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AETHWY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1951.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Aethwy Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

In the section of the report dealing with vital statistics it will be seen that the birth rate shows a decrease in comparison with recent years. When allowance is made for the age and sex composition of the district the rate is seen to compare quite favourably with the rate for England & Wales. The stillbirth rate for Aethwy shows a lower figure than has been exhibited over the past three years.

I have quoted, for purposes of comparison, the England & Wales and Anglesey figures. I have also included, where available, the rates for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Stillbirths are not registered in Northern Ireland, which also precludes my quoting the maternal mortality rates for that country as they are based on both live and stillbirths. These national rates are provisional figures based on the quarterly returns.

The death rate for 1951 was higher than that recorded for some years. The epidemic of influenza to which reference is made later in this preface, contributed to this increase, not only on account of deaths directly attributable to influenza but also by the respiratory complications of the disease. Seventy-five per cent of the victims were over the age of 70.

It is encouraging to note that there were no maternal deaths in Aethwy in 1951 but not so encouraging to see that the infant mortality rate stands at the high figure of 45.7. This is higher than any of the national figures, though lower than that for Anglesey. It may be of interest to remark that the rate for Wales alone is 35.5.

Early in 1951 the island was hit by the severe epidemic of influenza which was widespread in the country at the time, particularly in the north of England. Aethwy, judging by the death returns and notifications of influenzal pneumonia and other respiratory diseases received at the time, was badly stricken by the epidemic. Influenza is not a notifiable disease and so does not appear in the table of infectious diseases but reference to the table showing causes of death will reveal that 9 deaths were directly attributable to influenza. Several other deaths registered had influenza specified as a secondary factor.

In my report for the year 1950 I stated that I was not completely satisfied that the duties of Sanitary Inspector could be carried out by an official who also had to perform the duties of Surveyor and Fuel Overseer. I am now quite convinced that it is quite impossible for the Sanitary Inspector to carry out the duties required of him and also to perform the work of Surveyor. The inevitable result has been that many of the Sanitary Inspector's duties have had to be laid aside for more immediately pressing matters demanding attention. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs and most damaging to the local authority's efficiency and reputation.

As matters stand at present the Sanitary Inspector has no time for systematic inspection of the district as is required under the Public Health, Housing, Shops and Factories Acts. This is not

surprising in view of the fact that Aethwy Rural District has a population of 10,810 and an area of 52,253 acres. Food shops alone number about seventy and inspectorial duties under the Shops and Factories Acts involve visits to a much larger number of premises. As things are at the moment, inspection of dwelling houses is of necessity entirely unsystematic and consists mainly in visiting premises in response to requests and complaints.

In my opinion the deficiency can best be remedied by the appointment of an additional sanitary inspector whose duties would consist of sanitary inspection only.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Council and to my fellow-officers for their help and encouragement during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. Walker.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	52,253
Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid 1951 ...	10,810
Number of Inhabited Houses (approximate)	3,560
Number of Council Houses	215
Rateable Value	£34,034
Product of a Penny Rate	£138.9s.11d

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	70	75	145
Illegitimate	5	3	8
	75	78	153
	75	78	153

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 14.2. Rates for previous years were: 1948, 19.9; 1949, 17.1; 1950, 17.5. The Birth Rate for Anglesey in 1951 was 16.1.

The age and sex composition of a district affects the death and birth rates and to allow for this the Registrar General has issued figures for each local authority area known as comparability factors for the purpose of adjusting the local death and birth rates. The adjusted rates provide figures which can be more equitably compared with the national figures. I have set the crude birth rate for Anglesey against the crude birth rate for Aethwy as the age and sex compositions (judging by the comparability factors issued) show a roughly similar "bias".

The Adjusted Birth Rate for Aethwy for 1951 was 16.2. Birth Rate for England and Wales, 15.5; Scotland, 17.7; Northern Ireland 20.7.

