

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Stroud (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

Stroud (Gloucestershire, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jyr4u7tw>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

STROUD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

REGINALD GREEN, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H.

1938

STROUD:

Printed by the Stroud News Publishing Co., Ltd.,
George Street.



STROUD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	37,152
Poulation (1931)	27,380
Population (1938)	21,560
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931)	7,730
Number of Inhabited Houses (1938)	7,610
Number of separate families (1931)	7,797
Rateable value	£89,041
Sum represented by a penny rate	£347

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.
Births, Legitimate	282	154	128
Births, Illegitimate	12	7	5
Birth rate, 13.6 per 1,000,			
Still Births, 10.			
Rate per 1,000, 34.			
Deaths	305	145	160
Death rate, 13.6 per 1,000.			
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth:—			
From sepsis			0
From other causes			3
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—			
Legitimate, 46. Illegitimate, 166.			
Total, 51.			
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			1

The area of the district is now 37,142 acres, but before the Government Order came into force it was 37,223 acres, there being 71 acres taken from the Rural and added to the Stroud Urban District. The population at the census of 1931 was 27,380, and is this year estimated at 21,560 persons.

The number of inhabited houses was, at the end of the year, 7,610—or an increase of 188 in the current twelve months.

The population at the middle of the year was 21,560 persons, which compares with 21,460 in 1937. In 1937 the estimate was down 400 from the previous year. The estimates are, of course, supplied by the Registrar-General, and take into consideration new-comers, number of births and deaths, leavers, and the amount of gain or loss of population per annum in the 10 years 1921—31.

In 1931 the average persons per house was 3.5, and if we take the number of 7,610 houses in the area, there should be a population of 26,350 persons in the current year. Apparently the number of persons per house must be considerably less than that quoted.

The rateable value of the district is returned at £89,041—about £1,000 more than in 1937. A penny rate brings in £347, whereas in 1937 the amount was £338.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1876—80	29.9	18.0	136
1881—5	28.9	16.6	110
1886—90	27.8	15.8	103
1891—95	25.2	15.2	110
1896—1900	22.7	14.5	96
1901—5	20.2	13.0	80
1906—10	18.9	13.3	67
1911—15	17.0	13.8	71
1916—20	15.4	13.1	60
1921—5	15.3	12.0	50
1925—1930	13.6	13.2	50
1931—1935	12.0	13.9	42
1936	14.5	15.5	48
1937	14.2	15.3	36
1938	13.6	13.6	51

The number of births actually registered in the district were 239, and of these 129 were males and 110 females. There were 5 illegitimate births certified. This number is about the average, which for the last 18 years was 5 per annum. In 1922 there were 12 babies not born in wedlock, in 1920 there were 8, and all the rest were less in number. During the 18 years, illegitimate births occurred in every parish, these are the chief ones: Painswick 19, Bisley 15, Minchinhampton 13, Rodborough 8, and Chalford 7.

Horsley and Cranham, both small rural parishes, had 6 illegitimate births each, whereas in Leonard Stanley, Woodchester and Randwick 1 child only was illegitimate during this period. In the 5 year period, 1923—27, there was an average of 3.6 such births, in 1928—32 it was 5, in the 1933—37 it was 4.4.

In 1937 the nett birth rate was 14.2 per 1,000 population, and for the last 5 years it averaged 12.8.

The birth rate was well over 26 per 1,000 from 1876 to 1900, and from the former year it has fallen steadily to the present time.

The birth rate for the year was 13.6 per 1,000, and this compares with the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.1 per 1,000.

The nett births were 294, many more than the number occurring in this area.

In the same way that the death rate is lowered in calculating a standard death rate, because of an older population, who die at a greater rate than young people, one cannot see why a standard birth rate should not be calculated, for districts with an old population, most of whom are past the child bearing epoch. In the parishes there were registered 38 births in Minchinhampton, 29 in Chalford, 25 in Painswick, 22 in Stonehouse, and 21 in Bisley.

In Cranham, a very small parish, there was 1 birth, and in Pitchcombe and Randwick 2 each.

Miserden, with its small population, had 6 births registered in it.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

There were registered in the area 305 deaths, of which 145 were males and 160 females.

About one-third of the total deaths were certified in the first quarter, which is nearly always the one that heads the list. This is no doubt due to inclement weather, when sick people, who have to go out to follow their employment, would in many instances be better in bed.

As usual the second highest number of deaths was in the fourth quarter, the other two quarters having quite a low mortality.

The annual death rate was 13.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 14.8 in 1937, and a five year average of 14.0 per 1,000. The death rate has fallen steadily from 1876, but recently it has risen again, which is probably coincidental.

The death rate in England and Wales was 11.6 per 1,000.

At age periods 15 deaths were certified at ages under one year, 5 at 1—15 years, 27 at ages 15—45 years, 56 at 45—65 years, and no less than 192 at ages over 65.

Causes of death: One death was due to whooping cough, a child aged 1 to 2 years. Only 6 deaths were attributed to influenza, all at ages over 45 years, but in 1937 there were 11. In both years many more women died than men. Apoplexy caused 23 deaths, an average number. There were 99 deaths from heart diseases, compared with 103 last year, but diseases of circulation were less fatal than in 1937, these being 17 as to 25. There were 42 deaths from cancer, the number in 1937 being 43.

