

Health Reports and Vital Statistics

Extracts from the Annual reports by the Salop County Wenlock Borough, Bridgnorth Rural District
Council medical officers

1900 – Population 4040

The sewage of Broseley should also be collected and treated
Madeley and Broseley are being supplied from Harrington.

1901 – Population 3930

Urban and Industrial Brick & tile

Water Supply.—The Madeley and Broseley Joint Scheme was completed for public use on October 28th. The supply is from the Harrington Well. The well, which is in the Bunter Beds, is 9 feet in diameter, 141 feet deep, connected by a heading 28 feet in length to a borehole carried to a depth of 420 feet. The yield was proved to be 600,000 gallons in 24 hours. The gas engines and pumps are in duplicate and each can deliver to the Madeley reservoir 250,000 gallons in 12 hours. The Madeley reservoir (466,000 gallons) supplies Madeley, Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale. The reservoir for Broseley is at Posenhall and holds 160,000 gallons. The reservoirs are arched over, covered with soil and fenced around. The length of mains is 22 miles, and the total cost, including the supply of the town of Shifnal, the village of Kemberton and the Apley Estate, is [£]36,000. The water is pure and of moderate hardness

1903 – Population 3923. Barrow 1302

Hospital (isolation) for 8 beds

Water Supply—Madeley and Broseley.—During the year the supply was laid on to 60 houses in Madeley and 75 in Broseley. Samples of water from private wells in these wards have been analysed and all condemned. The hardness of Harrington water is 17°, 14.5° being temporary.

Hospital Isolation.—A wood and iron hospital, having two wards for 4 beds each and administrative accommodation, has been erected at a total cost of £738. It is drained, fenced, and supplied with water from the Broseley main.

There is no general isolation hospital.

1904 – Population 3916. Barrow 1199

Dr. Gepp calls attention to nuisances from brook pollutions at Bourton and Broseley

Hospital Isolation—no general hospital but an iron hospital for 8 beds for small-pox in Broseley.

In Much Wenlock, Broseley and Madeley, there appear to be no great difficulties in the way of disposal of sewage. Ironbridge and Parkfield however present difficult problems.

At Broseley and Bourton there were nuisances from brook pollution, which will require attention. Drainage regulations have been adopted.

Excrement Disposal—mostly by privies with underground vaults, scavenged by occupiers or owners, except in Madeley. Attention is again called to the objectionable drained privies, many of which have still to be dealt with.

Water Supply.—Broseley and Madeley from a well and boring in the Bunter Beds at Harrington ;

1904 – Population 3999. Barrow 1296

In Much Wenlock and in Broseley and Madeley there appear to be no grave difficulties in the way of disposing of sewage; by outfall works, but Ironbridge, by its situation and physical features presents one of the most difficult problems for efficient and economical sewerage. Jackfield, across the river, presents another problem but a smaller one.”

Water Supply.—Broseley and Madeley Joint Scheme, opened in 1902. The supply is from a deep well and boring into the Bunter Beds at Harrington. Seventy-five houses in Madeley and 15 in Broseley Wood have been connected during the year, and several standpipes erected. Jackfield Schools are now supplied from the main.

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1904 – Population 3916 Barrow 1208

The “Lady Forester Charity,” which, administered by trustees, has recently provided admirable general hospitals at Wenlock and Broseley, and a convalescent home at Llandudno, for the inhabitants of the borough, is very wealthy, and if the trustees found it possible to provide and maintain a sanatorium for phthisis also, in the borough, it would be of the greatest advantage. The relatively high death-rate from phthisis in the borough would make such action specially advantageous.”

In Much Wenlock and in Broseley and Madeley there appear to be no grave difficulties in the way of disposing of sewage; by outfall works, but Ironbridge, by its situation and physical features presents one of the most difficult problems for efficient and economical sewerage. Jackfield, across the river, presents another problem but a smaller one.”

Isolation Accommodation.—An iron hospital for 8 beds for small-pox at Broseley ; no accommodation for the ordinary infectious diseases.

In Much Wenlock and Broseley there appear to be no great difficulties in disposing of the sewage, but in Ironbridge and Jackfield the problem is most difficult. Considerable work has been done in the improvement of house drains

Scavenging.—is public scavenging in Madeley on request sent to the Surveyor ; else— where it is done by the occupiers or owners. In Broseley there are some public ashpits emptied by the Committee

Broseley – Birth rate 26.9 Death rate 17.4. Infantile death rate 93 epidemic death rate 3.58

1908 – Population 3916, Barrow 1298

Rainfall – at Willey depth of rain 1907 28.3 inches, 1908 1909 28.46 inches

Measles was somewhat prevalent in the Broseley and Coalbrookdale Districts, and three schools were closed.

Water Supply.—Broseley and Madeley Joint Scheme. This scheme was completed in 1902. The supply is from a deep well and boring, in the Bunter beds at Harrington. The water has about 16° of hardness and is of great purity. It is laid on to standpipes and to an increasing number of houses.

In Broseley there are several public ashpits scavenged by a contractor under the Committee.

Sewerage and Drainage. The contour of the district affords generally good surface drainage. “The sewers of the various towns in the Borough are, generally speaking, old and impellent, and appear in the main to be culverted water courses or drains laid originally to take surface water. The outfall of most of the main sewers is either directly into the Severn, or into streams which fall into the Severn within the District.” The sewers generally have no system of flushing and no system of ventilation except untrapped road gullies. Complaints of nuisances are not uncommon. A systematic investigation of surface openings should be made and properly dealt with.

Excrement Disposal—principally by outside privies with underground vaults, often offensive from defective structure or neglect of scavenging. Six objectionable ‘drained privies were converted to water-closets. Continued effort is necessary for the conversion or improvement of vault privies.

Housing. The majority of the houses of the district are old and show defects due to age and faulty construction, and the census shows a high proportion of small houses There is so much old and decaying property in the Borough as to constitute a considerable difficulty in dealing with it especially as there is no building of new cottages. Continued effort should be made by inspection, and by representation to keep the old property in the best state possible. Points to which attention should specially be given are conditions causing dampness, whether by defective roofs, absence or defects of eaves troughing and spouting, or wall, imbedded in the earth. Defective lighting and ventilation should be remedied wherever possible by increased window area, and through ventilation secured where practicable. Dampness and darkness are the chief indications of unwholesomeness in houses.

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1909 – Population 3916, Barrow 1298

The worst pollution still undealt with and in some respects one of the most difficult to deal with, is the sewage from Ironbridge, Coalbrookdale, Madeley, Coalport, Jackfield, and Broseley. The absence of a proper system of sewerage has very seriously interfered with the disposal of sewage from the new secondary school at Coalbrookdale. The question of the satisfactory disposal of the sewage of this district should receive the serious consideration of the sanitary authorities concerned.

Wenlock Borough. "There are at present no works of sewage treatment, the outfall of most of the main sewers being either directly into the Severn, or into streams which fall into the Severn within the District."

Broseley Ward. —This area consists of Broseley Parish, and lies upon the coalfield south of the river, ' ' and comprises the township of Broseley on the high tableland above the river bank, and the village of Jackfield " along the river side.