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	1	4
	3	1	4

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 25.5. The rate for 1950 in the District was 31.9. The 1951 Stillbirth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 0.37 as compared with 0.36 for England and Wales and 0.31 for Anglesey.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	92	81	173
	92	81	173

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was 16.0. Rates for previous years were - 1948, 13.7; 1949, 15.0; 1950, 13.6. The Death Rate for Anglesey, 1951, was 15.1.

The Adjusted Death Rate for 1951 was 13.6. Death Rate for England and Wales, 12.5; Scotland, 12.9; Northern Ireland, 12.8.

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 (live and still) births was 0.79; Scotland, 1.1.

Deaths under one year of age.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	---	---	---
	5	2	7
	==	==	==

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 45.7. Rates for previous years were - 1948, 29.1; 1949, 56.2; 1950, 43.9. Rate for Anglesey in 1951, 54.8; England and Wales, 29.6; Scotland, 37.0; Northern Ireland, 41.0.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	---	---	---
	2	1	3
	----	----	----

The Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 19.6. Rate for England and Wales 18.8; Scotland, 22.0; Northern Ireland, 25.0; Anglesey, 28.0.

The following table shows the causes of death in the district. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar General and are in accordance with the new International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Causes of Death	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	0
3. Syphilitic disease	1	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
8. Measles	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.. ...	4	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	9	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16. Diabetes	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	8	8
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	2
20. Other heart disease.	9	20
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1
22. Influenza	3	6
23. Pneumonia	0	2
24. Bronchitis	9	5
25. Other disease of respiratory system...	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	3	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
34. All other accidents	2	3
35. Suicide	1	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0
ALL CAUSES	92	81

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (excluding tuberculosis)

Table showing cases notified during the year, classified in age groups.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15 & over	Deaths
Whooping Cough	12	29	44	46	4	3	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	11	-	1	10 (12)*	- (2)*
Dysentery	-	2	1	8	3	9	-
Measles	8	60	85	144	23	20	-

*The two deaths from Pneumonia recorded in the "Causes of

Death" table brought to my notice two adult cases of acute pneumonia which had not been notified. The figures in brackets represent the correction made from this information.

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of tuberculosis were as follows:-

Age	Sex	Respiratory or Non-Respiratory.
41	F	Non-Respiratory
42	F	Respiratory
59	M	"
31	M	"
52	M	"
46	M	Non-Respiratory
5	M	Respiratory
19	F	"
42	F	"
29	M	"
44	M	"
49	M	"
5	M	"
35	M	"
15	F	"

Six tuberculosis deaths occurred during the year. Five of these were pulmonary and one was due to tuberculosis of the kidney.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

These services are provided by the County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. The following figures are quoted by courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to child population.

0 - 4			5 - 12			TOTAL		
Popula- tion.	No. Immunised	%	Popula- tion.	No. Immunised	%	Popula- tion.	No. Immunised	%
85.1	457	53.7	1,608	1,255	78.0	2,459	1712	69.6

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Notifications of smallpox vaccinations carried out totalled 144. Of these 119 were primary vaccinations and 25 were re-vaccinations.

Vaccination against tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination is carried out by the Chest Physician in collaboration with the County Medical Officer and his staff. The scheme provides for the vaccination of new born infants born into tuberculous households and of tuberculin-negative contacts of known cases. During 1951, fifteen such vaccinations were carried out in the District.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the district is generally derived from shallow wells which are a constant source of complaint and concern to the Council. Many of them go dry in summer and the quality of the water in several of them is not of the desired standard of fitness. Protective works to prevent pollution, have, in many instances, proved satisfactory to the extent that water samples taken from wells, which previous to reconditioning were not satisfactory, are now free from pollution. As a precautionary measure the Council are having warning signs posted near each public well in use in the district warning the public that the water from the well must be boiled before use.

The Llandegfan Water Supply Scheme, constructed in 1943, is working satisfactorily but unfortunately there is not sufficient water to provide a full piped supply in summer. The County Water Scheme will be available by the summer of 1953 to augment the supply considerably. There are 23 well distributed stand-posts to supply a population of about 350 and 27 houses have a piped supply laid on.