Fourteen deaths were caused by respiratory diseases, including 9 from pneumonia.

Nephritis caused 12 deaths and disease of the circulation 24. No deaths were caused by puerperal sepsis, but there were 2 from other puerperal diseases. Twelve deaths were certified from injuries, 9 being at ages over 45 years, and several being due to road travel.

Suicide was the cause of 4 deaths, all males.

Twelve non-residents died in the district, most of them from a sanatorium, and 109 deaths of residents occurred, chiefly in the infirmary and general hospital in Stroud.

INFANT MORTALITY

Fifteen infant deaths were certified during the year, 10 being males and 5 females.

The infant death rate worked out at 51 per 1,000 live births, the male rate being 62 and the female rate 37 per 1,000. The rate compares with a rate of 36 in 1937, and a five year average of 37 per 1,000. The infant death rate has fallen steadily, together with other mortality rates since the century opened, from about 100 to 36 in 1937. It has fallen at a greater rate than the general death rate, and more has been done to aid this decline, in infant visiting by nurses, and the provision in practically every village of infant welfare centres. Two deaths of illegitimate births occurred, a rate of 166 per 1,000 live births.

The rate has fallen at a similar rate in practically all the districts in the Kingdom, and the same factors have been at work.

The infant death rate in England and Wales was 53 per 1,000, another testimonial of the good work performed by its councils, and women voluntary workers in the field of "hygea."

No less than 12 infants died from 3 diseases, 4 from congenital debility, 5 from premature birth, and 3 from pneumonia. This latter disease should not be so deadly, if more care were taken by parents to see that their infants did not pick up colds from other members of the family, and that, if they started with the catarrh, they should have prompt and efficient treatment. In these days of serum treatment it seems a pity that so many should die of pneumonia.

One infant died from what proved to be tubercle of the peritoneal cavity. As the only possible cause of this disease seemed to be milk infection, the County Authorities took up the case, had the cows examined, and their milk tested biologically. The results were negative.

INFANT MORTALITY

Five of the infants died at ages under one week, being caused by premature birth and congenital weakness

At ages under one month, 8 deaths occurred, 7 being at ages 1—12 months.

Two illegitimate infants died, the death rate being 166 per 1,000, the rate in 1937 was 100 per 1,000 live births. The death rate for legitimate infants was 46.

There were 10 still births registered, all legitimate, this comparing with 13 in 1937.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

	Children	Attendances	Meetings	Average Attendance
Rodborough	103	1005	25	40
Stroud	287	3526	48	73
Amberley	24	449	37	14
Nailsworth	130	793	20	39
Bisley	23	298	22	13
Eastcombe	17	199	19	11
Brimscombe	50	1197	42	28
Chalford	45	899	45	20
Stonchouse	77	1060	23	46
Minchin- hampton	42	563	25	22
Painswick	109	705	20	43
Miserden	36	280	23	12

Twelve welfare centres are now running regularly in the area, including one in Stroud and one in Nailsworth. Both these 2 latter centres take a considerable number of babies from parts of the Rural district infringing on their borders, from Whiteshill and probably from Thrupp, in one case, in the other from Horsley and possibly Woodchester. There are on the registers of these

centres the names of 783 children, all of whom are either babies, or pre-school toddlers. The attendances made by these children number 10,960, there were 351 meetings, and the average attendance was 31 at each gathering.

The attendances varied from 73 in Stroud, 46 in Stonehouse, 43 in Painswick, and 40 in Rodborough.

The usual lectures, demonstrations, and competitions were held at all the meetings.

Again very few pre-natal cases came along to the meetings.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Officer of Health, R. Green, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H. He holds the combined post of M.O.H. to the three Mid-Gloucester areas, Assistant School M.O. to the same districts, and M.O. to the Joint Isolation and Small Pox Hospitals, situate at Cashes Green, and the latter in Bisley parish.

One head Sanitary Inspector, D. Whittaker, A.R.S.I (including meat diploma) and one Assistant, not certified at the year end.

Laboratory arrangements as before, both chemical and bacterial. A new joint committee now runs the local ambulance, which is manned by St. John's Ambulance men. A new ambulance has been purchased.

In addition there is the motor ambulance at the Isolation Hospital, which is now being replaced by a modern one. This one is used only for infectious cases, this including cases of tuberculosis moved into the hospital and also cases moved to and from Standish House Sanatorium. Home nursing is carried out by the Nursing Associations, but is not residential. Treatment centres are at the General Hospital, and are financed by the County.

There is now only one General Hospital in the combined districts, the Stroud General.

The Public Assistance infirmary is at present being demolished, as out of date, and it is to be supplanted by a new one in the not too distant future. The institution is in the same position, and would be residents from these areas have to travel many miles to reach one.

