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BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

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Medical Officer
OF
Health's Report
1967

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S. M. R. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

1967

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In previous reports I have discussed the health and sickness of the community during infancy and in old age with particular reference to the principal causes of sickness and death. A brief resumé has also been given of the present day community medical services available for the various age groups. This year it is proposed to consider the health of the school child. The school health service has been applied for some 50 years, and I am sure we all appreciate the fantastic changes in the physical standards of our children during this period.

Fifty years ago school buildings were frequently situated badly, alongside main roads and many of them could only be described as dark, dismal and dreary structures. All schools were overcrowded and unhygienic, any movement being sufficient to raise clouds of dust. When advised that floors be treated with dustless oil, teachers acknowledged the resulting improvement in accoustics, but raised loud objections due to the soiling of the Prussian braid on their long gowns. Since then both mood and mode have changed and not only by the appearance of the mini-skirt ! Slowly and painfully, modern schools have replaced some of the old antiquated buildings while the general environment and sanitation of others have been improved. In this town, the original schools, with their overcrowded classes, are still in use, although one admits to a face-lift here and there. We continue to look forward, with commendable patience, to their final closure.

Pioneer school Medical Officers were appalled to see children, of three, four and five years of age, sitting in the most awful positions or uncomfortable forms with no manner of back support. Large numbers were dirty, undernourished and adenoidal. Their clothing could not be compared in impoverishment with their footwear, many of them were barefooted in winter as in summer. Skin diseases, pediculosis and rickets were exceedingly common, and it is easy to understand the grave effects upon the eyesight and physique of children when admitted to such schools at the tender age of three years. In addition to the large numbers of physically diseased bodies, many of the children were so dirty and verminous that they had to stand on large sheets of paper while they were being undressed prior to bathing. In those days, fleas were treated by the parents with a lofty disdain as for example, one mother a charwoman, who calmly informed the Doctor, " The child has only got fleas—you get them in the best houses."

Following the Education Act of 1907, free meals were provided for the poor and necessitous school children. The following illustrates the unimaginative type of menu provided :—

Monday—Bread and Cheese, Boiled Jam Roll.

Tuesday—Irish Stew, Currant Bread.

Wednesday—Green Pea and Vegetable Soup, Boiled Rice and Currants.

Thursday—Irish Stew, Baked Jam Roll.

Friday—Bread and Cheese or Bread and Jam, Rice Pudding.

Sufficient bread to be supplied each day. Milk was not provided at this time, and the importance of vitamins was yet to be universally realised. However, such a diet was valuable if only to relieve the pangs of hunger.

Contrast with an example of a present day menu :—

Monday—Corned Beef, Beans and Potatoes, Steamed Sultana Pudding and Custard.

Tuesday—Roast Lamb, Cauliflower, Potatoes and Gravy, Fruit Flan and Custard.

Wednesday—Hot Cheese Pie, Peas and Potatoes, Baked Sponge and Custard.

Thursday—Fried Fish, Tomatoes and Potatoes, Baked Apple, Short-bread and Custard.

Friday—Stewed Beef, Onions, Carrots and Potatoes, Jam Tart and Custard.

The supplementary feeding of school children has been greatly extended during recent years. Milk in schools was introduced in 1934. Between 1946 and 1967, all children attending State aided schools have been entitled to one-third pint of milk daily and free of charge. Similarly, there has been a steady increase in the number and variety of mid-day meals served in all schools throughout the town, the school dinner being no longer limited to the poor and undernourished but available to all for the modest sum of 5s. 0d. per week (increased to 7s. 6d. in 1968).

Meanwhile, the school medical service branched out in various directions. Dental inspections and treatment by a School Dentist were introduced in Monmouthshire about 1914. Soon, great care was to be shown in the ascertainment of the "abnormal" child. Unfortunately, having ascertained abnormality, there was very little that could be done

for this category. The problem of finding institional accommodation was more difficult then than today. During the twenties, attention was focussed on the "crippled" child and Orthopoedic clinics were established. Despite the efficiency of such schemes, many of these children found difficulty in securing employment when in competition with their colleagues. Therefore, approved training centres gradually came into existence for the purpose of teaching suitable handicraft trades for the physically handicapped.

