7)
Prees Heath Sanatorium	—	11	—	11	—	11 (9)	—	11 (9)
Shirlett Sanatorium	45	34	5	84	49 (4)	38 (1)	4	91 (5)
Wrekin Hospital	2	2	4	8	7 (5)	6 (3)	2	15 (8)
TOTAL	71	63	15	149	81 (15)	71 (17)	13	165 (32)

Admissions to and Discharges from Hospitals and Sanatoria during 1950

Hospital or Sanatorium	Admissions				Discharges (including deaths)			
	Males	Females	Children	Total	Males	Females	Children	Total
Cross Houses Hospital	11	12	1	24	12	11 (1)	2	25 (1)
East Hamlet Hospital	8	1	—	9	7 (3)	—	—	7 (3)
Prees Heath Sanatorium	—	6	—	6	—	6	—	6
Shirlett Sanatorium	59	43	1	103	61 (1)	40 (1)	3	104 (2)
Wrekin Hospital	4	4	—	8	2	4 (2)	—	6 (2)
TOTAL	82	66	2	150	82 (4)	61 (4)	5	148 (8)

B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) Vaccination.

Ministry of Health Circular 72/49, dated 12th August, 1949, states that, under controlled conditions and within certain limitations, arrangements have been made for the use of B.C.G. Vaccine in this country.

The provision of facilities for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis falls within the scope of arrangements which can be made by a Local Health Authority for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946; and the County Council, therefore, decided to supplement their proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act by the addition of the following proposal, which has been approved by the Minister of Health :—

“The Local Health Authority intends to provide for B.C.G. Vaccination, by and at the instance of a physician with specialist knowledge and experience of tuberculosis, as regards persons to whom it is judged medically expedient, subject to the necessary preliminary tests, to offer such vaccination in view of their known contact with tuberculous infection. Records of B.C.G. vaccination will be kept in such standard form as may be recommended by the Minister, and information concerning these records will be supplied to the Minister on request.”

This is a form of inoculation against tuberculosis which follows the same principle as vaccination against smallpox, in that it produces in the human body an artificially acquired resistance to it by the injection of an attenuated form of its casual organism. Although it is by no means certain that B.C.G. vaccination gives a high degree of immunity against tuberculosis, there is little doubt that it reduces the risk of contracting this disease, and that, if a vaccinated person does subsequently develop it, the vaccination is likely to make the illness less severe.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases Clinics at Shrewsbury and Oswestry, formerly the responsibility of the County Council but now included in the Hospital and Specialist Services, were transferred on 5th July, 1948, to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, and are administered by the Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee.

Set out in the tables below are particulars of the attendance of Shropshire patients at the Shrewsbury and Oswestry Clinics, and at other clinics outside the County, during 1949 and 1950.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

Shropshire Cases treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinics during 1949 and 1950

	New Cases						All Cases						Attendances					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
SHREWSBURY CLINIC																		
Syphilis ..	21	25	14	15	35	40	102	122	92	88	194	210	879	1070	971	991	1850	2061
Gonorrhoea ..	25	19	5	2	30	21	57	47	9	6	66	53	190	176	40	13	230	189
Other Conditions ..	127	140	36	40	163	180	155	171	61	57	216	228	444	474	103	93	547	567
TOTAL ..	173	184	55	57	228	241	314	340	162	151	476	491	1513	1720	1114	1097	2627	2817
Increase or Decrease		+11		+2		+13		+26		-11		+15		+207		-17		+190
OSWESTRY CLINIC																		
Syphilis ..	4	2	4	3	8	5	11	9	10	13	21	22	92	47	143	148	235	195
Gonorrhoea ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	—	4	—	11	—	3	—	14	—
Other Conditions ..	11	5	7	4	18	9	13	9	7	6	20	15	26	20	10	9	36	29
TOTAL ..	17	7	11	7	28	14	27	18	18	19	45	37	129	67	156	157	285	224
Increase or Decrease		-10		-4		-14		-9		+1		-8		-62		+1		-61

New Cases from Shropshire treated at Out-County Clinics during 1949 and 1950

Clinic	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other Conditions		Total	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
Grimsby ..	1	—	—	—	11	—	12	—
Liverpool ..	—	—	1	1	—	4	1	5
South Shields ..	1	—	5	—	13	—	19	—
Stafford ..	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Stoke-on-Trent ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3
Wolverhampton ..	1	8	1	8	5	20	7	36
Wrexham ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
TOTAL ..	3	9	7	9	30	32	40	50

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Notification of Births.—Particulars are given in the following table of the notifications of births, in the County as a whole, received during 1949 and 1950, with corresponding figures for 1947 and 1948 :—

Notifications of Births for the years 1947 to 1950

Year	Live Births	Still-Births	Total
1947	5,479	151	5,630
1948	5,108	114	5,222
1949	4,947	107	5,054
1950	4,734	112	4,846

Premature Births.—For statistical and other purposes, infants not exceeding 5½ lb. in weight at birth are regarded as "premature"; and the following table indicates the survival rate of premature infants, born in 1949 and 1950, whose mothers were normally resident in this County, together with corresponding figures for the previous year :—

Survival Rates for Premature Infants born in 1948, 1949 and 1950

Year	BORN				DIED			Alive after 28 days	Survival Rate
	At Home	In Hospital	In Nursing Home	Total	Within 24 hours	Between 2nd and 7th day	Between 8th and 28th day		
1948	102	201	19	322	25	31	9	257	79.8%
1949	111	209	18	338	36	19	1	282	83.1%
1950	114	200	16	330	31	16	3	280	84.8%

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—The following are the numbers of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum which have been notified in the past four years—all of whom apparently recovered without injury to the eyesight :—

1947 . . .	40 cases	1949 . .	18 cases
1948 . .	14 cases	1950 . .	18 cases

Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics.—The table on page 15 gives particulars for 1949 and 1950 of the attendances at Welfare Centres throughout the County of expectant mothers and of children under five years of age.

With regard to the figures of attendances of expectant mothers at the Shrewsbury Welfare Centres (Murivance and White House), it should be noted that special ante-natal sessions are held fortnightly at each of these Centres on behalf of the County Council by Dr. D. A. Urquhart.

Comparative figures for 1948 are also given, but it should be noted that in respect of the Shrewsbury Welfare Centres, the attendances during 1948 are divided into those made before and after 5th July, 1948, on which date these Centres were taken over from the Shrewsbury Borough Council by the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Attendances at Welfare Centres during 1948, 1949 and 1950

WELFARE CENTRES	CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR			CHILDREN 1 TO 5 YEARS			EXPECTANT MOTHERS		
	New Cases		Total Attendances	New Cases		Total Attendances	New Cases		Total Attendances
	1948	1949	1950	1948	1949	1950	1948	1949	1950
Bishop's Castle	36	34	49	297	224	324	20	16	21
Bridgnorth	172	147	103	2217	1943	1402	48	32	17
Broseley	52	41	43	672	569	531	7	2	2
Church Stretton	49	62	56	423	460	589	23	14	10
Dawley	109	87	84	1291	916	911	16	20	10
Donnington	86	93	120	735	1259	1688	25	45	50
Ellesmere	44	49	51	235	338	384	38	17	16
Highley	49	25	42	641	462	719	3	2	8
Ironbridge	118	109	108	1672	1554	1395	42	32	14
Ludlow	245	118	83	1465	1270	1240	148	46	7
Market Drayton	152	140	118	1797	1463	1245	106	67	48
Newport	59	91	82	290	560	639	22	81	41
Oakengates	149	130	126	2137	1728	1655	27	19	27
Oswestry	240	283	200	3176	2288	1585	46	44	50
Wellington	209	187	154	2723	2385	2173	57	46	39
Wem	57	32	28	645	289	192	12	12	18
Whitchurch	120	87	89	1696	1147	1070	14	11	26
Murivance (before 5th July, 1948)	215			1925			38		
(after 5th July, 1948)	163	278	286	1900	3979	3189	29	48	82
White House (before 5th July, 1948)	119	179	185	1283	2675	2194	18	30	41
(after 5th July, 1948)	184			1368			19		
TOTAL	2627	2172	2007	28588	25509	23125	758	584	527
							843	431	307
							2730	1396	1020

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

Towards the end of 1943, Circular No. 2866 was issued by the Ministry of Health, drawing the attention of Welfare Authorities to the various problems concerning illegitimate children and unmarried mothers which had arisen under war conditions ; and in this Circular the Ministry recommended co-operation with, and reinforcement of the work of, existing voluntary Moral Welfare Associations. In outlining the special duties to be carried out, the Ministry suggested that the appointment of a special worker with one of the social service qualifications might be necessary ; and another recommendation was that, where homes could not be found with relatives or foster parents, special hostels might be set up either by a voluntary body or by the Welfare Authority itself.

As the Diocesan Moral Welfare Associations of Lichfield and Hereford had been engaged in this work for a number of years, and as their Moral Welfare Workers in this County had had considerable experience in the various problems associated with illegitimacy (e.g., the obtaining of affiliation orders, arrangements for the accommodation of children in homes or institutions and assistance where adoption is desirable) negotiations were entered into with these two Associations, and the Public Health Committee decided to utilise their services in carrying out the duties set out in the Ministry's Circular, and to make an annual grant of £500 to the Associations. The larger proportion of the population of the County being in the Lichfield Diocese, the two Associations mutually agreed that £275 should be Lichfield's share and £225 Hereford's share of the total annual grant.

In November, 1945, however, it was found that an additional Welfare Worker was needed in the Shropshire part of the Lichfield Diocese and a grant of a further £100 per annum was, therefore, made to this Association from 1st April, 1946, followed in April, 1948, by an additional grant of £70 per annum to cover increased expenditure arising out of car maintenance and the provision of new office accommodation. The total grant made to the two Associations during the financial years 1948—49 and 1949—50 was, therefore, £670, of which £445 went to Lichfield and £225 to Hereford.

Since the resignation in March, 1950, of one of the two Moral Welfare Workers employed by the Lichfield Association, supervisory work in connection with the Council's scheme in the Shropshire part of the Diocese has been undertaken by the remaining Worker, with clerical assistance provided by the Association. In spite of the large number of cases requiring supervision in this area, it has not been found necessary to appoint a second Worker.

In October, 1950, an additional Welfare Worker was appointed by the Hereford Association for duties in the Shropshire part of the Diocese, and this fact, coupled with a general increase in the cost of the administrative work of the Association, has led to the County Council grant to the Association being increased to £300 per annum from 1st April, 1951.

The County Council have two representatives on the Councils of each of these Associations.

Under the County Council scheme, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Hospitals and Institutions notify the County Medical Officer of confinements (actual and impending) of unmarried mothers of which they become aware in the course of their work, and this information is then forwarded to the appropriate Moral Welfare Worker who pays an initial visit as soon as practicable, and then visits each case when necessary, but not less frequently than once during each quarter.

Particulars are given in the following table of the numbers of unmarried expectant mothers visited by the Moral Welfare Workers during 1948, 1949 and 1950, and of the visits made by them in connection with the general supervision of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children :—

Supervisory Work undertaken by the Moral Welfare Workers during 1948 to 1950

	1948	1949	1950
Unmarried expectant mothers visited ..	89	97	79
Visits made to Mothers and Children ..	2,525	2,843	2,372

Particulars of the illegitimate children supervised during 1948, 1949 and 1950, and of the position at the end of each year are as follows :—

Children Supervised during 1948, 1949 and 1950

	Total			Lichfield			Hereford		
	1948	1949	1950	1948	1949	1950	1948	1949	1950
On Register on 1st January ..	392	497	577	241	321	373	151	176	204
Added to Register ..	224	215	218	155	149	162	69	66	56
Removed from Register ..	119	135	300	75	97	193	44	38	107
On Register on 31st December ..	497	577	495	321	373	342	176	204	153

Accommodation for Unmarried Expectant Mothers.—Accommodation for unmarried expectant mothers is provided by the Lichfield Diocesan Association at the Chaddeslode Refuge and Hostel, Shrewsbury, and at Myford House, Horsehay, where a total of 27 beds (16 at Chaddeslode and 11 at Myford House) are available. The County Council pay an annual grant to Chaddeslode which originated in 1930 in a “discontinued grant” of £166 (paid under the Local Government Act, 1929) but which was increased to £300 from 1st April, 1946. With effect from 1st April, 1950, however, this grant has been increased to £350 per annum, and in addition a grant to Myford House of £200 per annum has been paid by the County Council from the same date.

The following are particulars of Shropshire cases admitted to Chaddeslode and Myford House during 1948, 1949 and 1950 :—

Year	Shropshire Cases admitted to		
	Chaddeslode	Myford House	Total
1948	7	16	23
1949	12	18	30
1950	6	14	20

Flora Dugdale Memorial Home.—In consequence of the recommendation contained in Ministry of Health Circular No. 2866 that accommodation for illegitimate babies might be provided, either by a voluntary body or by a Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, for those cases where homes could not be found for babies with their mothers, representations were made to the Public Health Committee that there was real need for a Home for illegitimate children. In the experience of the Moral Welfare Workers, the first two years after the birth of an illegitimate child are often the most difficult in the life of the unmarried mother, and this is particularly so if she has no home, or if her parents maintain an unrelenting attitude towards her, or if, by reason of ill-health or having large families of their own, they are unable to assist by looking after her child while she is earning her living.

With the object of assisting girls in difficult circumstances, the Public Health Committee decided to re-open the former County Home for Ailing Babies at Wellington as a Home for illegitimate children up to two years of age.

The Home, which was redesignated the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home, was re-opened in July, 1945, with accommodation for 15 babies, and although up to the end of 1947 the shortage of nursing staff restricted the full utilisation of the accommodation available, the position was eased by the recognition of the Home as a Training Centre for Nursery Students during 1948, and the consequent employment of six student nurses regularly throughout the year enabled it to be used to maximum capacity.

Following inspection of the Home in October, 1948, by Inspectors of the Home Office, who were extremely favourably impressed with the work and administrative arrangements of the Home, it was considered that, as the facilities provided formed an important and necessary part of the Council's Scheme for the Care of Illegitimate Children, it would be unfortunate if the Home had to be transferred to the Children's Committee under the provisions of the Children Act, 1948.

This question was referred to the Home Office but, as the Home provided residential accommodation for children only, those admitted to the Home had of necessity to be separated from their parents and thus qualified for the designation "deprived" as defined in the Children Act, 1948, and it was therefore ruled that administration of the Home should be regarded as one of the Council's functions under the Children Act.

Accordingly, responsibility for the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home was transferred to the Children's Committee on 1st October, 1949, with a recommendation from the Health Committee that the conditions which had governed the admission of illegitimate children to the Home while it was administered by them should, as far as possible, be continued.

The following table gives particulars of the numbers of children provided for in the Home from its opening in July, 1945, until its transfer to the Children's Committee on 1st October, 1949 :—

Children accommodated in Flora Dugdale Memorial Home from July, 1945, to September, 1949

Year	Admitted	Discharged	Died	Children in the Home		Average age on admission (months)
				At end of year	Monthly average	
1945	9	2	—	7	5.7	9
1946	13	7	—	13	9.5	5
1947	15	14	1	13	9.3	6
1948	9	9	—	13	13.7	4.6
1949	9	7	—	15	14.1	5.75

REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER.

The following is the report of the Senior Dental Officer for 1949 and 1950 :—

The years 1949 and 1950 should have seen considerable expansion of the scheme for the dental treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Pre-school Children, but owing to the losses sustained by the Council's Dental Staff during that period, which could not be made good, instead of a steady growth of the scheme taking place, on the contrary the work had to be curtailed and held in check. The Council's Dental Service will not be in a position to deal adequately with the number of patients who require treatment until the requisite number of dentists can be recruited to the staff. In the meantime, the Priority Dental Service for mothers and pre-school children which Section 22 of the National Health Service Act was framed to provide will exist in skeleton form only in this County and in consequence mothers must continue to take their place in the general demand, waiting their turn for treatment by private dental practitioners.

Staff.—Setting against the losses incurred by the dental staff the only replacement it was possible to make, the effective strength of the Dental Service in terms of full-time officers was six for the year 1949, one less than for the previous year. Further losses took place in 1950, reducing the equivalent of service in that year in terms of full-time officers to slightly less than four.

The difficulty of obtaining professional staff for the Dental Service has not eased since the matter was commented upon in the report for the year 1948. Advertisements inserted in the professional and lay press failed to produce candidates for appointment. It is hoped, however, that this situation may alter for the better in the near future as a result of the revised conditions of service for Dental Officers which have now been adopted. Drastic curtailment of the number of mothers who can be treated is inevitable unless this hoped-for solution of the staffing problem ameliorates the position.