"Barrow Ward.—This comprises a large area of thinly populated agricultural country, comprising the " parishes of Little Wenlock on the north of the Severn, and the parishes of Benthall, Posenhall, Barrow, " Willey, and Linley, on the southern side. The population is very scattered and there is no considerable "collection of houses."

Isolation Accommodation. There is a hospital for small-pox at Broseley, with accommodation for four persons of each sex suffering from the same disease. Its use as a joint fever hospital is under consideration by a committee, but Dr. Gepp considers that it could be more profitably used for advanced cases of phthisis. In any case, more administrative accommodation would be necessary.

Water Supply. Broseley and Madeley Joint Scheme. This supply is from a deep well and boring in the Bunter Beds near Harrington. The water is very pure and of 16 degrees of hardness. The Harrington system now supplies the Urban District of Dawley and the town of Shifnal.

Sewerage and Drainage. The sewers are mostly drains laid originally to take surface water, or culverted water courses. There are no works of sewage treatment, and the outfalls are into the Severn or into streams which fall into the Severn. With the increase of water carriage, attention to untrapped road grids and to special ventilation and improvement of sewers will become increasingly desirable. The improvement of the sewers of the town of Wenlock, and the disposal of the sewage is under consideration, and has been reported on by Engineers.

Excrement Disposal and Scavenging. Excrement disposal is principally by privies of the old type with underground vaults. No general conversion is possible with the present sewerage systems. The Madeley Committee has for some years undertaken public scavenging, and the Broseley Committee provides a liquid manure cart for privy soil and maintains several ashpits for public use. Continued attention will be necessary so long as these old and defective closets are allowed to exist.

Housing. The Borough has a high proportion of small houses. The majority of the houses are old and many of them very old, and taken as a whole the standard of housing is low. A systematic inspection of all cottage property is recommended as the best means of keeping them in a habitable condition. No house was certified as unfit for habitation during the year.

1911 – Population 3916, Barrow 1298

Broseley Ward.—This area consists of Broseley Parish, and lies upon the coalfield south of the river, and comprises the township of Broseley on the high tableland above the river bank, and the village of Jackfield along the river side.

Barrow Ward. This comprises a large area of thinly populated agricultural country, comprising the parishes of Little Wenlock on the north of the Severn and the parishes of Benthall, Posenhall, Barrow, Willey, and Linley, on the southern side. The population is very scattered and there is no considerable collection of houses

The population of the Borough at the Census of 1901 was 15,866, and at the 1911 Census was 15,244, a decrease of 622 persons in the ten years. In the preceding ten years the population had

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increased by 163. The recent decrease has no doubt been caused by depression of some of the chief industries, notably in the brick and tile works of the Broseley Ward.

An iron hospital for small-pox was erected and partly furnished by the Town Council in 1903, at the Batches, Broseley. I described the building and equipment in the annual report for 1903. It has not yet been occupied. The accommodation available is for four persons of each sex, suffering from the same disease.

Broseley and Madeley Joint Scheme.—This important system was opened to public use in 1902. The supply is from a deep well and boring, in the Bunter beds of the new red sandstone, situated at Harrington, some three miles outside the district. I gave details as to the scheme in the annual report for 1903. The water has about 16° of hardness, and is of great purity. The supply is constant and is laid on to public standpipes, and in increasing numbers to individual houses. The standpipes are numerous, and all houses within 200 feet of a standpipe, and having no other supply of wholesome water, are rated under powers obtained by the adoption of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878. 794 yards of new mains were laid during the year, and 72 houses connected. The Harrington system now supplies also the whole of the adjoining Urban District of Dawley, and the town of Shifnal.

As regards the other towns of the Borough, in the Madeley and Broseley Wards, I stated my opinion in the last annual report that further and necessary sanitary progress in the Borough depends upon proper sewerage being provided. This matter of sewerage and sewage disposal is being pressed upon the attention of the Town Council by the Local Government Board and the County Council, with a view to the employment of an engineer by the Town Council to furnish preliminary proposals and estimates in order to ascertain “to what extent the present “unsatisfactory condition of the sewerage in these two Wards “ could be remedied at a reasonable cost.” The Committees of the Wards have the question under consideration.

The Broseley Sanitary Committee provides a liquid manure cart for scavenging privy soil and maintains several public ashpits which are emptied by a contractor from time to time, the scavenging of privies and domestic refuse being effected by occupiers or owners both here and in Much Wenlock.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING - There are no figures available to show the number of waterclosets and of privies in the District. Certainly privies of old and objectionable type are in very large majority, and as I have pointed out in previous reports no general action for their abolition has been possible in the absence of suitable sewerage facilities. Four privies were converted to water-closets during the year. Eighty-five notices were served for repair or amendment of closets

1913 – Population 3663, Barrow 1312

Small pox hospital. The batches, 2 wards, 9,000 cubic feet, 8 beds Bathroom, movable batch with taps and drain. Nurses sitting room, two nurses bedrooms, kitchen, scullery larder, wash-house and coal store.

As regards the towns and townships of Ironbridge, Madeley, Coalbrookdale, Coalport, Broseley and Jackfield, I have stated my definite opinion that further necessary progress in sanitation depends upon proper sewerage being provided. The Local Government Board and the County Council have been pressing the Sanitary Committees concerned to obtain engineering assistance “with a view to ascertaining to what extent the present unsatisfactory condition of the sewerage in these two wards could be remedied at a reasonable cost. The Broseley Sanitary Committee obtained engineering assistance and a report during the year.”

“In my opinion the sewers require to be largely replaced or re-modelled, and extended, in order to provide efficient drainage for the requirements of the district, independently of any question of river pollution.”

The majority of the considerable centres of population have now dealt with their sewage in fairly satisfactory manner. The towns and villages still undealt with and receiving the attention of the County Council are Bridgnorth, Broseley and Madeley, Ellesmere, Market Drayton, All Stretton, Clun,

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Highley and Baschurch. The position as regards Bridgnorth, Broseley and Madeley, and Clun, has been somewhat altered by the Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

It is extremely important that the Local Government Board should consider the Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal report promptly and announce without undue delay the course of action they intend to adopt.

It is probable that some relief might be given to Local Authorities under certain conditions without any material harm, but it will require most careful legislation, if the purification of rivers is not to receive a severe set back.

There is another aspect of the question that must not be overlooked. The powers under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act have effected an enormous improvement in the sanitary conditions of districts irrespective of the removal of river pollution, by bringing about the proper sewerage and draining of towns. Many instances of this kind could be quoted in this County, and one or two still remain to be dealt with. Of these the most glaring are the various townships in the Broseley and Madeley Wards of the Borough of Wenlock.

In the District Medical Officer's opinion further sanitary progress in these wards depends upon proper sewerage being provided

Wenlock—In Madeley collected by the Council through contractors; weekly for removable bins—fixed receptacles on request ; in Broseley scavenging of about a dozen public ashpits ; elsewhere there is no public scavenging. The refuse is tipped on waste ground. The storage of refuse is mostly in fixed ashpits.

