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# Annual REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and  
Sanitary Administration

OF

The Rural District of  
Abergavenny

For the Year 1944

BY

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
MONK STREET,  
ABERGAVENNY,

September, 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS SAYCE & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1944, dealing with matters affecting the public health and social welfare of your district during that year.

**I. General Statistics.**

Area ... 62,685 acres.  
Population 8,198.

Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books on December 31st, 1944).

**II. Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.**

Much of the Rural District is mountainous in character; and the main occupation is agriculture, including market gardening; though during the war many persons resident in the area were employed at one of the factories in the vicinity—either the Royal Ordnance Factory at Usk; or the Lang Pen Factory at Llanfoist. The latter was opened in September, 1943 for the assembly of Aircraft Radiators; and most of the employees were women.

**III. Births and Deaths.**

Total number of Live births	...	127
Legitimate	...	118
Illegitimate	...	9
Total number of Still births	...	6
Legitimate	...	6
Illegitimate	...	Nil
Total number of deaths	...	83
Total number of Infant deaths		
(under one year)	...	6
Legitimate	...	5
Illegitimate	...	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of		
population	...	15.5
Still Birth Rate ditto	...	0.74
Death Rate ditto	...	10.25
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000		
live births	...	47.25

#### IV. Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Classified according to age group.

Disease.	Total	Age 0—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	Over 25	Treated in Hospit'l
Diphtheria ...	3	—	1	—	—	2	3
Scarlet Fever ...	4	2	—	2	—	—	2
Cerebrospinal Fever	Nil.	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Measles ...	36	8	24	2	1	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	11	8	3	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

It will be observed from above figures that Measles was the most prevalent infectious disease. The epidemic was an extensive one; and the number notified represents only a small proportion of the cases that occurred; because a doctor was not called in in many households. Of the cases of Diphtheria one was a member of H.M. Forces who developed the disease the day after coming on leave to this area. The other two cases occurred in the same family; the child having been immunised in 1941 when the dose recommended was smaller than that now used. The adult in this instance developed various complications, whereas the child had a very mild uncomplicated attack.

There were no deaths from any of the above notifiable diseases.

#### V. Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The immunisation campaign continued throughout the year; and several Schools were revisited. An effort was made to increase the immunisation of under 5 year old children by visiting outlying villages and asking one keen parent to collect as many non-immunised children as possible at one house.



Again the response for children between 5 and 15 years of age was good; but that for the younger group was disappointing.

In addition to visiting the Schools and villages parents were asked to bring children to the Surgery any Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Since the Infant Welfare Clinic is so near to the Surgery it was hoped that this would encourage the mothers far more than was actually the case.

By the end of December, 1944, the number completely immunised—and still, as far as one could ascertain, resident in the area, was as follows :

Aged 1—5 years ... 248 i.e. 60.5 %

Aged 5—15 years ... 1004 i.e. 82 %

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Total	1252
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## VI. Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases notified during the year 1944	...	11
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(Two of whom were transfers from another area)

Number of pulmonary cases notified (Including two transfers).	...	8
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Number of non-pulmonary cases notified	...	4
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Total number of deaths	...	5
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(This does not include patients from the Mental Hospital whose residence is in another area, nor those from Maindiff Hospital.)

## VII. Government Evacuation Scheme.

At the end of 1944 the number of officially evacuated persons in the area was as follows :—

Unaccompanied children	...	50
Accompanied children	...	55
Mothers	...	33
Other aged and infirm persons...		13

The majority were from London and the South east coastal areas.

## VIII. Treatment of Scabies.

The incidence of cases of Scabies lessened throughout the year. Hatherleigh Sick Bay was available for treatment of local children and evacuees ; and several cases were admitted from the Rural Area.

In some instances affected persons were able to attend as out-patients for treatment daily. In this way the duration of the disease and risk of infecting other members of the household was minimised.

## IX. Venereal Disease.

The presence of so many troops in the vicinity inevitably increased the incidence of the venereal diseases ; and in several cases the Army Medical Authority was able to furnish the M.O.H. with names of contacts or suspects. The persons concerned were interviewed and sent to the Newport Clinic for further investigation, and, if necessary, treatment.

Similarly the M.O.H. was notified of cases undergoing treatment who had moved into this area, and such cases were followed up to ascertain whether they were continuing treatment at the Newport Clinic.