Review of the work done during 1949 and 1950.—As it was pointed out in the report for 1948 the dental staff is primarily engaged on the inspection and treatment of the pupils in schools maintained by the Council. Inspection and treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Pre-school Children are regarded as secondary and additional to the school work and are only undertaken subject to there being time available to do so. As the numerical strength of the staff is built up again the amount of time devoted to the treatment of mothers and pre-school children will increase proportionately.

Because of the inability of an already overloaded dental staff to deal with additional work, Medical Officers, Health Visitors and Midwives were not encouraged to refer mothers and pre-school children to the Dental Officers for examination and treatment and latterly only those patients who were in urgent need of treatment or who, for special reasons, could not obtain it elsewhere, were offered treatment.

Notwithstanding the fact that there was in 1948 one Dental Officer more on the Council's staff than in the succeeding year a comparison of these two years shows that in 1949 there was an increase in the number of patients who received treatment and who were made dentally fit, in the amount of treatment carried out and in the number of artificial dentures supplied.

In the year 1950 there was a considerable fall in the number of mothers who were referred to the Dental Service for examination. The number examined and the number treated were both less than in 1949 as was also the amount of treatment carried out. There was, however, an increase in the number of mothers made dentally fit and in the number of artificial dentures supplied. In regard to the pre-school children there were slightly fewer referred for examination in 1950 than in the previous year. The number of those found to require treatment, however, was greater, as also was the number who received treatment and the number made dentally fit.

An analysis of the numbers of mothers and pre-school children dealt with as well as details of the treatment carried out for them will be found on pages 21 and 22,

Broken Appointments.—Reference was made in the report for 1948 to the irresponsible way it was found that mothers regarded appointments made for them to attend for dental examination and treatment. When the scheme was started, each patient was given if necessary three distinct opportunities to attend for dental examination. If none of these appointments was kept and no explanation for absence was forthcoming the patient was considered to have changed her mind and the matter was then left in abeyance. In the light of experience and with a growing waiting list the number of opportunities given for the first attendance was reduced from three to two. Once treatment is begun, however, every encouragement is given to the patient to carry on with it until she is made dentally fit. In spite of all efforts on the part of the dental officers to complete all treatment many patients, having got rid of troublesome teeth, abandoned their treatment at that stage. The percentage of mothers who failed to attend for the completion of their treatment was 31% in 1949 and 26% in 1950.

Of the 243 mothers who failed to keep all appointments made for their dental examination during the two years under review undoubtedly some lost interest owing to the delay between the time the promise to attend was given and the actual date of the first appointment. With a staff of Dental Officers adequate in number to deal promptly with mothers referred for examination, it is thought that considerable improvement in the keeping of appointments could be effected.

Supply of Artificial Dentures to Patients.—No change has so far been made in the arrangements entered into with two firms of dental mechanics for the construction of the artificial dentures supplied to patients. In 1949 a total of 85 dentures were supplied to patients, 52 partial and 33 complete. In 1950 the total was 102 dentures in all, consisting of 68 partial and 34 complete ones.

When the quantity of mechanical work to be done justifies the employment of a dental technician for this purpose the setting up of a Dental Laboratory in the premises which are being provided at No. 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury, will be pressed forward.

Facilities for X-Ray Examination.—The facilities for X-Ray examination of patients are at present not complete. One X-Ray machine is installed and is in operation in the north of the County in the Dental Clinic at Oswestry. When radiographs are required in the examination or treatment of patients elsewhere, arrangements are made for them to be supplied by private dentists practising in the district.

A dental X-Ray unit will be needed as a necessary part of the equipment of each permanent dental clinic where a dental officer is based, and it is expected that no difficulty will arise in obtaining and installing the machines as they are required.

Provision of Dental Clinics.—The need for well-equipped permanent dental clinics in the larger centres of population in the County was pointed out in a previous report. The provision of the accommodation required is necessarily a long-term matter but some progress has been made in this direction during the last two years.

Ludlow.—Early in 1950 the Dental Annexe to the Child Welfare Centre at Ludlow was completed. With the adaptations made to the ground floor of the Welfare Centre the result is a very satisfactory dental centre for Ludlow. Unfortunately, owing to the resignation from the County's employ of the Dental Officer who resided in the district and used the Annexe as his base, this Dental Clinic has had to be closed except for the occasional use by a visiting Dental Officer.

Oakengates.—The adaptations to the Dental Surgery at the Welfare Centre at Oakengates and the installation of electricity, both of which were sanctioned in 1948, were completed during 1949. These improvements have added very greatly to the facilities for carrying out dental treatment there.

Shrewsbury.—At the close of 1950 work on the premises at No. 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury, part of which is being adapted as a Dental Clinic for the Borough of Shrewsbury, was well in hand. It is hoped that by the time this new Dental Clinic is handed over the staffing situation will be such as to enable full use to be made of the three Dental Surgeries and the subsidiary accommodation it contains.

G. R. CATCHPOLE,
Senior Dental Officer

August, 1951.

Analysis of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Pre-School Children dealt with

	1949			1950			1949	1950
	Mothers			Mothers			Pre-School Children	Pre-School Children
	Expectant	Nursing	Total	Expectant	Nursing	Total		
Referred previously and brought forward for examination	65	19	84	59	3	62	3	4
Referred for examination during the year	272	55	327	107	25	132	222	193
	337	74	411	166	28	194	225	197
Examined during the year	136	46	182	70	21	91	153	135
Failed to keep all appointments made for examination	142	25	167	72	4	76	68	52
Left the County before arrangements could be made for examination	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Awaiting examination at 31st December	59	3	62	24	2	26	4	10
	337	74	411	166	28	194	225	197
Found to require treatment previously and brought forward	71	32	103	65	30	95	4	16
Found to require treatment during the year	135	46	181	62	21	83	109	117
	206	78	284	127	51	178	113	133
Treatment completed and patient made dentally fit	63	32	95	79	30	109	92	102
Treatment begun and still in progress on 31st December	57	27	84	9	7	16	11	18
Treatment begun during year but abandoned by patient	43	7	50	10	2	12	2	—
Treatment begun during previous years but abandoned by patient	24	8	32	22	11	33	1	1
Treatment in abeyance during the year	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Failed to keep all appointments made for treatment	11	1	12	2	1	3	2	10
Awaiting treatment at 31st December	6	3	9	5	—	5	5	2
	206	78	284	127	51	178	113	133
Numbers having received treatment during the year	163	66	229	98	39	137	105	120

Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Pre-School Children provided with Dental Care

	Exam- ined	Needing Treatment			Treated			Made dentally fit		
		Exam- ined during year	Brought forward	Total	Exam- ined during year	Brought forward	Total	Exam- ined during year	Brought forward	Total
1949 Expectant and Nursing Mothers	182	181	103	284	163	66	229	52	43	95
Pre-School Children ..	153	109	4	113	103	2	105	91	1	92
1950 Expectant and Nursing Mothers	91	83	95	178	78	59	137	55	54	109
Pre-School Children ..	135	117	16	133	108	12	120	91	41	102

Forms of Dental Treatment Provided

	Extrac- tions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scaling or Scaling and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treat- ment	Dres- sings	Radio- graphs	Dentures supplied	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
1949 Expectant and Nursing Mothers	667	227	36	191	100	1	28	3	33	52
Pre-School Children ..	67	17	24	51	—	66	4	—	—	—
1950 Expectant and Nursing Mothers	378	139	26	85	13	1	3	2	34	68
Pre-School Children ..	148	22	59	11	—	66	15	—	—	—

NURSING STAFF EMPLOYED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The following are particulars of the Nursing Staff in the employment of the County Council on the dates stated :—

	31st December		
	1948	1949	1950
Superintendent Nursing Officer	1	1	1
Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers ..	3	2	2
Whole-time Health Visitors and School Nurses ..	25	27	29
Whole-time Midwives	6	6	5
Whole-time District Nurses	9	8	8
District Nurse-Midwives	87	81	81
Part-time District Nurse-Midwives	9	3	—

MIDWIFERY SERVICES

Under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council, as Local Health Authority, are required to make available within the County an adequate number of Certified Midwives for attendance on women in their own homes, either as Midwives or as Maternity Nurses.

Before the introduction of the National Health Service on 5th July, 1948, the domiciliary midwifery service was provided directly by the County Council in the Borough of Shrewsbury, and elsewhere in the County on an agency basis by the Shropshire Nursing Association to whom the County Council made an annual grant of approximately £25,000. With the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on that date, however, the County Council, by arrangement with the Shropshire Nursing Association, became the direct employers of the midwives who, outside the Borough of Shrewsbury, had been the employees of the various District Nursing Associations throughout the County.

Notice of Intention to Practise.—The following are particulars of registered Midwives who gave notice of their intention to practise in this County during the years 1948 to 1950 :—

						31st December		
						1948	1949	1950
Employed by Local Health Authority	..	..	..	..	..	102	90	86
In private practice (Domiciliary)	..	..	..	..	..	17	22	14
„ „ (Private Nursing Homes)	..	..	..	..	..	13	10	14
In hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	47	45	76
Total						179	167	190

Work performed by Midwives.—Set out in the table below are particulars of the domiciliary midwifery work carried out during 1949 and 1950 by Midwives employed by the County Council, with corresponding figures for 1948 :—

Domiciliary Midwifery Work of County Council Midwives during 1949 and 1950

Midwives	Confinements Attended			Visits			
	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses	Total	Ante-Natal	Midwifery	Maternity	Total
Home Nurse-Midwives ..	1,268	410	1,678	16,216	23,988	7,593	47,797
Midwives	205	58	263	1,560	3,985	919	6,464
TOTAL for 1950 ..	1,473	468	1,941	17,776	27,973	8,512	54,261
Home Nurse-Midwives ..	1,359	494	1,853	16,438	25,251	9,510	51,199
Midwives	218	49	267	2,206	3,791	876	6,873
TOTAL for 1949 ..	1,577	543	2,120	18,644	29,042	10,386	58,072
TOTAL for 1948 ..	1,771	446	2,217	21,385	42,803		64,188

Statistics relating to Domiciliary and Institutional Work under the Midwives Acts

Year	Midwives practising in December	Cases attended by Midwives		
		As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses	Total
1947	189	3,518	1,730	5,248
1948	179	3,394	1,393	4,787
1949	167	3,542	1,330	4,872
1950	190	3,426	1,359	4,785

Notifications received from Midwives

Year	Medical Help	Still-births	Death of Mother or Child	Artificial Feeding	Liability to be a source of infection	Having laid out a dead body
1947	1,220	87	62	135	193	38
1948	1,207	76	54	207	160	37
1949	959	83	54	181	138	34
1950	693	75	50	173	75	24

Maternal Deaths.—Notifications received from Local Registrars of maternal deaths, directly or indirectly due to pregnancy, numbered 6 in 1949 (one of which was transferable to Staffordshire), and 6 in 1950.

The Maternal Death rates for the past four years for the whole of the County, based on the official returns of the Registrar General, are as follows :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	
		Shropshire	England and Wales
1947	11	1.94	1.17
1948	3	0.57	1.02
1949	3	0.59	0.98
1950	9	1.88	0.86

Puerperal Pyrexia.—A total of 12 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1949, and 10 cases in 1950. No deaths occurred from this condition in either of these years.

Pemphigus.—There were no cases of Pemphigus during 1949 or 1950.

Gas/Air Analgesia.—Of the Midwives employed by the County Council in domiciliary midwifery work, the greater proportion are qualified in the use of the Minnitt apparatus for the induction of Gas/Air Analgesia ; 14 Midwives were trained in its use in 1949, and 2 in 1950. The table below gives the relevant particulars :—

Year	Midwives employed by County Council	Minnitt Apparatus provided	Cases in which used	Cases attended
1949	90	74	912	2,120
1950	86	82	992	1,941

Those Midwives who are not qualified in the induction of Gas/Air Analgesia have refused training because of their age, all being due to retire shortly.

Housing of Midwives.—The housing of these Midwives has presented many difficulties, as a large proportion of them occupy privately owned or privately rented houses which, when they leave the Council's employment, will not be available to their successors, and proposals for the erection of Nurses' houses at St. Martin's and Hilton, near Oswestry and Bridgnorth, respectively, have been approved by the Council to overcome the housing difficulties in those areas.

The following are particulars of the accommodation occupied by Midwives in the Council's employment on 31st December :—

				1949	1950
Houses	..	owned by the County Council		9	9
"	..	rented by the County Council		27	28
"	..	owned by Midwives or their relatives		11	9
"	..	rented by Midwives or their relatives		17	17
Flats	..	rented by Midwives		3	2
Rooms	..	rented by Midwives		7	6
TOTAL				74	71

Payment to Medical Practitioners under the Midwives Acts.—Under the rules of the Central Midwives Board a Midwife is required in emergency to seek medical assistance by the issue of a Medical Aid Form, and a fee then becomes payable by the County Council (as Local Supervising Authority) under the Medical Practitioners (Fees) Regulations. Under these Regulations which were revised with effect from 18th April, 1948, medical practitioners became entitled to remuneration at increased rates.

Where, however, a medical practitioner undertakes to provide maternity medical services in accordance with the National Health Service (General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations, payment is made by the Local Executive Council, and in such cases the medical practitioner is not entitled to any payment by the Local Supervising Authority under the Medical Practitioners (Fees) Regulations.

The position for the three years 1948 to 1950 is set out in tabular form below, and it will be seen that as more cases are now being provided with Maternity Medical Services and therefore paid for by the Executive Council, there is a consequent reduction in the number of claims made against the Local Supervising Authority :—

Payments made by County Council under Medical Practitioners (Fees) Regulations

Year	Medical Aid Forms	Payments by County Council
1948	496	£1,296
1949	334	£1,168
1950	195	£528

HOME NURSING

As Local Health Authority, the County Council are required under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to make provision for securing the attendance of Nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes.

As in the case of the domiciliary midwifery service, the Council elected to provide home nursing by the direct employment of the Nurses who were, previous to 5th July, 1948, employed by the various District Nursing Associations, and who were transferred to the Council's employment on that date.

Set out in the following table are particulars of the numbers of cases nursed at home and of the visits paid by the Home Nurses during the years 1948 to 1950 :—

Home Nursing Services, 1948, 1949 and 1950

Year	Cases			Visits		
	Medical	Surgical	Total	General Nursing	Casual	Total
1948	6,016	3,337	9,353	135,743	19,301	155,044
1949	6,276	3,231	9,507	151,644	14,773	166,417
1950	6,794	3,134	9,928	158,149	14,771	172,920

HEALTH VISITING

In accordance with Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it is a duty of the County Council, as Local Health Authority, to make provision for the visiting of persons in their homes by Health Visitors in order to give advice :—

- (1) on the care of (a) young children,
(b) persons suffering from illness,
(c) expectant and nursing mothers ; and
- (2) on the prevention of the spread of infection.

The National Health Service (Qualification of Health Visitors and Tuberculosis Visitors) Regulations, 1948, require persons employed in Health Visiting duties to possess the Health Visitor's Certificate, but upon application by the Local Health Authority, the Minister of Health may dispense with the requirements of these Regulations in any case in which he considers this desirable, and upon such terms and conditions as he thinks fit.

Dispensation in respect of the part-time Health Visitors employed in this County who do not possess the Health Visitor's Certificate was given by the Minister for a period of two years from the 1st May, 1949. Every endeavour was made to recruit Health Visitors to the Council's service, but the shortage of Nurses who possess the Health Visitor's Certificate has made impossible the recruitment of Health Visitors in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the County Council.