The population between the 1901 and 1911 Census decreased by 622 persons. The heaviest fall was in the Broseley Ward.

Isolation Hospital.—For small-pox there is an iron hospital at the Batches, Broseley, l with 8 beds. Referring to the Joint Hospital District recently formed, Dr. Gepp says :— 'I would point out that provision for isolation, both of ordinary infectious disease and of cases l of advanced phthisis is at least as necessary in the Borough as in the other Districts, and that inclusion in a large area for this purpose is the most economical way of making efficient provision. In my opinion the Borough would have been well advised to join the scheme.

" As regards the towns and townships of Ironbridge, Madeley, Coalbrookdale, Coalport, Broseley and Jackfield, I have stated my definite opinion that further necessary progress in sanitation depends upon proper sewerage being provided. The Local Government Board and the County Council have been pressing the Sanitary Committees concerned to obtain engineering assistance "with a view to ascertaining to what extent the present unsatisfactory condition of the sewerage in these two wards could be remedied at a reasonable cost." The Broseley Sanitary Committee obtained engineering assistance and a report during the year.

" In my opinion the sewers require to be largely replaced or re-modelled, and extended, in order to provide efficient drainage for the requirements of the district, independently of any question of river pollution."

Excrement Disposal and Scavenging.—" Certainly privies of old and objectionable type are in a very large majority, and as I have pointed out in previous reports no general action for their abolition has been possible in the absence of suitable sewerage facilities. No privies were converted to water-closets during the year. Seventy-three notices were served for repair or amendment of closets. " Drained privies " of very obnoxious character, are not infrequently met with. Being untrapped and unflushed the drains become very foul and freely ventilate most offensive gases through the closet seats."

Broseley Ward.—Monthly scavenging of about a dozen fixed public ashpits is provided by the Committee. There are very few movable receptacles in the Borough. The number of fixed ashpits is estimated at about a thousand, very few being in connection with privies.

Housing.—There is a high proportion of small houses, and the great majority are old and many are very old. Taken as a whole, the standard of houses is low and there is practically no building. "Back-

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to-back houses are very rare, but a good many houses lack through ventilation, in some cases this being due to their being imbedded at the back into the hillsides. The sanitary surroundings of cottages are very often unsatisfactory, due to the absence of paving of yards, to lack of sewerage or drainage facilities, and very generally to objectionable vault privies. Overcrowding is occasionally met with and is generally due to large families occupying small houses."

Housing Regulations.—"The progress of inspection has not been rapid so far ; 83 houses were inspected in 1911, 32 in 1912, and 75 last year. Of the total number of 190 houses inspected during the three years, 41 remained under consideration at the end of last year. I would refer to my remarks in last year's Annual Report both as to the desirability of more rapid progress in Housing Inspection and also as to the special difficulties presented in the District."

No formal representations of unfitness were made.

Overcrowding.—The percentage of "overcrowded" houses is high compared with the rest of the Urban Districts, particularly the three-roomed tenements that are overcrowded. "The building of new houses both to provide for re-placing and worn-out and decaying old property, and for furnishing additional accommodation to relieve conditions of overcrowding would, if found practicable, offer the best solution of existing difficulties. The relative over-population of houses has had a probable relation to the higher incidence and death-rate of tuberculosis in the Borough."

1914 – Population 3663, Barrow 1312

Reports as 1913

1920 –

Maternity Beds at Broseley Hospital.— There are six maternity beds said one confinement bed at this hospital. Occasionally another has also been used. Patients are received principally from Broseley and Madeley, but also from other parts of the County. The fee charged is £3 3s. per week for private cases and £1 1s. for ordinary cases. The County Council have agreed to pay £1 1s. a week towards the cost of any case recommended by them, that cannot afford the fee. Seventy-nine cases were received totalling 1920 and were admitted from Borough of Wenlock, Broseley, Ironbridge, Madeley, Coalport, Benthall, Willey; outside the Borough -Bridgnorth Urban, Bridgnorth Rural, Atcham, Wellington Rural. The hospital is doing a most excellent work and is much appreciated

1921

Wenlock Urban District.—"A public Enquiry was held in July on an application for sanction to borrow £10,000 for renewal of pumping plant at the Harrington Water Works, supplying Madeley and Broseley Sanitary Divisions. The work has been put[^] in hand in view of its immediate urgency, and to avoid a breakdown.

"It is satisfactory to note that the Borough Water Engineer's report that the drought of the year did not affect the level or the rate of inflow into the well.

1925 - Population 1921 3037, Barrow 1288

The works of Messrs Maw, and Messrs Craven, Dunhill, on the River Bank in Broseley Ward, carry on a large manufacture of Encaustic tiles, and there are several roofing tile works also in Broseley Ward doing a large business; one or two small coalpits in connection with these are worked.

From the 1911 Census to that of 1921 the population of the Borough declined by 1530 persons; and the fall in the Wards was;- Madeley 723, Broseley 626, Wenlock 157, Barrow 24. In the ten years 1901-11 the decline in population in the Borough was 622, the Urban parts again showing the heavier fall. Since 1921 there has been no marked estimated decline.

For Small-pox the Borough has an iron Hospital building at The Batches, Broseley. The accommodation is for four persons of each sex It is only partly furnished and is unstaffed, but is occupied as a dwelling and well kept, and can be utilised in a few hours should need arise.

Maternity cases are admitted to the Lady Forrester Hospital, Broseley, which also serves as a General Hospital for the Borough.

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Water Supply. Madeley and Broseley Wards are supplied by a joint" public scheme, from the deep well and boring at Harrington outside the District, There is a Joint Water Committee and a Water Engineer in charge. The supply is constant and of excellent quality. It is laid on to houses or to convenient standpipes. During the past five years extensions of mains and of service pipes have been made as required, and in 1921, a loan of £10,000 was sanctioned, after enquiry, for the renewal of the pumping plant.

Stream Pollution. Untreated sewage, chiefly of slop water character, reaches the Severn direct in the IronBridge area, and by tributary small streams from Coalbrookdale, Madeley, and Broseley. The river here has good flow and nuisance due to accumulation at the sewer outlets is not often found. A survey of the river carried out in June of last year, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture k Fisheries, showed no diminution in dissolved oxygen in the water at Ironbridge or below, indicating that the volume of sewage compared with that of the river is insufficient to cause de-oxygenation of the water to an extent injurious to fish and plant life ,

Sewerage and Drainage. The town of Much Wenlock is sewered on modern lines, with outfall works, hut in the other Urban areas the sewers are of old construction, partly piped, part brick culverts, old road water drains, and in some parts surface channels, the outfalls being into the river or various streams as a general rule. Sewerage Schemes were under consideration some 12 to 15 years ago under official suggestion, in Madeley and Broseley Wards, but were found by the Committees not to be possible at a reasonable cost, or such as these low rated areas could bear.

