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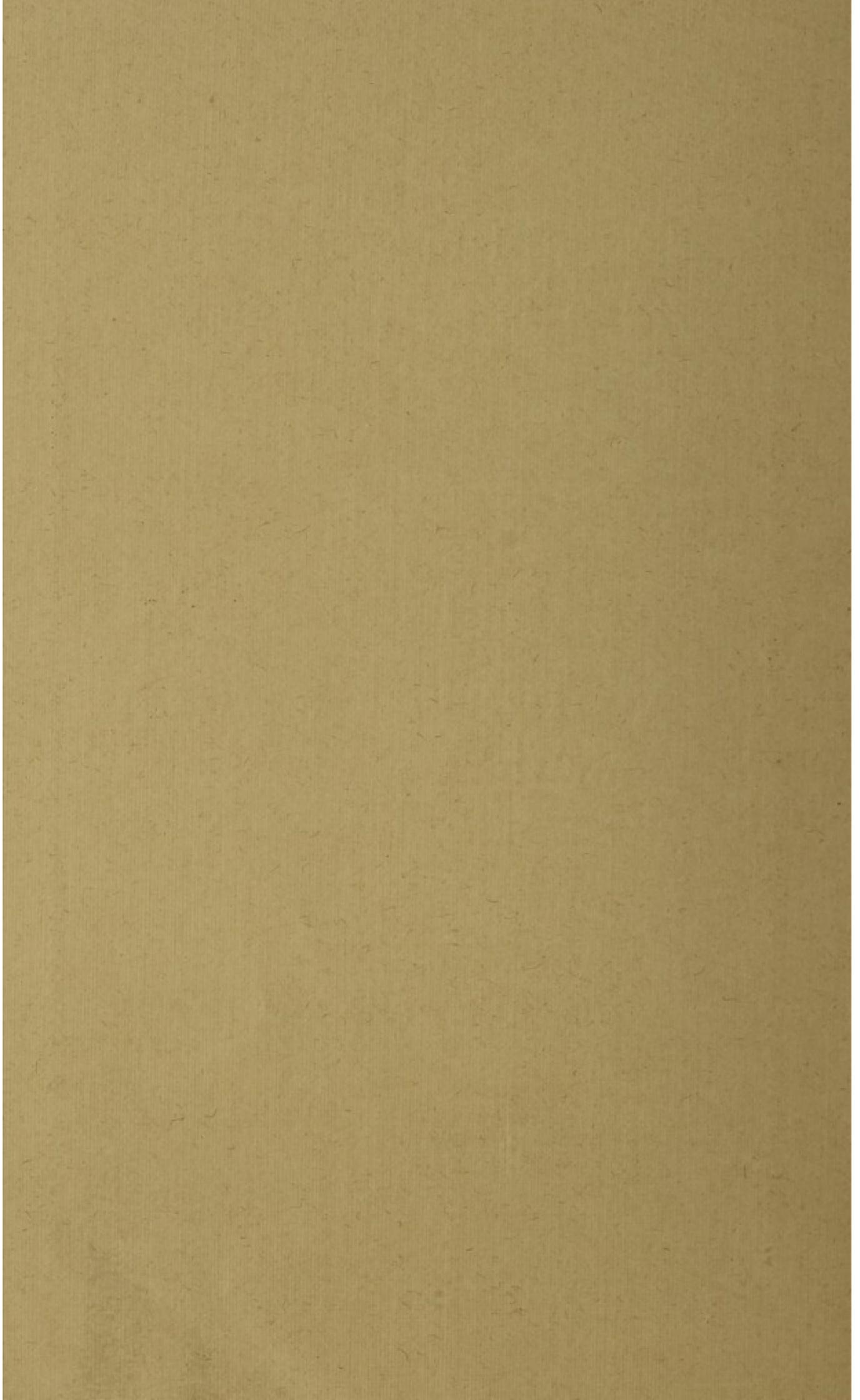
**Blaenavon  
Urban District Council.**

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**Medical Officer's  
Annual Report  
for the year 1938.**

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J. T. WARD & SON  
Printers and Stationers  
Blaenavon.



# The Urban District Council of Blaenavon.

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

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October 11th, 1939.

Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Third Annual Report regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ended December 31st, 1938, and made in accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The area of the district amounts to 4,612 acres.

### Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1938, was 9,844, which shows a decrease for the year of 156.

Whilst the decrease is to be deplored, it is some consolation to note that for the year under review, the decrease is less than half of what it was for 1937, when it was 320.