Health Visiting Staff employed by the County Council

	On 31st December	
	1949	1950
Health Visitors and School Nurses	27	29
District Nurse-Midwives (with Health Visitor's qualifications) ..	8	9
" " (without Health Visitor's qualifications) ..	40	32
	75	70

The following is a summary of the visits made by Health Visitors during 1949 and 1950, with the corresponding figures for 1948 :—

Visits paid by Health Visitors during 1948, 1949 and 1950

Year	Health Visiting Staff		To Children				To Expectant Mothers
			Under 1 Year		1 to 5 years	Total	
			First	Total			
1948	Whole-time ..	23	3,086	17,176	19,391	36,567	711
	Part-time ..	53	1,497	14,667	15,498	30,165	1,791
	TOTAL ..		4,583	31,843	34,889	66,732	2,402
	Increase or Decrease ..		—66	+3,815	+6,848	+10,663	—4
1949	Whole-time ..	24	3,433	20,364	25,309	45,673	583
	Part-time ..	48	1,339	13,655	14,593	28,248	60
	TOTAL ..		4,772	34,019	39,902	73,921	643
	Increase or Decrease ..		+189	+2,176	+5,013	+7,189	—1,759
1950	Whole-time ..	26	3,290	22,704	31,606	54,310	514
	Part-time ..	41	1,227	12,591	14,331	26,922	27
	TOTAL ..		4,517	35,295	45,937	81,232	541
	Increase or Decrease ..		—255	+1,276	+6,035	+7,311	—102

Health Visitors' Training Scheme.—As the County Council's original Health Visitor Training Scheme, which was introduced in 1947, did not secure the number of Health Visitors required, and as it did not compare favourably in certain respects with the schemes later introduced by other Local Health Authorities, it was modified in May, 1950. The revised scheme is similar in all respects to the original, except that the period of contract with the County Council has been extended from 18 to 30 months, and the remuneration given in respect of the period of contract raised from one half to three-quarters of the minimum salary of a Health Visitor, subject to one-quarter of that minimum being held over until the trainee has passed the final examination for the Health Visitor's Certificate.

Since the inception of the original scheme in 1947, until 31st December, 1950, the number of students accepted for training was 16, of whom 14 were successful in obtaining the Health Visitor's Certificate.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council, as Local Health Authority may, and if directed by the Minister of Health must, make arrangements for :—

- (a) the prevention of illness, and
- (b) the care and after-care of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness.

Tuberculosis.—The Minister of Health has directed that arrangements for care and after-care shall be obligatory in the case of persons suffering from tuberculosis ; and as schemes for the care of the tuberculous were in existence in this County prior to the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, it has only been necessary to implement earlier arrangements.

When notification is received of a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a report upon the home circumstances of the patient, including particulars of all members of the household, is made by the Health Visitor, who secures the attendance of contacts for examination at the Chest Clinics and assists the family with the many social problems which arise through the presence in the household of a tuberculous person. The Health Visitor is expected to visit each case at least once a quarter and, when circumstances will allow, she attends the Chest Clinics, where her knowledge of the circumstances of each family is of great assistance to the Chest Physician, with whom she works in close liaison.

Mental Illness or Defectiveness.—Persons suffering from mental illness who are discharged from Shelton Hospital and who normally reside in this County, receive initial domiciliary visits from the Psychiatric Social Worker of that Hospital, and suitable cases are referred for supervision by the whole time Health Visitors under the County Council's After-Care Scheme.

The routine domiciliary supervision of mental defectives is also carried out by the whole-time Health Visitors, who visit each case once a quarter.

Other types of illness.—In the case of patients who, on discharge from hospital, are in need of assistance through any of the Local Health Authority's services, e.g., domestic help, home nursing, loan equipment, etc., information is sent by the Hospital concerned to the Local Health Authority, under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board. Patients are then visited by the Health Visitor or Home Nurse as the case may be.

Close co-operation has also been established with the Children's Officer whose aid is very often necessary where residential accommodation is required for children during a domestic emergency such as illness or confinement of the mother.

Recuperative Convalescence.—Although the question of the use of Convalescent Homes which have not been taken over by the Ministry of Health under the National Health Service Act has yet to be decided, the County Council have authorised the provision of convalescent facilities for patients who, following hospital treatment, are in need of a short convalescent holiday, involving no more than rest, good food and fresh air. Such cases are normally sent, under the Council's Scheme, to the Lady Forester Convalescent Home at Llandudno, financial responsibility being accepted by the Council, but patients are required to contribute towards the cost of their convalescence in accordance with their income.

During 1949 and 1950, a total of 15 cases were assisted by the County Council at a total cost to the Council of £84 0s. 4d.

Provision of Nursing Equipment.—The provision of nursing accessories forms an important part of the Council's After-Care Scheme, and all Home Nurses and Midwives hold a small supply of minor articles, such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups which are available for issue on loan to patients being nursed at home.

Health Propaganda.

Literature.—Throughout the period in question, health propaganda, in the form of posters, leaflets and booklets, has been distributed to the public, chiefly through the Welfare Centres and the Health Visiting and Nursing Staff ; and the following is a list of some of the subjects which have been brought to the notice of the public by this form of propaganda :—

- Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria.
- Prevention and treatment of influenza.
- Prevention of infantile paralysis.
- Prevention of measles.
- Safety measures against accidents to infants.
- The health and happiness of the tubercular patient.
- Advice to mothers and fathers.
- The feeding of young children.
- Advice on cooking.
- The main values of different foods.
- Advice to expectant mothers.
- Ante-natal and post-natal exercises.
- Baby's first outfit.
- Cleanliness, rest, fresh air and care of the teeth.
- Clean food handling.

School canteens have also been supplied with posters illustrating the importance of clean food handling.

A magazine entitled "Better Health" is regularly supplied to Health Visitors and Nurse-Midwives for distribution to the public.

Exhibit.—An exhibition stand has been obtained on loan from the Central Council for Health Education and different topics have been displayed on this stand at the larger Welfare Centres throughout the County. The subjects dealt with have been "Food and Drink Infections," "Sleep," "Diphtheria Immunisation," "Local Health Authorities' Services," "Care of the Feet," "The Work of the Health Visitor," "Care of the Teeth," "Head Lice," "Cafe and Canteen Hygiene," "Accidents in the Home," and "Breast Feeding." In conjunction with the display of each exhibit, talks on the subject publicised were given by the Assistant Medical Officer and Health Visitor at the Welfare Centre, and much interest was shown by the mothers attending.

Films.—Film displays for mothers have been arranged at those Welfare Centres which are equipped with electricity and have a large enough room for the purpose, and three displays have also been given at Ludlow in the Church Hall. The films have dealt with matters relating mainly to infant welfare and the health of the mother, and those mothers who attended availed themselves of the opportunity to ask the Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors questions on the matters dealt with in the films.

Display Sets.—The Ministry of Health have issued a series of display sets on health education subjects, each set consisting of a number of attractively coloured panels illustrating different points on each subject. Four sets have been received on the subjects of "Diphtheria Immunisation," "Coughs and Sneezes," "The Seven Rules of Health," and "You and Your Baby," and these have been displayed at the Welfare Centres.

General.—The health propaganda material issued during 1949 and 1950 has been well received, particularly by the mothers of young children, who have found the literature issued to them to be useful and helpful. When interest has been aroused, it is found that there is a positive response on the part of the recipients of health literature, and there is an increasing demand for information on subjects relating to health and hygiene.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Report of the County Ambulance Officer

Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, imposes on Local Health Authorities the duty of ensuring that "ambulances and other means of transport are available, where necessary, for the conveyance of persons suffering from illness or mental deficiency or expectant or nursing mothers from places in their area to places in or outside their area."

The twelve months ended 31st December, 1949, provided the first full year's experience in the operation of the Ambulance Service established by the County Council in accordance with the requirements of this Section of the Act, and the arrangements which came into effect on the "appointed day" have continued satisfactorily throughout the two years under review.

Administration.—For the purposes of the County Council Ambulance Service a main Central Depot has been established at Shrewsbury, together with eight subsidiary depots, at Oswestry, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Donnington, Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Bishop's Castle. At each depot, other than at the Central Depot, the day-to-day administration of the Service is controlled by a Local Ambulance Sub-Committee.

The Central Depot is at present divided into two parts—one at Cross Houses Hospital, which has been used since the "appointed day," and one in a temporary garage at the County Council Highways Depot at Meole Brace, which came into use on 19th December, 1949. The Minister of Health has, however, approved in principle the Council's proposal to establish in the curtilage of "Nearwell," Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, a Central Depot at which will be located all Ambulance Service vehicles at present housed at Cross Houses and Meole Brace.

Following revision of the ambulance call-out arrangements, a Central Telephone Control was established during 1949 in the County Health Offices at Shrewsbury. This Control, which has the telephone number Shrewsbury 2626, is manned by day and night, the night service being maintained through the co-operation of the County Fire Service, and provides the channel through which all requests should be made for an ambulance or sitting-case car in any part of the County and in certain parts of neighbouring counties, at any time of the day or night.

In addition to the provision of Ambulance facilities throughout the County, the Ambulance Service also serves areas, adjacent to the Shropshire boundary, of the neighbouring Counties of Stafford, Denbigh, Flint, Cheshire and Montgomery, and in the case of the latter County, provides transport for all cases of infectious disease requiring conveyance to the Monkmoor Isolation Hospital at Shrewsbury.

All members of the full-time Ambulance personnel, drivers and attendants, have been trained in First-Aid, and at the end of 1949 the part-time services of a qualified Midwife were obtained for ambulance purposes. The volume of work which she performed proved such that in 1950 she was appointed to a vacancy for a full-time attendant at the Central Depot, Shrewsbury.

Vehicles.—At the beginning of 1949, the establishment of vehicles utilised by the Ambulance Service was 21 ambulances and 4 sitting-case cars, and the difficulties experienced in the early months of that year in consequence of the shortage of vehicles were gradually diminished by

the delivery of 16 ambulances and 4 cars during 1949, and of 1 car during 1950. The following table shows the distribution of vehicles on 31st December, 1949, and on 31st December, 1950 :—

Establishment of Ambulances and Sitting-Case Cars

Depot	Ambulances			Sitting-Case Cars		
	Authorised	On 31st December, 1949	On 31st December, 1950	Authorised	On 31st December, 1949	On 31st December, 1950
Shrewsbury ..	14	20	15	6	6	6
Oswestry ..	3	3	3	3	1	1
Whitchurch ..	2	2	2	—	—	—
Market Drayton ..	2	1	1	—	—	—
Donnington ..	5	5	5	2	1	1
Wenlock ..	1	1	1	—	—	—
Bridgnorth ..	2	2	2	1	—	1
Ludlow ..	3	2	3	1	—	—
Bishop's Castle ..	1	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	33	37	33	13	8	9

It will be observed from the above table that the establishment of ambulances on 31st December, 1949, exceeded that authorised under the County Council Scheme by four, and in consequence four ambulances—two at Shrewsbury, one at Oswestry and one at Bridgnorth—have been earmarked for use in the training of Civil Defence Ambulance personnel.

The demand made upon the sitting-case car service has so far exceeded that visualised in the Council's scheme that it has been necessary to make continued use of the Sitting-Case Car Service operated on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service; and, in addition, by arrangement with the Group 27 Hospital Management Committee, cars from the vehicle establishment of the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, have been used where necessary for the conveyance of sitting cases.

Although the establishment of ambulances had by the end of 1949 reached that authorised under the Council's scheme, many of these vehicles cannot be regarded as wholly satisfactory in consequence of their age; and the following table shows the age groups of the ambulances and sitting-case cars at the end of 1950 :—

Age Group of Ambulance Service Vehicles

Age Group	Ambulances	Cars
Under 1 year	—	1
1—2 years ..	20	4
3—5 years ..	4	3
6—10 years ..	1	1
Over 10 years	8	—
TOTAL ..	33	9

Personnel.—Particulars are given in the table on page 33 of the personnel, full-time and part-time, employed on operational duties in the County Ambulance Service on 31st December, 1949, and on 31st December, 1950 :—

Establishment of Ambulance Service Personnel

Ambulance Depot	Authorised		On 31st December, 1949						On 31st December, 1950					
			Full-time			Part-time			Full-time			Part-time		
	Drivers	Atten- dants	Drivers (Male)	Attendants		Drivers (Male)	Attendants		Drivers (Male)	Attendants		Drivers (Male)	Attendants	
				M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.
Shrewsbury ..	19	12	17	4	3	—	1	5	18	4	4	—	1	5
Oswestry ..	3	2	—	—	—	5	8	9	—	—	—	5	8	9
Whitchurch ..	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Market Drayton ..	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Donnington ..	5	4	3	—	—	1	—	3	3	—	—	1	—	3
Wenlock ..	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bridgnorth ..	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	5	1	3
Ludlow ..	3	2	—	—	—	4	9	6	—	—	—	4	16	12
Bishop's Castle ..	1	1	—	—	—	4	2	1	—	—	—	4	2	1
TOTAL ..	35	25	20	4	3	22	22	25	21	4	4	25	30	34

Although the numbers of part-time employees given in the table on page 33 appear to be considerable, a correct assessment of their services can only be obtained by expressing them in terms of full-time personnel employed on a 44-hour week without overtime or stand-by duties, as shown in the table below :—

Establishment of Ambulance Service Personnel

	Full-time			Part-time (expressed in terms of full-time)			Total		
	Drivers (Male)	Attendants		Drivers (Male)	Attendants		Drivers (Male)	Attendants	
		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.
On 31st December, 1949 ..	20	4	3	6	1	4	26	5	7
On 31st December, 1950 ..	21	4	4	8	2	3	29	6	7

Work performed.—The demands on the Ambulance Service, though fluctuating periodically, have continued to rise substantially, and this is illustrated in the table on page 35, which shows, by monthly analysis, the work performed during 1949 and 1950.

No comparison can be made between the data given and that relating to 1948, since the County Ambulance Service, as constituted under the National Health Service Act, operated only during the last six months of that year. The volume of work undertaken by the Service has, however, shown a steady increase since the "appointed day."

Civil Defence.—Steps were taken during 1950 to comply, as far as possible, with the various directives issued by the Ministry of Health in connection with the expansion of the Ambulance Service in the event of war.

W. WALKER,
County Ambulance Officer.

August, 1951.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION SERVICE

Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, makes it a duty of the County Council, as a Local Health Authority, to make arrangements, in which general medical practitioners may participate, for the vaccination against smallpox of persons resident within their area, and also for the immunisation of such persons against diphtheria. The Authority also has permissive powers to make similar arrangements, with the approval of the Minister of Health, for vaccination or immunisation against any other disease.

Vaccination.—Under the County Council's scheme, formulated in accordance with the National Health Service Act, parents are allowed the choice of having their children vaccinated by a medical practitioner in general medical practice, by an Assistant County Medical Officer at a County Council Welfare Centre, or—if resident in the Borough of Shrewsbury—by the Borough Medical Officer of Health at the Health Centre, Murivance, or at the White House Clinic, Ditherington.

Lists of births registered each month are received from the Local Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. A letter, with a detachable consent form, for completion and return to the County Medical Officer by parents wishing to take advantage of the facilities available, is then sent to the parents of the infants registered, offering the choice of vaccination by their private medical practitioner, by an Assistant County Medical Officer at a Welfare Centre or by the Borough Medical Officer at a Shrewsbury Welfare Centre. Upon receipt of the consent form, appropriate arrangements are made for vaccination to be performed when the infant attains the age of four months. Persons of all ages, adults and children, can, however, be vaccinated or re-vaccinated upon request under the County Council's scheme.

The table below gives particulars of persons of all ages who were vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the years 1949 and 1950 :—

Persons Vaccinated and Re-Vaccinated during 1949 and 1950

	Vaccinated by	Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 14 years	Over 15 years	Total
Vaccinations 1949 ..	Assistant Medical Officers	246	192	5	6	449
	Private Practitioners ..	1,418	52	27	40	1,537
	TOTAL ..	1,664	244	32	46	1,986
1950 ..	Assistant Medical Officers	250	291	24	5	570
	Private Practitioners ..	814	771	74	87	1,746
	TOTAL ..	1,064	1,062	98	92	2,316
Re-Vaccinations 1949 ..	Assistant Medical Officers	—	—	—	3	3
	Private Practitioners ..	—	7	41	129	177
	TOTAL ..	—	7	41	132	180
1950 ..	Assistant Medical Officers	—	1	5	99	105
	Private Practitioners ..	—	20	58	477	555
	TOTAL ..	—	21	63	576	660

The table below is of interest in that it gives particulars of infant vaccinations during the years 1947 to 1950. The year 1947 was the last complete year in which vaccination was compulsory, subject always to "conscientious objection," under the Vaccination Acts, and it is of interest to note, therefore, that as a result of the repeal of the Vaccination Acts with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948, there was in that year a sharp decline in the number of infants vaccinated.

Infant Vaccinations, 1947 to 1950

Year	Live Births	Vaccinations	Percentage
1947	5,538	2,529	46
1948	5,156	1,167	23
1949	4,945	1,664	34
1950	4,669	1,064	23

Particulars are given in the tables on pages 42 and 43 of the distribution in the areas of the Local Sanitary Authorities within the County, of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated during 1949 and 1950.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Under the County Council Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation, which has been formulated in accordance with the requirements of the National Health Service Act, parents can have their children immunised either by a medical practitioner of their own choice who is engaged in private practice, or by an Assistant Medical Officer at a County Council School or Welfare Centre.