The work of the school medical inspections made Doctors familiar not only with the physical, but also the mental defects from which school children suffered. It was gradually realised that there was a need for early diagnosis and treatment of these behaviour anomalies which are so often the roots of juvenile delinquency. During the last 20 years child guidance clinics have been established—in this country we have seen the rapid growth and development of ascertainment, training and supervision of the mentally handicapped. At the same time, there have been developments in the early diagnosis and treatment of the deaf, the partially sighted and the delicate school children with increasing provision made for their special education.

The bare footed and ragged school child has long since vanished. Today the majority of school children are robust and well. Age for age, they are taller, heavier and cleaner than their predecessors. The physical attributes of children from the well-to-do and of those from the poor homes approximate one another more and more. No firm conclusions can be made from annual fluctuation in growth rates, but the broad trend is significant under nutrition in children has more or less, ceased to be a problem. Recently, there have been comments on the increasing incidence of overweight in school children. More obese than under-nourished children are now reported, but the number in each group is small. It does seem that nutritional problems of the sixties are related more to excess than deficiency. Indeed, in the adult community, slimming has assumed an important activity.

We must not blind ourselves to the fact that there are still some serious hazards to the health and life of children. More children between the ages of 5 and 15 years die from accidents than from congenital defects and all the circulatory, genito urinary infections and respiratory diseases together. Furthermore, accidents not only kill but often leave much suffering and disability in their wake. Congenital defects and disease sometimes kill, and more often leave severe handicaps. They call for further and continued research into their causes. Some 15 per cent. of children medically examined shortly after school entry, are found to have one or more defects requiring treatment. Thus, although most school children are well there is still a need for the school health service.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1958	1959	1960	1061	1062	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Area in Acres	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397
Population ..	9020	9030	9080	9620	9700	9710	9770	9790	9760	9670
Houses *(including houses assessed with shops according to the Rate Book)*	2922	3019	3019	3073	3299	3318	3356	3390	3423	3415
Rateable	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	94194	102019	104348	107504	257195	266878	272239	277483	283444	285459
Produce of Value										
1d. Rate	368	388	405	413	1000	1040	1050	1050	1094	1096

1967	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
LIVE BIRTHS			
Legitimate	66	72	138
Illegitimate	7	12	19
Total ..	73	84	157

CRUDE LIVE BIRTH RATE	*Borough*	*County*	*E. & W.*
Per 1,000 Population	16.2	16.8	17.2

Comparability Factor – 1.1

Adjusted Live Birth Rate—16.2 x 1.10 – 17.82. County 17.13

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births. Borough 12.1 County 4.93.

STILL BIRTHS	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	–	–
Illegitimate	–	–	–
	3	–	3

STILL BIRTH RATE	*Borough*	*County*	*E. & W.*
Per 1,000 Live and Still Birth ..	19	16.99	14.8
Per 1,000 Population	0.31	0.29	

DEATHS	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
All causes	73	60	133

	Borough	*County*	*E. & W.*
Crude Death rate per 1,000 population	13.8	11.29	11.2
Comparability Factor 1.00			
Adjusted Death Rate 13.8 x 1.0	13.8	12.87	

	M.	*F.*	*Total*
Death from Cancer	16	12	28
Death from Lung Cancer ..	4	2	6

Death due to Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion—Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate	*Borough*	*County*
Rate per 1,000 live and still Births	0	0.49

Infant Mortality Total 4 *(one male and three females).*

Infant Mortality Rate	*Borough*	*County*	*E. & W.*
(Rate per 1,000 live births) ..	25	21.82	18.3
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—first 4 weeks			
(Rate per 1,000 live births) ..	19.1	14.88	12.5
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate			
(Under 1 week)	19.1	12.51	10.8
Perinatal Mortality			
(Still births and infant deaths under 1 week)			
per 1,000 total live and still births	37.5	29.09	25.4

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny, 1960–67.

Year	*Number of first Week Deaths*	*Number Still-Births*	*Perinatal Mortality Rate*
1967	3	3	37.5
1966	1	1	12.1
1965	1	5	31.25
1964	9	2	57.8
1963	3	2	30.6
1962	2	9	71.4
1961	5	2	46.1
1960	2	5	51.3

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1960-1967)

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and Monmouthshire County.