## X. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### (a) *Housing.*

Owing to war-time restrictions on building and and repairs figures relating to housing are much the same as in the previous years.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority in December, 1944	...	78
Number of houses in course of erection	...	Nil
Number of houses erected by Local Authority in 1944	...	8
Number of houses erected by private enterprise in 1944	...	Nil
Number of houses for which sanction has been given but which have not been commenced owing to wartime restrictions	...	24
Number of houses inspected for defects during 1944	...	43
Number of houses repaired as a result of in- formal action by Local Authority or its officers	...	15
Number of houses in respect of which statutory notices were served to carry out repairs	...	3

### (b) *Water Supply.*

In this District, in which many parishes are sparsely populated and altitudes vary greatly, the sources of water supply are numerous; mainly from springs. In general, eg. in the villages of Mardy, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, Govilon, Llanarth and Llanover; the supply is sufficient and the quality up to standard, but there are a number of smaller villages and out-lying houses where the supply is inadequate; or where the analysis reports are not always satisfactory



The main piped supplies are as follows :—

<i>Area.</i>	<i>Source of Supply.</i>	<i>Method of Supply.</i>	<i>No Premises supplied.</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>
Pwllldu	...Spring in adit	...6 Stand pipes	... 35	... 175
Garndyrris	..Spring	...1 Standpipe	... 10	... 50
Govilon	...Spring with ram for upper zone	...Mostly connected to main	...127	... 635
Allws	...Spring with ram	...Standpipes	... 17	... 105
Llanfoist	...Newport Corporation Main	...3 Standpipes for dwellings not connected to main	85 & Lang Pen Factory	425 & Factory
Llanelen	..Spring	...Standpipes	... 16	... 70
Llanvair	Kilgeddin...Spring	...Standpipes	... 15	... 75
Mardy	...Spring	All connected to main	86	... 430
Llanvihangel	Crucorney...Spring (Hydrostats)	1 Standpipe for few houses not connected to main	54	... 250
Llanvetherine	Spring	3 Standpipes	... 22	... 85
Llangattock				
Lingoed	Spring	Standpipe	... 12	... 60

The above are all Local Authority supplies. In addition there are the following private supplies :

Llanover	...Springs...serving 80 premises ; estimated population 400
Llanarth	...Springs...serving 11 premises ; estimated population 130
Grosmont	...Springs...serving 20 premises ; estimated population 100

In all 489 premises are supplied by the Council ; and 205 by private piped supplies out of the total 1980 habitations in the district.

During the year, an exceptionally dry one in this area, the water supply of the Borough was augmented from the Tynywern supply to the extent of 6 million 90 thousand gallons.

In addition water was supplied to the Lang Pen Factory at Llanfoist ; and the Prisoner of War Camps at the Mardy and Llanvihangel Crucorney.

To supply the Factory the Council's 3" main was cut at a point near Llanfoist Post Office, and a 4" inch iron pipe taken along the side of the main road. 833,600 gallons were supplied during the year.

The Sewerage from the Factory was dealt with by the Factory authorities ; special treatment being installed to purify the effluent which enters the river.

The P.O.W. Camp at Llanvihangel Crucorney was supplied with 666,000 gallons ; their sewerage being dealt with by septic tanks and filter beds below the camp.

At the Mardy Camp the sewerage was incorporated into the Council's works ; and the amount of water supplied from the Council's supply amounted to 330,600 gallons.

At Pwlldu about 100,000 gallons were supplied to the canteen of Taylor Woodrow for workers at the Outcrop Colliery.

A number of improvements were carried out in connection with the various water supplies during the year—of these the most important were :—

- (1) Connecting a number of houses in the Llanvihangel district to the Council's main.
- (2) Improving the water supply at Govilon by installing a 4½ horse power paraffin-petrol Engine to drive the double-acting piston pump at Ffynon Batric.
- (3) Improving Parc Gwyn well, Llanvapley, by raising the walls, covering with a concrete slab, fixing a hand pump ; and fencing the wall in to prevent contamination and damage by cattle.



Water samples submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis were reported satisfactory.

The only supply showing any plumbo-solvent action is that at Pwlldu; and to guard against this, galvanised iron pipes are used.

(c) **Milk Supply.**

Examination of dairies and cowsheds was carried out, and six samples of milk submitted for analysis.

(d) **Meat Inspection.**

Slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Abergavenny Abattoir; therefore no inspections of carcasses now takes place in the Rural area.

(e) **Refuse Collection.**

In addition to previous collections extension was made to Bettws and Forest Coalpit; the collection being once a month.

(f) **Salvage of Waste.**

The Salvage drive continued throughout the year with valuable help from the Salvage Stewards and W. V. S. members. Naturally the amount collected was not so large as in previous years. It amounted to:—

Waste Paper	... 5 ton, 6 cwt.
Rubber	... 6 cwt.
Rags	... 11 cwt.
Bones	... 7 cwt.
Tins, etc.	... 2 cwt.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

M.O.H.