When a child reaches the age of six months, a circular letter with a detachable consent form is sent to the parents, and upon the return of this form, duly completed, arrangements are made for immunisation of the infant on attaining the age of eight months.

If the parents do not return the consent form, a further communication, stressing the value of immunisation is sent to them on the day before the infant's first birthday, in the form of a birthday greeting card. In addition, every opportunity is taken by Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors in the course of their duties at Welfare Centres and elsewhere to advise immunisation against diphtheria in the case of those children who have not been so immunised as infants.

The following table gives particulars of children under 5 years of age, and of those between the ages of 5 and 15, who were immunised under the County Council's scheme during 1949 and 1950 :—

Children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1949 and 1950

Immunisation carried out by	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total	Re-inforcing Injections
1949				
Medical Officers ..	1,897	459	2,356	2,480
General Practitioners ..	2,012	172	2,184	707
TOTAL ..	3,909	631	4,540	3,187
1950				
Medical Officers ..	1,288	155	1,443	1,758
General Practitioners ..	1,735	64	1,799	322
TOTAL ..	3,023	219	3,242	2,080

Set out in a tabular form below is a statement showing the percentage of the child population, of and under compulsory school age, who had been immunised against diphtheria at 31st December, 1948, 1949 and 1950—always bearing in mind that immunity is a relative term :—

Percentages of Child Population Immunised against Diphtheria

31st December	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total
1948	51%	67%	61%
1949	52%	73%	65%
1950	52%	76%	67%

The effects of the Immunisation Campaign on the morbidity and mortality rates are demonstrated by the following statistics showing the incidence of diphtheria and the number of deaths from this disease among persons of all ages in the County during the past sixteen years :—

Notifications of and Deaths from Diphtheria since 1935

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Notifications ..	233	301	206	185	133	236	237	121	53	25	7	10	17	1	5	2
Deaths ..	20	21	7	19	13	11	9	6	6	1	—	2	2	—	1	—

Full information is not available regarding the immunisation of those who died from diphtheria, but it can be said of the five children who died from that disease between 1946 and 1950 that they had not been immunised.

The following statistical tables give particulars of the children immunised against diphtheria during 1949 and 1950, distributed according to their places of residence within the areas of the various Local Sanitary Authorities in the County :—

Children Immunised in the various Sanitary Districts during 1949

Area	Local Sanitary Authority	Children Immunised		Total	Percentage at 31st December		Children given Re-inforcing Injections
		Under 5 years	5—15 years		Under 5 years	5—15 years	
North-West Combined Districts	Ellesmere Urban ..	26	6	32	63.7	72.2	46
	Ellesmere Rural ..	80	39	119	48.1	82.5	183
	Oswestry Borough ..	157	48	205	51.5	95.6	359
	Oswestry Rural ..	231	32	263	52.2	94.8	513
	Wem Urban ..	55	3	58	54.9	96.4	38
	Wem Rural ..	145	15	160	38.8	62.8	139
	Whitchurch Urban ..	97	6	103	37.2	52.8	50
North-East Combined Districts	Dawley Urban ..	148	24	172	62.5	98.7	169
	Market Drayton Urban ..	105	12	117	45.4	82.4	86
	Drayton Rural ..	142	11	153	58.2	94.3	111
	Newport Urban ..	80	10	90	57.3	84.5	92
	Oakengates Urban ..	140	17	157	40.6	59.9	94
	Shifnal Rural ..	167	10	177	50.5	56.7	114
	Wellington Urban ..	105	6	111	34.5	59.3	35
South-West Combined Districts	Wellington Rural ..	304	41	345	49.0	89.2	307
	Atcham Rural ..	350	29	379	69.2	50.8	78
	Bishop's Castle Borough ..	25	—	25	75.9	70.7	2
	Church Stretton Urban ..	34	—	34	63.7	40.8	7
	Clun Rural ..	141	8	149	57.2	49.2	48
	Wenlock Borough ..	182	29	211	49.2	45.9	115
	Ludlow Borough ..	106	15	121	72.8	74.1	103
Bridgnorth ..	Ludlow Rural ..	204	27	231	57.1	54.4	136
	Bridgnorth Borough ..	88	—	88	57.1	69.3	10
Shrewsbury ..	Bridgnorth Rural ..	160	16	176	49.8	67.6	33
	Shrewsbury Borough ..	637	227	864	53.0	87.9	319
	WHOLE COUNTY ..	3,909	631	4,540	52.2	73.2	3,187

Children Immunised in the various Sanitary Districts during 1950

Area	Local Sanitary Authority	Children Immunised		Total	Percentage at 31st December		Children given Re-inforcing Injections
		Under 5 years	5—15 years		Under 5 years	5—15 years	
North-West Combined Districts	Ellesmere Urban ..	26	7	33	55.6	98.0	30
	Ellesmere Rural ..	68	18	86	46.0	90.4	119
	Oswestry Borough ..	96	21	117	52.9	99.8	200
	Oswestry Rural ..	173	20	193	51.9	96.2	278
	Wem Urban ..	34	1	35	55.9	99.9	32
	Wem Rural ..	163	8	171	50.1	66.4	139
	Whitchurch Urban ..	64	3	67	39.4	62.8	95
North-East Combined Districts	Dawley Urban ..	91	6	97	61.4	97.9	112
	Market Drayton Urban ..	65	6	71	41.8	85.6	81
	Drayton Rural ..	104	3	107	59.4	83.8	87
	Newport Urban ..	49	2	51	59.4	79.4	20
	Oakengates Urban ..	86	8	94	42.7	63.4	25
	Shifnal Rural ..	162	6	168	51.8	68.1	79
	Wellington Urban ..	115	4	119	41.0	60.0	28
	Wellington Rural ..	259	15	274	50.1	90.9	268
South-West Combined Districts	Atcham Rural ..	279	5	284	67.7	58.0	79
	Bishop's Castle Borough ..	27	—	27	77.7	74.6	3
	Church Stretton Urban ..	29	—	29	61.5	46.4	—
	Clun Rural ..	120	10	130	57.6	57.1	29
	Wenlock Borough ..	161	20	181	51.2	52.3	20
	Ludlow Borough ..	77	3	80	71.2	76.6	13
	Ludlow Rural ..	157	11	168	55.4	62.5	63
Bridgnorth ..	Bridgnorth Borough ..	55	—	55	52.3	67.2	3
	Bridgnorth Rural ..	133	13	146	47.2	73.1	50
Shrewsbury ..	Shrewsbury Borough ..	430	29	459	49.2	84.8	227
	WHOLE COUNTY ..	3,023	219	3,242	52.2	76.2	2,080

Propaganda.— Various methods, including advertisements in the press, the issue of leaflets and the display of posters, are used to remind the public of the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria, but reliance for the success of the immunisation campaign is placed primarily upon School Nurses, Health Visitors and District Nurses, who in the course of their duties hear of children who have missed immunisation, and who then endeavour to obtain the consent of the parents to the immunisation of their children.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.—Prior to the 5th July, 1948, the County Council had not organised specific prophylactic measures against Whooping Cough, as immunisation against this disease on lines similar to those for Diphtheria is infinitely less reliable. For that reason it has not so far been advocated in this County, but a demand from the public for this form of protection against Whooping Cough has sprung up in recent years, and in their proposals for an Immunisation Service under the National Health Service Act, the County Council have included facilities for immunisation against Whooping Cough. It is, however, restricted to those children whose parents make a specific request to have it carried out, but no efforts are made to influence them on the question of whether or not immunisation against this disease should be undertaken.

The following table shows the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough during the years 1949 and 1950 :—

Immunisation carried out by	Primary Immunisations		Total
	0—4 years	5—14years	
1949			
County Council Medical Officers and the Medical Officer of the Borough of Shrewsbury ..	588	57	645
General Medical Practitioners ..	842	97	939
TOTAL . ..	1,430	154	1,584
1950			
County Council Medical Officers and the Medical Officer of the Borough of Shrewsbury ..	323	25	348
General Medical Practitioners ..	553	49	602
TOTAL ..	876	74	950

Vaccinations Performed during 1950

Area	Local Sanitary Authority	Births Regis- tered	Under 1 year		1—4 years		5—14 years		Over 15 years		
			Vacci- nated	Unsuc- cessful	Vacci- nated	Unsuc- cessful	Vacci- nated	Unsuc- cessful	Vacci- nated	Unsuc- cessful	
North-West Combined Districts	Ellesmere Urban	45	No. 11	% 24.4	2	13	—	—	8	—	
	Ellesmere Rural	120	26	21.7	1	24	1	3	6	—	
	Oswestry Borough	169	36	21.3	4	47	2	13	61	12	
	Oswestry Rural	309	47	15.2	1	43	2	13	135	4	
	Wem Urban	45	15	33.3	—	7	1	—	2	—	
	Wem Rural	210	65	30.9	3	86	4	2	15	4	
	Whitchurch Urban	113	25	22.1	4	23	2	3	32	8	
North-East Combined Districts	Dawley Urban	138	41	29.7	6	17	2	4	5	2	
	Market Drayton Urban	96	29	30.2	4	22	1	14	7	—	
	Drayton Rural	169	40	23.7	3	39	—	12	9	1	
	Newport Urban	60	17	28.3	1	25	1	7	6	1	
	Oakengates Urban	165	16	9.7	—	21	—	—	11	1	
	Shifnal Rural	194	23	11.9	5	33	2	6	17	2	
	Wellington Urban	209	29	13.9	2	47	—	5	27	1	
	Wellington Rural	340	54	15.9	6	85	4	7	19	2	
South-West Combined Districts	Atcham Rural	396	107	27.0	5	101	1	13	45	5	
	Bishop's Castle Borough	21	12	57.1	2	7	—	—	3	1	
	Church Stretton Urban	57	20	35.0	—	9	—	2	13	1	
	Clun Rural	183	65	35.5	2	39	1	2	4	1	
	Wenlock Borough	290	42	14.4	3	43	—	5	6	—	
	Ludlow Borough	96	25	26.0	1	35	4	5	31	3	
	Ludlow Rural	242	69	28.5	4	87	2	16	17	1	
Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth Borough	127	13	10.2	—	26	—	2	15	—	
	Bridgnorth Rural	210	38	18.1	2	54	—	3	18	4	
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury Borough	665	199	29.9	13	150	3	24	156	8	
TOTAL		4669	1064	22.8	74	1083	33	161	8	668	62

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, a Local Health Authority may arrange for domestic help to be provided for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

The scheme formulated by the County Council for the provision of a Domestic Help Service in this County visualised the opening of fourteen offices to meet the needs of the whole County, and when the National Health Service Act came into operation, four of these offices had already been established.

At the beginning of 1949, five offices were operating—at Church Stretton, Ludlow, Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wellington—and during that year three additional offices were opened—at Newport in January; at Whitchurch in June; and at Bridgnorth in November.

In January, 1950, the County Council approved the establishment of a Domestic Help office at Market Drayton, which was opened in the following month. Particulars of the Domestic Help offices operating within the County on 31st December, 1950, were as follows:—

Centre	Address	Date opened
Bridgnorth ..	Child Welfare Centre, Northgate	November, 1949
Church Stretton ..	54 Sandford Avenue	January, 1948
Ludlow	Municipal Buildings	October, 1947
Market Drayton ..	The Armoury, Shropshire Street	February, 1950
Newport	Child Welfare Centre, 127 High Street	January, 1949
Oswestry	Child Welfare Centre, 30 Upper Brook Street	September, 1948
Shrewsbury ..	13 Princess Street	January, 1947
Wellington ..	Edgbaston House	April, 1948
Whitchurch ..	Child Welfare Centre, 27 St. Mary's Street	June, 1949

Scope of Service.—The object of the Service is to provide assistance with housework, shopping and light laundry in cases where, through illness, confinement or other cause, a housewife is unable to undertake her normal household duties. The Service has proved to be of great value to the community, particularly in maternity cases and in those of the aged where, in the absence of domestic assistance, removal to hospital or other institution would be necessary.

Administration.—The Domestic Help Service is administered by the Health Committee of the County Council through a Nursing Sub-Committee; this Sub-Committee contains a substantial number of co-opted members who were nominated in the first instance by the Shropshire Nursing Association. It is operated, on behalf of the County Council, by Mrs. I. M. Wilson, County Organiser of the Women's Voluntary Services, under the general administrative direction and control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Except in the case of the Shrewsbury Domestic Help office, where two officers of the County Council are employed, these offices are otherwise staffed by voluntary workers, who are responsible for the day-to-day working of the Service, for the assessment of payments to be made in the case of householders who are unable to pay the full charge, and for the collection of such payments.

Employment of Home Helps.—The following are the conditions of service for "Home Helps" employed in the Domestic Help Service of the County Council during the years under review :—

1.—Whole-time :—

Wages : £3 3s. 0d. per week during the first year of employment, and
£3 10s. 0d. per week during subsequent years.

Hours of Employment : 8-30 a.m. to 5-30 p.m.—from Monday to Friday.
8-30 a.m. to 1 p.m.—on Saturday.

A normal working week consists of 42 hours, but employment outside the hours specified above is paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half from Mondays to Fridays, and at double the normal rate during the week-ends.

Holidays : One week's holiday with pay is allowed during the first year, after six months' service, and two weeks with pay in subsequent years. In addition six recognised public holidays, or their equivalent, are granted.

Sick Pay : First year : One month on full pay—after two months' service.
One month on full pay and two months on half-pay after four months' service.
Subsequent years : Two months' full pay and two months' half-pay.

Travelling : 'Bus fares between local office and place of employment, or a bicycle allowance of 5/- per month.

2.—Part-time :—

Wages : 10/- per week retaining fee, plus
1/6d. per hour for all time worked.
Overtime is paid as for a whole-time worker.

Travelling : As for a whole-time worker.

Particulars are given in the following table of the numbers of Home Helps (whole-time and part-time) employed by the County Council on the 31st December, 1949 and 1950 :—

Home Helps employed on 31st December, 1949 and 1950

Office	Home Helps employed at					
	31st December, 1949			31st December, 1950		
	Whole-time	Part-time	Total	Whole-time	Part-time	Total
Bridgnorth ..	—	—	—	3	1	4
Church Stretton	4	1	5	5	2	7
Ludlow ..	5	—	5	4	4	8
Market Drayton	—	—	—	2	3	5
Newport ..	1	5	6	—	7	7
Oswestry ..	9	6	15	8	6	14
Shrewsbury ..	25	17	42	27	28	55
Wellington ..	7	9	16	10	12	22
Whitchurch ..	3	3	6	4	9	13
TOTAL ..	54	41	95	63	72	135

Work performed.—During 1949, a total of 761 applications were received from householders for domestic assistance, 229 of which were made as a result of confinement. The Home Helps attended an average of 145 households per week and worked for a total of 109,540 hours during the year.

In 1950, applications from householders increased to 893, of which 257 were confinement cases. An average of 232 households were attended weekly by the Home Helps, whose hours of work during the year totalled 162,438.

Cost of Service.—Set out in the tables below are particulars of the expenditure incurred by the County Council in the operation of the Service during 1949 and 1950, and of the income received from persons taking advantage of the Service.