Year	*Abergavenny Borough*	*Abergavenny Rural District*	*Monmouthshire*
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	—	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	—	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0

Year	*Population*	*Live Births*	*Deaths*	*Birth Rate*	*Death Rate*
1931	8490 (Estimated) ..	137	119	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census)				
1938	7925 (New Borough) ..	115	108	14.50	13.6
1939	7832 (New Borough) ..	118	144	15.10	18.38
1940	8407 (New Borough) ..	122	149	14.5	17.7
1941	8769 (New Borough) ..	130	135	14.6	15.39
1942	8468 (New Borough) ..	134	113	18.8	13.34
1943	8174 (New Borough) ..	127	122	15.56	13.34
1944	7931 (New Borough) ..	139	104	17.5	13.11
1945	8275 (New Borough) ..	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439 (New Borough) ..	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427 (New Borough) ..	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532 (New Borough) ..	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597 (New Borough) ..	134	94	15.6	10.9
1850	8534 (New Borough) ..	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904 (New Borough) ..	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9058 (New Borough) ..	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070 (New Borough) ..	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140 (New Borough) ..	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970 (New Borough) ..	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910 (New Borough) ..	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980 (New Borough) ..	131	112	14.89	12.49
1958	9020 (New Borough) ..	171	139	18.96	15.4
1959	9030 (New Borough) ..	163	126	18.05	13.95
1960	9080 (New Borough) ..	151	114	16.63	11.6
1961	9620 (New Borough) ..	150	123	15.59	12.27
1962	9700 (New Borough) ..	159	120	16.39	12.37
1963	9710 (New Borough) ..	187	143	18.13	14.73
1964	9770 (New Borough) ..	188	136	19.24	13.9
1965	9790 (New Borough) ..	187	123	19.1	12.56
1966	9760 (New Borough) ..	164	132	16.81	13.5
1966	9670 (New Borough) ..	157	133	16.2	13.8

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967 IN THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years 1–	5–	15–	25–	35–	45–	55–	65–	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung Bronchus	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	..	3	3	1
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	..	1	2	4
	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	6
Coronary Disease Angina	M	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	9	5
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Other Heart Disease	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	..	3	4
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8
Other Circulatory Disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Homicide and Operations of War	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	73	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	5	13	27	23
	F	60	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	4	4	15	30

CAUSES OF DEATH 1966 AND 1967

Cause of Death	1967			1966		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Re piratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	—	4	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	4	2	6	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2	2	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	7	15	5	7	12
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	13	21	8	10	18
Coronary Disease, Angina	21	6	27	16	9	25
Hypertension and Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	8	11	19	14	8	22
Other Circulatory Disease	3	4	7	2	5	7
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1	2	4	6
Bronchitis	6	—	6	2	6	8
Other Disease of Respiratory System	2	—	2	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and/or Duodenum	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	—	1	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	2	—	2
Hyperlasia of Prostate	1	—	1	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	2	2	4	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	2	6	8	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other Accidents	1	5	6	1	2	3
Homicide and Operations of War	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	73	58	132	65	67	132

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Measles	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Meninigitis	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil
Encephalitis	Nil
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Nil
Salmonella Typhimurium	Nil
Dysentery	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified :	Pulmonary	M 3	F 0	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 1
Deaths :	Pulmonary	M 1	F 0	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 0

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
(Classified according to sex and age)

Disease	*Sex*	*Age* 0-4	*Age* 5-9	*Age* 10-14	*Age* 15-24	*Age* 25	*Total plus*
Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Menigococcal	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonella	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonella	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhimurium	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1967

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
Age	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5– 9 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10–14 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15–19 years ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30–39 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40–49 years ..	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
50–59 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—

VACCINATIONS AGAINST SMALL POX

	Number Vaccinated										
Age Groups ..	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Under 1 year ..	64	71	81	86	50	60	7	—	9	4	2
1– 4 years ..	22	16	22	30	38	282	7	56	63	99	53
5–14 years ..	9	12	12	6	10	1332	—	—	—	7	6
15 years plus ..	28	17	9	15	15	2564	3	2	1	9	3
Total ..	123	116	124	137	113	4238	17	58	73	119	64

In addition 34 Children were re-vaccinated.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

Age Groups ..	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Under 5 years ..	95 Diph.	160 Diph.	182 Diph.	146 Diph.	125 Diph.
	95 Whc.	166 Whc.	183 Whc.	146 Whc.	115 Whc.
	104 Tetanus	158 Tetanus	182 Tetanus	154 Tetanus	126 Tetanus
5–14 years ..	1 Diph.	5 Diph.	— Diph.	6 Diph.	11 Diph.
	0 Whc.	8 Whc.	— Whc.	6 Whc.	11 Whc.
	3 Tetanus	5 Tetanus	6 Tetanus	4 Tetanus	17 Tetanus
Totals ..	96 Diph.	165 Diph.	188 Diph.	152 Diph.	136 Diph.
	95 Whc.	174 Whc.	183 Whc.	156 Whc.	126 Whc.
	109 Tetanus	163 Tetanus	188 Tetanus	158 Tetanus	143 Tetanus

In addition to the above, 144 children were given "Booster" Diphtheria Prophylactic injections, 144 "Booster" Tetanus injections and 161 "Booster" Whooping Cough injections.