The only Nursing Home in this district is at present being overhauled. Many of the working people now are treated in the General Hospital, as they are paying so well for its upkeep.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

Chalford Water Supply (June 4)

Parts per 100,000

	A	B	C
Dissolved Solids... ..	27.8	25	21.7
Combined Chlorine ...	1.3	1.3	1.4
Nitrates	0.124	0.116	0.92
Hardness	26	22	19
Microbes, agar 22 dg.	3	70	14
Microbes, agar 37 dg.	1	2	14
B. Coli (absent in)...	100	75	75
	c.c.'s	c.c.'s	c.c.'s

A Sump; B Reservoir; C Painswick.

The rainfall taken in Stroud was 23.7 inches, practically 6 inches less than that of 1937. This year less than 5 inches fell in the first half, leaving 18 for the second part. In 1937 about two-thirds of the rain fell in the first 6 months, and the remainder in the second half. The rainfall being good there was little shortage in the district, the supply from the Company mains remained very good.

Owing to the fact that the Company was supplying about 40 million gallons to the Urban area, throughout the year, it was considered advisable to put into use one of the original Chalford springs, near the railway station. Bacterial testing was carried out monthly, from June, and 21 samples were examined for microbic count. B. Coli was absent on average in .87 c.c.'s, the

average growth at 22 degrees was 23 total microbes, and at 37 per cent. only 3 per 1 c.c. water. In nearly all the samples from the springs, and from the reservoir on the Common, the samples showed the absence of B. Coli in 100 c.c.'s water. It would be difficult to find better results, and not at all necessary to have a chemical analysis in 99 cases out of 100. As before stated the Ministry of Health do not favour chemical analysis, if microbic ones can be secured.

The Council are wishful to purchase the water undertaking, and are at present promoting a Bill in Parliament to that end.

Following up the plan whereby the County Council provides analysis of water at a considerably lower rate than paid formerly, the Council has consented to take many more samples each year.

During the year there were taken, and sent for microbic count, 31 samples, under this arrangement. These were all taken from springs which were used by the public, some by a considerable number of folks. About half of the samples showed too high a growth at 22 deg. F, whilst at 37 deg. 16 showed 2 microbes or less, and 20 less than 20 microbes.

B. Coli was absent in 8 samples in 1/10 c.c. or less of water, and in 5 c.c.'s in 20 specimens. At the other extremity, 9 samples showed absence of B. Coli in 100 c.c.'s of water, which means practically absence.

It might be taken in a general way that samples containing more than 100 total microbes, are not above suspicion, and that the absence of B. Coli in less than 20 c.c.'s water is also a danger sign. No less than 20 of the samples showed B. Coli absent in 5 c.c.'s water or less, there being 8 with absence in 0.1 c.c. water. There is only one known source of B. Coli and that is the animal intestine. This may come from sewage pollution, or from the droppings of domestic animals on fields, this including the manuring of fields and gardens. All water supplies are rain, which usually has filtered through the ground, and come out as a spring, or as a well.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The new drainage scheme is still going on, although rather slowly. The Urban District Council have dropped out of it, but whether they will join eventually it is difficult to say. Nailsworth district is still associated in this drainage arrangement.

The sewage works are still in the same condition as last year, the main works having little action on the crude sewage, which enters the streams practically unchanged. The Painswick works are still in working order, and the new ones at Minchinhampton are going on well.

The old sewer in Minchinhampton has been relaid, and most of the houses are now connected to it.

Apart from that no new sewers have been laid, but plans for a general new system are being completed.

Twenty improved earth closets were constructed in place of privies, in undrained areas.

There were 32 w.c.'s put in to replace earth closets and privies, 222 drains were tested. In the whole district 7 parishes are sewered, and most of the houses are connected to them. In the rest, most of which are rather small parishes, there is no communal drainage, but a number of houses are drained into cesspools or septic tanks.

Refuse collection was carried out successfully during the year, the only complaints received being during heavy snow, at Chalford, when the roads were blocked, and the refuse tips snowed up.

The Council have now purchased a cesspool or gully emptier, which is proving very useful for houses not connected to the sewer.

A charge is made for the operation, but this is reduced, if the resident pays a sewer rate. In the 3 months it was in use, 26 cesspools were emptied by it.

The privies and w.c.'s are still fairly equal in number.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

	On Register	Insp.
Slaughter Houses	15	444
Bakehouses	16	38
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	209	409
Canal Boats	0	0
Workshops	109	17
General Complaints Received		32
Nuisances reported to Council		32
Nuisances Abated		32
Preliminary Notices Served ..		109
Statutory Notices Served.. ..		14
Summonses Taken Out		1
Convictions		1
Houses Disinfected		72

There were 3,758 sanitary visits paid.

The complaints received from the public were 32, and that number was reported to the Council, all being abated after action of officials.

No less than 109 preliminary notices, and 14 statutory notices were served.

One summons was taken out in regard to an old man who lived in a filthy hutch down by a stream. The man, who had been a local resident all his life, was ordered to clear out within 6 months. It is doubtful now whether he has departed from his grubby abode.

Shop Act, 1934

There were inspected 165 shops and offices. Under the above Act action was taken in 20 establishments in regard to ventilation and sanitary conveniences. No action was taken in any of these cases under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites

In accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936, all such sites were inspected, and licensed, where considered suitable. Nineteen visits were paid, and 16 sites licensed. One summons was issued and the offender ordered to leave.

The number of campers in the area was variable, but there were never very many.

