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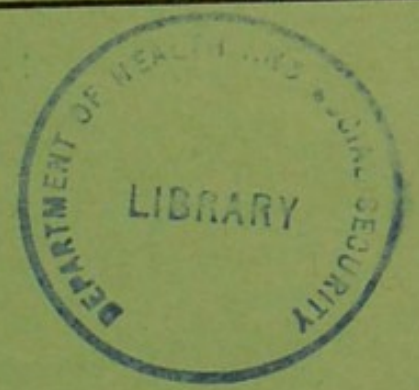
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BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

Medical Officer

of

Health's Report

1971

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



ANNUAL REPORT, 1971

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Vital statistics for 1971 show that the local adjusted birth rate of 15.8 live births per 1,000 population is the lowest since 1955 and is appreciably smaller than the country's considered low rate. At the same time it is disappointing to see the comparatively high infant mortality neonatal, early neonatal and perinatal mortality rates. During the year under review, there were three neonatal deaths all of them twin births and prematurely born. There were also three still-births, together giving rise to our high perinatal mortality. Multiple births carry a higher risk of mortality than the single ones and the incidence of the former shows an upward trend probably due to the increased use of hormonal preparations today.

Although Abergavenny may be lagging behind in its birth-rate and infant mortality rate levels, more of the town's children can now expect to live on to old age. Despite the higher death-rate, Abergavenny shows a bigger increase in the proportionate and absolute numbers of old people than many other parts of Monmouthshire, particularly the industrial valleys, that is, when the 1960 census figures are compared with those for 1950. This is best illustrated by the following table:—

PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE 1951—1961

Local Authority	1961 Numbers	1951 Numbers	Percentage change 1951—61 in the population
Abercarn U.D. ...	1951	1763	+10.7
Abergavenny M.B. ...	1276	1070	+19.3
Abertillery U.D. ...	2759	2817	— 2.1
Bedwas & Machen U.D. ...	980	814	+20.4
Bedwellty U.D. ...	2533	2345	+8.0
Blaenavon U.D. ...	1062	958	+10.9
Caerleon U.D. ...	591	505	+17.0
Chepstow U.D. ...	840	635	+32.3
Cwmbran U.D. ...	1594	1251	+27.4
Ebbw Vale U.D. ...	2946	2748	+ 7.2
Monmouth M.B. ...	823	720	+14.3
Mynyddislwyn U.D. ...	1420	1238	+14.7
Nantyglo & Blaina U.D. ...	1177	1239	— 5.0
Pontypool U.D. ...	4919	4315	+14.0
Rhymney U.D. ...	973	908	+ 7.2
Risca U.D. ...	1839	1595	—15.3
Tredegar U.D. ...	2042	2045	— 0.1
Usk U.D. ...	199	183	+ 8.7
Abergavenny R.D. ...	1132	1240	+ 7.4
Chepstow R.D. ...	1317	1062	+24.0
Magor & St. Mellons R.D. ...	1776	1545	+15.0
Monmouth R.D. ...	859	831	+ 3.4
Pontypool R.D. ...	965	682	+41.5
Cwmbran Newtown ...	1778	1282	+38.7
County ...	36,173	32,509	+11.3

This increase is expected to continue throughout the seventies and the eighties. Even today, we have a group of considerable size characterised by old age, relative poverty and isolation of its individual members from each other and from the rest of society. There is growing evidence that the outcome of such a situation is an inadequate diet and malnutrition in many cases. One form of malnutrition is scurvy which appears to occur more regularly among old people today. Anaemia is also commonly found whereas depression and mental confusion are often experienced. All these conditions could so easily be overcome by a reasonable and adequate daily diet.

At all ages, malnutrition was rare during World II due to the controlled distribution of food, dietary education and the shortage of luxury foods. In many ways health was said to be improved as evidenced by the nation's better tooth quality. After the War, luxury foods again became available and have increasingly flooded the market while the supply of low cost protective foods has been reduced or ignored by too many people today. At the same time tooth quality is said to have deteriorated. Of course gross malnutrition and widespread poverty are unknown in this country today but there are those in poor circumstances, not necessarily financial. Many of these are poor managers needing guidance as to the relative values of essentials and luxuries.