CYTOLOGY STATISTICS FOR 1966 & 1967 (MONMOUTHSHIRE)

	Appts. sent New Cases		Recalls		No. of New Cases		No. Recalls		Ref'd to Infections		New Cases only Gynae-Cologist		Other Conditionsc		"Carc-in-situ"	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
Abergavenny	378	280	17	34	261	181	11	18	30	25	—	1	18	5	—	—
Abertillery	303	481	1	71	202	263	1	32	17	51	—	2	1	11	—	—
Blaina	267	299	17	12	161	161	8	8	22	16	1	—	16	5	—	—
Caldicot	172	411	4	22	118	274	3	15	6	56	—	—	3	2	—	—
Chepstow	319	115	21	51	233	78	12	24	22	13	1	1	9	1	—	—
Cwmbran	529	873	23	109	287	605	15	60	38	80	—	3	5	10	—	3
Croesyceiliog	402	216	26	52	291	153	19	31	29	34	3	1	11	4	—	—
Ebbw Vale	270	458	11	25	182	280	7	15	22	41	4	2	7	8	1	—
Monmouth	358	198	14	19	174	127	9	14	18	22	3	1	2	5	—	—
Newport	356	426	41	67	237	254	20	41	29	38	2	2	8	7	—	—
Pontypool	922	1033	86	119	570	653	59	68	72	73	2	3	23	2	1	3
Pontllanfraith	1167	1254	76	138	729	741	49	68	96	98	4	4	25	12	1	2
Risca	587	605	29	81	410	375	22	43	59	52	2	2	36	7	—	—
Tredegar	285	395	8	45	177	234	5	18	21	44	—	4	6	11	1	2
TOTALS ..	6324	7044	374	858	4132	4379	240	456	481	643	22	26	170	90	4	11

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.SC., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the town continues to be derived from the two groups of springs, the Lodge and Llwyndu groups, situated within the catchment area of the slopes of the Sugar Loaf Mountain on it's southern elevation.

These basic supplies can be supplemented in three ways :—

1. By a borehole well from which up to an average of 60,000 gallons per day can be drawn by an electric pump.
2. By the Kibby Stream which flows past the reservoir, and
3. By taking water from the mains of the Newport County Borough supply which passes the town at Llanfoist.

It was only found necessary to draw from the Kibby during five months, viz., April, June, July, August and September, the periods of lowest rainfall. The apparaant discrepancy when referring to the rainfall figures can be explained by the time lag which occurs between rain and drought and the effect on the water supply. In the July/August period and that of September recourse had to be had to those other supplies, and an average of 40,000 gallons per day was taken from the borehole in the July/August period, while in the month of September also 100,000 to 110,000 gallons per day were taken from Newport.

A chemical analysis of the water, taken during the latter part of the year, confirms that the water is of high organic purity, moderately soft and faintly alkaline. The water is not plumbo solvent, but is very slightly zinc solvent. A satisfactory bacteriological standard was maintained throughout the year. Daily checks by the Waterworks Attendant with a chloroscope were confirmed by 11 samples of treated water taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were found to be free from bacterial contamination. Six samples of raw water showed varying degrees of impurity, but the maximum count was 17 type 1. Consumption during the year has been very consistent with a fluctuation of 60,000 gallons per day to between 540,000 and 600,000 gallons per day.

Constant vigilance has been maintained by the Borough Engineer's Department, and 132 burst pipes were repaired, while replacement washers were fixed or defects renewed on 132 stop-taps, 227 ball valves, and 194 bib taps.

Six dwellings in the town, housing 14 persons, are supplied by standpipes. 28 persons living in 12 dwellings are supplied by services direct to the premises.

