### [Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Blaenavon U.D.C.

### **Contributors**

Blaenavon (Wales). Urban District Council.

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1947

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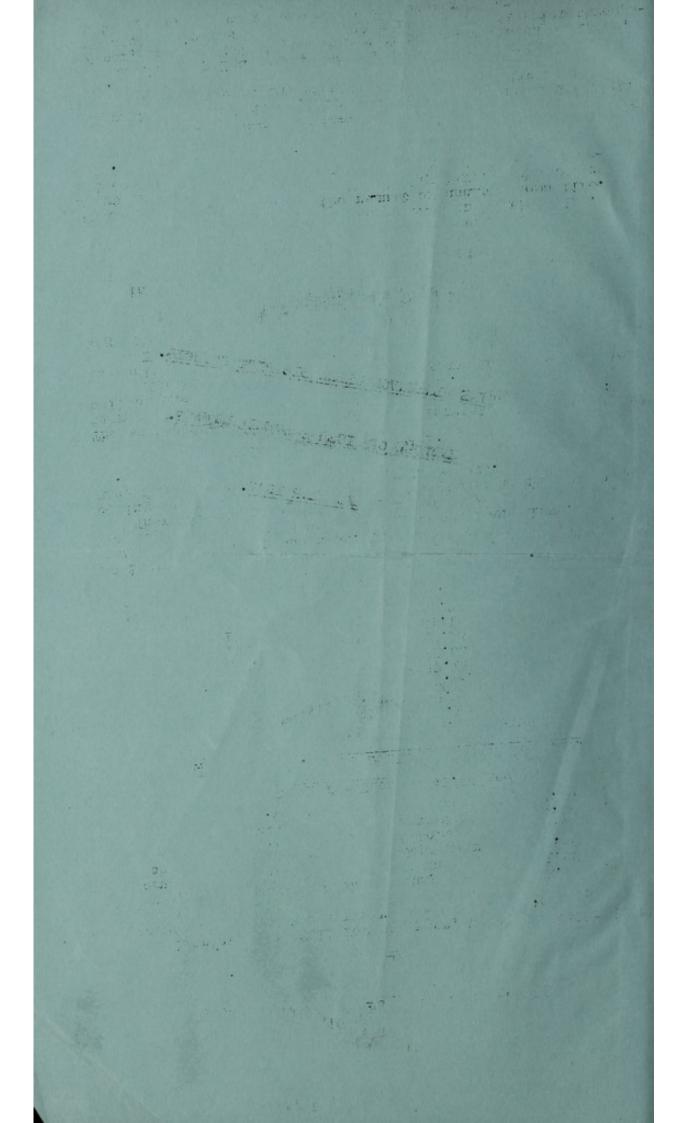
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THE BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR 1947.



### THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLAENAVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

February, 1949.

Councillor Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,
I have the honour to submit Twelfth Annual Report regarding the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ended 31st Docombor, 1947. The report is prepared on similar lines as for 1946.

### GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

There were, in my opinion, no causes of sickness or invalidity in the district requiring special comment.

The number of infectious cases notified was exceptionally

low; a most gratifying fact is, that not a single case of Diphtheria was notified. It appears we are now beginning to reap the benefits of the Immunisation Scheme, and I sincerely hope that parents will continue to take advantage of the facilities offered: so simple, so effective yet capable of keeping at bay this scourge and destroyer of child life.

One very pleasant feature, which I think is becoming more noticeable, is the vigorous, sturdy and healthy appearance of the children in the district which, I consider is largely attributable to the excellant meals provided for the children at the schools. The food supplied at the school canteens is good, with plenty of variety, cooked and served under hygienic conditions, and should

tempt and I believe satisfy, the most fastidious of children.

The industrial diseases which occur in the district are usually those connected with coal-mining, this being the principal industry. As these diseases - Silicosis, Pneumoconiosis, and Weil's disease, are not notifiable to the Authority, it is difficult to know the incidence of these diseases in the area. It can, however, be safely stated that since the local collieries were dealt with by the odent Control Dept., Ministry of Food, which resulted in a big reduction in the number of rats at the collieries, little has been heard of Weil's disease.

Tuberculosis is still a matter of great concern in the area. Although there there was a reduction of four in the number of cases notified during the year to that of the previous year, the number of deaths recorded were double of that for 1946-fourteen for 1947 against soven for 1946. Full particulars of ago groups notified, doaths otc., are furnished at the end of the report.

### SANITARY CIRCUISTANCES IN THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

No changes were brought about during the year to the districts

water supply.

Six samples of water were taken from the public supplies during the year and submittedd for the purpose of bacteriological examination. Four of these were from treated supplies and two from untreated. The four samples of treated water were found to be satisfactory; the two untreated were unsatisfactory.

No samples were taken for chemical examination. Owing to the very warm summer and periods of drought, it was found nccessary to curtail supplies to nearly every part of the district.