Expenditure and Income—Year ended 31st December, 1949

Centre	Wages		Insurance, Overalls, Rentals, etc.	Total Expenditure	Payments by householders	Net Cost to County Council	Receipts as per- centage of Expendi- ture
	Whole-time	Part-time					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	%
Church Stretton	525 16 11	181 12 10	105 0 2	812 9 11	418 13 8	393 16 3	51.5
Ludlow	843 10 0	18 10 3	100 0 3	962 0 6	284 11 11	677 8 7	29.6
Newport	139 6 6	412 7 0	78 5 6	629 19 0	177 11 3	452 7 9	28.2
Oswestry	1,291 15 1	433 8 2	152 4 4	1,877 7 7	774 18 11	1,102 8 8	42.3
Shrewsbury	4,210 6 2	1,349 6 3	404 19 2	5,964 11 7	2,025 3 10	3,939 7 9	33.9
Wellington	1,076 19 10	853 11 11	196 15 9	2,127 7 6	983 2 11	1,144 4 7	46.2
Whitchurch	219 18 11	49 5 1	29 12 5	298 16 5	90 3 4	208 13 1	30.1
TOTAL	8,307 13 5	3,298 1 6	1,066 17 7	12,672 12 6	4,754 5 10	7,918 6 8	37.5

Expenditure and Income—Year ended 31st December, 1950

Centre	Wages and Insurance		Overalls, Rentals, etc.	Total Expenditure	Payments by householders	Net cost to County Council	Receipts as per- centage of Expendi- diture
	Whole-time	Part-time					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	%
Bridgnorth	483 11 6	115 8 4	75 10 1	674 9 11	176 1 6	498 8 5	26.1
Church Stretton	786 11 10	211 13 7	142 19 2	1,141 4 7	453 11 8	687 12 11	39.7
Ludlow	765 6 10	78 3 7	48 11 10	892 2 3	286 15 9	605 6 6	32.1
Market Drayton	285 16 7	82 5 8	92 4 5	460 6 8	107 5 9	353 0 11	23.3
Newport	88	703 5 10	58 19 11	850 15 3	336 0 5	514 14 10	39.5
Oswestry	1,532 6 8	695 18 2	76 2 3	2,304 7 1	645 8 7	1,658 18 6	28.0
Shrewsbury	5,285 9 4	2,036 11 6	328 7 2	7,650 3 0	2,216 1 10	5,434 6 2	28.9
Wellington	1,322 0 0	1,307 16 2	160 7 10	2,790 4 0	1,007 1 5	1,783 2 7	36.1
Whitchurch	559 8 7	774 17 6	80 5 4	1,414 11 5	389 17 3	1,024 14 2	27.6
TOTAL	11,109 0 10	6,006 0 4	1,063 8 0	18,178 9 2	5,618 4 2	12,560 5 0	30.9

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATION ACT, 1948

Under the provisions of the above-named Act, which came into force on 30th July, 1948, the County Council, as Local Health Authority, are required to register and supervise :—

- (a) private persons (daily minders) who receive into their homes for reward, children under the age of five years to be looked after for the day, or for a longer period not exceeding six days ; and
- (b) premises (day nurseries) in which children below the upper limit of compulsory school age are looked after, either for the day or for a longer period not exceeding six days.

The Act empowers the County Council to define requirements which must be complied with in respect of :—

- (a) in the case of day nurseries, the condition of the premises, the number and qualifications of the Staff, equipment, feeding arrangements, medical supervision and records ; and
- (b) in the case both of day nurseries and daily minders, the number of children to be received and the precautions to be taken against the spread of infectious disease.

After the expiration of a period of three months following the coming into operation of the Act, it became an offence either for a child to be received into an unregistered day nursery, or for more than two children from more than one household to be received by an unregistered child minder who is not a relative.

Registration is not required in the case of hospitals, homes or institutions maintained by Government Departments and Local Authorities, schools and nursery schools supervised by Local Education Authorities, or premises and child minders supervised under Child Life Protection enactments.

No premises or child minders have been registered by the County Council since the coming into operation of the Act.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

Under the provisions of the Children Act, 1948, which came into operation on 5th July, 1948, responsibility for the care and supervision of Child Life Protection cases became that of the Children's Committee, but in this County the Health Committee continued to discharge these functions on their behalf until the end of 1949, when responsibility for these children was taken over by the Children's Officer.

The principal effect of the Children Act upon Child Life Protection cases was to raise the age of supervision from 9 years (as required by the Public Health Act 1936), to 18 years, with the exception of those who at the time of the coming into operation of the Children Act, namely, 5th July, 1948, were already over compulsory school age.

Prior to the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, supervision of Child Life Protection cases in the Borough of Shrewsbury was the responsibility of the Shrewsbury Borough Council, as an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority. The particulars given in the following table, therefore, in respect of the years 1943 to 1947, relate to Child Life Protection cases supervised by County Council Health Visitors, and do not include cases in the Borough of Shrewsbury, whilst the statistics for the years 1948 and 1949 relate to the County as a whole.

Child Life Protection Cases—1943 to 1949

		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
<i>In Register</i>	 on 1st January	92	93	76	52	30	26	74
	added during the year	21	23	19	12	14	70	23
<i>Removed from Register</i>	.. reached 9 years of age	8	10	11	6	8	—	—
	legally adopted	6	9	1	6	2	6	6
	left County	4	14	20	3	1	1	4
	removed to relatives	10	7	10	17	4	8	3
	died	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	removed to "Exempted" Home	—	—	—	2	3	6	4
	removed to places of safety	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	no longer maintained for reward	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	joined H.M. Forces	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	boarded-out by Children's Committee	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	temporary care—on holiday from Children's Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
<i>In Register</i>	 on 31st December	93	76	52	30	26	74	63
Increase (+) or decrease (—) during the year ..		+1	—17	—24	—22	—4	+48	—11

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Under Sections 49 to 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it is, briefly and broadly, the duty of the County Council, as Local Health Authority :—

- (1) to ascertain, and to initiate proceedings for the provision of care and treatment of, persons suffering from mental illness or defectiveness ; and
- (2) to make arrangements for the domiciliary care and after-care of such persons.

Administration.—Responsibility for duties in connection with the Mental Health Service is that of the Health Committee, who discharge their functions through a Mental Health Sub-Committee. The following information relating to the constitution of this Sub-Committee is included in this report at the request of the Minister of Health :—

Constitution of Health (Mental Health) Sub-Committee

The Chairman of the Council	} <i>ex-officio</i>
The Vice-Chairman of the Council	
The Chairman of the Health Committee	
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee	
Four members of the Health Committee	
Four County Councillors (not on the Health Committee)	
One co-opted member	

The staff employed in the Mental Health Service, in addition to the County Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy, consisted of the following officers :—

(a) *On 31st December, 1949 :—*

- 8 Assistant County Medical Officers
 - Petitioning Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts
 - Deputy Petitioning Officer
 - Principal Duly Authorised Officer (who on occasion acts as Petitioning Officer)
 - Duly Authorised Officer
 - Superintendent Nursing Officer (who is also a Duly Authorised Officer)
- 3 Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers (who are also Duly Authorised Officers)
- 24 Health Visitors (11 of whom are Duly Authorised Officers)

(b) *On 31st December, 1950 :—*

- 7 Assistant County Medical Officers
 - Petitioning Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts
 - Deputy Petitioning Officer
 - Principal Duly Authorised Officer
 - Duly Authorised Officer
 - Superintendent Nursing Officer (who is also a Duly Authorised Officer)
- 2 Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers (both of whom are Duly Authorised Officers)
- 25 Health Visitors (8 of whom are Duly Authorised Officers)

In addition to the duties which they would normally undertake, officials of the Local Health Authority also carry out a certain amount of work on behalf of various Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees. The main service performed in this connection is the periodic visiting of patients licensed from institutions for mental defectives to the care of persons resident in Shropshire. At the end of the year 1949, there were 27 defectives on licence from institutional care who were being visited by the County Council's Health Visitors ; and at the end of 1950, there were 23 such cases.

On the other hand, Psychiatric Social Workers employed by the Regional Hospital Board undertake, on behalf of the Local Health Authority, the after-care of patients immediately following their discharge from mental hospitals, selected cases being later referred to the County Council's Health Visiting Staff for domiciliary supervision.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.—The following table gives particulars of the cases dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts by the Duly Authorised Officers of the County Council during 1949 and 1950 :—

Cases dealt with by the Duly Authorised Officers during 1949 and 1950

		Males		Females		Total	
		1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
Lunacy Act, 1890	Under Summary Reception Order	58	50	57	63	115	113
	Under "Three Day" Order ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
	Under "Fourteen Day" Order ..	1	—	—	—	1	—
Mental Treatment Act, 1930	As Voluntary Patients	24	32	26	21	50	53
	As Temporary Patients	6	2	7	4	13	6
TOTAL ..		91	84	90	88	181	172

Certain of the voluntary patients shown in the table above—five in 1949 and twelve in 1950—were initially admitted to hospital under a short-term Order (a Duly Authorised Officer's "Three Day" Order, or a Justice's "Fourteen Day" Order); but having subsequently applied for treatment as voluntary patients they were later accepted as such.

In addition to the patients shown in the table above, investigations were carried out by the Duly Authorised Officers in the case of 55 persons (31 in 1949, and 24 in 1950), in whom unsoundness of mind had been alleged but could not be confirmed.

Mental Deficiency Acts.—Particulars of the mental defectives ascertained during the years 1949 and 1950 are given below :—

Mental Defectives ascertained during 1949 and 1950

	Males		Females		Total	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
Cases reported by Local Education Authority :—						
(i) Under Section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944 ..	16	14	12	8	28	22
(ii) Under Section 57(5) of the Education Act, 1944 :—						
on leaving special schools	2	10	—	3	2	13
on leaving ordinary schools	6	10	12	17	18	27
Other Cases	14	9	8	8	22	17
TOTAL ..	38	43	32	36	70	79

At the end of the year 1949, there were 106 mental defectives in this County awaiting vacancies in institutions, and 93 such cases at the end of 1950. Particulars of these defectives are given in the following tables :—

Mental Defectives awaiting admission to Institutions on 31st December, 1949

DEFECT	MALES						FEMALES						Grand Total
	Under 7	7—16	16—30	30—60	Over 60	Total	Under 7	7—16	16—30	30—60	Over 60	Total	
Feeble-minded ..	—	1	8	7	7	23	—	2	3	18	6	29	52
Imbeciles ..	1	5	5	6	—	17	3	2	2	8	3	18	35
Idiots ..	3	6	3	2	—	14	—	4	1	—	—	5	19
TOTAL ..	4	12	16	15	7	54	3	8	6	26	9	52	106

Mental Defectives awaiting admission to Institutions on 31st December, 1950

DEFECT	MALES						FEMALES						Grand Total
	Under 7	7—16	16—30	30—60	Over 60	Total	Under 7	7—16	16—30	30—60	Over 60	Total	
Feeble-minded ..	—	1	7	8	7	23	—	1	3	15	5	24	47
Imbeciles ..	1	3	6	6	—	16	1	2	3	9	3	18	34
Idiots ..	1	4	2	2	—	9	—	2	1	—	—	3	12
TOTAL ..	2	8	15	16	7	48	1	5	7	24	8	45	93

On 31st December, 1949, there were 13 mental defectives under guardianship care, and 12 such cases on 31st December, 1950, particulars of whom are given below, but only three of whom were resident within this County :—

Mental Defectives under Guardianship Care on 31st December, 1949 and 1950

DEFECT	MALES						FEMALES						Grand Total	
	16—30 years		Over 30 years		Total		16—30 years		Over 30 years		Total		Grand Total	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
Feeble-minded ..	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	9	11	10	12	11
Imbecile ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL ..	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	10	10	12	11	13	12

For many years the National Association for Mental Health assisted Local Health Authorities—and more recently also Regional Hospital Boards—in the supervision of mental defectives under guardianship or on licence from institutions, but on 30th June, 1950, this Association ceased to undertake this work, and arrangements were therefore made for the supervision of the four Shropshire guardianship cases, then residing outside this County and supervised by the Association, to be undertaken by officers of the Local Health Authorities in whose areas they were then resident.

Mental Defectives under Guardianship Care outside Shropshire during 1949 and 1950

Supervised by	Males		Females		Total	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
The National Association for Mental Health ..	1	—	4	—	5	—
The Brighton Guardianship Society	—	—	1	1	1	1
Other Local Health Authorities	—	1	4	7	4	8
TOTAL ..	1	1	9	8	10	9

Financial Assistance.—On 31st December, 1949, the County Council were making payments towards the cost of the maintenance of seven defectives who were under guardianship, but negotiations were entered into with the National Assistance Board and they have now accepted responsibility for the payment of maintenance allowances in such cases.

On 31st December, 1949, there were 308 cases under Statutory Supervision, whilst on 31st December, 1950, there were 346 such cases, particulars of whom are given in the following tables :—

Defectives under Statutory Supervision on 31st December, 1949

DEFECT	MALES					FEMALES					Grand Total
	Under 7	7—16	16—30	Over 30	Total	Under 7	7—16	16—30	Over 30	Total	
Feeble-minded ..	—	4	56	17	77	—	5	50	15	70	147
Imbeciles ..	1	27	36	13	77	3	17	28	11	59	136
Idiots ..	5	3	3	2	13	1	3	5	3	12	25
TOTAL ..	6	34	95	32	167	4	25	83	29	141	308

Defectives under Statutory Supervision on 31st December, 1950

DEFECT	MALES					FEMALES					Grand Total
	Under 7	7—16	16—30	Over 30	Total	Under 7	7—16	16—30	Over 30	Total	
Feeble-minded ..	—	16	63	17	96	—	15	57	22	94	190
Imbeciles ..	2	27	34	17	80	—	18	23	13	54	134
Idiots ..	—	5	2	3	10	—	4	4	4	12	22
TOTAL ..	2	48	99	37	186	—	37	84	39	160	346

In addition to the cases referred to above who were under Statutory Supervision, there were under Voluntary Supervision 394 cases in 1949, and 382 cases in 1950.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

Registration.—Section 187 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requires the registration of all nursing homes, maternity and other, and the County Council, as Registration Authority, have power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases.

Seven hospitals had been granted exemption from registration prior to the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948, and on that date all hospitals and institutions in the County, previously registered by the County Council as Nursing Homes, became automatically exempt on being transferred to the Ministry of Health.

There were no additions to the register during 1949, although one Nursing Home, which had been registered during 1948 for general nursing cases only, was re-registered during 1949 for both general and maternity cases. Four certificates of registration were cancelled during the year.

During 1950, one new Nursing Home was registered for general nursing cases, and one Home, which had been registered during 1949 for both general and maternity cases, was re-registered for general cases only. One certificate of registration was cancelled during the year.

The following are particulars of Nursing Homes registered for maternity and general cases, and of the accommodation provided :—

Registered Nursing Homes

Accommodation provided	Number of Nursing Homes		Number of Beds available	
	1949	1950	1949	1950
General cases only	—	2	—	8
Maternity cases only	2	2	9	9
Maternity and General cases ..	11	9	84	79
	13	13	93	96

Inspection.—Registered Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Superintendent Nursing Officer or her Assistants, and an effort is made to visit each Home once in each quarter. Thirty-four inspections were made during 1949, and 39 during 1950.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

Responsibility for the Welfare of the Blind, formerly a duty of the Health Committee of the County Council under Section 2 of the Blind Persons Act, 1938, passed to the Welfare Committee of the Council on the coming into operation of the National Assistance Act, 1948, on 5th July of that year.

The Health Committee, however, have continued to make arrangements for the examination by Ophthalmologists of applicants for registration as blind persons. During 1949, arrangements were made for the examination of 84 persons, of whom 77 were subsequently placed on the Shropshire Register of Blind Persons.

In 1950, the number of persons examined for the ascertainment of blindness was 75, of whom 67 were placed on the Register.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, responsibility for the enforcement of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations and for the registration and supervision of all dairy farms was transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The "appointed day" for the transfer of functions under this Act was defined in the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 (Appointed Day) Order, 1949, as the 1st October, 1949; and on that date the County Council ceased to be responsible for the administration of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. The following information therefore in respect of the production of Designated Milk in this County, with the exception of the particulars given below relating to dairy herds, does not cover the last three months of 1949.

Dairy Herds.—The following information, which has been supplied by the Divisional Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, gives particulars of dairy herds in the County on 31st December of the years 1945 to 1949 :—

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Tuberculin Tested Herds (Attested)	112	164	207	295	388
" " " (not Attested)	94	105	143	147	256
Attested Herds (not Tuberculin Tested)	63	78	101	116	527
Accredited Herds	580	576	548	552	472
Total Numbers of Designated and Attested Herds	849	923	999	1,110	1,643
Undesignated Herds	4,100	3,991	3,907	4,024	4,014
Total Numbers of Dairy Herds	4,949	4,914	4,906	5,134	5,657

During 1949, Designated and Attested Herds increased by 533 and represented 29.0 per cent of the whole of the dairy herds in the County.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. Under these Regulations, the County Council, as Licensing Authority, were responsible for the initial inspection of the farm premises of all milk producers applying for licences to produce either "Accredited" or "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and for the licensing and supervision of such premises.

During the nine months ended 30th September, 1949, a total of 304 applications for Designated Milk licences (270 Tuberculin Tested and 34 Accredited) were received. The County Sanitary Inspector made 1,216 visits to dairy farms, 247 of these visits being initial inspections of the premises of new applicants for Designated Milk licences.

On 30th September, 1949, a total of 1,062 licences for the production of Designated Milk (562 Tuberculin Tested and 500 Accredited) had been issued; and of these 34 Tuberculin Tested and 10 Accredited Milk producers also held bottling licences.