SWIMMING BATHS

This amenity in the town continues to supply both facilities for recreation and for training in elementary and more advanced swimming techniques. It is mainly children who take advantage of the baths, but,

in providing an outlet for their youthful exhuberence and also, under the guidance of Mr. Dyer, the Superintendent and his assistant, supplementing the Education Authority's efforts in teaching the non-swimmers not only to be able to survive in water, but to enjoy the sport that swimming can provide, the amenity can be considered to be one of the most important in the life of the community.

Although an outdoor pool, the Superintendent was able to report that after a disappointing start the attendance soon became satisfactory, and that the following awards were attained :—

Amateur Swimming Association Awards —5 gold, 11 silver and 24 bronze
Royal Life Saving Society —6 bronze medallions, 5 bronze crosses and 2 awards of merit.

32 S.T.A. Junior awards were also given.

It is most regrettable that whilst so many young people receive so much enjoyment in such pleasant surroundings and in such an atmosphere of sportsmanship and frienship that there is a number of irresponsible youths who from time to time perpetrated acts of vandalism in the pool without any apparent reason for such anti-social activities.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

From the Borough Engineer's monthly reports during the year it appears that, as might well be expected, the beginning and end of the year were fraught with difficulties but, fortunately, the middle of the year produced little weather hazards to prevent normal functioning of the works.

The after-math of very wet weather at the end of the previous year, when it was found impossible to clean out the sludge drying beds, meant that the sludge lagoons had to be used for excess sludge. Also in the early part of the year there was some trouble from mud being discharged into the sewers from the sewerage modernisation scheme going on in the town. Fortunately this was quickly corrected.

Inclement weather started in August with its 2.25 inches of rain causing difficulties in sludge drying and cleaning of the storm tanks. There was an increasing deterioration in the weather in September, culminating in the floods of 17th October when the Works were submerged to a depth of nearly four feet. All that could be done in the face of this was to give the sewage settlement in the storm tanks before being discharged into the river as soon as the floods subsided, which fortunately was very quick. The residual effects of these floods were such that it was only gradually that the equipment, which had been subjected to flood water, could be cleaned and repaired to be put back into use. The Works Manager, Mr. Fleet, is to be commended for the fact that before the year ended the system was back to normal with the exception of a few minor repairs. It was fortunate during this year that the number of power failures were much less. Also during this year the stand-by emergency power set was made available by manual operation.

SEWERAGE SCHEME

The year 1967 will be known as the year the new sewerage scheme was laid down.

In turn Lion Street (in January), Lower Monk Street (in June), Park Road (in September) were closed to all traffic. These closures caused no little inconvenience to the traders in the particular areas closed, with, of course, some inconvenience through dust and lack of access to the inhabitants of the area. Some alleviation of these difficulties was provided by a decision to alter the proposed route through King Street by joining up Lion Street and Park Road through the Cattle Market. The expeditious way in which this was carried out was commendable, and served to reduce the period of greatest inconvenience.

Great difficulties were experienced by the contractors, both in Lion Street and Lower Monk Street, due to the nature of the ground and the condition of the old sewer. There was so much leakage into the excavations that the old lengths had to be isolated by means of pumps and overland emergency pipes.

Four separate systems were working simultaneously. Lion Street was reopened to traffic in June, and Lower Monk Street in December. Park Road was closed for only a short period from September to October.

It was reported to the Council on December 31st that of the tendered amount of £266,988 the value of the work measured up to the 29th November, was £162,875.

HOUSING

Improvement Grants and Housing Act, 1964

During the year 21 applications for Standard Grant were approved. Twelve of these were owner/occupiers and 9 were tenanted houses. Six of the latter were as a result of voluntary action by landlords, while the other 3 were initiated by action under the Housing Act, 1964. Completion certificates were issued in respect of 11 applications, and a total of £1,345 were paid in grants.

Five schemes, which were approved in 1966, were completed during the year and grants made amounting to £650. There were no applications for Discretionery Grants.

Slum Clearance

The completion of the Mill Street Clearance area was still not realised at the end of the year. Re-assessment of the position in relation to certain houses required that a new resolution had to be made and negotiations for the acquisition of these houses are proceeding.

In view of the fact that the piece-meal demolition would involve a certain amount of chaos for the owners of the vacated premises in area G, they have not been required to demolish their properties and instructions will be held back until the Council are in a position to commence the demolition of the south side. The re-housing of all the inhabitants of Mill Street were effected with the exception of two families living in premises declared to be in grey areas.