Certainly prices are rising but whereas the average proportion of the weekly budget used for smoking seems to have increased, that for food is said to have fallen especially for such items as butter and cheese. Often the emphasis is placed on car ownership, television sets and the other so-called good things of this affluent age. Meanwhile, nutritional knowledge and self-supporting efforts have diminished. As a result the effects of good medicine, warm housing, modern sanitation and easily available recreational facilities will ere-long be nullified unless people themselves see that their diets are well-balanced.

The hazards of smoking cannot be mentioned too often despite the pleasure it may give the unfortunate smoker. One must emphasize again that the mortality in Britain today, from diseases associated with this habit or addiction is the largest single available cause of deaths in this country now. It can be argued, particularly in an ageing population that death must occur sometime from something but why do we precipitate the event especially when the terminal stages can be so incapacitating for the smoker?

Even in Abergavenny, the misuse of drugs generally is on the increase, particularly amongst the young. The rebellion of youth in this and other directions may well be a state of mind produced by affluence. Man has learnt how to produce plenty but not yet how to control himself when surrounded by material and facilities greatly in excess of his needs.

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

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Area in Acres...	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397
Population ...	9700	9710	9770	9790	9760	9670	9560	9600	9520	9290
Houses (<i>including houses assessed with shops according to the Rate Book</i>)	3073	3299	3318	3356	3390	3423	3415	3409	3287	3376
Rateable Value	£ 107504	£ 257195	£ 266878	£ 272239	£ 277483	£ 283444	£ 285459	£ 289368	£ 319558	£ 347740
Product of Id. Rate	413	1000	1040	1050	1050	1094	1096	1125	1256	3332

LIVE BIRTHS		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	66	60	126
Illegitimate	...	3	5	8
Total	...	69	65	134

CRUDE LIVE BIRTH RATE	Borough	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 Population ...	14.4	16.1	16.0
Comparability Factor - 1.10			
Adjusted Live Birth Rate—14.4 x 1.10 - 15.8.		County 16.4.	E. & W. 16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births.	Borough 6.	County 6.	8
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate, 0.99.			

STILL BIRTHS		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
Total	...	3	—	3

STILL BIRTH RATE	Borough	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	22	16.0	12.0

DEATHS		M.	F.	Total
All causes	...	73	74	147

Crude Death rate per 1,000 population	Borough	County	E. & W.
	15.8	12.0	11.6
Comparability Factor 0.99			
Adjusted Death Rate 15.8 x 0.99	15.6	13.4	11.6

Death from Cancer		M.	F.	Total
	...	14	16	30
Death from Lung Cancer	...	4	3	7

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

Maternal Mortality Rate	Borough	County
Rate per 1,000 live and Still Births	0	0.18

	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (Rate per 1,000 live births) ...	22	15.0	18.0
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	16	15.0	17.0
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125	16.0	24.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—first 4 weeks (Rate per 1,000 live births)	22	10.0	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	15	8.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	36	24.0	22.0

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny 1960–1971

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of first Week Deaths</i>	<i>Number Still-Births</i>	<i>Perinatal Mortality Rate</i>
1971	2	3	36.0
1970	3	1	25.0
1969	2	—	13.0
1968	4	5	53.6
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 (1961—1971)
Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and
Monmouthshire County.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Abergavenny Borough</i>	<i>Abergavenny Rural District</i>	<i>Monmouthshire</i>
1971	36.0	14.0	24.0
1970	25.0	39.0	27.90
1969	13.0	6	27.33
1968	53.6	7.0	28.99
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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
1942	8468 (New Borough) ...	134	113	18.8	13.41
1943	8174 (New Borough) ...	127	122	15.56	13.91
1944	7931 (New Borough) ...	139	104	17.5	33.43
1945	8275 (New Borough) ...	141	120	17.0	11.54
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
1950	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	19.8
1956	8910 (New Borough) ...	143	124	16.05	11.9
1957	8980 (New Borough) ...	131	112	14.89	132.4
1958	9020 (New Borough) ...	171	139	14.96	15.4
1959	9030 (New Borough) ...	163	126	11.80	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
1967	9760 (New Borough) ...	157	133	16.2	13.8
1968	9560 (New Borough) ...	163	143	17.1	15.0
1969	9600 (New Borough) ...	151	150	15.7	15.6
1970	9520 (New Borough) ...	156	133	16.4	14.0
1971	9290 (New Borough) ...	134	147	14.4	15.8