The table below gives particulars of the Tuberculin Tested and Accredited licences issued by the County Council in each year from 1934 to 1949. In view of these figures it is of interest to note that premiums were first paid to holders of licences to produce Designated Milk when the Milk Marketing Board's scheme came into operation in 1935.

Designated Milk Licences in force from 1934 to 1949

Licences	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Tuberculin Tested	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84	111	177	206	269	350	442	562
Accredited	14	390	533	542	595	689	675	666	677	652	620	580	576	548	552	500
TOTAL	29	410	553	578	652	760	750	743	761	763	797	786	845	898	994	1062

The consistent increase in the number of Tuberculin Tested Milk licences, and the corresponding decrease in the number of Accredited Milk licences during recent years, is accounted for mainly by the graduation of producers of Accredited Milk to the production of milk of Tuberculin Tested standard.

Bacteriological Examination of Designated Milk.—Designated Milks were sampled once a quarter, or more frequently when the results of the samples were unsatisfactory, and the following table gives the results of the examination of these samples, together with those obtained from producers who wished to qualify for licences to produce Designated Milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Designated Milk during 1949

Designation	Samples	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Tuberculin Tested	1,200	925	77.1	275	22.9
Accredited	1,175	893	76.0	282	24.0
"Qualifying"	272	184	67.6	88	32.4
TOTAL	2,647	2,002	75.6	645	24.4

Disciplinary Action.—During the nine months ended 30th September, 1949, on account of unsatisfactory sampling records, the licence of one producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk was suspended and that of another was revoked.

Bacteriological Examination of Farm Water Supplies.—Investigation into an outbreak of Typhoid Fever, which occurred at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, in the Autumn of 1948, indicated the possibility of milk supplied to the Hospital having been contaminated at the source by a supplementary water supply which was liable to pollution. It was, therefore, decided to carry out an examination of the water supplies to the premises of producers of Designated Milk and of applicants for Designated Milk licences; and no licence to produce Designated Milk was granted unless the water supply to the premises proved adequate in yield and of a satisfactory bacteriological standard. Those producers whose water supplies were found to be unsatisfactory, either in quantity or quality, were instructed to obtain technical advice with a view to the improvement of their supplies.

Particulars are given in the table below of the results of the bacteriological examination of water samples obtained from such premises during 1949 :—

Designation	Samples	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Doubtful	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Tuberculin Tested	66	22	33.3	29	44.0	15	22.7
Accredited	46	15	32.6	21	45.7	10	21.7
"Qualifying"	95	37	39.0	46	48.4	12	12.6
TOTAL	207	74	35.7	96	46.4	37	17.9

Examination of Milk for Hypochlorite Contamination.—The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1943, permit the use of certain brands of Sodium Hypochlorite solutions for the sterilisation of dairy utensils, and samples of milk from the premises of Designated Producers were examined for possible contamination by these solutions. Producers whose milk was found to be contaminated were visited and advised upon the correct use of the sterilising solutions.

The following table summarises the results of examination of samples taken during the nine months ended 30th September, 1949 :—

Designation	Total Samples	Negative		Positive	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Tuberculin Tested	124	124	100.0	—	—
Accredited ..	59	58	98.3	1	1.7
TOTAL	183	182	99.5	1	0.5

Regulation 55G.—During 1944, restrictions on the sale of milk by retail, other than of certain grades, were imposed by the Ministry of Food, and for this purpose Defence Regulation 55.G came into operation.

Under this Regulation, which was revoked on 30th September, 1949, a bonus was paid by the Ministry of Food for milk which had undergone heat treatment at establishments approved by the Ministry, and the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, co-operated by collecting samples of heat-treated milk from these premises.

Such samples were submitted to a methylene blue test in order to determine the keeping quality of the milk, and to a phosphatase test in order to ascertain whether the milk had been properly heat-treated or had been contaminated by the addition of raw milk after heat-treatment.

The results of examination of samples of milk from the eleven approved establishments in this County are as follows :—

Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
167	153	14	164	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.—On the coming into operation on 1st October, 1949, of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, the County Council ceased to be responsible for the licensing of premises for the production of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited milk, but in those parts of the County for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority (the whole of the County except the Borough of Shrewsbury) they became responsible for the licensing of premises used for the Pasteurisation and Sterilisation of milk, a function which, in so far as it relates to pasteurising establishments, had previously been exercised by District Councils.

Although authorisations issued under Regulation 55G were revoked on 1st October, 1949, the Ministry of Food continued to pay a bonus for heat-treated milk until 31st March, 1950, to enable those who had thus been deprived of their authorisations to comply with the conditions necessary for the issue of a licence under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations.

Sterilised Milk.—No licences for the sterilisation of milk have yet been issued in respect of premises in this County.

Pasteurised Milk.—Licences in respect of eight pasteurising establishments, which were in force on 1st October, 1949, continued to operate until 31st December, 1949, but no new applications for licences were received during that period.

During 1950, licences were issued in respect of ten pasteurising establishments, three of which had previously received authorisations for the heat-treatment of milk from the Ministry of Food under Regulation 55G.

All establishments are visited fortnightly by the Sanitary Officers of the County Council, who check the methods of production and equipment, and obtain samples of milk for routine examination.

Particulars are given in the table below of the results of examination of milk samples obtained during the three months ended 31st December, 1949, and during the year 1950, from pasteurising establishments licensed by the County Council :—

Year	Licensed Establishments at 31st December	Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
*1949	8	61	61	—	57	4
1950	10	262	262	—	258	4

*From 1st October

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

Wherever possible, approval of milk supplied to schools under the Milk in Schools Scheme is restricted to that designated either as "Tuberculin Tested" or "Pasteurised." Should one of these grades not be obtainable, approval is given to an "Accredited" milk ; but in the case of a few schools, where milk even of the "Accredited" standard is unobtainable, an undesignated milk is approved, provided that samples of the milk comply with "Accredited" milk bacteriological standards, and that the premises and methods of production are reasonably satisfactory. These matters are investigated by the County Sanitary Inspector before approval is given, albeit with great reluctance, to the supply of an undesignated milk to school children.

On 5th October, 1949, a census was taken which showed that on that date there were 35,102 pupils in attendance at maintained schools in the County, and that 30,042 or 85.6 per cent. of these pupils received liquid milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme.

On 14th June, 1950, a similar census showed that, of the 36,207 pupils attending maintained schools in the County, 29,693, or 82.0 per cent., were obtaining liquid milk in school under the Milk in Schools Scheme.

The following are particulars of the numbers of School Departments in the County receiving milk and of the grades of milk supplied during 1949 and 1950 :—

<i>Grade of Milk</i>				<i>School Departments</i>	
				1949	1950
Pasteurised	..	..	..	230	240
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	77	80
Accredited	..	..	..	14	7
Undesignated	..	..	..	8	5
TOTAL				329	332

During 1949, dried milk was supplied to pupils at 5 schools, and no school was without a milk supply.

During 1950, dried milk was supplied to 2 schools, and 2 other schools were without any milk supply, either liquid or dried.

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk Supplies.—Samples are obtained for bacteriological examination—as far as possible not less frequently than four times a year—of all school milk supplies, irrespective of whether they are obtained from Designated or Undesignated milk producers ; and the following table summarises the results of the examination of samples taken during 1949 and 1950 :—

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk

Designation	1949					1950				
	Samples	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Samples	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%
Tuberculin Tested	101	75	74.3	26	25.7	144	133	92.4	11	7.6
Pasteurised ..	112	88	78.6	24	21.4	127	120	94.5	7	5.5
Accredited ..	22	14	63.6	8	36.4	18	17	94.4	1	5.6
Undesignated ..	45	28	62.2	17	37.8	35	27	77.1	8	22.9
TOTAL ..	280	205	73.2	75	26.8	324	297	91.7	27	8.3

In addition to the bacteriological examination, School Milk supplies are also sampled for biological investigation under the Food and Drugs Act, and on page 59 particulars are given of the results of the examination of samples obtained during 1949 and 1950.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Tuberculous Milk.—The County Council are responsible for the enforcement of Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which prohibits the sale for human consumption of milk known to have been obtained from cows suffering from tuberculosis.

Samples of Designated and Undesignated milk, retailed directly to the public and supplied in bulk to creameries, are obtained as occasion permits by sampling officers of the County Council for biological examination for tubercle bacilli.

The results of the examination of samples taken during 1949 and 1950 and of cows dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order are summarised in tabular form below :—

Biological Examination of Milk (Public Supplies)

Designation of Milk	1949				1950			
	Samples	Positive	Negative	Cows dealt with	Samples	Positive	Negative	Cows dealt with
Tuberculin Tested	20	2	18	2	105	—	105	—
Accredited ..	341	21	320	17	44	2	42	3
Undesignated ..	139	3	136	—	241	6	235	4
TOTAL ..	500	26	474	19	390	8	382	7

Samples of milk supplied to schools are obtained twice yearly for biological examination for tubercle bacilli, and the following are the results of the examination of samples taken during 1949 and 1950 :—

Biological Examination of Milk (School Supplies)

Designation of Milk	1949				1950			
	Samples	Positive	Negative	Cows dealt with	Samples	Positive	Negative	Cows dealt with
Pasteurised ..	44	—	44	—	70	—	70	—
Tuberculin Tested	85	1	84	1	94	1	93	—
Accredited ..	23	1	22	—	23	2	21	2
Undesignated ..	45	1	44	—	66	—	66	—
TOTAL ..	197	3	194	1	253	3	250	2

Cases reported by other Authorities.—During 1949, complaints in respect of 19 Shropshire herds which had been found to be giving milk containing living tubercle bacilli were received from Medical Officers of Health of neighbouring Counties. The herds were examined on behalf of the County Council by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and 15 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

During 1950, similar complaints in respect of 9 herds were received, and 10 cows were subsequently dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Ice Cream.—Circular M.F.3/49 of the Ministry of Food permitted an increased allocation of sugar and fat to all ice cream manufacturers who signed an undertaking to produce ice cream with a minimum fat content of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and all Food and Drugs Authorities were asked to co-operate with the Ministry by reporting cases where manufacturers in receipt of additional sugar and fat failed to comply with these requirements. There was then no fixed legal standard of composition for ice cream and in such cases legal proceedings were not advised by the Ministry of Food, but the manufacturers concerned forfeited their supplementary supplies of sugar and fat.

During 1949, a total of 26 samples of ice cream were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Council and submitted for chemical analysis, 2 of which were below the prescribed fat content of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

During 1950, a total of 34 such samples were taken and submitted for chemical analysis, one of which was below the prescribed fat content.

The results of all examinations were communicated to the Ministry of Food and to District Medical Officers of Health who are responsible, under Sections 14 and 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the registration and supervision of premises used in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

Note : Circular M.F.1/51 of the Ministry of Food, which prescribes a legal standard for ice cream manufactured for sale to the public, came into force on 1st March, 1951.

Qualitative Sampling of Milk and other Foods.—Under Section 3 of the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938, a person who sells to the prejudice of the public any food or drug which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded, is guilty of an offence ; and under Section 68 of the Act an Authorised Officer of a Food and Drugs Authority may procure samples of food and drugs for analysis, with a view to ensuring that the requirements of Section 3 are complied with.

During 1949, County Council Sampling Officers obtained 1,086 samples (of which 779 were of milk, and 307 were samples of other foods). The results of the examination of these samples are given in the table on page 61 of this report.

In 19 instances, legal proceedings were instituted which resulted in fines being imposed ranging from £1 to £45, and totalling £141 6s. 0d. In addition, the County Council obtained, against the producers concerned, costs totalling £84 10s. 6d.

During 1950, a total of 1,657 samples were obtained (of which 1,083 were samples of milk, and 574 were samples of other foods). The results of the examination of these samples are summarised in the table on page 62 of this report. In 18 instances, legal proceedings were instituted which resulted in fines being imposed ranging from £1 to £10, and totalling £48. In addition, costs totalling £80 14s. 0d. were allowed against the producers concerned.

Analysis of Food and Drug Samples taken in 1949

Description of Samples	Samples Taken				
	Total	Formal		Informal	
		Genuine	Non-Genuine	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	779	524	163	63	29
Cake Flour Mixture	7	4	2	1	—
Custard Powder	4	2	—	2	—
Jam	22	22	—	—	—
Coffee	19	19	—	—	—
Vinegar	5	5	—	—	—
Cooking Compound	18	17	—	1	—
Meat Pie	9	9	—	—	—
Sauce	11	11	—	—	—
Cereals	24	23	1	—	—
Pudding Mixture	13	11	2	—	—
Brandy	4	3	1	—	—
Salad Cream	12	12	—	—	—
Cream of Tartar	2	2	—	—	—
Butter	4	4	—	—	—
Syrup	7	7	—	—	—
Fruit	10	10	—	—	—
Epsom Salts	5	5	—	—	—
Barley Flour	1	—	1	—	—
Pickles	4	4	—	—	—
Cocoa	6	6	—	—	—
Sugar	5	5	—	—	—
Honey	4	4	—	—	—
Cake	4	4	—	—	—
Herbs	8	8	—	—	—
Pepper	2	2	—	—	—
Marmalade	5	4	1	—	—
Glauber Salts	2	1	1	—	—
Cordial	9	9	—	—	—
Ice Cream	29	5	—	24	—
Pastry Mixture	6	6	—	—	—
Lard	7	7	—	—	—
Cheese	4	4	—	—	—
Soup	6	6	—	—	—
Semolina	3	3	—	—	—
Tea	3	3	—	—	—
Sausage	6	6	—	—	—
Fish Paste	3	3	—	—	—
Peas	2	2	—	—	—
Bacon	2	2	—	—	—
Aspirin	1	1	—	—	—
Suet	3	3	—	—	—
Puddings	4	4	—	—	—
Pastry	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	1,086	794	172	91	29

Analysis of Food and Drugs Samples taken in 1950

Description of Samples	Samples Taken				
	Total	Formal		Informal	
		Genuine	Non-Genuine	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	1,083	739	273	34	37
Preserves	37	27	1	9	—
Beverages	34	23	1	9	1
Cake, Pudding & Flour Mixtures	83	37	3	40	3
Ice Cream	34	10	—	24	—
Tinned Meat	31	30	—	1	—
Tinned Fruit	10	10	—	—	—
Tinned Fish	4	4	—	—	—
Spices	9	6	—	3	—
Butter and Fats	27	25	—	2	—
Tinned Vegetables	37	33	3	1	—
Dried Fruit	3	3	—	—	—
Confectionery	7	7	—	—	—
Sausage	26	19	1	6	—
Sauces	23	20	—	3	—
Medicines	16	6	1	9	—
Cheese	12	12	—	—	—
Soups	9	7	—	2	—
Sugar	22	22	—	—	—
Cereals	9	5	1	3	—
Potato Crisps	3	2	—	1	—
Table Salt	4	1	—	3	—
Scotch Whisky	2	1	1	—	—
Saccharin	5	1	—	4	—
Tinned Puddings and Cake	7	6	1	—	—
Flavourings	54	32	—	22	—
Sandwich Spread	13	5	—	8	—
Pickles	10	6	—	4	—
Condensed Milk	2	1	—	1	—
Jelly	6	4	—	2	—
Dried Milk	2	—	—	1	1
Semolina	9	4	—	5	—
Milk Whipping Compound	1	1	—	—	—
Sago	3	1	2	—	—
Rice	3	3	—	—	—
Farinoca	1	1	—	—	—
Macrice	1	—	1	—	—
Guava Curd	1	1	—	—	—
Black Puddings	1	1	—	—	—
Prepared Pea Flour	1	1	—	—	—
Macaroni	2	2	—	—	—
Spaghetti	2	1	—	1	—
Rice Shaped Pearls	1	1	—	—	—
Melvet	1	1	—	—	—
Demi-Semi-Pommel	1	1	—	—	—
Dried Egg	1	1	—	—	—
Seed Pearl Tapioca	2	1	—	1	—
Pom	1	—	—	1	—
Inglis Food	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	1,657	1,126	289	200	42

HOUSING

The administration of the various Housing Acts is the responsibility of the District Councils, the County Council's functions being mainly supervisory.

Housing Act, 1936.—Under Section 88 of this Act, it is a special duty of the County Council to have constant regard to the housing conditions of persons of the working classes within the Rural Districts, and to obtain, through the medium of returns to be supplied at least annually, information regarding conditions of, and progress in, housing in Rural Districts.

Under Section 115 of this Act, it was the duty of the County Council, prior to the 1st January, 1939, to contribute to a Rural District Council £1 per house for a period of 40 years in respect of each new house built to meet the requirements of the agricultural population; but since that date the payments which the County Council are required to make have been modified by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, and the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—This Act amends the law relating to the making of contributions by the Minister of Health and County Councils, and may be cited, together with the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946, as the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1946.