Smoke Abatement

There were no complaints of nuisance and no observations were made.

Bug Eradication

One Council house, and 2 private dwellings, were found to be infested with bugs.

All these houses were sprayed with Zaldecide solution, and apparently the nuisance was abated. Bedding and mattresses if infested were burned. This work was carried out by the Inspectors.

Nothing is done to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free before moving into a Council house.

Advice is given to tenants by Inspectors in regard to keeping down bug infestation.

Swimming Pools

There are 2 swimming pools in the district, both privately owned. One is fed by deep springs, and the other by a woodland stream. The larger one was offered for sale to the Council, but was not purchased. They both are in ideal situations and are kept in excellent order. The money taken from the smaller one is given to charity. They are well looked after and are fed by pure water. No samples have been so far taken from them.

One heats the water, but the other does not do so. The bath in the canal basin at Brimscombe has not been developed any further.

SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS

There is no change in the drainage conditions of the elementary schools, 8 being on the sewer, and most of the others drain into cesspools.

The most common infectious disease in the schools was whooping cough, to the tune of 125 cases.

All affected schools were visited, and the teachers strongly advised to exclude all children with bad coughs in infected classes. Handbills of advice were provided, for circulation among the parents. Mumps

was also epidemic, there being 102 cases reported by head teachers. There were also 82 cases of chicken pox.

These last two diseases are difficult to find out in schools, especially in a mild form.

Measles was only present in 31 cases, not being really epidemic. Thirty "skin" cases were reported, similar to 1937, 25 being impetigo, and 4 ringworm.

One child, below school age, died from whooping cough, the first death for some 7 years, from this disease.

Severe measles or whooping cough can always be admitted to the Isolation Hospital on request.

SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS

Infectious Diseases

Disease	No.
Whooping Cough	125
Measles	31
Chicken Pox	82
Mumps	102
Impetigo	25
Other Contagious Skin Diseases (Ringworm 4)	5

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

	Inspec- tions	Written Notices
Factories (with power)	73	0
Factories (without power) . .	17	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals . .	90	1

Defects

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	1	1
Want of Ventilation	0	0
Other Nuisances	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation, insufficient, unsuitable, or defective	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total . .	5	5

List of Factories

Wood Works	5
Flock Works.. . . .	5
Bakers	26
Bootmakers	1
Builders, Carpenters, Joiners	18
Blacksmiths.. . . .	2
Cycles and Motor Repairing Shops ..	17
Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights.. .	1
Dress and Millinery Workshops . . .	2
Engineers	6
Saw Mills	3
Pin Mills	2
Saddlers	1
Others	20

Total Number of Factories

on Register 109

List of Outworkers received 0

Under the new Act, there are no workshops, only (1) factories with power, and (2) factories without power.

Inspections to the number of 73 were made, but no written notices were found necessary.

In regard to factories (without power) 17 inspections were made, and written notice was sent.

One defect found was "want of cleanliness," and one other nuisance was discovered.

Defects were found in the sanitary accommodation in 3 instances. All the defects, 6 in number, were remedied on request.

A new list of non-power factories was provided by H.M. Factory Inspector, the number being 109, whilst the former number was only 86.

The premises of 18 builders and joiners, 16 bakers, 17 motor and cycle dealers, 6 engineers, 5 flockworkers and 2 pin mills are on the new register.

The 5 flock mills were inspected, and samples of flock taken from each mill and

sent to the County Analyst. They all conformed to the standard laid down in the regulations.

The mill owners sent samples to their own analyst, but the results differed from those arrived at by the County Analyst.

The other analysts have now agreed to adopt the same process as the County one.

As in several former years no list of outworkers were received, and we may take it that no home work is now being carried out. It is much more hygienic to work in factories, even though some may be rather old-fashioned.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Carcases Inspected.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Bullocks ..	119	89	22	13	10	35
Heifers (including Calves) ..	1077	1347	1213	520	212	153
Cows	53	37	21	9	7	2
Sheep and Lambs.. ..	4133	3883	3523	1518	576	607
Pigs	9926	14657	15970	3689	369	299
Total ..	15308	20013	20749	5749	1174	1096

Carcases Condemned.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cows and Bullocks	0	0	1	1	0	1
Sheep.. ..	1	0	3	3	0	0
Pigs	12	122	55	28	3	5
Heifers and Calves ..	1	1	3	2	1	1
Total ..	15	127	62	34	4	7

Livers condemned (owing to fluke).

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Beasts.. ..	227	121	29	8	13	17
Sheep	178	117	40	2	1	2

The inspections of carcasses of animals slaughtered were 1,096 in number, this comparing with 1,174 in 1937 and 5,749 in 1936. The latter year included one quarter in the old and larger Rural district.

In the 2 years, 1934 and 1935, more than 20,000 carcasses were inspected, but the district then included the Ebley abattoir and the bacon works. Of the 20,000 odd carcasses in these years about 15,000 were those of pigs. All animals slaughtered are killed by humane methods, they being stunned by the pistol, or in some cases by electric methods.