NUMBER OF DEATHS BY CAUSE IN SEX AND AGE GROUPS — ABERGAVENNY BOROUGH, 1971

	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 Wks.		Age in Years				75—			
			Under 1 Yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44		45-54	55-64	65-74
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asthma ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	M	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
	F	74	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil
Encephalitis	...	...	...	Nil
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	Nil
Salmonella Typhimurium	...	...	...	Nil
Dysentery	...	...	...	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified : Pulmonary	M 2	F 1	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 0
Deaths : Pulmonary	M 0	F 1	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 0

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

(Classified according to sex and age)

Disease	Sex	Age	Age	Age	Age	Age	Total plus
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25	
Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Menigococcal Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Male	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Female	1	—	1	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	Male	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonella Typhimurium	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1970

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

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Medical Officer of Health

WATER SUPPLY

The distribution of water in this town and its standard of purity are now in the hands of the Gwent Water Board. At regular intervals reports of bacteriological examination are submitted to my office. Without exception they have all been satisfactory.

These results were confirmed up to a point by six samples taken by this office and submitted for examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. All the results were found to be satisfactory. Of five samples of raw water taken from the delivery mains to the Abergavenny Reservoir, three were found to be unsatisfactory.

Nineteen samples of water were taken from private supplies for examination and twelve were found to be satisfactory. Copies of results were sent to the occupiers of the premises.

Of those premises where the results are unsatisfactory some are in a position where they could be served from the Water Board's main. It is unfortunate that the Board's Engineers have not yet found it possible to provide this service.

SWIMMING BATHS

Continual attention to the chlorinating apparatus meant that the standard of the water was maintained and this was confirmed by a sample taken for bacteriological examination. It is intended that a new chlorinator should be installed in preparation for next season and this will make the whole procedure much simpler.

In his penultimate annual report to the Council, the Swimming Baths Superintendent, Mr. Joe Dyer, referred to the fact that in spite of the inclement weather, especially during the month of June, a high standard of successes was gained in school instruction classes. Young swimmers enthusiastically braved the elements to take awards under the Royal Life Saving Institute while the two annual swimming galas by the schools proved a memorable success. Regardless of the fact that being an open-air pool it is subject to the vagaries of the weather these annual galas are gaining in popularity, several new junior schools participating in the events. He also mentioned that his deputy, Mr. W. Foulser, succeeded in passing his Grade One examination of the Royal Life Saving Society.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

From the number of complaints received in this office and that of the Borough Engineer of choked drains, many of which were cleansed by the work force of the latter's Department under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, it is apparent that people are still not sufficiently vigilant to ensure that only proper substances are put into the drains for disposal. New materials used in packaging and so-called disposable sanitary appliances which contain plastics, pulp and cotton wool are not intended for disposal in this way. Disposal appliances are not of necessity soluble in water and the description means in most cases that they are to be used only once and then disposed of in the appropriate manner. It is suggested that the only alternative to burning is to securely wrap them in paper or plastic and place them in the dustbin for collection by the Council's Refuse Collectors.

From the Borough Engineer's reports to the Council it appears that, apart from some minor setbacks due mainly to inclement weather and machinery breakdowns, all within the manager's capacity to cope, the Sewage Works functioned successfully throughout the year. One disturbing feature is that on a few occasions waste oil and paraffin reached the Works and also on one occasion some poisonous element which destroyed bacteria necessary for the process of purification. People must realize that these materials adversely affect the treatment of sewage and whilst fortunately in this case the effect was minor, any large increases in these materials could make the work of the Manager of the Works extremely difficult.

HOUSING

Mainly the work of the Department in this area centred round the preparation for the representation of the Lower Monk Street Clearance Areas and the continuation of the General Improvement Pilot Schemes in the Victoria Street/Princes Street/Regent Street area and the Victoria Street/Trinity Street Area.

During the year forms of dedication were completed and signed by the owners and owner/occupiers who had agreed to contribute land for the project. The Borough Engineer's Architectural Assistant completed his work and tenders were invited. Unfortunately, due to delays which were not controllable, the work on the accommodation road was not commenced until November. Even in the short time that remained to the end of the year, the contractors made a remarkable inroad into the project.