Re-Housing

Phase II of the Croesonnen scheme was put into operation during the year, and the 103 dwellings were completed. They included 48 three-bedroom and 2 four-bedroom houses; 39 two-bedroom flats, 12 single bedroom flats. On the Majors Barn Estate two shops with flats were completed.

This meant that 103 suitable applicants from the Council's housing list and from the slum clearance area were re-housed in new lettings, while 75 houses, 17 flats, and 9 bungalows became vacant and were re-let. This means that in total, 204 families ranging in size from single persons to husbands and wives and four children were provided with accommodation.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ..	54
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose ..	182

2. *(a)* Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading) (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 28

(b) Inspections made for that purpose 59

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Houses in Clearance Area declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957

Number of Houses demolished :—

Unfit for human habitation	12
Included by reason of bad arrangement	Nil
On Land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil

Persons Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	29
From houses included by reason of bad arrangement ..	Nil
From houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Familjes Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	18
From houses included through bad arrangement	Nil

HOUSES NOT IN CLEARANCE AREA

Number of Houses demolished :—

As a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	7
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	Nil
Houses unfit for human habitation when action has been taken under Local Act	Nil
Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1959	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Offlcer of Health	Nil
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	Nil

Familjes displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Offlcer of Health	Nil
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under the Local Acts	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	Nil

Unfit Houses Closed

Number of Houses :—

Under Section 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :

Under Section 16 (1;, 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1947, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	Nil
Under Section 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Familjes displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :

Under Sections 16 (4;, 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Sections 26 Housing Act, 1961	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18 *Housing Act,* 1957 *:—*

Number of Houses	Nil
Number of Persons displaced	Nil
Number of Families displaced	Nil

Unfit Dwelling Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

1. Proceedings Under Housing Act :
   - *a* No. Informal Notices served .. .. .. Nil
   - *b* No. Informal Notices complied with .. .. Nil
   - *c* No. Notices served under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1947 .. .. Nil
   - *d* No. remedied .. .. Nil

2. Proceedings under Public Health Act :
   - *a* Following information action No. remedied 15
   - *b* No. Statutory Notices served 1
   - *c* No. complied with (by owner) 1
   - *d* No. complied with by Local Authority .. .. Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received during the year.

FOOD HYGIENCE REGULATIONS

Routine visits were made to most of the food premises in the town. By and large conditions were found to be satisfactory. There were some minor contraventions and these were mainly due to ignorance on the part of those engaged in handling food. It would appear that generally there is little knowledge among those employed in this trade on the subject of Hygiene in food. It might be made a condition of employment that prospective employees attend a course of lectures. If, as a result of this, there is a demand for these lectures I am certain that a suitable short course could be arranged to be given from time to time.

The recommendation for prosecution, referred to in last year's report, was taken before the Magistrates early in the year, but the results were very disappointing. The Magistrates, in their wisdom, decided to give the defendants a Conditional Discharge in spite of a plea of guilty by both defendants.

Condemned Food

The following list of miscellaneous foods were surrendered and condemned as not fit for human consumption :

Canned Foods

Meats, 131 cans; Fish, 12 cans; Soups, 10 cans; Vegetables, 50 cans; Fruits, 41 cans; Milk and Milk Food, 15 cans; Syrup, 1 can.

Frozen Foodstuffs

369 Miscellaneous Packets.

Meat and Offal from Sources Outside the Borough Area

Beef, 43-lbs.

ICE-CREAM

Of the 33 premises registered with the Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only two are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other adopting the cold mix method.

Both the manufacturers comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Thirteen samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination at the Monmouthshire Public Health Laboratory, and as a result of such examination six samples were Grade 1, four Grade 3 and three Grade 4.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Six new premises were registered during the year, comprising 1 office, 3 retail shops and 2 catering establishments open to the public.

Four retail shops were closed, which means that at the end of the year there was a total of 191 registered premises comprising 35 offices employing 186 persons, 129 retail shops employing 642 people. 72 people work in 23 catering establishments, 9 in two warehouses, 2 in two canteens and 4 in two fuel storage depots, making a total of those employed up to 324 males and 591 females.

Routine visits were paid to 100 premises. There were no serious contraventions of the Act, and only informal action was necessary to secure compliance.

No applications were received for exemption from any of the statutory requirements.

RODENT CONTROL

Full-time attention is given to this ever present problem in the Town.