To the 15 slaughter houses, 444 visits of inspection were paid, the number being 527 in 1937. The majority of these places are fairly old, and not up to date, but they were conducted as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Lime-washing was carried out regularly and no diseased meat was found on any premises. There were condemned altogether 5 carcasses of pigs, and 2 of young cattle.

The number of cattle slaughtered was 162, cows 2 only, calves 26, sheep and lambs 607, and pigs 299. In addition to this, a good deal of meat sold in the area was killed in the Urban district, including pork, mutton and lamb, as also a large amount of Colonial, and other imported, lamb and beef.

Of the animals examined 13 per cent. of cattle were affected with disease, not including tuberculosis, 8.3 of pigs.

Two pigs and one beast were wholly condemned as unfit for food on account of tubercle, and organs of 10 cattle and 31 pigs had some part or organ infected, and were partly condemned. The percentage of cattle affected with tubercle was 7, and of pigs 11.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned (1937)

Number Killed:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 162; Cows, 2; Calves, 26; Sheep and Lambs, 607; Pigs, 299.

Number Inspected:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 162; Cows, 2; Calves, 26; Sheep and Lambs, 607; Pigs, 299.

All diseases except Tuberculosis:—

Whole carcasses condemned:—Pigs, 3;
Calves, 1.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 21; Sheep and Lambs, 5; Pigs, 22.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis: Cattle, excluding Cows, 13; Calves, 3.85; Sheep and Lambs, 0.82; Pigs, 8.35.

Tuberculosis only:—

Whole carcasses condemned:—Cattle excluding Cows, 1; Pigs, 2.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 10; Pigs, 31.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 7; Pigs, 11.

MILK PRODUCTION

Bacillus Coli in Milk.

	Absent In 1 c.c.	Present In 1 c.c.	Present In 1/10 c.c.	Present In 1/100 c.c.	Present In 1/1000 c.c.	Tls.
1928	9		10	4	37	60
1929	27		25	15	18	85
1930	42		32	12	17	103
1931	50		31	14	14	109
1932	48		35	19	29	131
1933	48		21	14	18	101
1934	57		37	13	10	117
1935	70		12	28	12	122
1936	20		16	10	2	48
1937	56		17	9	15	97
1938	45	12	9	8	6	80

Milk Samples

Bacillus Coli.

Present in

Quarters.		Absent 1 c.c.	Present 1 c.c.	1/10 c.c.	1/100 c.c.	1/1000 c.c.	Tl. Samples.	Aver. Tem. (Fah.) deg.
First	..	19	6	0	3	1	29	60
Second	..	12	2	1	1	0	16	62
Third	..	4	2	3	1	1	11	66
Fourth	..	10	2	5	3	4	24	60
Total	..	45	12	9	8	6	80	60

Total Microbes per 1 c.c.

Thousands.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Tl. Samples.
0—5	1	1	0	1	3
5—10	5	4	0	2	11
10—20	8	1	4	5	18
20—30	5	4	1	6	16
30—60	4	2	2	5	13
60—100	3	2	3	1	9
100 upward	3	2	1	4	10
Totals	29	16	11	24	80

There were 80 samples of milk taken, and sent for bacterial count, to the County bacteriologist. In 1907 the Inspector took 97 samples, and in 1906 he took 48 only.

For 6 years before that there was an average of about 110 samples taken.

The recent fall in the number of samples taken is due to the fact that so many farms are now accredited and that these samples are now taken by the County officials.

In 45 samples *B. Coli* was absent in 1 c.c. of milk, this being 50 per cent. of the whole, whilst in 1937 this was absent in 58 per cent. In only 6 samples was *B. Coli* present in 1/1000 c.c., this being the lowest number, except one, in the 11 years that milk has been sampled.

As regards quarterly results, 19 samples with no *B. Coli* were taken in the first quarter, and only 4 in the third quarter. Four samples showed *B. Coli* present in 1/1000 in the fourth quarter.

The temperature of the milk samples was 60 deg. F. in the first and fourth quarters, and 66 in the third. The average milk temperature for the year was 60 deg., compared with 58 deg. in 1937. Whether the milk was better cooled in 1937, or whether the weather was hotter in 1938 one cannot say.

In regard to total microbes this year's samples were decidedly better than those taken in 1937.

Under a total of 30,000 microbes there were 35 in 1937, and 48 in 1938, over that number there were 52 samples in 1937 and only 32 in 1938.

The figures show that the milk is steadily improving in purity, but the question of tuberculosis in cattle has not been dealt with to any large extent.

The number of dairy farms and milk shops on the register is steadily increasing, the number now being 209. The inspections however were only 409, whilst with 192 in 1937, there were 509 inspections.

Thirteen cowsheds were reconstructed and put into good condition, and 6 are still being done.

There are 37 producers on the accredited roll, and several others have made application.

Possibly one reason of good bacterial results is that all the samples are taken at once by car to the Analyst.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

There was considerable increase in the number of houses built, 184, compared with 110 in 1937.

Of these 124 were built by private enterprise and 56 were Council houses. The number of houses now owned by the Council is 292, and plans were out for 16 more.

Owing to the probable coming of several large factories, into the Stonehouse district, it has been estimated that 500 new houses will be required to house the workmen, who will be employed there, many of whom will be skilled operators.

Considerable building activity has already taken place in that part of the district.