I am glad to note that during the past five years both in Madeley and Broseley, some progress has been made in laying lengths of sewer, either of extension, or replacement of old defective sewers, or in piping lengths of offensive open drains. These have constituted distinct sanitary improvements, and I strongly recommend that this work be carried on steadily year by year, towards a permanent improvement of existing unsatisfactory conditions.

Natural surface drainage is generally good in the district and the drainage of individual houses is as a rule carried away.

During last year 490 yards of sewers were laid by the Borough Surveyor as follows:-

Broseley and Barrow/ Wards: the piping in of part of Benthall brock which forms the boundary of the two Wards. 140 yards of 18 inch pipe were laid to take sewage and storm water.

In Broseley also 80 yards were laid to pipe in an offensive ditch, and 120 yards for the drainage of the newly built Council houses.

Closet accommodation. The great majority of the houses have privies of the old vault type-. The number of closets of each type has not been ascertained. In the past five years some 35 privies have been converted into W.C's, chiefly in Much Wenlock where there is efficient modern sewerage.

In the other Urban areas I would urge that with progress in the improvement of the sewers, and where proper sewers serve, pressure should be brought to bear for the conversion of privies into W.C's,

The abolition of numbers of filthy underground receptacles, especially where they are within a few feet of dwelling houses is a definite sanitary need.

Scavenging- General Housing Conditions. The District being in its main centres an old industrial district, with a declining population, there has been little or no building of cottages during the present century. Of the old houses a considerable proportion is in the matters of air space or of conditions of structure and convenience, below standard, and among the older part of these some are in a state of progressive decay.

Overcrowding. Thirty-three cases of overcrowding have been dealt with by the Inspector's notices in the past 5 years. Overcrowding other than that of large and growing families in small houses is not frequently met with. The Census of 1921 showed a definite Improvement over that of 1911 in the matter of 'Overcrowding I Repairs to old houses, so far as desirable structural additions, or extensive replacements, are concerned, are often found impossible owing to the low rental value. Work

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necessary to maintain houses in a weathertight condition and in other main essentials habitable is enforced.

With the decline of population many of the worst of the houses have gone out of occupation, and though the standard of housing is low rents are also very low, and there are no closely built areas, houses generally having good air space around. There is no definite shortage of houses but no excess, habitable houses being fully occupied, and the provision of a number of new houses, if provided within the means of wage earners, would be a marked advantage. It is satisfactory to record a start now made in municipal housing, 8 Much Wenlock, 4 in Madeley, and 4 in Broseley, by the respective Sanitary Committees. The following notes by the Sanitary Inspector are of interest, in this new departure and it is clear that an extended measure of building would do much to raise the housing standard.

Mr. Herbert says,- "Excellent sites were secured. The houses are all of the parlour type, with three bedrooms and W.C, also with bath, lavatory and sink provided with hot and cold water.

Soft water for washing purposes is provided from a tank receiving all the roof water which is discharged from a tap over the wash house boiler. This is a very useful provision, as the main town supply is somewhat hard.

The houses are well built, in pairs well spaced, of nicely toned bricks with Broseley tiled roofs, and with very large windows and ample means of ventilation. Gas and water is also laid on to all the houses. They are of pleasing design, with hipped roofs, and the Much Wenlock houses have, at the front, square bay windows upstairs and down.

Altogether, the houses are considerably above the average, in every respect of many schemes of Municipal housing in the country.

They are also let at a very reasonable rent, considering the class and quality of the house, viz: 7/6 per week, plus rates.

In each locality the number of applicants for tenancy exceeded the number of houses provided, and in Much Wenlock the appreciation by the public of the houses already provided, is marked and the demand for more houses is insistent and the Council is contemplating the erection of six or eight more houses in Much Wenlock in the immediate future.

In Madeley and Broseley the Industrial situation is somewhat uncertain at the moment and the Councils have paused to consider the position before proceeding with further schemes of building.

One of the Madeley houses has been sold to the occupier."

By a recent return it appears that since 1919, 16 houses have been built by Municipal action, and 11 by private persons, a total of 27. The number fallen out of use in the same period is returned as 15 closed, by the local Authority and 3 closed voluntarily, a total of 18. Most of the Closing Orders were in respect of ruined houses long uninhabited and with a view to their demolition.

1929

Wenlock Urban.—"A new Gas Engine of 130 h.p. was installed at Harrington Pumping Station in April. In Madeley Ward 770 yards of new service pipe were laid, and 77 houses connected, including 42 built by the Council during the year. Another extension of 630 yards was laid, to the Lees Farm ; and one of 100 yards to a stand post for the supply of six cottages in the parish of Benthall (Barrow Ward). The water was laid on to a new slaughter-house at Ironbridge, and to some 50 new water closets in Madeley and Broseley Wards."

Although there is no serious gross pollution of the River Severn, the effect of a certain number of trade effluents will have to be carefully watched and investigated. A few of the minor tributaries of the Severn are certainly at times rather seriously polluted, but have little effect on the waters of the Severn itself. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has for a number of years conducted a survey of the river in which all the local authorities through whose area the Severn flows took part, but these surveys having established the fact that in Shropshire, at least, the general condition of the river was good, and it was considered sufficient to make regular examination at certain fixed points. These observations showed that there was on the whole a consistently high condition of

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oxygenation of the water, and that the natural self-purification of the Severn was at present sufficient to keep the water in a satisfactory condition. This fact, however, is no justification for pouring into the Severn untreated sewage or trade effluents, and it is with a view to the prevention of such developments, rather than to deal with present pollutions, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is pressing for the establishment of a Joint Committee representative of the Local Authorities responsible for the administration of the River Pollution Act over the whole of the Severn water-shed.

1931

36 houses opened by the council and plans for 8 more passed and are I course of construction

In Broseley Ward 20 properties were connected to the supply and 12 new w.c.'s connected.

In Broseley Ward 300 yards of 9-inch sewer were laid at Broseley Wood, and a further 100 yards at Quarry Bank.

1932

Wenlock Urban.—With 8 new houses built during the year by the Council in the Broseley Ward, the total number of houses built and owned by the Council is now 187, a notable contribution to better housing, but there remains still a considerable ' waiting list ' of candidates for houses. A class of house to let at 5/- per week inclusive of rates, in large numbers, if it were economically possible, would go very far to solve the housing problem in the Borough."

Severn Survey.—In accordance with the arrangements made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with those County Councils and County Borough Councils through whose administrative areas the River Severn flows from its source, with the object of securing a complete survey of the river on one particular date, and thereby obtaining a picture of the condition of the river as a whole. Dr. Weston, Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, took six samples at different points between Shrewsbury and Coalport. Four samples indicated a high condition of oxygenation of the water, but two showed a condition of the river in which this was very low and, therefore, unsatisfactory. The first of these was taken below the outfall of the Shrewsbury sewage effluent, and the other below the district of Ironbridge, Jackfield and Coalport, where there is considerable contamination by crude sewage.