	Charles and Control of the Control o
GENERAL INFORM TION RESPECTING WATER SUPPLY	
Number of dwelling houses in the area	2,721
Estimated population 1947	9,764
Number of houses supplied from public mains:-	
(1) direct to house .	2,597
(11) by means of standpipes	63
(111) by springs and streams	61
Approximate population supplied from public mains, etc.,	
(1) direct to house	9,366
(11) by means of standpipes	211
(111) by springs and stroams	187



### R.INF.LL

The District's rainfall for the year, which was taken in the grounds of the No 2 Reservoir, was as follows:-

January February March April	5.17 inches 1.67 12.50 5.92	July August September October	2.83 inches 1.07 2.50 1.25
May	3.60	November	3.82
June	3.03	Decombor	4.83

### TOTAL for Year 48.18 inches

### DISTRICT'S RAINF. LL DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS

	70	40 20	
18	38	46.32	inches
19	39	56.12	
19	40	46.37	
19	41	47.64	
19	42	47.18	
19	43	52.55	
19	44	47.13	
19	45	51.15	
19	46	67.78	
19	47	48.18	

### DRAINAGE AND SEVERAGE

No improvements were made during the year to the drainage and sewerage systems in the area. The whole of the district's sewage is discharged untreated into the Avon Llwyd.

There is however every prospect of this state of affairs coming to an end, as I understand all preparations have been made for an early start on the new sewerage scheme.

### SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

The scavenging and cleansing of the district, with the exception of the Cwmavon area, is carried out by direct labour: collections are made three times a week.

The disposal of refuse is by uncontrolled tipping which

is unsightly and unhygienic.

The substitution of this method by controlled tipping is urgently necessary

### HOUSING:

This is still a very serious problem in our district. Our people are continually crying out for decent homes. I trust that the matter of housing will continue to receive your most serious attention, as in my opinion, bad housing conditions are the primary cause of much unhappiness in married life. Child delinquency is often the result of unhappy home life. Apart from the bad effects on the family life, dark, dreary and drab houses do not improve the beauty of the neighbourhood.

### RODEL T CONTROL

Rodent Control is indeed, taken very seriously in the district, and has now become an important branch of the Public Health work.

Your Sanitary Inspector, who carries out the duties of Rodent Officer, and the Rodent operator working under his supervision, made systematic inspections of all parts of the district throughout the year, and carried out a large number of treatments.

State William and and reconstruction of the first that the 

### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT (CONTINUED) Sheet 3.

Private dwellings, business premises, factories, workplaces and all classes of food premises have been inspected, and treated when the necessity arose. The surfaces of the collieries, and the Avon Llwydd from Cwmavon to the point where the river is arched, near the Coke ovens, were also dealt with and treated.

In addition to the surface Treatments, the sewers in the area were treated twice during the year with good results. Your Rodent Officer is satisfied that these sewer treatments are responsible for a big reduction in the number of rats in and around surface

premises.

At the end of the year under review, there was no evidence of rat trouble in any of the food premises in the district.

I am well satisfied that the time and money spent on Rodent Control measures in the district have been worth while; it is only by carrying on incessant warfare against them that these pests can be controlled; and I hope this will be done in the future, as it has been done during the past four or five years.

> INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK SUPPLY.

The number of persons producing milk in the area is becoming fewer. At the time of the submission of my last Annual Report the were five producer-retailers; now there are only two, and one of those is producing only a very small quantity, Three producer-retailers bring in milk from other areas, two from the adjoining rural area, and one from the Pontypool Urban District.

The bulk of the milk now retailed in the district is Pastourised; this is brought in from Pontypool Urban District,

where there are two fairly large pastourising plants.

The cowsheds and milkshops were visited periodically through-

out the year by your Sanitary Inspector: Some trouble was experienced during the summer months with regard to the purity of the milk supplied by certain of the retailers. Samples of milk taken during that period were found not to conform to a satisfactory bacteriological standard. Warnings were given to the persons responsible, and further samples were taken without the desired improvements being brought about. As a result, the offenders were summoned to appear before the Council, to show cause as to why they should not be removed from the Register Various explanations were given and excuses made; the hot weather and drought were chiefly blamed. The Council, however, after giving them (the retailers) a very fair hearing, decided to give them another opportunity, and upon further samples being taken, much improvement had been brought about and the samples were found to bo satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES & MEAT INSPECTION.

There are no slaughter-houses in use in the district since the rationing of food commenced. All meat consumed in the district, with the exception of imported meat, is killed at the Ministry of Food slaughter-house at Brynmawr. The quality of the meat supplied to the area was on the whole fairly good; and while there might have been cause for complaint, little could be done, under the circumstances, to improve it.