The causes responsible for this decrease in population is, as I have previously pointed out, migration from the area and a lowered birth rate.

The birth rate for the year was 3.3 lower than the death rate.

The male population according to the last census figures was in excess of the female by 618.

The density of the population for the whole of the area is about two persons per acre.

The average number of persons per dwelling is under 4 for the whole of the area.

There are according to the Rate Books at the end of 1938, 2,610 structurally separate dwelling-houses, of which 12 are void.

The Rateable Value of the district at the end of December, 1938, was £31,367, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £114.

### Social Conditions.

It gives me pleasure to record that Blaenavon continues to progress, and marked improvements are evident. Credit must be given to those who by their wise administration have brought about this pleasant state of affairs. Our Council and their officials deserve the best thanks of the Blaenavon people. They have been untiring in their efforts for the good of the town, and what is still more pleasing, those efforts continue.

The provision of new houses under the Slum Clearance Act and overcrowding scheme is very welcome, also the fact that the Sewerage Scheme may soon become a reality is indeed good news for Blaenavon. The provision of yet another Pithead Bath at Forgeside is a great achievement, and goes to show that those responsible for the welfare of our workers are doing their work very efficiently.

While noticing with pleasure the new houses being built, and the better conditions in general, I am somewhat concerned to observe that while our mountain sides are being denuded of trees, no steps have been taken to replace them: an effective scheme of afforestation would be a great asset.

A belt of trees from Ash Tree to the new Pithead Baths at Forgeside, and from Elgam Avenue across Upper Coedcae, would make a vast difference to the look of our town, as well as giving useful employment. With its mountain sides well wooded, Blaenavon could soon vie with more famous mountain health resorts. Forestry could be made a useful and practical industry.

Should some trees be planted in the open space in Charles Street, a lovely little park could be provided.

I must again refer to the need of a suitable road from the Old Oak to the Mountain Gate. I am concerned with this from a health point of view. Here exists a neglected lovely mountain walk, with a miniature golden valley near by—surely it is time that our people who toil in the mines all day should have the approach to this healthy and lovely part made more accessible.

Blaenavon possesses a double advantage in the fact that it is not merely a colliery and industrial town, and should a committee be formed with men of vision at the helm, the possibility of development in other directions would soon become manifest.

Though Blaenavon is very accessible nowadays, it still prides itself on its splendid isolation—a quality perhaps not appreciated enough in times of peace—but in times of crisis immediately selected as a haven of rest.

It would, indeed, be a great thing for our town if the outside world—which perhaps thinks of us only on certain occasions—was made aware that Blaenavon was a very desirable place to come and spend a holiday in, or to reside permanently, be the times, times of peace or times of war. With a view then to making the advantages of our town better known, a Town Improvement Committee, selected from our Council, could do very useful work—a special Committee for this purpose would be a tremendous power for good.

The improvement of their properties by many private owners is a pleasing sight. I hope others will follow their example. It is time that our Hotels and Licensed Houses became more modern and up-to-date. There is room for improvement here.

A Boys' Club has been built down Avon Road way. Here the boys receive physical instruction, and in this way their young minds are kept occupied with healthy exercise. Those who are responsible for the formation of this Club have done a great service to the youth of Blaenavon, and I must congratulate them on their intelligent anticipation in their choice of a site.

A Maternity Hospital would be a very useful acquisition to the town. Blaenavon is lucky in being able to have the services of very efficient Maternity Nurses, and with the establishment of a moderate sized modern Maternity Home, there should be no need for expectant mothers to go elsewhere for attention.

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

**Live Births, 123.** Legitimate, M. 68; F. 51.  
Illegitimate, M. 3; F. 1.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.4.

**Still Births, 18.** Legitimate, M. 6; F. 11.  
Illegitimate, M. 1; F. 0.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 1.8.  
**Deaths, 155.** Males, 92. Females, 63.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.7.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 9.  
Legitimate, M. 5; F. 3.  
Illegitimate, M. 0; F. 1.

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births registered, 81.3.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 13

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... .. 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... .. 3

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis ... .. Nil

Other Puerperal causes ... .. Nil

There were no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring special comment.

**Causes of Sickness or Invalidity noteworthy of attention in the area during the year.**

There were no causes of sickness or invalidity requiring special comment.

**General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.  
Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

The Public Health Staff consists of myself as Medical Officer of Health (part time), and a whole time Sanitary Inspector, who holds the qualifying certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and their special certificate for Meat and Food Inspection.