A number of houses is to be erected in connection with the new Aerodrome.

House Inspection

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	184
(b) Council Houses.. . . .	56

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	311
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1117
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1930	110
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	96

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	40
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	14
---	----

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	14
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	0
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—		
	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects remedied ..	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	0
C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930:		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	10
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	47
D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1935.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	18
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	18
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	116

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	61
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	389
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

There were 311 houses inspected for housing defects, whereas 797 were done in 1937.

The total number of inspections of these houses was 1,117, as to 1,764 in 1937.

Under the housing regulations there were 110 houses inspected and entered on the housing register. In 1937 there were 7,917 houses.

Of the total houses, 10 were found quite unfit for human occupation, and 96 were not in all respects fit to be lived in by human beings. In 1937 there were 52 houses quite unfit, and 78 not reasonably fit for occupation.

Without service of formal notice, but informally by officials, 40 houses were made habitable. In addition 14 notices under the Housing Acts were served, requiring repairs, and all these notices were complied with by the owners.

Under the Public Health Act 3 notices were served, and 1 house was put into order by the owner.

Under the Housing Act, 1930, demolition orders were served in regard to 10 houses, and during the year 47 houses in all were pulled down.

Since the new Housing Acts have come into force 136 demolition orders have been made, 87 houses demolished, and there are 36 houses vacant but not yet demolished.

The number of persons displaced is 602, and there are still 76 to be removed, this being members of 22 families. There were 21 closing orders made.

OVERCROWDING

Condemned Houses in Parishes		No. Demolished
Bisley	2	1
Chalford	19	14
Cranham	2	2
Horsley	15	10
King's Stanley ..	12	6
Minchinhampton ..	7	14
Painswick	16	0
Randwick	4	4
Rodborough	12	7
Stonehouse	8	3
Thrupp	16	9
Whiteshill	16	13
Woodchester	6	4
Pitchcombe	1	0
	<hr/> 136	<hr/> 87

There were 79 houses found to be overcrowded at the end of 1937, there being 13 from Painswick, 10 from Chalford, and 9 from Minchinhampton.

This was abated in regard to 61 families, including 10 from Chalford and 8 from Minchinhampton.

There remained 18 families still living in a crowded house, and they comprised 116 persons.

To Council houses there were removed 34 families. During the year 9 more cases of overcrowding were discovered.

The standard allowed for overcrowding is a very lenient one, as the area of the living

rooms is counted in the necessary floor space. Many families are just on the border line, and the birth of a child, or the birthday of an older child often will bring the family into the overcrowded class. It is necessary to keep the statistics up to date, and the houses will have to be inspected at intervals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications for last 18 Years

Infectious Disease Notifications since 1920

Years.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Tuberculosis.	Deaths.	Erysipelas.	Small Pox.
First 5 years.								
1921	2	40	14	14	33	23	3	
1922		21	34	13	42	29	8	
1923	3	14	5	8	44	22	—	24
1924	3	113	24	13	19	35	2	
1925		251	79	8	31	23	5	
Total	8	439	156	56	169	132	18	24
Annual Average	16	88	33	11	34	26	3	5
Second 5 Years.								
1926	6	131	58	8	35	24	5	
1927	2	89	37	27	33	28	3	
1928	2	35	17	33	48	26	5	
1929	1	17	26	43	34	26	8	
1930	3	35	18	9	30	16	4	
Total	14	407	156	120	180	120	25	Nil
Annual Average	3	361	31	24	36	24	5	
Third 5 Years.								
1931	2	34	36	12	41	21	6	
1932	2	33	24	17	44	14	4	
1933	4	38	6	13	30	10	6	
1934	—	36	4	15	24	13	3	
1935	1	21	4	4	28	20	3	
Total	9	162	74	61	167	78	22	Nil
Annual Average	2	32	15	12	33	15	4	
1936	1	21	1	14	22	20	3	—
1937	—	15	—	12	14	13	2	—
1938	2	14	8	14	13	12	4	—
Total	3	50	9	40	49	45	9	—
Average Last 3 Years	1	7	3	13	16	15	3	—

The number of cases of notified disease since 1920 was dealt with in last report.

For 12 years scarlet fever cases have been less than 100 per year, the average being 34 per annum. For the last 5 years the average was only 21 per year, and for 10 years 26.

For the 6 years, 1933—38 inclusive, there were 37 cases of diphtheria notified, or an average of 6 per year. For the preceding 6 years the average was 26 per annum, both much below former averages. For the 5 years, 1921—26, the average was very high, being 60 per annum.

During the last 6 years only 8 cases of enteric fever were reported, but in the preceding 6 year period there were 12, and in the 1922—27 the number was 14.

Pneumonia has fallen in notifications from a 5 year average of 24 to 12 in the last period.

Tuberculosis cases were on average 20 per annum during last 5 years, whilst in 1926—30 the number was 36. Deaths from tubercle averaged 15 per annum in last 5 years, and in 1926—30 the average was 24.

Smallpox has been absent from the district since 1923, when it was apparently introduced from Gloucester.

