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**Contributors**

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLAENAVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR, 1939.

September, 1940.

Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Fourth Annual Report regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ended December, 1939.

Consideration has been given in the preparation of this Report to the Ministry of Health Circular 1961 (Wales), issued on the 16th February, 1940 relating to the contents and arrangements of the Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1939. In consequence of the consideration given to the contents of the Circular the Report for the year under review has been greatly curtailed. For the purpose of giving a fuller explanation to this curtailment I consider it advisable to include in this Report Paragraph 2 of Circular 1961, which is as follows:-

The Minister has considered the desirability of the Reports being curtailed during the period of the War, and he is satisfied that, while an entire discontinuance of the Annual Reports during this period would not be in the interests of local government the Report might without disadvantage be materially shortened. Many items which usually appear may be omitted entirely, and those which should be retained may be dealt with as briefly as possible. Except in the case of items for which full particulars are required the Report should be limited to a record of important alterations, improvements or developments which have taken place during the year.

Circular 1961 was followed by Circular 2067 (Wales), which requested that still further curtailment of Reports was necessary. This Circular stressed that in view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Department of local authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper the Department consider that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939. These reports may be typewritten if desired and should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected public health during the year.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR.

The health of the district during the year was on the whole fairly good, and there were no cases of sickness or invalidity requiring special comment.

SHEET 2.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

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Live Births	128	Legitimate M.	66	F.	58
		Illegitimate M.	2	F.	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 13.16

<u>Still Births</u>	8	Legitimate M.	5	F.	3
		Illegitimate M.	1	F.	0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .82

Deaths:- 151      Males 85.  
                         Females 66.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.3

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Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	9.
	Legitimate M. 4 F. 5
	Illegitimate M. Nil. F. Nil.

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births registered 70.3

Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	19
Deaths from Measles (All Ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	0
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	1
Estimated Population	<u>9,722.</u>
Birth Rate - England and Wales	15.0
Death Rate - England and Wales	12.1
Infant Death Rate      "      "      "	50.0

County of Monmouth.

Birth Rate	15.9
Death Rate	12.7
Infant Death Rate	61.2



SHEET 3.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No special comment is necessary on the infectious diseases notified.

DIPHTHERIA.

Forty-six cases of diphtheria were notified and there were four deaths resulting from this cause.

The number of cases notified was much in excess of 1938 when only ten cases occurred. The majority of these cases were more severe than the previous year and the causative organism appeared to have been of a much more virulent type.

Twenty three of the diphtheria cases were removed to Hospital; the remainder were nursed and isolated in the homes.

A scheme for the immunization of school children and children of pre-school age was started during the year. This scheme, which was carried out in conjunction with the Medical Staff of the Monmouthshire County Council was quite successful and a large number of school children in the district have now been immunized against Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified; no deaths resulted from this cause. As previously stated Scarlet fever in this district has for some years been of a very mild type and calls for little comment. No cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Seven cases of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis were notified and there was one death from this cause.

PNEUMONIA.

Fourteen cases of Pneumonia were notified; one death resulted from this cause.

Two cases of Erysipelas and two of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

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

Measles was not notifiable until after the end of December, consequently the number of cases occurring in the area during the year is not known. I am pleased to state, however, that since the 1st Jan. 1940, this disease and Whooping Cough have to be notified.

There is no isolation hospital in the district for infectious cases.

It was found necessary during the year to remove 23 cases of Diphtheria and 5 of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Accommodation for these cases was provided at Tredegar and Bedwellty Isolation Hospitals. The cost of removal and treatment at these institutions was borne by this Authority.



## SHEET 4.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.  
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED												Age Groups										DEATHS										Age Groups										NUMBER ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42		43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-eight cases of Tuberculosis - 35 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary were notified during the year. This shows an increase of six over the number of cases notified in 1938.

Eight deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

All cases of Tuberculosis notified are made the subject of inquiry and a report is made to the Association in accordance with Form T.1. Wales.

No action was necessary for the compulsory removal of persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis under Section 172 Public Health Act.

NEW CASES OF MORTALITY DURING, 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases.						Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary			Total.		Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year										
1-5	1	6	7	2		2	3			
5-15	2	7	9	2	1	3	10			
15-25	5	5	10				13			
25-35	2		2				7		5	
35-45	2		2	1		1	3	3		
45-55				1		1	1			
55-65	1		1				1			
65 and over.										
TOTALS.	13	18	31	6	1	7	38	3	5	8

Monthly Notifications of Tuberculosis.

Month.	Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
January	4	1	3		
February	8	2	6		1
March	5	4	1	2	
April	5		1		
May	1		1		
June					
July					
August	1	1			
September	2	1	1	1	
October	2		2		
November	3	1	2	3	
December	7	3	4		
TOTAL	38	13	18	6	1



SHEET 6.

Comparison of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis during  
the past five years.

YEAR.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total.
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
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
1939					
Notifications	13	18	6	1	38
Deaths	1	5	0	0	6

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in the district is still a real and serious problem.

There are a large number of unfit houses in the area, most of which are long overdue for demolition; not only are they unhealthy by reason of their sanitary and structural defects, but in many cases are an eyesore and a blot on the landscape.

It is however, fair to state that a real effort has been made to rid the district of these insanitary and unhealthy dwellings and I am satisfied that but for the War, in the course of three or four years most of the dilapidated, worn out and insanitary houses in the district would have disappeared and the occupants properly re-housed.

I was hoping that we should have been allowed to complete the fifty eight houses which you had decided to build at the Coed Housing Estate, but as you are aware only thirty eight of that number were in the course of erection at the outbreak of War, and the building of the remainder has had to be put off at the Government's request, for some future time.

I am, Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

*P. Kennedy*

*PP Dr Crowe*  
Medical Officer of Health.