Under this Act the Minister may pay, at his discretion, in respect of each house completed by any Council of a County District, after 31st December, 1939 and before 18th April, 1946, an annual contribution for 40 years of either £5 10s. 0d. or £6 10s. 0d. under Section 1, or £10 for the same period under Section 2; and in the latter event the County Council are obliged, by Section 7 of the Act, to make a contribution of £1 per house for 40 years to the Local Housing Authority.

Note: The Minister may, in exceptional circumstances, increase his contributions under Section 2 from £10 to £12 per annum, in which case the annual payment by the County Council is proportionately increased.

Houses completed after the 18th April, 1946, however, now rank for the payment of increased contributions in accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946; and in special circumstances certain houses, completed before that date but not earlier than 31st December, 1939, may also rank for these increased payments.

Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.—Under this Act, upon application by a Local Housing Authority, the Minister of Health may make, in respect of each house completed after the 18th April, 1946, an annual grant of £16 10s. 0d. for 60 years under Section 2, or of £25 10s. 0d. for a like period under Section 3; and where contributions are paid by the Minister under this latter section, the County Council are required to contribute £1 10s. 0d. per annum to the Local Authority concerned for a like period.

Note: As in the case of the Act of 1938, the Minister may, in exceptional circumstances, increase his contribution by a sum not exceeding £2, when the annual contribution of the County Council is proportionately increased.

Section 10 of the 1946 Act also enables the Minister, in respect of houses completed during the war years, to increase any Exchequer contributions payable by him under the Act of 1938, to the equivalent of contributions payable under Sections 2 and 3 of the Act of 1946. In such cases, the contributions payable by the County Council under the Act of 1938 are then increased from £1 for 40 years to £1 10s. 0d. for 60 years.

Grants paid by the County Council under the Housing Acts, 1936—46

District	1949		1950	
	Houses eligible for Grants	Total Grants paid	Houses eligible for Grants	Total Grants paid
Atcham Rural ..	97	549	121	712
Bridgnorth Rural ..	21	121	28	162
Clun Rural ..	65	598	75	690
Dawley Urban ..	40	103	84	126
Drayton Rural ..	62	444	71	609
Ellesmere Rural ..	74	795	92	901
Ludlow Rural ..	24	132	24	168
Oswestry Rural ..	30	301	44	361
Shifnal Rural ..	16	48	20	78
Wellington Rural ..	58	580	65	660
Wenlock Borough	10	93	10	105
TOTAL ..	497	3,764	634	4,572

WATER SUPPLIES

Formula for Grant purposes.—A formula for the assessment of contributions by the County Council towards the cost of water supply and sewerage schemes submitted by District Councils for grant purposes under Section 2 of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, was adopted by the County Council in November, 1949.

The object of this formula is to secure a measure of equality in the financial burden to be borne by District Councils in respect of Water Supplies and Sewerage Schemes, so that the cost of these services should not be excessively greater in a sparsely populated and financially poor Rural District, as reflected in the rate levies, than in an urban area with its greater rate income and more economic distribution.

The assessment of the County Council grant, which is subject to an over-riding maximum of two-thirds of the net annual deficit in the cost of the service, is arrived at as follows :—

- (a) Half the net annual deficit, after deducting the grant of the Minister of Health, is first ascertained ;
- (b) an adjustment is then made upwards or downwards according to whether the financial resources of the area (measured by the rateable value per head of the population) are below the average for the County ; and then
- (c) an upward adjustment is made in the case of those rural districts whose density of population is below the average for the County, having regard to the relatively un-economic nature of schemes serving a scattered population.

The provisions of the Formula are in no case binding on the County Council, who reserve the right to deal with each case on its merits and to review the amount of any grant from time to time in the light of local circumstances.

Note : The formula does not apply to applications from Borough and Urban Councils under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for grants towards water supply and sewerage schemes, which continue to be dealt with individually on their merits.

Public Health Act, 1936.—The table on page 66 gives particulars of the grants which have been paid or promised by the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It will be noted that up to the end of 1950, the grants which were approved amounted to a possible total of £48,123 towards the capital cost of new schemes, the actual or estimated cost of which amounted to a total of £149,514.

Ludlow Borough.—During 1949, an application for a grant from the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was submitted by the Ludlow Borough Council in respect of a water supply scheme for the high level areas of the Borough, estimated to cost £4,152.

This scheme had originally been submitted for grant purposes under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, but the Minister of Health, in refusing to make an Exchequer grant under that Act, expressed the opinion that the rate burden involved could reasonably be met from local resources. No contribution in respect of this scheme was, therefore, promised by the County Council.

Newport Urban District.—In December, 1950, an application for a grant from the County Council under the Act of 1936 was submitted by the Newport Urban District Council in respect of a scheme for augmenting the existing water supply and reservoir storage facilities for the Urban District, at an estimated cost of £29,400.

Consideration of this scheme was, however, deferred pending an investigation by the County Council's Consultant Water Engineer into the possibilities of a bulk supply of water being afforded by the East Shropshire Water Board.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—Under this Act, a sum of £15,000,000 was placed at the disposal of the Minister of Health to assist Local Authorities in the provision or improvement of water supplies and sewerage facilities in rural areas.

Where, under this Act, the Minister undertakes to make contributions towards the cost of schemes of Local Authorities for the provision of water supplies or sewerage facilities, the County Council are required, by Section 2 of the Act, also to contribute towards the cost.

Particulars of grants in respect of water supply schemes, which were promised by the County Council to District Councils under this Act up to the end of 1950, are given in the table on page 67.

Note : Particulars of water supply schemes in respect of which applications for grants were received from District Councils up to the end of 1950, but upon which the County Council had not then made any decision, are given in the tables on pages 68 and 69.

Public Health Act, 1936
Water Supply Schemes—Grants paid or promised by the County Council

District	Scheme	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Esti- mated Cost	Ministry Grant	Loan		Annual Charges		County Council Grant		
			Houses	Inhab- itants			Author- ised	Period (Yrs.)	Loan	Main- tenance	Basis	Max- imum	Paid to 31 Dec. 50
Atcham R.	Pimhill ..	4/5/35	288	1,152	£ 16,300	£ 2,500	£ 14,820	30	£ —	£ —	50% annual deficit	£ 6,675	£ 2,857
	West Atcham ..	2/5/36	1,876	7,596	75,100	15,000	1,480 57,297	15 30	4,285	700	„	24,000	9,200
Bridgnorth R.	Stottesdon ..	6/11/37	28	100	2,660	250	3,100	30	153	50	Block Grant	250	250
	Kinlet ..	6/11/37	27	100	1,350	150	—	—	48	30	„	150	150
Clun R.	Bucknell ..	27/7/35	72	280	2,915	200	—	25	169	20	50% annual deficit	885	99
	Worthen and Brockton ..	1/5/37	88	350	4,500	400	4,100	30	—	—	„	1,245	539
Drayton R.	Kempton ..	1/2/36	31	110	2,200	250	1,650	30	—	—	Block Grant	300	300
	*Wentnor } Norbury } Myndtown }	4/2/39	50	190	3,500	75	—	30	188	15	15% annual deficit	—	*
Ludlow R.	Woore ..	3/11/34	137	524	4,080	—	3,655 425	30 25	189	378	50% annual deficit	885	377
	Hodnet ..	4/5/35	118	400	3,887 (Actual)	450	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	900	900
Oswestry R.	Ightfield ..	7/11/36	119	468	6,550	75	6,475	30	—	—	50% annual deficit	3,179	993
	Norton-in-Hales ..	24/7/37	67	200	1,970	—	1,505	30	106	127	„	1,656	456
Wellington R.	Clee Hill ..	6/11/37	511	1,930	5,516	—	5,516	30	317	108	33½% annual deficit	1,837	676
	Weston Rhyn ..	2/2/35	—	—	900	150	750	30	58	—	Block Grant	150	150
Wellington R.	Llanymynech ..	2/11/35	93	372	8,500	1,850	—	—	—	—	„	1,850	1,850
	Nantmawr ..	7/11/36	27	108	1,268	—	1,160	30	68	5	50% annual deficit	639	234
Wellington R.	Gronwen ..	7/11/36	10	40	437	—	373	30	23	2	„	225	48
	Llynclys ..	7/11/36	24	96	783	—	746	30	14	5	„	415	130
Wellington R.	Selattyn (Ext'n) ..	7/11/36	1,186	4,744	1,748	—	1,748	30	92	277	„	2,032	609
	Edgmond ..	2/11/35	200	800	5,350	850	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	850	850
					£ 149,514								
											£ 48,123	£ 20,668	

*Scheme postponed

Water Supply Schemes—Grants promised by the County Council (to end of 1950)

Rural District	Scheme	Approved	Scope of Scheme		Estimated Capital Cost	Exchequer Grant Grant	County Council Grant		Total Payments
			Properties	Inhabitants			Maximum	Period payable	
Atcham	West Atcham and Pimhill	May, 47	2,209	11,444	£138,402	£58,000	£3,047	30 years	£—
Bridgnorth	Alveley	June, 50	38	Not known	4,130	600	49	30 years	—
	Claverley	May, 47	243	972	14,040	1,500	187	12 years	355
Clun	Neen Savage	June, 50	84	356	8,330	2,800	181	30 years	—
	Clungunford and Aston-on-Clun	Jan., 47	110	393	16,268	3,500	177	30 years	—
Ludlow	Little Isle and Studley Craven Arms	Sept. 50	27	81	2,641	550	40	30 years	—
		Sept., 50	63	Not known	6,400	600	62	30 years	—
	Coreley	Sept., 50	19	Not known	4,600	850	64	30 years	—
	Clee Hill (Hill Top)	Dec., 50	16	Not known	1,500	650	35	30 years	—

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944

Water Supply Schemes submitted up to the end of 1950, in respect of which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

Authority	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
Atcham R.	East and South-East Atcham	151,000 [£]	For supplying seventeen parishes around Shrewsbury.
	Buildwas	2,740	For the extension of the Harrington water mains from Buildwas Power Station to Buildwas.
Bridgnorth R.	High Level Areas	340,000	For supplying the High Level Areas of the Bridgnorth and Ludlow Rural Districts.
	Low Level Areas	216,000	For the provision of piped water supplies from the Elan Aqueduct to twenty-one parishes in the Bridgnorth Rural District.
	Worfield	13,500	For the extension of the Wolverhampton Corporation's water mains to Worfield.
	Astley Abbots	7,600	For the extension of existing water supplies to the village of Astley Abbots.
	Highley and Alveley	33,000	For the extension of the Kinlet water supply to the villages of Highley and Alveley.
Clun R.	Clun Rural District	162,000	For supplying the greater part of the Clun Rural District.
	Lydham, More and Norbury	23,500	For the provision of piped supplies to the villages of Lydham, More and Norbury from local sources.
	Edgton	9,200	For the provision of a piped supply for Edgton village from a local source.
	Chirbury, Marton and Bentlont	41,250	For the provision of a piped supply for the parishes of Chirbury, Worthen, Shelve and Churchstoke.
Drayton R.	Drayton Rural District	185,000	For the development of existing supplies and the provision of new sources of supply.
	Hodnet, Ightfield and Moreton Saye	44,400	For the improvement and extension of existing piped supplies.
East Shropshire Water Board	Arleston	1,130	For the extension to Arleston House of an existing water supply at Arleston Hill.
	Aston	3,700	For the provision of a piped water supply from the Wrekin High Level reservoir to Aston.
	Chetwynd	18,350	For the provision of piped water supplies for the parish of Chetwynd.

Authority	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
		£	
East Shropshire Water Board (continued)	Long Lane and Bratton	5,044	For the extension of the Wellington Urban District's water mains to the hamlets of Long Lane and Bratton.
	Tibberton	11,600	For the extension of the Wellington Rural District's water mains from Kinnersley to Tibberton.
Ellesmere R.	Ellesmere Rural District	313,250	For the extension of existing supplies in the Oswestry Rural District to practically the whole of the Ellesmere Rural District.
Ludlow R.	Ludlow Rural District	168,700	For supplying practically the whole of the Ludlow Rural District.
	Bitterley	2,500	For the provision of a piped water supply for the village of Bitterley.
	Cleobury Mortimer (East Foreign Ward)	7,300	For supplying the East Foreign Ward with a piped water supply from the Elan Aqueduct.
	Little Stretton and Marshbrook	3,350	For the extension of the existing Church Stretton water supply to Little Stretton and Marshbrook.
	Rushbury	14,600	For the provision of a piped water supply for the parish of Rushbury from a local source.
	South-East Parishes	96,400	For the provision of a piped water supply from the Elan Aqueduct to fifteen parishes in the South-Eastern area of the Rural District.
Oswestry R.	Oswestry Rural District	383,108	For improving and extending existing supplies to the whole of the Rural District.
Wellington R.	Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley	13,750	For connecting the Shifnal Rural District's water mains to augment the supply to the Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley.
	High Ercall	4,000	For supplementing existing supplies at High Ercall by Air Ministry boreholes.
	Kinnersley	4,020	For the extension of water mains at Kinnersley.
Wem R.	Wem Rural District	294,000	For the provision of piped water supplies throughout the whole of the Rural District.
Wellington U.	Horton, Preston and Eyton-on-the-Weald Moors	5,000	For extending the Wellington Rural District's water mains from Lilleshall to the parishes of Preston and Eyton.
Whitchurch U.	Whitchurch Urban District	66,350	For the provision of a new source of supply to replace the existing supply in the Urban District.
	TOTAL	£2,645,342	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Public Health Act, 1936.—The table on page 71 gives particulars of grants, amounting to £21,051 at the end of 1948, which have been paid by the County Council under this Act in respect of schemes, the total capital cost of which was £98,162.

During 1949 and 1950, six applications were received from District Councils for grants from the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act; particulars of the schemes in question and of the grants promised are given in the following table :—

District	Description of Scheme	Estimated Cost	County Council Grant	
			Basis	Amount promised
Bridgnorth M.B.	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities in Bridgnorth and the provision of new sewage disposal works.	£62,000	20% of cost	£12,400
Dawley U. ..	For the provision of new sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in Dawley.	76,650	30% of cost	22,995
Newport U. ..	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities in Newport.	41,000	15% of cost	6,150
Oakengates U. ..	Priority portions of a comprehensive scheme for the re-sewering of the Urban District and the construction of new sewage disposal works.	41,000	—	Under consideration
Wem U.	For the extension and improvement of existing sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in Wem.	11,700	—	Under consideration
Whitchurch U. . .	For the extension and improvement of existing sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in Whitchurch.	41,200	—	Nil

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—Particulars are given in the table on page 72 of sewage disposal schemes, submitted for grant purposes under this Act by District Councils, upon which the County Council, at the end of 1950, had not made any decision in the matter of grant.