The butchers shops and other places where food is prepared and sold, have been inspected at various times by your Sanitary

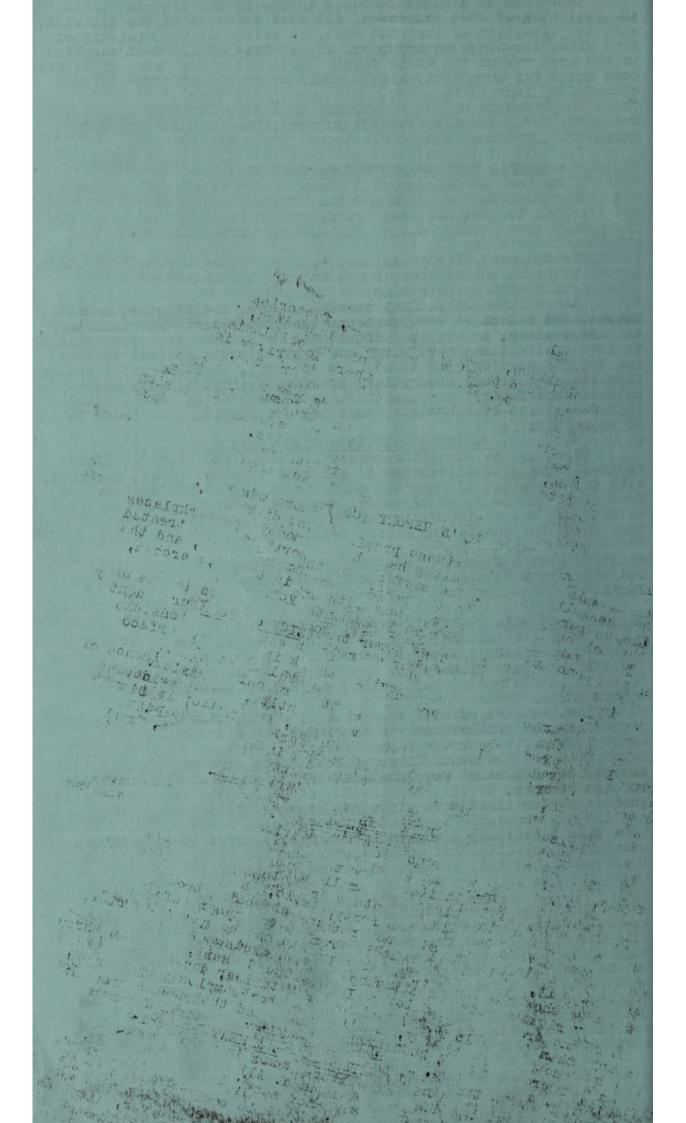
Inspector throughout the year.

GENERAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

In my last Annual Report I dealt in detail with Blaenavon's advantages and disadvantages, and its litany of wants.

As has been stated previously, one of the chief wants of the district is now industries; or at least the retention of the existing industries

The district, cannot so far, be regarded as being particularly fortunate in the allocation of new industries. So far as the existing industries are concorned, another blow has been received in the loss of the Stool Tyre and Axle Plant; and the closing down in the near future of the Coke Ovens and By-Product Plant will add



### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT (Continued) Sheet 4.

Still further to the misfortunes of a district which has already suffered much from loss of industry and unemployment during the past thirty years.

However, we must not lose faith; we must still be optimistic and, like Mr. Micawber hope for something to turn up; and I believe

it will.

There is now some hope of an improvement being brought about from a Public Health standpoint. The new Sewerage scheme, which is long overdue, is, I understand, to be commenced very shortly. My predecessors and I have advocated this for many years, and although it has been a long time coming, it will never-the-less be most welcome.

Second in my opinion only to new industries, is the need for more houses, There are still a number of cases of serious overcrowding in the area, and some hundreds of worn out and unfit houses. While we are grateful for the number of houses which have been erected since the cessation of hostilities, and those that. are in course of erection, some hundreds of houses are still needed to solve the shortage, and replace those that are scheduled as unfit for habitation.

There is, I realise, little purpose in talking of, or suggesting any large scale improvements in the area until the industrial position in the district is made secure. I should, however, like to SCO :-

More dwelling houses provided.

The scrapping of certain of the existing water-works, and the provision of one main supply.

Controlled tipping of house and other refuse.

The putting into a state of repair of I Llanover Road, from Channel View to the Mountain Gate, and the provision of a few seats.

The provision of an Isolation hospital in the district, or somewhere in the Eastern Valley.

(5).

or somewhere in the Eastern Valley.

(6). A Maternity Home in the district.

Before I conclude this part of my Report, I should like to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his help and co-operation; also the Council for their attention and consideration to my suggestions for the good of the town.