**Professional Nursing in the Home.** A fully qualified nurse is employed for the purpose of nursing in the homes. She is employed by the local Nursing Association, which is supported by voluntary contributions from the inhabitants, and administered by an efficient local committee.

I am pleased to state that the nurse has again throughout the year carried out her duties in a most efficient and praiseworthy manner. The services rendered, particularly in the case of bedridden and invalided persons are greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of the district. In all cases with which I have come in contact, where the services of the nurse have been required, the patients and their relatives have spoken in the highest terms of the ability, the patience and kindness shown by the nurse, even under the most difficult circumstances.

**Nursing in Infectious Cases.**—Non-provided.

**Midwives.**—There are two midwives practising in the area; they are under the control of, and are now paid by the County Council.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—All pathological and bacteriological examinations are made by the County Pathologist, Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones, at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Newport.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—The Blaenavon Medical Aid Society have a motor ambulance available for the removal of accident cases at the collieries and works, and for use in connection with their hospital.

The Pontypool and District Hospital have two motor ambulances available for the conveyance of subscribers and members of their families to the Pontypool and District Hospital.

The Council do not maintain an ambulance for the purpose of dealing with accidents or other urgent disability cases.

No ambulance is provided by the Local Authority for the removal of infectious cases.

### Hospitals.

No changes have taken place during the year in the hospital services, public or voluntary, within or without the area which are used by the inhabitants of the area.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supply.

There were no important extensions of the public water supplies during the year.

The quality and quantity of the water supplied was on the whole generally satisfactory.

Six samples were taken from public supplies, and three from public supplies during the year for the purpose of chemical and bacteriological analysis.

The district's rainfall for the year was as follows:—

January	... 6.44 ins.	July	... 4.37 ins.
February	... 1.51 ins.	August	... 3.26 ins.
March	... 0.24 ins.	September	2.45 ins.
April	... 0.13 ins.	October	... 7.08 ins.
May	... 3.04 ins.	November	7.58 ins.
June	... 3.77 ins.	December	6.45 ins.

Total rainfall for the year, 46.32 inches.

It will be seen from the above table that March and April were the two months with the lowest rainfall, and October and November the highest.

In view of the numerous complaints which are still being received respecting the unsatisfactory supply from

No. 1 reservoir, newts, tadpoles, etc., frequently coming through the taps, I strongly urge that the mechanical filter be provided as soon as possible.

Again I wish to press for a proper system of filtration at Edmund's tank. The water at present supplied from this place is submitted to little, if any, filtration, and an arrangement similar to that provided for the Llanover Road Houses, at No. 4 Reservoir, would be suitable for dealing with this supply.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

There were no important extensions to the sewage and drainage systems of the district during the year.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

No action was taken during the year to check the pollution of the river, and its contributory streams. The Avon Llwyd is still an open sewer receiving crude sewage from all parts of the district.

Much preliminary surveying has been done however in connection with the new Sewerage Scheme, and it is to be hoped that the scheme will mature in the near future.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

There is little change in respect of the closet accommodation in the district since the time of the last report.

### **Public Cleansing.**

There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Incorporated Report.

### **Shops.**

The shops in the district were visited periodically throughout the year by your Sanitary Inspector for the purpose of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, which provides for the health and comfort of the shop worker,

In three cases it was found necessary to serve notice upon the occupiers of shops for failure to provide and maintain suitable temperatures. Two of these notices were complied with satisfactorily. In the other case, however, the shop became unoccupied shortly after the service of notice, and has since remained unoccupied.

It was not found necessary to take any legal action under the Shops Act during the year.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There is no public swimming bath in the district owned by the local authority.

There is, however, an open-air bath which has been provided by the workmen of the district in conjunction with the Miners' Welfare Association.

The bath is well maintained, and is in charge of a capable attendant, and the plant which has been installed for the purpose of filtering and chlorinating the water is working satisfactorily.

Periodical visits were made to the bath by the Sanitary Inspector during the season, and everything was found to be satisfactory.

### **The Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

There has been no change in the method adopted for the eradication of the bed bug since the time of my last report.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year is as follows:—

Council Houses, 16.      Other Houses, 45.

No action was taken in respect of the belongings of tenants to ensure their freedom from vermin before removal into Council houses.

### **Schools.**

The schools in the district were visited at various times during the year, and when defects and nuisances were found they were reported to the appropriate quarter and satisfactorily remedied.