Only 14 cases of scarlet fever were reported during 1938, one less than in 1937, and the lowest number ever notified in one year. All except 2 were children, practically all of school age. Cases cropped up in 7 parishes only, there being 5 in Thrupp, and 3 in Stonehouse. One of the adults was a woman visitor, and the other in an institution. The latter case was followed by 2 cases of diphtheria, both diseases having apparently been introduced from a distance.

All cases of scarlet fever were single cases, no secondary ones occurring in households.

Eight cases of diphtheria occurred, 3 school age. Five of these cases were either visitors to the district, or people who had been on visits outside. One was a boy just returned to a boarding school

from home in Wales, another a week-end visitor, another a boy from Worcester, and the last a bank clerk from London, who had had ear discharge for months at home. One boy had been on a day's excursion to the sea, and another female adult had just returned home. Rather strange to say her sister had the same disease 7 years ago, but was living away from home at this time.

No school outbreaks occurred of diphtheria, but at the institution, where there were 2 cases, all the inmates were swabbed. One or two "carriers" were found there and isolated until clear.

Two cases of enteric fever occurred, one a girl who had lived at Painswick, and whose mother took the disease, apparently from her, when living outside this district. One young married woman, who lived at King's Stanley, also took the disease, from some unknown source.

At Painswick, where 2 cases of enteric originated, the water supply was a spring, which had been found bad for some years, an excess of B. Coli being found. This spring passes near the main sewer, just before it enters the sewage works. A warning notice has now been placed near the spring, and the Company water is supplied to the district.

Pneumonia was present in 14 cases, compared with 21 in 1937, as judged by the number of cases notified. As there were 9 deaths certified from this complaint, in addition to several from influenzal pneumonia, the probability is that there were well on to a hundred cases altogether, most of which were not notified by the medical attendant. As nothing is done when the cases are notified, one can hardly blame them for this failure.

Four cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified and all sent on to the County Health Department, who deal with these cases, providing hospital treatment, where considered necessary by the doctor attending. The infant child of one mother with this complaint, developed ophthalmia

neonatorum at the same time, but recovered under prompt home treatment. The latter disease is due to venereal infection of the eyes at birth, and was at one time the cause of a large amount of blindness in this country. Nowadays most cases are treated at once and make a good recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	...	...	...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10	...	...	...	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
15	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	...	...	...	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	-
25	...	...	...	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
35	...	...	...	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	...	...	...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals				4	3	1	5	6	6	-	-

Thirteen cases of tuberculosis were notified, 7 being pulmonary and 6 largely glandular.

There were 5 children and 8 adults reported, the latter, mostly aged between 15 and 25 years.

Although only 7 cases of lung disease were reported, no less than 12 deaths were certified, several of which had never been notified. In certain cases no doctor had been called in until the end, and a number of cases have been attended for years and have apparently never been diagnosed. Certain cases are kept back, even when the diagnosis is clear.

Most of the "gland" cases, together with pre-tubercular children, are treated for long periods at Standish House, which they leave in very good health.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Tuber- culosis.	Measles.	Other.	Totals.
Admissions ..	47	23	3	20	1	0	94
Discharges ..	48	26	3	12	1	0	90
Deaths	0	0	0	9	0	0	9
Remaining in Hospital Dec. 31st, 1938 ..	7	0	0	11	0	0	18
Rural District cases admitted	12	5	2	12	0	0	31

At the joint hospital 94 patients were admitted during the year, there being 71 in 1937. Nine deaths occurred, all from tuberculosis. Most of these patients belonged to other parts of the county, as a small proportion of those admitted are residents from local areas.

From this area 31 patients were admitted, and these include 12 tubercular cases, as it has a preferential claim as being a member of the Joint Hospital Board.

The 47 cases of scarlet fever admitted, averaged 41.5 days in hospital, a usual time.

Diphtheria cases, including carriers, averaged 23 days, and tuberculosis 106 days, the latter varying from 245 days to 28. Certain patients were very ill on admission, and others were sent on to Standish House.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1938 and 5 previous Years

YEAR.	Population estimated at Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate	of Non- Residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Num- ber.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1933	27,200	317	312	11.4	279	10.2	19	99	11	35	359	13.2
1934	27,210	308	310	11.4	268	9.8	21	89	11	35	336	12.3
1935	27,165	322	348	12.7	306	11.2	18	100	12	34	388	14.2
1936	21,480	281	313	14.5	252	11.2	15	97	15	48	334	15.5
1937	21,460	269	305	14.2	231	10.3	10	98	11	36	319	14.8
1938	21,560	239	294	13.6	198	10.9	12	109	15	51	295	13.6

Census 1931. Area of District in Acres, 37,152. Total Population at all Ages, 27,380.
Total Families or Separate Occupiers (1931), 7,797.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1938

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED											TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.														
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Bisley	Chalford	Misserden	Horsley	Minchin- hampton	Painswick	Pitchcombe	Cranham	Rodborough	King Stanley	Wood- chester	Stone- house	Calnecross	Leonard Stanley	Randwick	Thrupp	Whiteshill	Total cases removed to Hospital
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.																		
Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	8	...	3	4	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	3	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	14	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	14	...	2	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of tuberculosis	6	...	2	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	60	1	5	15	16	12	7	3	3	9	...	6	5	7	1	1	2	5	...	9	...	...	9	...	...	45

Stroud Joint Hospitals—Cainscross—Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis.
Bisley—Smallpox. Total available beds—68. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated—6.
Sanatorium—Standish House (County Council).