Works of improvement were completed in 34 dwellings during the year. Fourteen improvement grants were taken up at a total works cost of £19,711, a total grant of £7,812 being paid out by the Council. Twenty standard grants were completed at a total cost of £9,267, involving a grant aid of £4,017.

ALLOCATION OF HOUSES

In the Ysguborwen Scheme ten three-bedroomed houses, thirty-four flatlets, eighteen bungalows, twenty-four one-bedroomed flats, six three-bedroomed flats and a Warden's house were allocated to 156 persons. The total number of allocations of re-lets was 106 involving 424 persons while 63 transfers were arranged and three mutual exchanges agreed.

Following the completion of the Ysguborwen Scheme no new building was considered for this year.

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	...	52
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	115
2. (a) Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925			
	...	...	Nil
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	...	Nil

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

Families Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
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	...	...	...	Nil
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, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer 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

Families 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 unfit by the Medical Officer 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	...	...	...	...	...	5
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, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	3
Under Section 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Families displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :						
Under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Sections 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	1
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

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

Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Persons displaced	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	1

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH
DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

1. PROCEEDINGS UNDER HOUSING ACT :				
<i>a</i>	No. Informal Notices served	...	...	Nil
<i>b</i>	No. Informal Notices complied with	...	...	Nil
<i>c</i>	No. Notices served under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil
<i>d</i>	No. remedied	...	...	Nil
2. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT :				
<i>a</i>	Following Informal action, No. remedied	...	...	8
<i>b</i>	No. Statutory Notices served	...	...	2
<i>c</i>	No. complied with (by owner)	...	...	2
<i>d</i>	No. complied with by Local Authority	...	...	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

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

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Routine visits were continued to be made to a large number of food premises. No contraventions were noted which merited statutory action.

CONDEMNED FOOD

No case of unsound food being exposed for sale was discovered. The following foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption. I consider it alarming that such a number of cans of food should be so discarded because they have been crushed and/or pierced in handling. The growth of the use of cardboard cartons require greater care in handling because they do not protect the contents in the way that wooden cases used to do.

Carcase meat from retail shops (source outside Borough)	16-lbs. beef
	7 packs Cryovac beef
Cooked Meat and Meat Products	355-lbs.
Canned Meat	108 cans
Other canned goods	2,111 cans
Canned fruits and vegetables	1,065 cans
Frozen foods (due to cabinet breakdown)	2,547 packs
Other Miscellaneous foods	56-lbs. butter

ICE-CREAM

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

The manufacturer complies with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Samples of Ice-Cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination at the Monmouthshire Public Health Laboratory.

RODENT CONTROL

The work of rodent control in the town continues to be carried out by a firm of pest control contractors.

Apart from fixed points which are inspected and baited at regular intervals, other areas are surveyed from time to time to ensure that any build up of infestation does not pass unnoticed.

There is evidence that extreme vigilance is required to prevent the recurrence of the conditions that existed some years ago. After each biannual treatment of the sewers there is a dramatic fall off of incidence of surface infestations, but which gradually increases again until they are once more reduced by a treatment of the sewers. Any neglect in this aspect of the work and any failure on the part of the burgesses to take action when they see rats can only, therefore, lead to a virtually uncontrollable situation once more.

A significant increase in the incidence of infestation by mice have been noted and people, especially business people, in food premises, should take such steps as may be necessary to protect the foodstuffs and make the premises rodent proof.

One hundred and one premises were inspected following notification and 73 premises visited as a routine. Eighty-six infestations by rats and 15 mice were found in the first instance, no infestations following routine surveys, except that an infestation of rats was found during eight visits to agricultural premises of which there are 12 in the Borough. As indicated above, two treatments were carried out in selected sewer manholes during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Three hundred and twenty-four males and 627 females were employed in premises registered under the Act. Two new offices were registered, but due to losses, the total number of premises at the year end was 190.

No formal complaints were received but 240 visits were made to 142 premises. No serious contraventions of the Act were discovered, such minor infringements as were evident were quickly dealt with by informal actions.