1933

Rd. Gepp states :—" There appears also to be some shortage of this type of house (non- parlour) in Broseley ward, and the Committee might with advantage consider a scheme similar to those in Madeley and Wenlock

1935

Madeley and Broseley.—The supply from the Harrington deep bore was constant. The Water Engineer reports that some 800 yards of new service pipes were laid in Madeley Ward and the water laid on to the new Senior Elementary School at Madeley and to 30 private properties. At Broseley some 3,900 yards of service pipe were laid and the supply laid on to 4 new Council houses, to 40 other house properties, and to 3 farms."

The Broseley Committee built 4 non-parlour type houses on their King Street site, to let at economic rents.

Sewerage: In Broseley Ward some 80 yards of 18-inch pipes were laid to pipe in a section of the Benthall Brook."

Scavenging: Wenlock Borough.—" The Inspector reports :—The arrangements continue for removal by contract of night soil and house refuse weekly in Madeley Ward, and of house refuse in Broseley Ward and the town of Much Wenlock.

1937

Wenlock M.B.— New Houses.—" Plans for 50 new Council Houses were passed at Broseley and 24 at Much Wenlock Ward."

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Broseley Ward.— Water was laid on to two new houses and to a new public convenience, and extensions of 1,500 feet of service pipe were made to properties mostly for W.C. conversions.”

Benthall Parish [Borough Ward].—Water was laid on to one new house and a further extension to Bower Yard, Ironbridge.”

Wenlock M.B.—” A sewerage scheme, necessary in connection with the new Housing Estate and Slum Clearance Programme at Broseley, was submitted to the Ministry of Health and was the subject of a Public Enquiry in November. The completion of this Scheme, when sanctioned, will enable further progress to be made in privy conversions.”

Severn: At Ironbridge, however, the river had completely recovered from the Shrewsbury Pollution, and though there was slight deterioration at Coalport, there was again complete recovery at Bridgnorth.”

“ The final conclusion is that, though the River is polluted at various points, the natural purifying resources are adequate and that there is no sign of complete breakdown even in the rather severe strain of a dry season.”

Wenlock M.B. Council.—Broseley.—The proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme which is estimated to cost £8,800, does not cover the whole of the Broseley area, as three schemes would be required for that purpose owing to the conformation of the ground. The cost of three schemes at the present time would be more than the local authority could bear, and therefore only the southern portion of Broseley itself is being dealt with. The sewage from the Benthall side of the hill is still being allowed to discharge into the Benthall Brook. The area remaining undealt with will, of course, necessitate another scheme in the future. The present scheme will provide immediately for 1,720 persons, and will also make provision for the local authority’s proposed housing scheme of 80 houses, and also for the 28 houses already erected by that Council. Provision is also made in the scheme for dealing with any future developments by private enterprise. In addition, the scheme includes the Lady Forester Hospital, which is rather an important consideration. Although application has been made to the County Council for financial assistance, no decision has yet been made.

1938

At Broseley a 3 inch main has been extended to supply 50 new Council houses on the Birch Meadow Housing Estate. In the Jackfield area of the Ward the supply was laid on to four new Bungalows and many defective old service pipes were replaced.

Some 230 feet of new service pipe were laid in the adjoining Benthall parish in Barrow ward.

Drainage and Sewerage. The new sewerage scheme at Broseley, necessitated "by the Council’s new Housing Estate Scheme, was nearing completion at the end of the year. This system will also provide for efficient treatment of the sewage from the old sewers of the Eastern half of the town, and will enable progress to be made in the conversion of privies to W. C’s in that area.

Scavenging;. The arrangements continue for removal of night soil and house refuse weekly in Madeley Ward, and of house refuse in Broseley Ward, and the town of Much Wenlock.

Good progress is being made by the Committees in measures for the relief of overcrowding: Sixteen houses for this purpose being erected at Broseley, and nearing completion at the end of the year, Eight Orders as to Clearance areas, made by Broseley Sanitary Committee, were confirmed by the ministry of Health subsequent to Public Enquiry held on March last of last year.

Broseley 31 new houses 152 persons re-housed

Of the 50 houses at Broseley referred to in the last report, 26 were completed before the end of the year to re-house families from slum properties, the remainder nearing completion,

New building by Local Authority with state assistance 47 houses includes 26 for slum clearance at Broseley ...

1941

Mr. C. J. Thomas reports that in 1941, 38 new W.C’s. were connected up to sewers, and of these 25 were provided in factories in the district. 75 yards of new sewer were laid in Broseley Wood,

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1943

Post war planning 50 houses – 25 on Birch Meadow site . Barrow 15 no site yet secured

Broseley 1126 inhabited houses, Barrow 405

The Harrington Joint Water Scheme supplies the Madeley and Broseley Wards and has also proved adequate. The water is chlorinated and samples taken show that the water is suitable for domestic purposes. The work at the new Beckbury station is proceeding and a plentiful supply of water of good quality has been obtained.

The Inspector (Mr. C. J. Thomas) estimates that 90% of the houses in the Borough have either a main piped supply laid on or are within reach of stand-pipes. The houses which have not a piped supply are those in the rural districts of the Borough.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Samples of sewage effluent were taken in the autumn months from the works at Much Wenlock, Madeley, Iron-bridge and Broseley and these were all found to conform to the standards laid down by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. Twelve privies were converted to water-closets during the year.

Refuse Disposal, etc.

The arrangements continue as before for the removal of night-soil and house refuse weekly in the Madeley Ward and of house refuse in the Broseley Ward and the town of Much Wenlock.

1944

Broseley Ward.

Here there is a disposal plant which takes sewage from two housing estates of about 78 houses in all. The older sewers from the eastern part of the town are also connected.

From the rest of the town the sewage is still untreated and is discharged into the river in this condition.

A complete sewage disposal scheme is also needed in this Ward.

Generally speaking the need for new houses in the district is very great, as not only has there been an almost complete absence of new houses being built during the last six years, but many houses have become uninhabitable from lack of repairs. Applications for houses in the Sanitary Districts are as follows

Broseley	140
Barrow	3

In the Madeley and Broseley Wards the problem of sewers and sewage disposal will have to be faced before any further large scale building programmes are commenced. At present the conditions are very unsatisfactory indeed, and, although the expense will be high, the sooner the problem is faced up to the better it will be for the inhabitants of these areas.

Generally speaking the need for new houses in the district is very great, as not only has there been an almost complete absence of new houses being built during the last six years, but many houses have become uninhabitable from lack of repairs. Applications for houses in the Sanitary Districts are as follows

1945

The applications for houses in the districts are as follows :—

Broseley	175
Barrow	6

Permanent Houses

The Council plan to build 301 of these, of which 114 will be in the first year's programme. The following are the sites on which they will be built :—

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	New in 1 st year programme	Total
Broseley Ward : New Road Site	22	50 (approx.
Barrow Ward : Little Wenlock and Benthall Site	—	10
		Madeley Ward : Beech Road Site A

Temporary Houses

The Council applied for 175 of these, but were only granted 40, and these will be erected, when received, on the following sites :—

Broseley Ward, Dark Lane Site 13

1946

No chemical examinations of water samples were made during the year. An electrical breakdown at Broseley resulted in the water being cut off for a few days.