Table III.—Causes of Death in Stroud Rural District.

(Registrar General).

Year ending December 31st, 1938.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes.	145	160
Enteric Fever - - - - -	...	...
Small-pox - - - - -	...	...
Measles - - - - -	...	...
Scarlet Fever - - - - -	...	...
Whooping Cough - - - - -	1	...
Diphtheria - - - - -	...	...
Influenza - - - - -	2	4
Encephalitis Lethargica - - - - -	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis - - - - -	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System - - - - -	5	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases - - - - -	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease - - - - -	18	24
Rheumatic Fever - - - - -	...	...
Diabetes - - - - -	...	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. - - - - -	6	11
Heart Disease - - - - -	40	59
Other Circulatory Diseases - - - - -	9	15
Bronchitis - - - - -	4	1
Pneumonia (all forms) - - - - -	6	3
Other Respiratory Diseases - - - - -	...	...
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum - - - - -	2	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) - - - - -	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis - - - - -	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver - - - - -	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases - - - - -	5	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis - - - - -	8	4
Puerperal Sepsis - - - - -	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition - - - - -	...	3
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth - - - - -	7	3
Senility - - - - -	3	1
Suicide - - - - -	4	...
Other Deaths from Violence - - - - -	8	4
Other Defined Diseases - - - - -	16	13
Causes ill-defined or unknown - - - - -	...	...

Table III.—Causes of Death in Strong Rural District. (Register General.)

Year ending December 31st 1908.

No.	Cause of Death	
	A) Cause	
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1938
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under one Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week										3-4 weeks.		Total under 1 month.		1-3 months.		3-6 months.		6-8 months.		9-12 months.		Total deaths under One year.	
	ALL CAUSES.	{ Certified									
Congenital Debility...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	4
Atelectasis	1	
Bronchitis	1	
Premature Birth	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inanition	
Hæmorrhage	
Pneumonia	
Congenital Defects	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Convulsions	1	
Tabes, Mesenterica	1	
TOTAL	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	15		

COMPLETE SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME UP TO 1938

Parish	Demolition Orders Made	No. of houses demolished	No. of houses vacant but not yet demolished	No. of persons displaced	No. of persons displaced to Council houses	No. of persons still to be displaced	Closing Orders made	No. of unfit houses in Clearance Area
Rodborough	12	7	1	45	18	—	1	
King's Stanley	12	6	3	45	20	4	—	
Woodchester	6	4	2	28	23	—	—	
Stonehouse	8	3	2	16	10	10	2	
Minchinhampton	7	14	9	112	81	10	8	8
Horsley	15	10	1	56	20	11	—	
Chalford	19	14	1	80	63	19	2	
Cranham	2	2	—	7	7	—	—	
Painswick	16	—	7	60	21	16	6	
Thrupp	16	9	7	50	26	—	—	
Whiteshill	16	13	2	75	36	3	—	
Bisley	2	1	1	10	—	3	2	
Pitchcombe	1	—	—	13	6	—	—	
Randwick	4	4	—	5	—	—	—	
Totals	136	87	36	602	331	76	21	8

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME 1938

Parish	Demolition Orders made	No. of houses demolished	No. of houses vacant but not yet demolished	No. of persons displaced	No. of persons displaced to Council houses	No. of persons still to be displaced	No. of families to be displaced	Closing Orders made	No. of unfit houses in Clearance Area
Rodborough	—	2	1	9	8	—	—	1	8
King's Stanley	—	—	3	21	20	4	2	—	
Woodchester	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Stonehouse	—	1	2	9	5	10	4	2	
Minchinhampton	1	14	9	42	35	10	3	7	
Horsley	—	3	1	1	—	11	3	—	
Chalford	7	11	1	53	53	19	4	2	
Cranham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Painswick	—	—	7	28	21	16	4	6	
Thrupp	—	7	7	13	13	—	1	—	
Whiteshill	1	9	2	5	5	3	1	—	
Bisley	—	—	1	5	—	3	—	2	
Pitchcombe	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	
Randwick	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	9	47	36	192	166	76	22	20	8

ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING FOR YEAR 1938

Parish	Overcrowded Houses Dec., 1937.	No. of families abated.	No. of families to be abated.	No. of persons to be abated.	No. of families occupying Council Houses.
Council Houses	7	7	—	—	7
Bisley	8	7	1	6	3
Chalford	10	10	—	—	7
Cranham	1	1	—	—	—
Horsley	4	3	1	9	1
King's Stanley	8	5	3	17	—
Leonard Stanley	1	1	—	—	1
Minchinhampton	9	8	1	3	7
Miserden	1	1	—	—	—
Painswick	13	6	7	48	—
Randwick	4	1	3	21	1
Rodborough	2	1	1	4	1
Stonehouse	1	1	—	—	1
Thrupp	2	2	—	—	2
Whiteshill	7	6	1	8	3
Woodchester	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	79	61	18	116	34