The fact that the Urban area is surrounded by agricultural land and open country, with a river, running on the outskirts of the town, means that there is a constant influx of rodents into the town area. This can be seen by the sudden increase in numbers at the Refuse Tip whenever conditions there become suitable.

Vigilance cannot be relaxed neither by the Department nor those people whose business or habits promote favourable conditions for rat infestations. Heaps of refuse must be avoided at all costs, even for a short period. Instead, properly constructed bins with close fitting lids should be provided and used exclusively.

By reason of conscientious application to this problem over many years, the rat population of this Town has been reduced to a minimum. The continued co-operation of everybody is essential if this state of affairs is to be maintained.

We are fortunate that up to this moment we have no rats which are immune to the effects of Warfarin poison.

Statistically the work of the Rodent Operator is hereby appended :

Destruction of Rats in Sewers

Annual Treatment, 16th April to 27th April, 1967	
Total number of manholes in foul and connected system ..	306
Number baited	161
Number showing takes of bait	24
Annual Treatment, 2nd October to 13th October, 1967	
Total number of manholes in foul and connected system ..	306
Number baited	158
Number showing takes of bait	6

In this treatment an anti-coagulant poison was used.

Surface Infestations

Unless a quick kill was urgently required, when zinc phosphide is used, surface infestations were controlled with Warfarin.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

Total number of properties in this area	4,014
All other, including business properties	186

INSPECTIONS

Number of Local Authority properties inspected	22
Number of Business properties inspected	121
Number of Private dwellings inspected	282
Number of Agricultural properties inspected	3
Other types of premises inspected	39
Total inspections, including re-inspections	1,289

Total number found to be infested :—

By Rats	84
By Mice	21
Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator	105
Number of re-treatments	12
Total number of treatments, including re-treatments	117

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1957

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough:

	Number of Factories	*Mechanical Power used*	*With Power not used*
Agricultural Machinery Repairs	2	2	0
Buildings and Joinery	9	9	0
Bakery	3	3	0
Blacksmiths	1	1	0
Bean Flour Products	1	1	0
Boot and Shoe Repair	4	4	0
Cellulose Spraying	5	5	0
Clock and Watch Repair	3	3	0
Concrete Products	1	1	0
Clock and Watch Repair	3	3	0
Concrete Products	1	1	0
Dry Cleaners	1	1	0
Egg Grading	1	1	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio)	5	0	5
Electroplating	1	1	0
Firewood	1	1	0
Fish Friers	3	3	0
Florists	4	0	4
Gas Undertaking	1	1	0
Ice-Cream	2	2	0
Ironworks and Engineers	3	3	0
Meat—small goods	5	5	0
Mineral waters	1	1	0
Monumental Masonery	1	1	0
Motor Repairs	11	11	0

Printing	2	2	0
Paper Cutting and Packing ..	1	1	0
Slaughterhouses	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery	1	1	0
Textile Products	3	3	0
Telephone Repairs	1	1	0
Tent Repairs	1	0	1
Tinsmiths	1	0	1
Upholstery and French Polishing ..	1	0	1
Welding	3	3	0
Wool Staplers	1	0	0

OUTWORKERS—During 1967 four outworkers were listed, concerned with : Wearing apparel (2) ; Retail drapery (2).

Thirty-eight inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found :—

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	*Found*	*Remedied*	*Referred to H.M. Insp.*	*By H.M. Inspector*	*Prose'ns*
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Convenience—					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Slaughtered ..	1430	39	82	15297	2626	—
Number Inspected	1430	39	82	15397	2626	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	6	3	2	41	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	404	24	—	691	80	—
Percentage of the number inspected	28.7	69.2	2.4	4.7	3.1	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcase condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	23	—
Percentage of the number inspected	—	—	—	—	0.9	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	—	—				
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—				
Generalised totally and condemned	—	—				

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular Infections :—

Carcase meat	.. ..	268-lbs.
Offal	.. .. ..	50-lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned .. 14643-lbs.

RAINFALL. 1967

Diameter of Funnel, 5-inches.

Rain Guage —Height of Top — — Above Ground, 1 foot

— — Above Sea Level, 215 feet.

Situation : Bailey Park.

Month	*Total Depth inches*
January	3.75
February	7.0
March	3.0
April	1.0
May	7.5
June	1.5
July	2.0
August	2.25
September	7.75
October	13.75
November	4.5
December	4.0
Total ..	56.65

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROGER J. HOWELLS,
Public Health Inspector