By the end of 1950, grants under this Act had been promised by the County Council in respect of three sewage disposal schemes, particulars of which are contained in the following table :—

Rural District	Scheme	Scope of Scheme		Estimated Capital Cost	Exchequer Grant	County Council Grant		
		Properties	Inhabitants			Annual Maximum	Period (years)	Paid to 31/12/50
Atcham ..	Cross Houses	123	580	£17,590	£8,750	£393	30	£—
Drayton ..	Hodnet ..	124	1,521	14,220	2,400	152	30	—
Ludlow ..	Cleobury Mortimer	285	1,140	32,000	14,000	288	30	288

Public Health Act, 1936

Sewerage Schemes—Grants paid by the County Council (to end of 1950)

District	Scheme	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Capital Cost	Loan		Annual Charges		County Council Grant		
			Houses	Inhab- itants		Author- ised	Period (years)	Loan	Main- tenance	Basis	Maxi- mum amount [†] prom- ised	Total amount paid
Wenlock B.	Broseley	4/2/39	540	2,200	£ 8,800	£ 8,800	30	£ 485	£ 200	15% Cost	£ 1,320	£ 1,320
Shifnal R.	Albrighton	4/11/44	783	2,800	13,077	10,805 669 154	30	641	120	25% ..	3,269	3,269
							15 10					
Wellington R.	Ketley and Lawley	2/5/36	796	650	31,975	22,398	30	659	300	25% ..	8,000	8,000
	Donnington and Muxton	4/2/39	388	1,552	18,460	600 17,204 666	60	1,028	100	20% ..	3,692	3,692
							30 15					
	Donnington and Muxton (Extension)	28/10/39	—	—	9,000*	—	—	—	—	20% ..	1,400	1,400
	Ditto	29/5/43	—	—	16,850	14,625 2,225	30 20	919	100	20% ..	3,370	3,370
					£98,162						£21,051	£21,051

* An amount of £2,000 was contributed by the War Department towards the cost of this Scheme, thus reducing the capital cost to £7,000

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944

Sewerage Schemes submitted by District Councils up to the end of 1950, in respect of which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
Atcham R. ..	Bayston Hill ..	£46,490	For the re-sewering of the village of Bayston Hill.
Clun R. ..	Aston-on-Clun ..	15,500	For providing sewage disposal facilities in an area as yet unsewered.
	Clun Village ..	18,800	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Ludlow R. ..	Clee Hill ..	15,800	For the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in the village of Clee Hill and the hamlets of Titrail and Knowle.
	Ashford Carbonell	11,700	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities in an area as yet unsewered.
	Munslow ..	5,500	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities in an area as yet unsewered.
Oswestry R. ..	Weston Rhyn ..	32,776	For the improvement of existing facilities and the provision of new sewage disposal works in conjunction with Ceiriog Rural District Council.
	Morda ..	32,050	For the improvement of existing facilities.
Shifnal R. ..	Beckbury ..	8,320	For the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal facilities for the village of Beckbury.
	Shifnal ..	28,000	For the improvement of existing facilities and the construction of new sewage disposal works.
Wellington R. ..	High Ercall ..	10,710	For the improvement and extension of existing facilities and purchase of Air Ministry sewage disposal works.
	Edgmond ..	55,760	For the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal facilities for the village of Edgmond.
Church Stretton U.	All Stretton ..	18,950	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities and the provision of new sewage disposal works.
Wem R. ..	Prees ..	23,000	For the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal facilities for the district of Prees.
Wenlock B. ..	Madeley ..	19,365	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities in an area as yet unsewered.
	TOTAL ..	£342,721	

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE IN EAST SHROPSHIRE

Within recent years there have been several instances of serious flooding in industrial areas in the eastern portion of the County, occasioned by the collapse or blocking of culverts carrying streams under pitmounds or spoilbanks.

The problem of surface water drainage in East Shropshire first became apparent in 1931 in relation to the Madeley culvert, the history of which is as follows :—

All surface and subsoil waters from the agricultural land in the southern portion of the Dawley Urban District and the whole of the parish of Madeley in the Borough of Wenlock, together with the final effluents of the Dawley and Madeley sewage disposal works, are conveyed by means of an unnamed stream, which also receives the overflow water from an adjacent disused portion of the Shropshire Union Canal. This stream flows for a distance of over one and a half miles to a point where it enters a culvert, some two-thirds of a mile in length, through which it passes before discharging into the River Severn. Over practically the whole length of its course the culvert is covered by an immense amount of waste material, deposited in successive layers from local mineworkings and varying in depth from 40 to 80 feet.

In 1931 this culvert collapsed, due to the weight of the overlying spoil material, and this resulted in very serious flooding in the Madeley area (population 8,121), the flood water covering some 20 to 30 acres of agricultural land, including the site of the present Madeley sewage disposal works. In order to facilitate repair work to the culvert and to deal with the flow of the stream and flood water, the Wenlock Borough Council were compelled to pump the flood water into the adjacent disused portion of the Shropshire Union Canal.

Part of this repair work was undertaken by the owners of the culvert, a local firm of tile manufacturers, who later requested the Wenlock Borough Council to meet the cost of the work which they had carried out. The Borough Council refused to accept responsibility, and as a result were sued in the Chancery Court, where it was ruled upon the evidence submitted that this culvert was a sewer and was therefore vested in the Local Authority. As a result of this decision the Wenlock Borough Council lodged an appeal which was heard before five Judges in the Appeal Court, who decided that the culvert was not a sewer, thus reversing the decision of the Chancery Court. This decision was later upheld by the House of Lords, and the then owners of the culvert, being unable to meet their liabilities, went into liquidation, with the result that it reverted to the Crown, who, under a provision of the Companies Act, 1947, succeeded in disclaiming responsibility for the culvert.

There is, therefore, at the present time the anomalous position that no one appears to be legally responsible for the culvert.

With a view to considering the formulation of remedial measures, and in order to assist the County Council in assessing the magnitude of the problem in East Shropshire, the County Surveyor in April, 1950, compiled a comprehensive report describing twenty-one culverted areas, in thirteen of which a major emergency would result in the event of the culvert collapsing or being obstructed with debris. In May, 1950, the County Council therefore decided :—

- (a) that the whole question be submitted to the County Councils Association with a view to representations being made to His Majesty's Government for the matter to be dealt with by legislation providing for adequate Exchequer aid ;

- (b) that the attention of District Councils be drawn to the need for water courses to be examined by their staff with a view to requiring the landowners concerned to carry out such remedial measures as might be necessary ;
- (c) that District Councils be urged to formulate, in conjunction with technical officers of the County Council, measures for dealing with any emergency which might arise in this connection ;
- (d) that a special Sub-Committee of the County Council be formed to confer with the various District Councils concerned in East Shropshire ; and
- (e) that the District Councils be urged to raise the matter with the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Urban District Councils Association and the Rural District Councils Association, upon the same lines as the representations submitted to the County Councils Association.

In July, 1950, the Sub-Committee of the County Council, referred to in (d) above, conferred with representatives of the various Local Authorities in East Shropshire, and a policy based upon the decisions of the County Council was agreed.

Representations were subsequently made by the County Council to the County Councils Association, who decided that consideration of the matter be deferred pending an approach by the other Associations of Local Authorities with regard to this problem ; and a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee of the County Councils Association was formed to discuss the matter with the other Associations concerned.

SAMPLING OF EFFLUENTS FROM SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS AND WATER COURSES IN THE COUNTY

During the year 1950, a total of 30 sewage disposal works in the County were inspected by the County Sanitary Inspector, who was accompanied on each occasion by the responsible official of the Local Authority concerned, and the results of the examination by the County Analyst of sewage effluents obtained in the course of these visits are given in the table on page 75 of this report.

In those instances where the final effluents proved unsatisfactory the Local Authority were advised, and re-inspections were made to ensure that any necessary work had been carried out. In the cases of Newport, Oakengates, Morda, Beckbury, Shifnal, Wem and Whitchurch, where the present arrangements for the treatment of the sewage are very inadequate, schemes for new sewage disposal works have already been submitted to and approved by the County Council.

The results of the County Analyst's examination of all samples were also notified to the Clerk of the Severn or Dee River Boards, according to the location of the sewage disposal works.

The Severn River Board, within whose area of jurisdiction the major portion of the County is situated, hope to establish by 1951 a laboratory of their own for the examination of sewage samples, and as the Board will then commence a comprehensive survey of rivers within their area, which will include the sampling of all sewage and trade effluents, it will be unnecessary for routine sewage samples to be obtained by County Council Sampling Officers. The Severn River Board have, however, agreed to supply the County Medical Officer of Health with copies of the analytical reports on all river water, trade and sewage effluents obtained by their Sampling Officers.

District	Location of Sewage Works	Date of Sampling	Results of Analysis			Observations of County Analyst
			Stream above outfall	Sewage Effluent	Stream below outfall	
Bridgnorth R.	Alveley	30 Aug., 50	—	Unsatis.	—	Further purification necessary.
	Daneford Heath	"	—	Fairly Satis.	—	Improvement desirable.
	Hilton	"	—	Unsatis.	—	Further purification necessary.
	Highley	23 Nov., 50	—	Doubtful	—	Suspended solids high. Improvement desirable.
	Morville	"	—	Unsatis.	—	Further treatment necessary.
Church Stretton U.	Church Stretton	12 Aug., 50	Satis.	Satis.	Doubtful	Final effluent not quite up to standard.
	"	22 Nov., 50	Doubtful	Doubtful	Satis.	Final effluent has little effect on the brook water.
	Hodnet	24 May, 50	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Further treatment necessary.
	"	24 Nov., 50	—	Satis.	—	—
Drayton R.	Woore	16 June, 50	—	Unsatis.	—	Further treatment necessary.
	"	24 Nov., 50	—	Satis.	—	—
	Norton-in-Hales	"	—	Doubtful	—	Suspended matter is high, otherwise satisfactory.
	Tenbury	14 June, 50	—	Unsatis.	—	Further treatment necessary.
Newport U.	Newport	8 June, 50	Unsatis.	Doubtful	Unsatis.	Further purification necessary.
	Oakengates	21 April, 50	—	Satis.	—	—
	"	24 Nov., 50	—	Unsatis.	Unsatis.	Effluent unsatisfactory. Further treatment necessary.
Oswestry R.	"	"	—	Unsatis.	—	—
	"	"	—	Unsatis.	—	—
	St. Martin's	14 June, 50	Satis.	Satis.	Satis.	—
	Weston Rhyn	"	—	Satis.	—	—
	Park Hall	"	—	Satis.	—	Suspended solids rather high.
Shifnal R.	Gobowen	"	—	Satis.	—	—
	Morda	16 June, 50	—	Unsatis.	—	Further treatment necessary.
	"	"	—	Unsatis.	—	—
	Llanymynech	17 July, 50	Unsatis.	Unsatis.	Unsatis.	Very unsatisfactory effluent.
	Morda Institution	"	Satis.	Satis.	Satis.	—
Shifnal R.	Beckbury	2 May, 50	Satis.	Unsatis.	Unsatis.	Final effluent fairly satisfactory.
	Albrighton	"	Unsatis.	Fairly Satis.	Unsatis.	—
	Shifnal	19 May, 50	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Improvement necessary.
	"	20 July, 50	Satis.	Unsatis.	Doubtful	Unsatisfactory effluent. Further treatment necessary.
	"	9 Oct., 50	Satis.	Unsatis.	Unsatis.	—
Wenlock M.B.	Much Wenlock	28 June, 50	—	Satis.	—	—
	Broseley	"	—	Satis.	—	—
	Madeley	21 July, 50	—	Satis.	—	—
	Madeley (Hill Top)	12 Aug., 50	—	Satis.	—	—
Wem R.	Prees	24 May, 50	—	Satis.	—	Dilution too small to cause nuisance.
Wem U.	Wem	24 May, 50	—	Doubtful	—	Effluent not sufficiently purified.
	"	30 Aug., 50	Satis.	Unsatis.	Doubtful	Further purification necessary.
	Whitchurch	26 July, 50	Satis.	—	Unsatis.	—
Whitchurch U.	"	"	Satis.	—	Unsatis.	—
	"	"	—	—	Doubtful	—
	"	19 Dec., 50	Satis.	Unsatis.	Unsatis.	Further treatment necessary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY

In accordance with the decision of the Public Health and Housing Committee in December, 1943, that fuller information regarding the sanitary circumstances in the various County Districts, and in the County as a whole, should be made available to them, the District Medical Officers of Health are requested annually to complete questionnaires relating to Water Supplies, Sewerage and Housing. The information supplied by the District Medical Officers of Health relative to the years 1949 and 1950 has been summarised in tabular form below and on page 77.

Water and Sewage—Summary of Answers to Questionnaires

Medical Officer and District	Houses in District		Water Supplies		Sewage Disposal	
			Piped and Stand Pipe Supplies		Connected to Public Sewers	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
Dr. Dickson.						
Bridgnorth Borough	1,834	1,880	1,824	1,873	1,750	1,796
Bridgnorth Rural	3,573	—	975	—	501	—
Dr. Evans.						
Oswestry Borough	3,088	3,116	3,088	3,116	2,986	2,986
Ellesmere Urban	669	692	661	692	653	680
Wem Urban	720	744	716	740	686	710
Whitchurch Urban	1,960	1,988	1,860	1,889	1,848	1,882
Ellesmere Rural	1,876	1,904	377	407	NIL	26
Oswestry Rural	4,645	4,682	2,521	2,561	1,366	1,386
Wem Rural	2,984	3,110	221	221	NIL	NIL
Dr. Gregory.						
Bishop's Castle Borough	416	417	384	385	374	375
Ludlow Borough	1,715	1,742	1,715	*1,741	1,670	1,698
Wenlock Borough	4,543	4,552	*3,570	*3,650	*2,212	2,292
Church Stretton Urban	791	795	533	550	576	581
Atcham Rural	5,632	5,847	1,671	1,770	*832	*900
Clun Rural	2,964	2,970	1,484	1,490	†	†
Ludlow Rural	4,027	4,056	2,131	2,166	*535	*564
Dr. Stewart.						
Dawley Urban	2,386	2,418	†	†	*902	*934
Market Drayton Urban	1,591	1,619	1,588	1,704	1,420	1,448
Newport Urban	1,052	1,055	1,050	1,055	1,029	1,032
Oakengates Urban	3,254	3,331	3,254	3,331	2,663	2,750
Wellington Urban	3,039	3,104	3,022	3,104	3,000	3,065
Drayton Rural	2,414	2,469	811	853	192	236
Shifnal Rural	2,680	2,941	2,097	2,212	1,567	1,646
Wellington Rural	5,993	6,048	4,104	4,212	3,115	3,212
Dr. Symons.						
Shrewsbury Borough	12,154	—	*11,997	—	11,696	—

— Figures not received.

* Approximate figures.

† Figures not available.

Housing—Summary of Answers to Questionnaires

Medical Officer and District	Popu- lation (1931) Census)	Houses in District		Fit		In need of Minor Repairs		For Reconditioning		For Demolition		For Replacement		Erected during	
		1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
Dr. Dickson. Bridgnorth B. . . Bridgnorth R. . .	5,295 12,616	1,834 3,573	1,880 —	1,504 1,594	1,550 —	† 969	† —	54 722	54 —	276 288	276 —	\$400 350	\$400 —	35 92	46 —
Dr. Evans. Oswestry B. . . Ellesmere U. . . Wem U. . . Whitchurch U. . . Ellesmere R. . . Oswestry R. . . Wem R. . .	9,961 1,872 2,255 6,174 6,684 16,569 10,273	3,088 669 720 1,960 1,876 4,645 2,984	3,116 692 744 1,988 1,904 4,682 3,110	2,320 287 464 \$977 \$790 \$2,205 \$1,044	2,366 383 557 \$1,005 \$947 2,295 1,234	\$350 \$237 115 \$600 \$498 \$1,736 712	\$350 \$239 112 \$600 \$487 \$1,736 1,307	\$150 30 25 \$150 \$320 207 493	\$150 30 25 \$150 \$320 207 493	\$250 40 50 \$200 \$150 444 76	\$250 40 50 \$200 \$150 444 76	\$300 47 76 \$233 \$199 \$473 139	\$300 49 76 \$233 \$164 \$473 139	11 19 10 12 26 71 39	28 31 24 28 28 37 126
Dr. Gregory. Bishop's Castle B. Ludlow B. . . Wenlock B. . . Church Stretton U. Atcham R. . . Clun R. . . Ludlow R. . .	1,352 5,823 14,149 2,398 19,576 10,673 14,511	416 1,715 4,543 791 5,632 2,964 4,027	417 1,742 4,552 795 5,847 2,970 4,056	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * 380	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * 300	* * * * * * *	17 77 41 42 72 37 34	1 26 80 17 99 6 31
Dr. Stewart. Dawley U. . . Market Drayton U. Newport U. . . Oakengates U. . . Wellington U. . . Drayton R. . . Shifnal R. . . Wellington R. . .	7,669 4,749 3,437 11,249 8,550 7,888 7,583 16,118	2,386 1,591 1,052 3,254 3,039 2,414 2,680 5,993	2,418 1,619 1,055 3,331 3,104 2,469 2,941 6,048	1,368 1,030 785 1,730 \$1,996 326 1,119 †	* 1,058 806 1,825 2,061 508 1,269 3,531	† 380 \$46 245 \$372 914 651 †	* 372 \$33 240 372 949 716 942	* 106 87 566 456 802 737 880	* 106 87 566 456 802 737 880	\$661 83 \$132 700 \$215 326 213 \$200	\$661 83 \$132 700 \$215 326 213 \$200	\$937 200 \$140 977 \$315 211 186 700	\$937 200 \$140 977 \$315 211 186 700	37 20 24 80 108 8 13 73	32 28 2 77 68 54 44 56
Dr. Symons. Shrewsbury B. . .	36,732	12,154	—	†	—	†	—	†	—	\$850	—	†	—	79	—

— Figures not received

\$ Estimated figures

† Figures not available

* Figures not available until completion of Housing Surveys

† Includes permanent and temporary houses

∅ Includes minor repairs