The sewage disposal plants at Madeley, Broseley and Much Wenlock have functioned well, and samples of the effluent have proved satisfactory. In the Report for 1944, attention was drawn to the fact that half the houses in Madeley are not connected to the sewers and the same condition is found in Broseley.

A comprehensive scheme is needed for both areas, as present conditions are unsatisfactory. It is to be hoped that these will not be long delayed.

Permanent Houses

Of the thirty-nine houses completed in 1946, twelve were of the permanent type and were built at Broseley. Of the houses to be completed in 1947, ten at Broseley and six at Prince Street, Madeley, are now completed, and twenty in High Street, Madeley, will be completed in July, 1947. This leaves fifty houses at Hodge Croft site, Much Wenlock, to be completed by the end of 1947.

Temporary Houses

Twenty-seven temporary houses have been erected at Madeley. In addition to these a further thirteen temporary houses were completed in January, 1947 at Broseley, and are now occupied. The Council applied for 175 of these houses, but were only granted forty.

1947

Water: During the year 43 new connections were made to houses in the Madeley Ward and 36 in Broseley—a total of 79 houses.

Among extensions in view at the present time are the following : New water mains for the Church Street Housing Site, Madeley. Extension of service pipe to Mill Cottage, Madeley (300 yards). The Mines, Benthall, 400 yards of 3" mains.

Preens Eddy, Coalport, 400 yards of 1½ " to 1" service main, to supply several cottages without a supply at present.

At Broseley the ten houses at Birch Meadow were completed and at Madeley a total of 16 houses were completed. Ten houses at High Street, Madeley were under construction.

Temporary Houses

The thirteen pre-fabricated houses at Broseley were completed in January, 1947. Together with the 27 erected at Madeley the previous year this completes the total number of those houses allotted to the Borough. These houses are quite satisfactory and have done something to relieve the acute shortage of houses in the district.

Applications for housing Broseley 172

Under Housing Acts@ Broseley .

General repairs 86

New drains 19

New WC's 13

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House disinfected 1
Other improvements 14

1948

Water: No shortage was reported on this supply and the results of analysis were satisfactory. In the Broseley Ward 8 houses have been connected to the supply and also one farm and one Work's Canteen. A pipe line was also laid to Benthall School Room a distance of 188 yards and some cottages have been connected to this extension.

The Preen's Eddy and the Mines extensions have not yet been carried out but it is hoped that these may soon be started.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

Mr. Thomas reports that an approximate length of 1,950 yards of new sewers were laid in connection with the Council's new housing schemes. The disposal works at Much Wenlock, Madeley, Iron-bridge and Broseley have functioned well during the year and samples of the effluents have been satisfactory.

An enquiry was held by the Ministry of Health into the Council's proposal for a new disposal works for the Aqueduct area of Madeley. The suggested site for the proposed new works was not considered to be satisfactory and at present no progress has been made with this scheme.

It has been pointed out in previous reports that a large number of houses in the Madeley and Broseley Wards are not yet on any of the main sewers but are served by earth closets or by cess-pits which have to be periodically emptied.

The configuration of the land makes it very difficult for a comprehensive scheme for both these Wards to be planned and at the present time the cost of such a scheme would be very large indeed— even if it were possible to carry it out.

In view of the Council's building programme and the increase in the number of houses to be connected to the sewers, the problem of sewage disposal is certain to become more and more urgent and will ultimately have to be faced and solved by the Council.

Housing

Applications as at 31/12/48 Broseley & barrow 204

Under construction: New Road Broseley 10, Jackfield 6.

1949

Sewers and Sewerage

The Inspector reports that new sewers have been laid in connection with the Council's new housing schemes at Broseley and Madeley. No reports have been received on sewage effluents during the year. Particulars of the various disposal schemes will be found in previous reports.

Housing

Applications as at 31/12/49 Broseley Ward 120, Barrow Ward 15

Housing programme 1950 Broseley – new Road Site of these eight houses four are to be let to tenants nominated by the barrow Ward.

1950

Water Supplies

All water supplies in the borough are under the control of the East Shropshire Water Board, and the District Engineer of the Board reports that there was no shortage during the year under review. A total of approximately 146 million gallons was pumped from Beckbury to the Madeley and Broseley Wards, and as the installation of the No. 2 borehole pump at Beckbury is now completed, the Board are considering the disposal of the old machinery at Harrington. A new duplicate pump has been supplied at the Benthall Station. No extensive laying of new mains has been carried out, but at the housing sites the Councils have extended mains where required.

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Housing

Traditional new road Broseley 10 completed 1950, 16 under construction 31/12/1950 24 to be commenced 1951

Wimpey King Street 50 to be commenced 1951

Applications 168

1951

Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works

The Surveyor reports that during the year new sewers have been constructed on the Beech Road Site, Ironbridge, the Church Street Site, Madeley, and on the King Street Site, Broseley, to take the sewage from the Council Houses on these new sites. No other sewer extensions have been carried out during the year.

A new disposal works of a temporary nature is under construction to deal with the effluent from the proposed houses at King Street, Broseley, and extensions are contemplated at the Ironbridge Disposal Works to deal with the additional sewage from the Beech Road Site. This latter scheme is urgently needed if the standard of purity of the effluent is to be maintained.

Samples of effluent from the Broseley and Much Wenlock Disposal Works were taken during the year. In both cases the amount of suspended matter was higher than it should be for a satisfactory effluent. The amount of solids in suspension should not exceed three parts per 100,000, but in the case of the effluent at Much Wenlock it was 21 parts per 100,000, and at Broseley it was 12 parts per 100,000. Samples of the streams into which these two effluents are discharged were also taken at points above and below the place where the effluents enter the streams. These samples did not show that there was any very serious pollution of the streams in question.

Salvage Collection

The Council have not resumed the collection of salvage since the war owing to the shortage of accommodation for the sorting and baling of paper, etc. It is proposed to acquire a new depot at Broseley, and it will then be possible to re-introduce the collection of salvage.

Housing

Applications Broseley 150, Barrow 18

New Road Broseley 16 completed 1951, one under construction 28 to be commenced 1952

King Street 50 under construction 12 to be commenced 1952

Benthall 8 to be commenced 1952

1952

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

The Surveyor reports that a new disposal works has been constructed at the Fish House, Broseley, to deal with sewage from new and existing housing estates and from parts of the Broseley Wood area. New sewers have been laid for housing estates at King Street, Broseley, and Beech Road, Madeley. New drains have been provided by the owners of a few properties and water closets substituted for pail closets or privies.

Refuse Disposal

A weekly collection is carried out in the major portion of the district and the outlying parts are served either fortnightly or monthly.

Disposal is by tipping at Ironbridge, Broseley and Much Wenlock. A new tip on the Sheinton Road, Much Wenlock, has come into use during the year.

Housing

Applications for houses 165

King Street Broseley 60 completed in 1952, 12 under construction 62 to be commenced in 1953.

New Road Broseley 28 under construction.