### HOME HELP. Social Service Campaign.

In the New Social Service Campaign the Home Holps have been a wonderful blessing to many in Blaenavon, and lightened the burden of many homes. Mrs Thompson has proved very capable and efficient in sending along a Helper to assist in response to a call.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

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

There is, however, an open-air bath which has been provided by the workmen of the district in conjunction with the Miners Welfare Association. This bath is open to the public at a charge fixed by the Committee which control it, and when the weather is favourable,

it is very well patronised by the inhabitants.
The bath is well maintained, and in charge of a capable attendant. An up-to-date purification plant, which automatically purifies and chlorinates the water has been installed, and has been

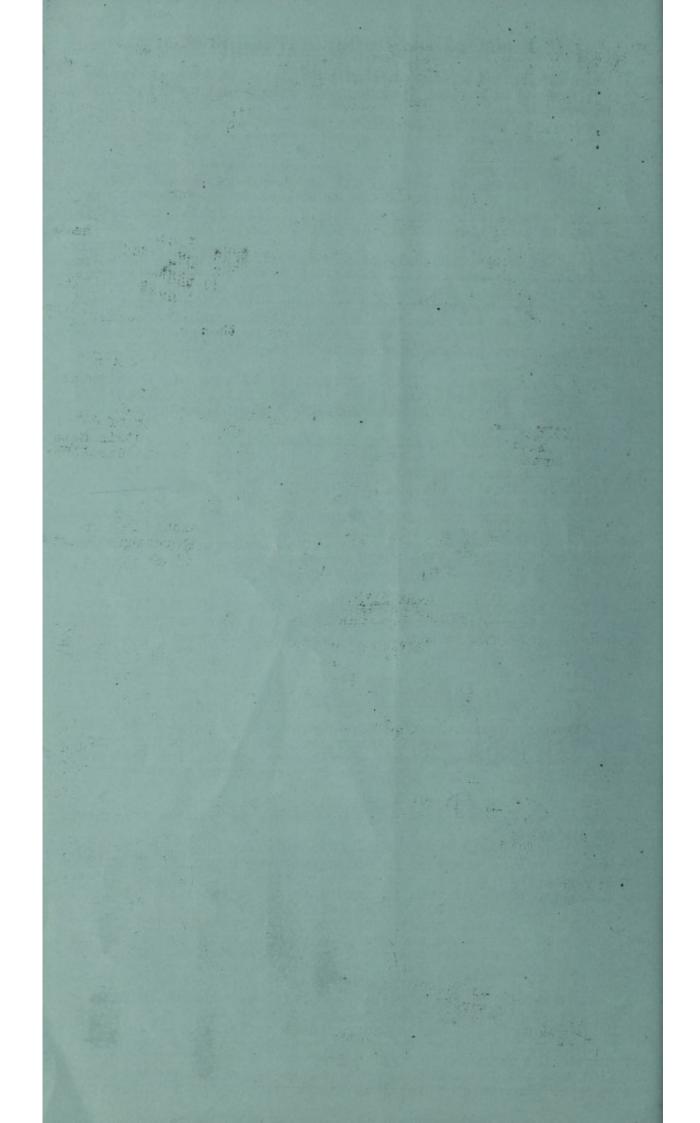
working satisfactorily.

SCHOOLS. The schools in the district were visited at various times during the year, and any nuisances and defects found were reported to the appropriate authority and remedied satisfactorily.

The water supply to the schools was generally satisfactory

throughout the year,

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



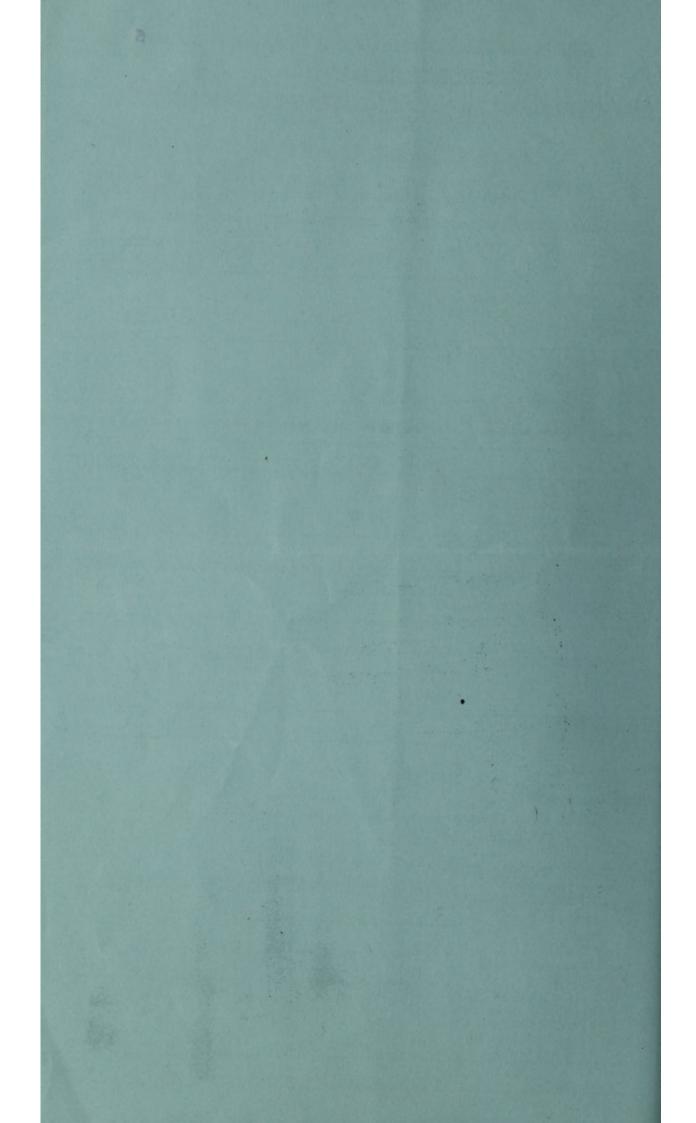
### MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED) sheet 5