One minor accident was reported, not concerned with food slicing machines. In all the food premises where such work is carried out all the operations are carried out by older, experienced employees. I see no evidence of any training schemes for younger employees in any of such premises. I believe that a session each day under the closest supervision of an experienced hand would ensure that such work can continue to be carried out without any accidents happening.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1967

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 ...	5	5	0
Bakery ...	4	4	0
Blacksmiths ...	1	1	0
Boot and Shoe Repair ...	3	3	0
Cellulose Spraying ...	6	6	0
Clock and Watch Repair ...	3	0	3
Concrete Products ...	1	1	0
Dry Cleaners ...	1	1	0
Egg Grading ...	1	1	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio) ...	5	0	5
Firewood ...	1	1	0
Fish Friers ...	4	4	0
Florists ...	4	0	4
Ice-Cream ...	1	1	0
Ironworks and Engineers ...	2	2	0
Meat—small goods ...	5	5	0
Monumental Masonry ...	1	1	0
Motor Repairs ...	6	6	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
Tent Repairs ...	1	0	1
Welding ...	3	3	0

OUTWORKERS — During 1970 three outworkers were listed, concerned with: Wearing apparel (2); Retail drapery (1).

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

Particulars	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Inspector	Prose'ns
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	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	2	2	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

In accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, six persons were authorised to act as Slaughtermen.

A table of the number of animals slaughtered, the number of carcasses inspected and the condemnations resulting therefrom are indicated as follows:—

	Cattle exl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Slaughtered ...	1465	112	112	12156	4434	—
Number Inspected ...	1465	112	112	12156	4434	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole Carcasses condemned	1	4	3	21	3	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned...	211	31	5	318	209	—
Percentage of the number inspected ...	14.5	31.3	7.1	2.8	4.8	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcase condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	127	—
Percentage of the number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	2.9	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—				
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—				
Generalised totally and condemned ...	—	—				

Slaughterhouse—continued

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis:—

Carcase Meat	...	...	5,893-lbs.
Offal	...	...	4,747-lbs.

It is worthy of note that in discussing the above figures that (a) Tuberculosis conditions were confined to pigs and that in each case only the submaxillary glands were affected and/or the intestines (b) In non-tuberculous conditions condemnations were due mainly to non-pathogenic conditions particularly parasitic or to traumatic reasons such as accident or difficult parturition. These latter cases were found, of course, in animals brought into the slaughterhouse as 'casualty' animals. Normally animals purchased for meat are in good health except for some parasitic conditions such as liver fluke, *c. echinococcus*, *strongyli*, etc.

The slaughterhouse itself has now been in the hands of the Gwent Slaughtering Company for twelve months. The company did not accept my recommendations for a minimum staffing with the result that adequate standards are only maintained by the continued representations made to the men in charge by our additional public health inspector who carries out the Authority's functions at the Slaughterhouse.

The Company has now undertaken to construct a cold room in the cooling hall and the Council has agreed to assist by constructing the walls to take the cooling equipment. It is to be hoped that this work will be carried out early next year so that it can be used for the storage of a sufficient number of carcasses to allow a cessation of slaughtering during which necessary repairs can be carried out to the slaughterhouse floor.

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

Carcase meat	...	...	774-lbs.
Offal	...	...	690-lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis:—

Carcase meat	...	...	5,893-lbs.
Offal	...	...	4,747-lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned ... 12,104-lbs.

RAINFALL, 1971

Diameter of Funnel, 5-inches

Rain Guage — Height of Top — Above Ground, 1 foot
— Above Sea Level, 215 feet

Situation : BAILEY PARK

<i>Month</i>			<i>Total Depth inches</i>
January	...	...	8.58
February	...	...	1.46
March	...	...	2.92
April	...	...	2.26
May	...	...	2.95
June	...	...	4.15
July	...	...	1.36
August	...	...	4.88
September	...	...	1.53
October	...	...	3.28
November	...	...	2.39
December	...	...	2.03
			<hr/>
			37.79
			<hr/>

ROGER J. HOWELLS,

Public Health Inspector.

RAILROAD, 1971

Quantity of Fuel 5 inches

Above Ground 1.50

Rail Gage - Height of Top

Above Sea Level 115 feet

Quantity of Fuel 5 inches
Total Depth below

1.50	January
1.10	February
1.90	March
2.50	April
3.00	May
4.10	June
1.10	July
4.80	August
1.10	September
3.00	October
3.00	November
1.00	December

37.70

ROGER J. HOWELL

Attn: Health Inspector