The temperatures at the schools were taken during the winter months, and in some cases were found to be unsatisfactory. This matter was taken up with the Education Authority, and I am pleased to state improvements in the heating arrangements at these schools have since been brought about.

The water supply to the schools in the district was again generally satisfactory.

It was not found necessary to close the schools during the year on account of infectious diseases.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

#### **Milk Supply.**

Every endeavour was made throughout the year to ensure that the district's milk supply was produced and retailed under clean and wholesome conditions.

Thirty-six samples of milk were taken from persons producing and retailing milk in the area, and submitted to the County Pathologist for the purpose of bacteriological examination.

The results of these samples will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Incorporated Report.

No legal action was taken with regard to the Milk and Dairies Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, or the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No dealer's licenses were issued during the year in respect of Certified milk; neither are there any persons in the area producing Accredited milk. There are no pasteurising plants in the district.

Three supplementary licenses were issued during the year for the sale of pasteurised milk.

#### **Meat and Other Foods.**

The slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, and other places where foods are prepared and sold, were regularly visited, and the nature and quantity of the foods surrendered and destroyed will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Incorporated Report.

It was not found necessary to take any action with regard to diseased, unsound or unwholesome food during the year.

## Inspections of Factories.

### 1. Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections made	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power...	46	8	—
Factories without mechanical power	30	—	—
Other Premises	—	—	—
Total	76	8	—

### 2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient, Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes, ...	5	3	—	—
Total	8	6	—	—

## Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
  - (1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 255
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 785
  - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... 72
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 352
  - (3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 41
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 189
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—
  - . Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their officers 133
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—
  - (a) Proceedings taken under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... 15

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners .....	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	2
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	44
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners .....	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room been rendered fit ...	Nil

## 4. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year .....	56
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein...	83
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein...	403
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	21
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	120
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....	Nil

**Cleansing and Disinfection of Verminous Persons,  
Belongings, etc.**

No cleansing station is provided, nor provision made for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Dirty and verminous houses are cleansed and disinfected when necessary, and verminous bedding, etc., is disinfected by steam at the Disinfecting Station.

**Rat and Mice Destruction.**

6,000 baits were laid during the year for the purpose of rat destruction. As in previous years the greater number of these were placed in the main sewer. The remainder were laid in stables, pig-stys, etc., throughout the district.

There has been little trouble at the refuse dumps in the district from rat infestation.

## Prevalence and Control of Infectious and Other Diseases.

**Infectious Diseases Generally.**—The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year ended December 31st, 1938, will be seen from the appended table:—

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year; there were no deaths resulting from this disease. This disease at the present time is of a very mild type, and calls for but little comment.

Ten cases of Diphtheria were notified. This is a considerable increase on the previous year, when only one case was notified.

One case of Pneumonia was notified; there were 9 deaths from this disease. It is apparent that notifications for this disease are not being sent in, despite the fact that the local practitioners have been requested to do so.

Two cases of Erysipelas were notified.

Measles is not a notifiable disease in the area; there were a number of cases in the district during the year, but I am pleased to report no deaths occurred from this cause.

No cases of Enteric Fever, Dysentery, or Malaria were notified.

With the exception of Small Pox, no hospital accommodation is available for cases of infectious diseases.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined and reported upon by the County Pathologist.

No use was made of the Dick or Schick tests, nor the artificial methods of immunisation in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

Apart from Pneumonia and Tuberculosis, there was no deaths from infectious diseases during the year. I am also pleased to report that the number of notifications received for the year was comparatively low.

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year, in Age Groups.

Disease.	Under											Totals	
	1 Year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65		65 and over
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	3	...	...	...	10
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Lobar Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	1	...	...	...	...	4	5	2	5	...	1	...	18

Nine deaths from Pneumonia were registered, but none of these were notified. There were no deaths from any other notifiable diseases (except Tuberculosis).

Ward Distribution of Infectious Disease Notified.

	East Ward	Central Ward	West Ward	Totals
Diphtheria	1	3	6	10
Scarlet Fever	3	...	1	4
Erysipelas	...	1	1	2
Lobar Pneumonia	...	1	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1
Totals	4	5	9	18

### Tuberculosis.

During the year 29 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified; these cases show an increase of twelve in the number of cases notified in 1937.

Five deaths were notified from pulmonary tuberculosis, against eleven for the year 1937.

The King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association has an Institute at Park Buildings, Pontypool, where patients of private medical practitioners are seen on Tuesdays and Thursdays by Dr. A. Carveth Johnson and Dr. Godby, the tuberculosis physicians.