### INSPECTIONS OF THE FACTORIES IN THE BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S AREA.

### PART 1 OF THE FACTORY ACT 1937

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	-					
Premises.		No		The second second second	Written Notices.	Occupiers
		Reg	ister.	inspec- tions.	Notices.	prosecuted.
1) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4,& 6 are enforced by L.A's.			9	24	Nil	Ntl
2) Factories not inc. in 1) to which Sec 7 applies a) Subject to L.A's. (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938.			25	50	Nil	Nil
b) Others			Nil			
3) Other premises un Act (excluding ou workers premises	it-					
TOTAL.			34	74	Nil	Nil
2CLSES IN WHICH DEFE						
	Num	ber	of case		h defec	ts: Number
PARTICULARS.				: Refe	pred	in which
	Fou	nd	Remedie		ot:Inspe	M:prosecut ot:ions were : taken
Want of cleanliness				-		
Overor wding					-	
Unreasonable temper- ature			All I	Nis.	-	<u>i</u>
Inadequate ventilation					-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.			411	Nils.	:	:
Sanitary conveniences.				:		1
(b) Unsuitable or		,		1	1	+
defective. (c) Not separate for sexes.				1		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		12 12 12 13				
TOTAL	Ni		Nil	: N11	: Nil	: N11



### MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT. Sheet 6

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		BIRTHS.			
LIVE BIRTHS:-	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
LEGITIMATE ILLEGITIMATE.	195 	163 6	165 13	186	159 10
TOTAL	202	169	178	195	169
MALE FEMALE	90 112 202	92 77 169	93 85 178	106 89 195	97 72 169
BIRTH RATE PER	2 1.000	of the POPUI	ATION.		
	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
	20.6	17.3	18.3	19.8	17.3
STILL BIRTHS:- Legitimate:-	5	5	3	6	7
Illegitimate:	0 5	0 5	4	0 6	0 7
STILL BIRTH PR	ER 1.000	of the POPU	L.TION.		
	0.51	0.51	0.41	0.60	0.71
		DEATHS.			
	947	1946	1945	1944	1943
MALES:- FEMALES:-	87 69	68 <u>54</u>	87 <u>64</u>	61	68
TOTAL.	156	122	151	103	131
DEATH RATE PER			AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON		
BL.ENVON:- ENGLND & WLES.	15.8	12.5	15.6	10.5	13.3
	INF.	NTILE HORT.	LITY.		
NUMBER OF INFA	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR				
BOYS.	4	<u>1946</u> 5	1945	<u>1944</u> 3	1943
GIRLS.		6	_6	_2	_2
	7	11	10	5	10
NUMBER OF BIRTHS:-	202	169	178	195	169
INFANT DELTHS	PER 1,00	00 BIRTHS RE	GISTERED.		
	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
3	54,6	65.1	56.2	25.6	59.2

teen pour d 14.41 . 12 11 1004 2714 TASA 44 1.55 3, . 3. 5 15%

### MEDICAL OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT (Continued) Sheet 7

### PARTICULARS OF INFANT DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

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

### TOTAL UNDER 12 MONTHS: - 7.

### CANCER DEATHS.

Males 8 6 14

### Chuses OF DEATH IN THE BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT, 1947.

No.	Causes.	Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid & para-typhoid Fevers	0	0
2.	Corebro-spinal fever	0,	0
3.	Scarlet Fever	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	0	0
6.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	6
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	2
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
9:	Influenza	1	2
10.	Measles	0	0
11.	cute-polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	0	0
12.	Acute inf. Enceph.	0	0
13.	Cancer of the Buc. Cav. & oesoph. (M). Utorus (F).	1 0	0
14:	Cancer of the Stomach & Duodenum.	3	2
15.	Cancer of Breast	0	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	4	4
17.	Diabetes	- 0	1
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular-Lesions	12	
19.	Heart Diseases	21	19
20.	Other diseases of the Circulatory System	. 2	3
21.	Bronchitis.	11	5
22.	Pneumonia	1	5
23.	Other Respiratory Discases.	3	2
	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	2	0
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	1	0
26	Appendicitis.	0	0
27.	Other Digestive Diseases.	0	3
	Nephritis.	9	2
29.	Puerperal and post abort. sepsis.	0	. 0
30.	Other Maternal Causes.	0	0
31.	Premature Birth.	1	1
	Con; Mal; birth inj; infant; diseases.	0	0
	Suicide.	1	0
	Road traffic accidents.	1	0
	Other Violent causes.		1
35. 36.	All other causes. TOTAL. All causes.	87	5 69