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A land-slip took place at Jackfield, in the Broseley Ward, during the year, and this caused considerable damage to a number of houses in that area. 18 houses were affected, and 14 families had to be rehoused at short notice by the Council, the other families being able to find other accommodation by themselves. Of these 18 houses, 8 are being demolished, the remaining 10 being unfit for habitation. The causes of the land-slip are being investigated by the Ministry of Works.

Water Supply

The main supply to the district is that from Beckbury, and this proved sufficient in amount during the year for the areas served.

Water Supply

The main supply to the district is that from Beckbury, and this proved sufficient in amount during the year for the areas .

1953

Sewage Disposal

Sample of Final Effluent from outlet of Humus Tanks at Broseley Modern Sewage Disposal Works.

In parts per 100,000 of water

Dissolved Oxygen taken up in 5 days at 65F.	1.0
Suspended Matter ...	8.0
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80 F.	0.72
Chlorine in Chlorides Reaction pH	7.0
Stability Test (Methylene Blue 5 days) ...	Satisfactory
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.19
Appearance	Slightly Turbid
Odour	Nil

The amount of suspended matter in this sample is rather high as it should not exceed 3 parts per 100,000. In other respects the sample is satisfactory and if the suspended matter could be reduced this would be regarded as a good effluent.

(Signed) Harold Lowe, m.sc., f.r.i.c.,

Public Analyst.

Housing

Since the end of the war the emphasis in matters of housing has been on the provision of new houses. The number built each year has increased but the demand for new houses is still very high in most places.

Another point is that the older houses have been deteriorating at a considerable pace. Rents have been frozen but the cost of repairs have about trebled since 1939 and the owners of many houses simply cannot afford to keep them in proper order. So, while many new houses have been built, numbers of the older houses have degenerated into slum property. It has been reckoned that about one third of the total houses in the country are more than seventy-five years old. In many cases such houses are now beyond repair. The demand for new houses is therefore likely to continue and more especially as it may not be possible to re-house all persons in unfit houses for some time to come.

Something therefore has to be done to deal with this problem and the most obvious step is to amend the Rent Restriction Acts. It has therefore been proposed to allow the private landlord to raise the rent within strict limits, so that with the additional money he gets he will be able to carry out necessary repairs. A tenant may have to pay an increased rent and many may object to this. On the other hand he will have a better house and the knowledge that rather more than the extra money demanded from him as rent is being spent on the house.

The slum, or near slum, property is another problem which has to be dealt with. The best that can be done with a slum is to demolish it but as any roof, however bad, is better than no roof at all, destruction cannot take place until alternative accommodation is found. The same applies to a certain extent to the near slum.

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It looks therefore that, until the building of new houses has advanced still more, the temporary repair of a good many houses will be required. This is not a very satisfactory step perhaps in some ways, but there does not appear to be any other way to deal with the matter. The only other alternative might be a vast measure of nationalisation and subsequent subsidy which the country could not probably afford.

Broseley - Applications for Council Houses 114

New houses completed

New Road	28 with 2 under construction (incorrectly listed as Southfield Road)
Site A	12 with 2 under construction
King Street	0 with 62 under construction
Benthall	8 completed none under construction

1954

Farming and allied trades are the chief industries in the areas, but at Wenlock Borough there are factories at Madeley, Ironbridge and Broseley. The figures for unemployment remain low throughout the Districts. The shortage of houses remains the chief problem to be faced by all the Councils and although much has been done in the way of building new houses there is still a great deal to be done both as regards the supply of new houses and the making of many of the older houses fit for habitation in accordance with modern standards.

Sewage Disposal Works

The Surveyor reports that the extensions to the Madeley (Hill Top) disposal works are under construction. The extensions to the Fishhouse, Broseley, works are to be commenced shortly.

Housing

Applications for Council Houses. Broseley 215, barrow 20

New Road	2 completed
King Street	62 completed
High Street	27 to be commenced in 1955

1955

Sewage Disposal

During the year work was carried out with regard to the extensions to the Madeley (Hill Top) disposal works and to the Fishhouse works at Broseley, but these have not yet been completed.

Refuse Collection

There has been no change in the system of collection of refuse. There is a weekly collection in some of the more populated parts and the out-lying parts have a fortnightly or monthly collection. There are three vehicles used for this work and there are three disposal tips at Broseley, Ironbridge and Much Wenlock.

1956

Infant Welfare Clinic - Victoria Institute 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursday.

A new 3-inch water main was laid to serve the Bungalow Site, High Street, Broseley.

Sewage Disposal

There are eight Sewage Disposal Works owned by the Council and these are at Madeley (2), Broseley (2), Jackfield, Benthall, Wenlock and Bourton. The Surveyor reports that the Works at Much Wenlock are overloaded at present. The Benthall Works are not satisfactory but some work has been carried out on them to improve the effluent. The major problem at the present at Madeley (Hill Top), Madeley (Station Road), and Broseley (Dark Lane) Works is the matter of sludge disposal and the very restricted land and access available. One new sewer was laid at Duke Street, Broseley, the length being 150 yards of 9-inch sewer. A total of 1,131 Council houses in the Borough are connected to the sewers in the area.

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Disposal Works

Broseley (Dark Lane) Council Houses served 72

Broseley (Fish House) — extended 1956 Council Houses served 186

Jackfield (Calcutts) Council Houses served 6

Benthall (Haybrook Terrace) ... Council Houses served 8

The Surveyor states that there is no definite information as to the number of private houses which are served by each of the above sewage disposal schemes.

Report on Sewage Effluent

The following is a Report on a Sewage Effluent taken at the Fish-House Works, Broseley ... This is a satisfactory effluent and fit to discharge into a stream.

Housing

Of the 23 new houses built by the Council 16 were at Broseley

HOUSING AND HEALTH

It is still rather a difficult matter to arrive at an answer to the question as to what is the exact relationship between housing and health. Various Housing Acts have been passed since the year 1868 and in 1890 there was an Act which remained the principal Act until 1925. This Act consisted of three parts :

Part 1. Slum clearance.

2. Repair or closure and demolition of single unfit houses.

3. This was adoptive and enabled L.A.s to build and maintain houses for the working classes.

It should be remembered that in addition to housing there are other factors which have to be dealt with if disease is to be prevented, e.g.. Want, Ignorance, Squalor, and Idleness. It is difficult to assign to housing alone its proper share in the production of ill- health.

Overcrowding

Cases of overcrowding are still met with to a considerable extent and in some cases it may be due to two or more families sharing a house. This is bound to have a bad influence on an ordered family life. Each family requires a home of its own to live in. The effect of overcrowding is particularly harmful to the younger children in a family. The moving of a family to a larger and better house often helps to reduce the Infant Mortality in any such family.

Letting of Houses

When lists of applicants are considered for Council houses to be let it is of the greatest importance that each case should be carefully considered so that the actual need may be fully ascertained. Some families may be living in a very unsatisfactory house but the members of the family may be in good health. In such a case it would have to be considered as to whether moving the family to a better house would perhaps be a help in preventing them becoming unhealthy in the future.

In another family there may already be ill-health, e.g., Tuberculosis—and the need for a larger and better house may be very urgent indeed.

1958

SLUM CLEARANCE - Broseley Ward.