All cases notified are made the subject of inquiry, and a report is made to the Association in accordance with Form T.I. Wales.

No action for the compulsory removal of tuberculosis persons under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, became necessary.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases						Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5-15	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
15-25	5	5	...	...	10	2	1	...	...	3
25-35	3	5	1	1	10	...	2	...	...	2
35-45	2	3	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
45-55	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
55-65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	15	14	2	1	32	2	3	...	...	5

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Month	Total		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
January	...	4	3	1	...	...
February	...	2	2	...	...	...
March	...	1	1	...	...	...
April	...	1	1	...	...	...
May	...	4	2	2	...	...
June	...	5	...	4	...	1
July	...	6	5	1	...	...
August	...	2	...	1	1	...
September	...	2	1	1	...	...
October	...	2	...	2	...	...
November	...	1	...	1	...	...
December	...	2	...	1	1	...
Total	...	32	15	14	2	1

Occupational Incidence of New Cases Notified  
during Year.

MALE CASES	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Unemployed Colliers ...	4	...	4
Bricklayer ...	1	...	1
Window Cleaner ...	1	...	1
Timekeeper ...	...	1	1
Porter ...	1	...	1
Schoolboys ...	2	1	3
Baker ...	1	...	1
Soldier ...	1	...	1
Metal Worker ...	1	...	1
Colliery Engine Driver ...	1	...	1
Colliers ...	2	...	2
TOTAL ...	15	2	17

FEMALE CASES	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Schoolgirl ...	1	...	1
Housewives ...	7	1	8
Domestic Servants ...	4	...	4
Dressmaker ...	1	...	1
Innkeeper ...	1	...	1
TOTAL ...	14	1	15

Comparison of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis during the past Five Years.

YEAR	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1934					
Notifications	6	8	3	2	19
Deaths	2	4	1	0	7
1935					
Notifications	4	5	4	3	16
Deaths	1	3	1	2	7
1936					
Notifications	4	2	0	2	8
Deaths	1	1	0	1	3
1937					
Notifications	3	16	1	0	20
Deaths	3	8	0	0	11
1938					
Notifications	15	14	2	1	32
Deaths	2	3	0	0	5

Deaths from Malignant Disease. Carcinoma and Sarcoma.

Thirteen deaths occurred during the year from Sarcoma and Carcinoma; this shows an increase of five over the previous year.

Of these deaths, seven were females showing an average of 61 years, and six were males showing an average of 60 years.

Four of the female deaths were due to cancer of the intestines, the ages of which were 61 years, 76 years, 78 years, and 56 years; one to cancer of the breast (54 years); one to cancer of liver (51 years); and one to cancer of the stomach (57 years).

Of the male deaths, one was due to sarcoma of shoulder (83 years); one to cancer of stomach (51 years); one to sarcoma of thyroid (53 years); one to sarcoma of lung (68 years); one to carcinoma of lip (81 years); and one to malignant neoplasm of lungs (28 years).

Suspected cases of cancer are treated at the local hospital, and sent to Pontypool, the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, and other Institutions for further diagnosis and treatment.

No action was taken to remedy any deficiencies and to impress upon the inhabitants by printed announcements, lectures and otherwise, the vital importance of early treatment of this disease.

**Table of Comparison—Cancer Deaths during the past  
Five Years**

**Compared with the Number of Deaths during the same  
period from Tuberculosis.**

Year	Deaths from Cancer			Deaths from Tuberculosis		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1934 ...	6	3	9	3	4	7
1935 ...	6	3	9	2	5	7
1936 ...	6	4	10	1	2	3
1937 ...	2	6	8	3	8	11
1938 ...	6	7	13	2	3	5

From the above table it will be seen that for the years 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1938, the deaths from cancer exceeded those from tuberculosis, but for the year 1937 the deaths from tuberculosis were in excess of cancer by three.