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### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT (CONTINUED) Sheet 8

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROLL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally. The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year ended December 31st 1947, will be seen from the appended table

### DIPHTHERIA.

Not a single case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. This I consider remarkable, and shows the effiency of immunisation against this disease.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Four cases of Scarlet Fewer were notified; these were again all of a very mild type, and none were removed to hospital.

### PNEUMONIA.

No cases were notified; there were, however six deaths from this disease. It is necessary to point out however, that only primary cases of Pneumonia are notifiable.

### CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

No cases were notified from this disease.

### ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS.

Three cases were notified; two of which were admitted into hospital; this were no deaths from this cause.

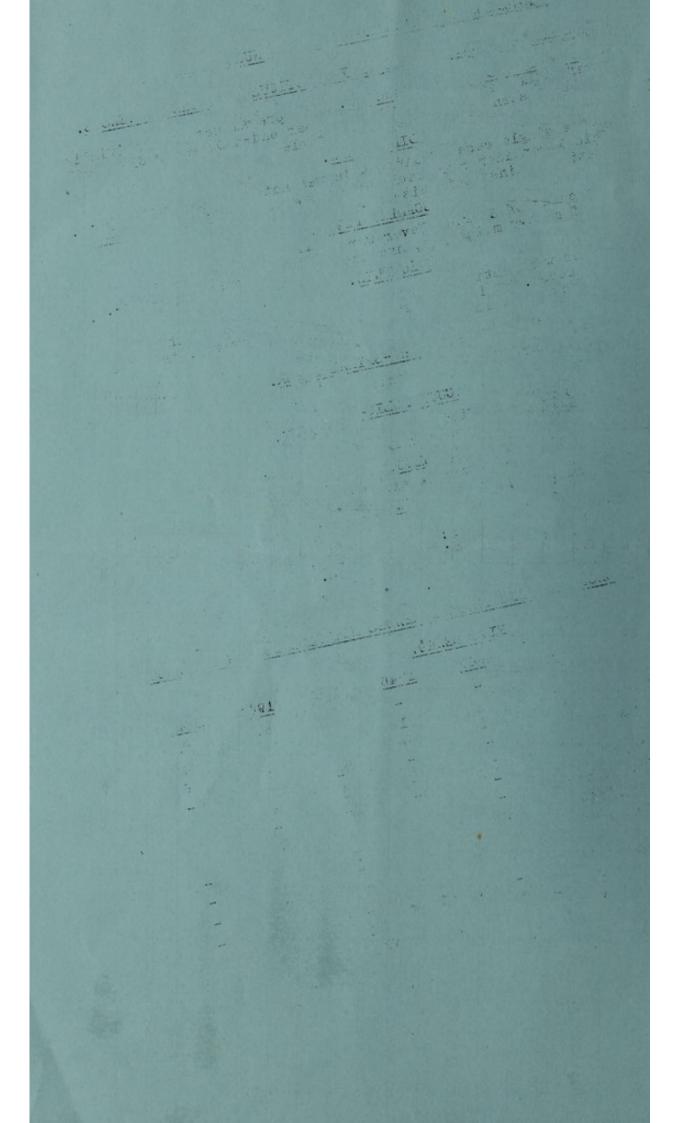
### MEASLES.

Eight cases of measles were notified; there were no deaths. COMMENT ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE DISTRICT.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, was exceptionally low; sixteen cases, and no deaths is something of which we can be justly proud. It is also gratifying to know that the majority of these cases were very mild and only two needed removal to hospital.

### NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST

### FIVE YEARS. 1947 1944 1943 1946 1945 Small Pox. Diphtheria 1 3 1 5 Scarlet Fever 3 23 3 16 Enteric Fever Pneumonia 1 4 24 Puerperal Fever Cerebro-spinal fever 1 1 Acute Popiomyelitis Encephalitis Lethargica Dysentry Ophthalmia Neonatoram Erysipelas 1 4 4 1 1 Measles 8 3 142 4 58 Whooping Cough 5 2