Water Supply (continued).

The Anglesey Water Supply Committee has constructed and operates the Bryngwyn Mawr Scheme which serves the villages of Brynsiencyn, Dwyran and Newborough. The Scheme is working very satisfactorily. There is plenty of pure water available all the year round, but unfortunately, only a very small proportion of the landlords and tenants have gone to the expense of having the water laid on to their houses, which is the main purpose of a piped water scheme.

The average cost of having the water laid on to a house is £20. The tenants say it is the landlord's responsibility to bear the cost and the landlords say they cannot afford it because the rents are too low. This controversy goes on from year to year and in my opinion the sooner section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by the Water Act, 1945 Section 30 is operated the better. This in effect compels the owner to have water laid on to the house within a specified time.

The Cefni Water Supply Scheme is available at Gaerwen and Llanfair P.G. and will be available at Llangoed, Llangaffo about the end of 1952. Very few houses abutting the Holyhead road at Llanfair P.G. have not been connected to the water main but the position at Gaerwen is extremely disappointing in spite of the fact that the two main wells serving the village do not provide a wholesome water supply. A house to house canvass was made by me with a view of influencing householders to connect to the main water supply but the canvass unfortunately did not have the desired effect.

The fees for connecting, namely £9. 10. 0, appeared to be the main objection, but if this fee could be paid by instalments over a period of 12 months I think the response would be satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal Scheme.

The Council have now received full particulars and details of sewage disposal schemes for the village of Newborough and Brynsiencyn, which have been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Parish Councils of Newborough and Brynsiencyn have been consulted and the scheme fully explained to them by the Clerk of the Council.

The next step is to inquire how many houseowners are prepared to pay for connecting their houses to the sewer and that inquiry is in progress at present.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have already clearly stated that before the scheme can be proceeded with, that in the event of house-owners not connecting their properties voluntarily to the new sewers when they are laid, the Council will exercise without delay their compulsory powers to require privy conversions and connections to the new scheme.

Everybody agrees that schemes of sewage disposal are highly desirable, but whether the schemes for Brynsiencyn and Newborough will be carried out during the next two years depend to a very great extent on the willingness of the householders to provide the necessary drains for connecting to the sewer.

A new W.C. will have to be built for many houses and between the cost of its erecting and water supply installation, the total cost could amount to £50 - £60;

A scheme to serve the village of Dwyran is expected any day from the Consulting Engineers.

Disinfection.

Terminal disinfection is carried out at each house where a case of infectious disease has been notified. Facilities for steam disinfection of bedding are available at Llongefni, but no transport is being provided by the Council for the conveyance of the bedding to the disinfection station. This facility should be available. In the case of death from Tuberculosis the bedding is destroyed and compensation is paid by the Council.

Housing.

The erection of Council Houses is still having the serious consideration of the Council and their Officials. Only 11 houses were constructed by the Council in 1951.

In spite of the Council's efforts to acquire well in advance of immediate requirements they are still meeting with considerable difficulties particularly with water supply and sewage disposal.

To serve the housing needs of 17 parishes simultaneously is really impossible.

The prospects of better progress for 1952 and 1953 are very much better providing the labour force will be available for the construction of the houses.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are 18 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream. There is only one ice-cream factory operating in this rural area, namely, Evan Roberts, Llanfair P.G., whose factory is now fitted with the latest manufacturing appliances, including a pure piped water supply from the Cefni Water Scheme. Samples are taken for examination about three times during the season and the results are generally satisfactory.

315 lbs. of tinned food was condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption. The quantity of tinned food condemned is increasing and the Ministry of Health are investigating the reason for it with the pecking stations at home and abroad.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	27	20	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	6	2	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.				
TOTAL	33	22	-	-

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1938. (continued).

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.			Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	}	}	}			
Overcrowding	-	-						
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-						
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-						
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-				Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences								
(a) Insufficient	-	-						
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-						
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-						
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-						
TOTAL	1	1						