Another point worthy of note is that the female deaths from tuberculosis are higher than the males; while in the case of cancer the male deaths, with the exception of 1937 and 1938, are in excess of the female deaths for the same period.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infant Mortality per 1,000	
	Blaenavon	England and Wales	Blaenavon	England and Wales	Blaenavon	England and Wales
1920	25.58	25.4	16.21	12.4	104.61	80
1921	25.7	22.4	12.3	12.1	101.12	83
1922	22.2	20.6	13.43	12.9	118.88	77
1923	20.83	19.7	13.04	11.6	107.4	69
1924	21.57	18.8	16.08	12.2	127.2	75
1925	20.64	18.3	12.55	12.2	100	75
1926	16.85	17.8	10.67	11.6	59.6	70
1927	13.6	16.7	13.27	12.3	132.9	69
1928	16.38	16.7	11.67	11.7	60.6	65
1929	16.06	16.3	12.9	13.4	57.29	74
1930	16.23	16.3	12.17	11.4	67.01	60
1931	14.86	15.8	13.69	12.3	90.3	66
1932	16.1	15.3	13.8	12.0	89.8	65
1933	13.44	14.4	14.71	12.3	88.43	64
1934	17.33	14.8	14.45	11.8	53.47	59
1935	13.18	14.7	11.95	11.7	35.71	57
1936	14.05	14.8	15.5	12.1	110.3	59
1937	13.4	14.9	17.1	12.4	82.08	58
1938	12.4	15.1	15.7	11.6	81.3	53

## County of Monmouth.

1925	21.5	10.0	83.8
1926	20.3	9.3	66.1
1927	17.5	11.0	87.3
1928	18.3	10.9	72.29
1929	17.8	11.3	67.7
1930	17.6	10.2	64.9
1931	17.68	12.01	71.9
1932	17.1	11.1	76.1
1933	16.29	11.49	71.72
1934	16.49	11.7	57.4
1935	16.12	11.5	61.4
1936	15.9	12.2	61.7
1937	15.5	12.6	63.9
1938	16.1	12.1	55.8

**Causes of Death in the Blaenavon Urban District, 1938.**  
As Furnished by the Registrar-General.

All Causes	Males 92	Females 63
1. Typhoid Fever and para-typhoid	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Influenza	1	—
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3
10. Other Tuberculosis	1	—
11. Syphilis	—	—
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	1	—
13. Cancer	6	7
14. Diabetes	1	2
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	3	5
16. Heart Disease	28	15
17. Aneurysm	—	—
18. Other circulatory diseases	2	5
19. Bronchitis	11	5
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	7	2
21. Other respiratory diseases	6	2
22. Peptic ulcer	2	—
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	1
24. Appendicitis	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of liver	1	—
26. Other liver diseases	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	2	4
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	—
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30. Other puerperal diseases	—	—
31. Congenital debility; premature births, etc.	1	2
32. Senility	4	2
33. Suicide	2	—
34. Other violence	1	—
35. Other defined causes	4	8
36. Causes ill defined or unknown	—	—
37. Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
Small Pox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Policencephalitis	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
Total	5	4
Legitimate	5	3
Illegitimate	—	1
Live Births :		
Total	71	52
Legitimate	68	51
Illegitimate	3	1
Still Births :		
Total	6	11
Legitimate	5	11
Illegitimate	1	—
Resident Population (mid-year 1938)...	...	9,844

### Particulars of Infant Deaths during the Year.

Under 1 week	...	...	...	2
1 to 2 weeks	...	...	...	2
2 to 3 weeks	...	...	...	0
3 to 4 weeks	...	...	...	0
Total under 1 month				4
1 to 3 months	...	...	...	2
3 to 6 months	...	...	...	3
6 to 9 months	...	...	...	0
9 to 12 months	...	...	...	0
Total under 12 months				9

### Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Convulsions	...	...	...	3
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Respiratory Obstruction	...	...	...	1
Marasmas	...	...	...	1
Tetanas	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	1
Total				9

### Conclusion.

In my last Annual Report I drew your attention to the following improvements, all of which I consider are still necessary, and call for your special consideration:—

- (1) The provision of still more dwelling-houses for the purpose of Slum Clearance and the abatement of overcrowding.
- (2) The provision of a Public Slaughterhouse.
- (3) The provision of a Refuse Destructor, or Controlled Tipping.
- (4) The provision of an Infectious Diseases Hospital, or the use of one with an adjoining Authority.

- (5) A proper system of Sewage Disposal.
- (6) The installation of a Mechanical Filter at No. 1 Reservoir, and the provision of a suitable and efficient filter at Edmund's Tank.
- (7) The replacement of all defective and obsolete street gullies with modern deep seal gullies.
- (8) The putting into proper sanitary condition of the

Public Conveniences at Prince Street and Llanover Road; and the provision of new ones at Forge Side, Garnyrerw, and Cwmavon Road.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. CROWE, M.O.H.,

Blaenavon.

Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Blaenavon, Mon.,  
February, 1939.

To the Medical Officer of Health, and  
the Chairman, Councillor Miss Lewis, and Members of  
the Blaenavon Urban District Council.

### Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

#### General Sanitary Inspections.

Dwelling Houses Inspected and Recorded Housing Regulations	72
Dwelling Houses Re-inspected and Recorded Housing Regulations	352
Dwelling Houses Inspected on Complaint (Public Health Act)	183
Dwelling Houses Re-inspected on Complaint (Public Health Act)	785
Dwelling Houses Visited re Overcrowding (Housing Act)	353
Council Houses Inspected on change of tenancy	7
Visits to Dirty and Verminous Houses (Council owned)	16
Dirty and Verminous Houses (Privately owned)	45
Houses let in Lodgings	2
Common Lodging Houses	35
Shops, re Shops Act (Sect. 10, Shops Act, 1934)	52
Schools	49
Waterworks and Water Supply	64
Amusement Places (Cinemas, etc.)	8
Public Buildings (Hotels, Inns, etc.)	49
Factories (Mechanical and Non-Mechanical)	49
Workplaces	0
Public Conveniences and Urinals	352
Stables and Piggeries	155
Refuse Dumps	49
Back Lanes and Open Spaces	101

Animals kept improperly	...	...	...	8
Rats and Mice infestation	...	...	...	25
Total	...	...	...	2811

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	65
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	102
Bakehouses	...	...	...	27
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	530
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	746
Cooked Meat Shops	...	...	...	34
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	68
Fish, Fruit, and Vegetable Shops	...	...	...	68
Provision Shops and Stores...	...	...	...	44
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	25
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts...	...	...	...	17
Total	...	...	...	1730

### Infectious Disease Prevention.

Visits to Tuberculosis Cases	...	...	...	76
Diphtheria Cases	...	...	...	49
Scarlet Fever Cases	...	...	...	18
Total	...	...	...	143

### Disinfection, Cleansing and Disinfestation.

Rooms disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	...	67
Articles—Bedding, Clothing, etc., disinfected at the Steam Disinfector	...	...	...	280
Rooms fumigated and sprayed re disinfection (Bed bugs)	...	...	...	46

### Complaints Received and Notices Served.

Number of Complaints received re Defects and Nuisances	...	...	...	183
Number of Complaints investigated	...	...	...	183
Number of Informal Notices served under Public Health Act	...	...	...	174
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	133
Number of Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act	...	...	...	44
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	28

Number of Formal Notices served under Housing Act, Section 9 ... ..	15
Number of Formal Notices complied with, Sect. 9 Demolition Orders served on Breach of Undertaking, Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ...	2
Notices served under 1937 Factory Act ... ..	10
Notices complied with, 1937 Factory Act... ..	8
Notices served under Section 10, Shops Act, 1934	5
Notices complied with, Shops Act, Section 10 ...	3
	2

**Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year.**

**Exterior.**

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof ... ..	39
Chimney Stacks repaired or rebuilt ... ..	19
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters repaired or renewed ... ..	58
House walls cement rendered, repointed and waterproofed to prevent the penetration of dampness	67
Dangerous and dilapidated walls repaired or rebuilt	13
Yards, passages, etc., repaved or repaired ...	28
Dry areas provided and drained for damp prevention	2
Yard steps rebuilt or repaired ... ..	17
Dilapidated and obstructive outbuildings demolished	1
Outbuildings repaired and put into satisfactory condition ... ..	5
Cellar steps repaired or renewed ... ..	1

**Interior.**

Doors and frames repaired or renewed ... ..	23
Windows and frames repaired or renewed ... ..	62
Floors repaired or renewed ... ..	31
Grates and ovens repaired or renewed ... ..	16
Window cords renewed ... ..	26
Fireplaces and chimney arches rebuilt or repaired	2
Ceilings and internal walls replastered where plaster defective and perished ... ..	99
Stairs repaired or renewed ... ..	2
New skirting boards provided and fixed ... ..	8
Wash boilers repaired or renewed ... ..	2

**Drainage.**

New drains constructed ... ..	7
Defective drains reconstructed ... ..	18
Drains repaired ... ..	18
Choked and foul drains opened and cleansed ...	39

New yard gullies provided and fixed	...	...	20
New inspection chambers provided in drains	...	...	16
Drain inspection chambers repaired and provided with covers	...	...	0
Sink troughs provided and fixed...	...	...	8
Waste pipes from sinks and lavatory basins repaired or renewed	...	...	4
Drain ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	2
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	1
Drains tested—Water	...	...	0
Smoke	...	...	38
Coloured Water...	...	...	27