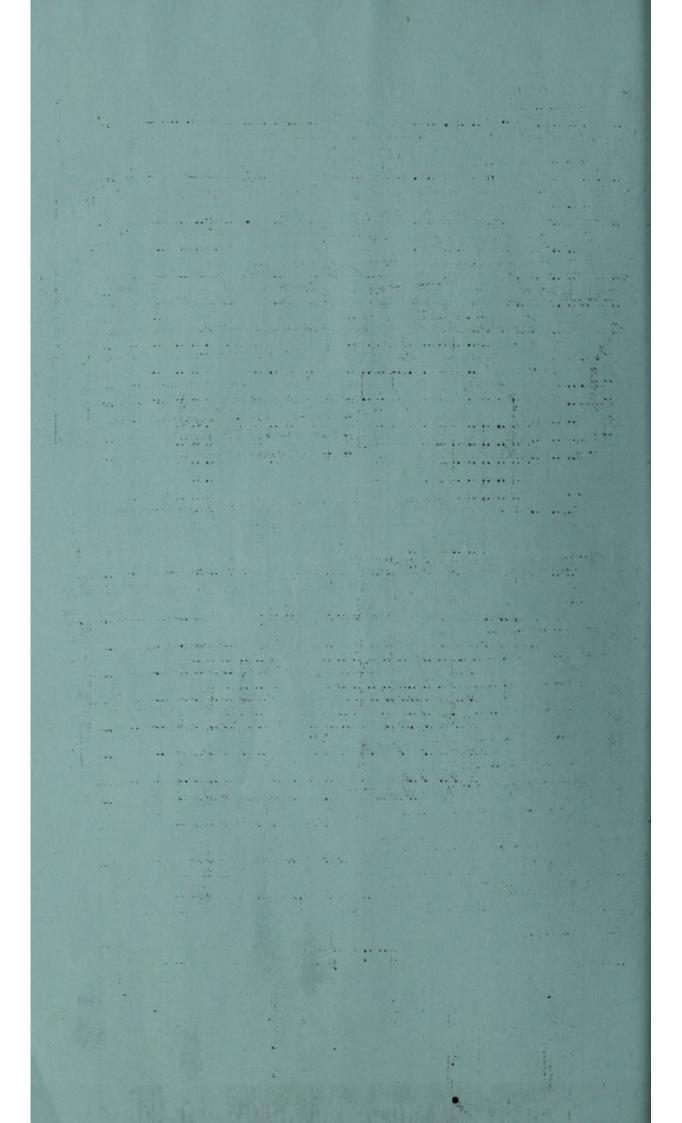


	The same of the sa	The second secon	The same of the sa	1
		1	DEATHS. Age Groups	1
DISEASE.	1 : 2 : 3:4: 5:10:15:20:35:45:	45:65 &: Total: 65:0vor: all :	Underl:2:3:4:5:10:15:20:35:45:65 &:Totel:4dmi	to to
		: :Agos: :	r: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	Sp.
		: : NIL. :		
Deptendrie.				1
Secriot Fovor.		. 4	Lin .	1
		: :		
Entoric Fover.		: . Nil. :		1
Ducton				
Filenialites				1
Puorporel Fever.		: : Nil. ;		1
		HIN H		
derent of rever		-		1
Acute Polio Mel.:	: 2:1:2:	: 2		02
Enceph. Letherg.		TIN .		1
Dy sentery.		. N11		1
Only Mooneterum		TIN :		
		: LIN :. :		
Puerporel Pyrexia:		-		1
Mensles and German Mensles	1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	80	CIN: LIN:	=
Whooping Cough				1
Erysipelas.				1
Other Diseases. : State nature. Ervsipelas	; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ;	: 1 :	IN TINE : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	H
TOTALS.	: 1; 4: 1: 2:4: 1: 1: 1: 1: :	: : 16 :	2 : IIN : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	
	Thinarenlosis is not to be included in t	hie ammanu		1

Tuberculosis is not to be included in this summary.

Signed

Medical Officer of Health.