The progress Indicated was made during the year in respect of the following Clearance areas in the Broseley Ward:

1. The Square. Broseley. (2 Houses) Purchased by agreement.

2, Woodhouse Road. Compulsory Purchase Order.

5 Houses and additional land. Awaiting confirmation by Ministry.

3. Church Street. Clearance Order. (4 Houses), Confirmed by Ministry 19.12,58,

4, Birch Row, Clearance Order. (7 houses). Confirmed by Ministry 14.10.58.

5, Hockley Bank. Compulsory Purchase Order. (12 Houses),

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On the advice of the Ministry, application for confirmation of this area was withdrawn pending purchase of adjoining land. Arrangements have since been made to purchase this land, and the Clearance Order is to be re-submitted in January next,

6, Legges Alley, Clearance Order. (3 Houses). Confirmed by the Ministry 14.10.58.

One objection was received in respect of Area 2 (Woodhouse Road), and one in respect of area 3 (Church Street).

A public enquiry was held by the Ministry, but one objection was withdrawn before the enquiry, and the other objector did not appear.

BARROW WARD.

A check was made on the list of about 40 applicants for Council Houses in the Ward when it was found that only two families remained on the housing list - the others having died, found other accommodation, or left the district.

The Ministry Inspector did however proceed briefly with the enquiry for the benefit of the few members of the public present.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

On the 31st December, 1958, there were thirty-five caravans in the Borough - each had individual licences under the provisions of the Public Health Act. There was one site licenced for twelve moveable dwellings in the Broseley Ward.

It is difficult to compare the number of licenced caravans at the end of 1958 with those for previous years as a register of licences was not kept before that time.

An application "by a person at Preens Eddy, Broseley, for planning approval and Public Health Licences in respect of a site for fifty caravans was unanimously recommended for approval by the Broseley Sanitary Committee. Unfortunately, the County Planning Authority refused approval - as a result of which the owner has appealed, a Ministry enquiry is to be held in January 1959. There is a necessity in the Borough for a well-run site for moveable dwellings provided with proper drainage and water supply. The conditions agreed to by the applicant regarding sanitary provisions etc. were ideal, and this appeared to be a good opportunity for a well-run caravan site to be provided.

1960

Sewerage schemes

Wenlock B. Broseley Feb., 39

Properties 540

Inhabitants 2,200

Cost £8,800 on a basis if 15% of cost Proposed loan 1,320

Broseley Wood (Fish Houses) Sewage Works (Wenlock Borough) 31/10/1960 Unsatisfactory

Broseley Sewage Works (Wenlock Borough Council) A well nitrified effluent with a satisfactory B.O.D. The suspended matter, however, is in excess of the Royal Commission recommended limit of 30 p.p.m.

1962

Broseley grant towards £8000 cost of Sewerage scheme

Broseley Wood (Fish Houses) Sewage Works – Very unsatisfactory. Virtually average strength crude sewage.

1964

Leggs Alley (5 houses) Clearance Order confirmed by the ministry on 13.10.63 these houses were demolished in June, 1964.

Carvers Road/Hockley Road (5 Houses) Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 20.9.63 All houses were vacated during the year.

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Jackfield No.1 (19 houses) Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 16.7.64 Four families rehoused during the year leaving three in occupation. Included in this Order were several derelict properties which had not been occupied for some years.

Jackfield No._2 (6 houses) Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 25.6.64 Two families were rehoused during the year, two remaining.

Jackfield No, 3 (6 houses') Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 25.6.64. All six families were rehoused during the year.

1966 Bridgnorth District

Remedial Works at the Broseley and Much Wenlock disposal units produced improved effluents.

113 Units of accommodation were in course of construction by 31st December at Broseley(110 units)

Broseley - Considerable works of Improvement have been made during the year at the Fish House and Dark Lane Works, resulting in an improvement in the effluents and easier maintenance.

Private houses in Barrow, Broseley Much & Wenlock (grades not available)	1,741
Council houses in Barrow Broseley & Much Wenlock	667
Total	6,907
Adds Private houses built in year	80
Council houses built in year	12
Total houses 31/12/66	6,999
Less Demolitions and conversions	24
Total houses at 31.12.66.	6,975

Houses Under Construction

Broseley - 110 units are being provided at Bridgnorth Road, being made up as follows: 20 bungalows, 26 two-bedroom houses, 25 three-bedroom houses, 38 four-bedroom houses.

Community Quarters, kitchen and laundry, together with sleeping accommodation for visitors to residents of the bungalows, and a Warden's house,

1969

Water: Broseley Water is supplied from a borehole at Beckbury where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at Posenhall and distributed by gravity.

Broseley - Difficulty is experienced in maintaining satisfactory effluents from the sewage disposal works at both Fish House and Dark Lane. In addition the fact that much untreated sewage and effluents from septic tanks are discharged to the River Severn via a culvert makes the provision of a new sewerage scheme for this area one of high priority in the Council's future programme.

It is unfortunate that the Council have not received as much co-operation as they might have expected from a neighbouring authority where it was hoped that a joint venture of providing a sewer to the Gitchfield Works of the Telford Development Corporation would have been beneficial to both Authorities. It would now appear that the provision of a sewer to serve Broseley only will have to be undertaken at a greater cost by this Council.

Broseley - Pre War council houses 95. Post war 462. Barrow 12 post war

1971

Sewerage

Broseley The area is served by two disposal works at Fish House and Dark Lane. The effluent from the Fish House disposal works improved during the year but was still not up to River Authority standards and proceedings were instituted for an alleged contravention of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1951 but were not pursued. An investigation was held on the 12th January 1971 and confirmation was later received from the Department of the Environment, for the provision of a new sewerage scheme for Broseley and part of Barrow and the provision of a sewer to the Gitchfield Sewage Disposal Works of the Telford Development Corporation. A considerable amount of work

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has been carried out at the Fish House Disposal Works enabling the effluent to be irrigated over grass. This has resulted in an improved effluent.

Housing

The 5 properties in the King Street, Broseley Clearance Area 1970 were demolished during the year. Further properties in the Foundry Lane/Pooles Yard area of Broseley have been acquired by the Council where it is hoped that eventual clearance of the site will allow for re-development in the future.

1972

Broseley - Water is supplied from a borehole at Beckbury where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at Posenhall and distributed by gravity. No fluoridation of this supply is carried out.

Number of houses in Broseley 872 - premises receiving water for public supply 865

Number of houses in Barrow 224 - premises receiving water for public supply 110.

Broseley - A sewerage scheme was commenced during the year which will enable the two existing public sewage disposal plants and various smaller plants to be abandoned. Sewage from this scheme will be treated at the Gitchfield Sewage Disposal Works of the Telford Development Corporation.

Pre-war council houses 95.

Post war council houses, Barrow 12, Broseley 437

The four properties in the Hilltop, Broseley Clearance Area 1970 were demolished.

The Council continue to pursue their policy of purchasing houses in the Poole's Yard/Foundry Lane area of Broseley where eventual clearance will allow for re-development.

The full reports are available on the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/texts>