### Water-Closets.

New water-closets provided for dwelling-houses, etc.	...	...	14
Water-closet buildings repaired...	...	...	19
Water-closets reconstructed	...	...	3
Seats, doors, floors, roofs, of water-closets repaired or renewed	...	...	9
Closet flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	21
Lighting and ventilation of water-closets provided or improved	...	...	0
New pans and traps provided in water-closets	...	...	28
Foul and dirty closets cleansed	...	...	6
Insanitary closets dismantled and put out of use...	...	...	1
Urinal walls and floors repaired or renewed	...	...	4

### Miscellaneous Repairs and Nuisances Abated.

Nuisances from the keeping of animals abated	...	...	5
Overcrowding abated	...	...	21
Water supply laid on to houses not previously supplied from Council's main	...	...	1
Water services to dwelling-houses renewed	...	...	3
Nuisance from fumes given off by gas engine abated	...	...	1
Shops provided with additional heating facilities...	...	...	2
Slaughter-houses limewashed and cleansed	...	...	8

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

For the purpose of meat inspection, 350 visits were made to the slaughter-houses, and 746 visits to the butchers' shops and stalls.

## Particulars of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	143	24	63	2,727	569
Number Inspected	139	24	63	2583	558
All Diseases except <i>Tuberculosis</i> .					
Whole Carcasses condemned	...	1	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	5	...	145	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than <i>Tuberculosis</i>	5.03%	25%	...	5.6%	3.5%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	1	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	...	...	...	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with <i>Tuberculosis</i>	5.9%	...	...	...	2.3%

### Classification of Meat, etc., Condemned.

The following are the particulars of the meat and food surrendered and destroyed during the year:—

Beef	...	...	...	1,747 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	44 lbs.
Offal	...	...	...	1,280 lbs.
(This includes livers, lungs, heads, etc.)				
Tinned and Bottled Foods	...	...	...	121
Fish	...	...	56 lbs.	Herrings
Eggs	...	...	...	32

### Milk Supply.

The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in the district were periodically visited throughout the year in order to ensure that the milk produced and retailed in the area was clean and free from contamination.

Thirty-six samples of milk were taken from persons retailing milk in the district and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination; the results of these samples are tabulated below:—

No. of Samples found to conform to a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity	No. of Samples found to be satisfactory generally	No. of Samples found to be unsatisfactory
27	1	8

Number of Cowkeepers in the district on December 31st, 1938	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Cowkeepers on the Register, December 31st, 1938	...	...	...	...	9
Number of visits to cowsheds during the year	...	...	...	...	65
Number of visits to dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	102
Number of Milk Purveyors on Register, December 31st, 1938	...	...	...	...	31
Number of Purveyors retailing in the district	...	...	...	...	21
Number bringing in milk from other areas	...	...	...	...	10

All the registered cowkeepers are purveyors of milk, and are included in the above list of retailers.

Of the graded milks, Pasteurised is the only one retailed in the district.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district,

### Housing.

Seventy-two houses were inspected during the year, and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, and 352 re-inspections were made for this purpose. One hundred and eighty-three houses were inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts, and 785 re-visits made for this purpose.

The condition of these houses was reported at the monthly meetings of the Council, and Informal and Formal notices served when necessary.

Fifty-two of the houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations were found to be unfit for human habitation, and twenty were found to be in certain respects unfit.

The 52 unfit houses have been scheduled for consideration for demolition; and the 20 houses found to be in certain respects unfit have been dealt with under Section 9, the Repair section of the 1936 Housing Act.

Great difficulty was again experienced throughout the year in respect of the repair of houses, both under the Public Health and Housing Acts. This was due in some cases to the extreme poverty of the owners; in others to difficulty in getting local builders to carry out repair work, which, in the case of old property, usually entails a financial risk on the part of the building repairer. In some cases it has been found that building repairers will not go to the trouble to prepare estimates for this class of work. Then again, there was the usual trouble with the owners, who can, but will not, comply with the notices served upon them to carry out such work as is necessary to keep their houses up to a decent standard, and will only do so when threatened with Court proceedings.

However, in spite of these difficulties, a fair amount of repair work was carried out, but under the conditions mentioned, repeated visits and re-inspections have to be made, and it is not unusual for a house in respect of which a notice has been served to have to be visited at least a dozen times before the notice is complied with. This, naturally, accounts for the large number of re-visits to dwelling-houses, as shown in the tabulated list of inspections.

I am, Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WYNDHAM A. CURTIS,

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of  
Meat and Other Foods.