## Sheet 10 MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TUBERCULOSIS.

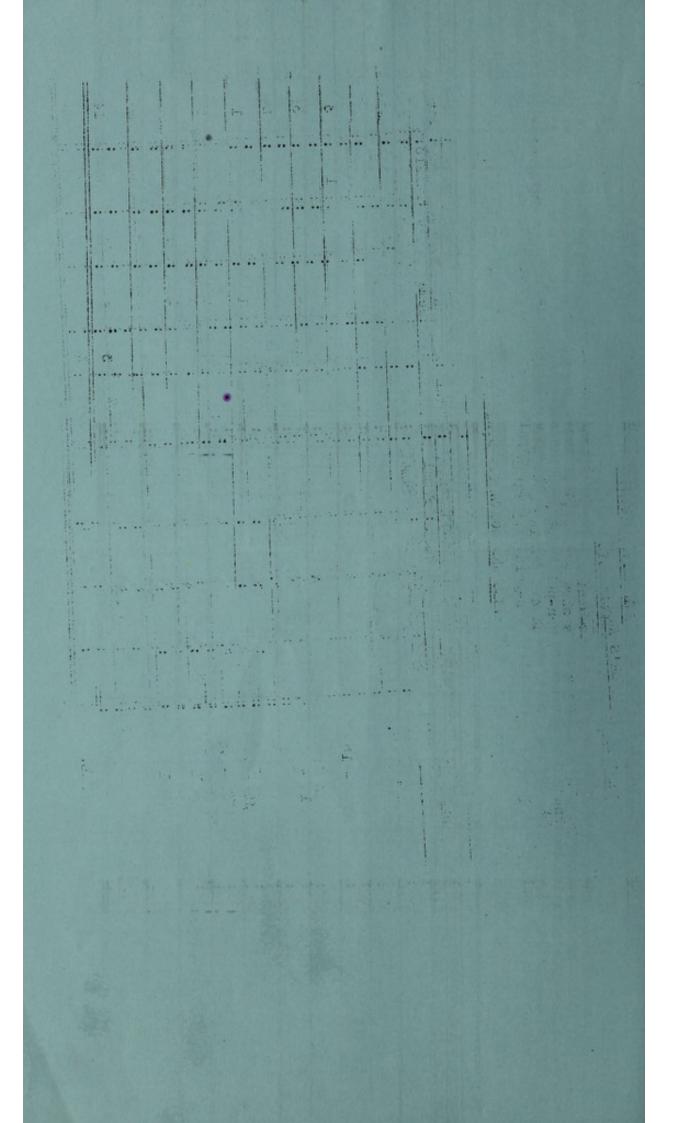
During the year 15 cases of Pulmonary and 2 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified;:these cases show a reduction on the year 1946 when 17 cases of Pulmonary and 5 cases of Non-pulmonary were notified.

14 deaths - 3 males and six females occurred from Fulmonary Tuberculosis; and

3 males and 2 female from Non-pulmonary Puberculosis.

# NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING, 1947

	1 1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	7.		177	23	22	1	03	63		14
DEATHS. ' Pulmonary' Non-pulmonary: Male: Female: Male:	1 :		1 :							
Non-pul			62					1		ю
HS. nary   Female				23		1		1		9
				: 1 :						
TOTAL			4	4	4		. 2			17
Non-pulmonary ;										
Non-p			63							03
Cases. monary. :			1	5	3					4
Pulmo Male:			1	4	1		0.2			8
AGE PERIODS.	Under 1 year.	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	-1		1	à	потат



### MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED) Sheet 11 Monthly Notifications of tuberculosis.

			: PULMONARY . :				Non-Pulmonary		
MONTH.	: 7	COTAL.		Male		Female:	Male	: Female	
January		5		3		2 :	0	. 0	
February		0		0	:	0 :	0	: 0	
March		0		0	:	0 :	0	: 0	
April		0		0	:	0 :	0	: 0	
May		1		0	:	0 :	1	: 0	
June		5		1	:	3 :	1	: 0	
July		1	:	0	:	1 :	0	: 0	
August		4	:	2	:	2 :	0	: 0	
September	1	1	:	0	:	1 :	0	: 0	
October	:	0	:	0	:	0 :	0	: 0	
November	:	0		0	1	0 :	0	: 0	
December	:	0	:	0	:	0 ;	0	: 0	
And the constituted			1		:	1			
TOTALS.	:	17	:	6	:	9	2	: 0	

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

	Pulmon	nary	: Non-	TOTAL	
YEAR.	Male	Female	Male	: Female,	111
1943 Notifications Deaths	: 8 : .1	13 6	3 1	1 0	25 8
1944 Notifications Deaths	8 3	17	1 1	3	29 8
1945 Notifications Deaths	7 0	8 4	1 1	1 3	17 8
1946 Notifications Deaths	10	7 4	5	0	22 7
1947 Notifications Deaths	6 3	9 6	2 3	0 2	17 14

3 : · Carro : : 20201 : 7: -:: 1 1 · San Land Bridge State of the 1 52.65: -11.0x : : : . L 0 3: 2: 2: 3 : . STORE C 4 : . : . : 11 . 1 - 13 . 1 antinot. . 2 : . : C.Jone C in the subject of the S: Ent of .

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### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT (Continued) Sheet 12.

### OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

MALE CASES	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total.
Olerks	2		2
School Teachers	1		1
Colliery Officials	1		1
Schoolboys	1	2	3 .
Watchman	1	<u> </u>	
TOTAL	. 6	: 2	8

FEMALE OASES	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Housewives	6	;	6
Clerks	: 2		2
Schoolgirls	1 1		1
TOTAL	9	Nil	9

### POPULATION, ETC.

The population (estimated) as given by the Registrar General mid year, 1947, was :- 9764.

The Area of the district amounts to 4,612 acres, much of which is rough mountain land.

Product of a Penny Rate: - £124.

Rateable Value: - £33,724.

I am, Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) J.J. Crowe,
Medical Officer of Health.

