

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Brecon Borough.

Contributors

Brecon (Wales). Borough Council. nb2006016531

Publication/Creation

1944

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BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1944. This report is prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 49/45 Wales and is therefore again restricted. It should be noted that the restrictions, on grounds of national security, previously imposed on the publication of population figures in the Annual Report, communications to the Press, etc., and on references to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings, have now been removed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population Figures. These are the figures supplied by the Registrar General.

<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>
5130.	5498.	5377.	5431.	5149.	4926.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Birthrate.</u>
1938.....				10.7.
1939.....				19.2.
1940.....	56.....	52.....	108.....	19.7.
1941.....	47.....	44.....	91.....	17.2.
1942.....	55.....	49.....	104.....	19.1.
1943.....	42.....	49.....	91.....	17.6.
1944.....	51.....	41.....	92.....	18.7.
England & Wales, 1944.....				17.6.

Illegitimate Births. Seven of the above births were illegitimate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....				0.7.
1939.....				0.7.
1940.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.3.
1941.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.3.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.3.
1943.....	0.....	5.....	5.....	0.9.
1944.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.4.
England & Wales, 1944.....				0.5.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....				11.4.
1939.....				16.
1940.....	44.....	46.....	90.....	16.3.
1941.....	31.....	40.....	71.....	12.0.
1942.....	39.....	29.....	68.....	12.5.
1943.....	25.....	33.....	58.....	11.2.
1944.....	35.....	42.....	77.....	15.4.
England & Wales, 1944.....				11.6.

<u>Infantile Mortality.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....				90.9.
1939.....				30.3.
1940.....	2	3	5	46.
1941.....	3	2	5	55.
1942.....	1	0	1	9.6.
1943.....	1	0	1	10.9.
1944.....	6	1	7	76.
England & Wales, 1944.....				46.

Analyses of causes of deaths. Males. 35. Females. 42.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Tuberculosis.....	1	1
Syphilitic disease.....	1	0
Cancer of buccal cavity and uterus.....	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum.....	0	2
Cancer of breast.....	0	2
Cancer of all other sites.....	2	6
Diabetes.....	0	1
Intravascular cranial lesions.....	0	9
Heart disease.....	15	7
Other diseases of circulatory system.....	0	2
Bronchitis.....	1	1
Ulcer of stomach.....	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	1	0
Appendicitis.....	0	1
Other digestive disorders.....	0	1
Nephritis.....	2	2
Premature birth.....	4	0
Congenital malformations.....	1	0
Violent causes.....	2	1
All other causes.....	3	3

The following table shows the number of deaths from tuberculosis and cancer in recent years.

	<u>Cancer.</u>	<u>Tuberculosis.</u>
1939.....	9	1
1940.....	12	9
1941.....	9	7
1942.....	13	4
1943.....	6	1
1944.....	15	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following cases of infectious disease were reported to me during the year. They refer to civilian cases only.

Influenzal Pneumonia.....	1 case.
Whooping Cough.....	4 cases.
Diphtheria.....	3 cases.
Erysipelas.....	1 case.
Scarlet Fever.....	11 cases.

Of the above, the three cases of diphtheria, six cases of scarlet fever and two cases of German Measles from the Land Army Hostel were removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital. Of the three cases of diphtheria two developed the disease outside the Borough. There were no cases of diphtheria in children of under 15 years of age.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year the monthly clinics held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria were continued. In addition advisory visits were made by the County Council Health Visitor and advertisements were placed in the local press. The position at the end of the year as regards North Breconshire is shown by the following.

	<u>1-5.</u>	<u>5-15.</u>
a. Estimated number of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years on 31.12.44.....	1589..	3883.
b. Estimated number of above children who have been immunised by 31.12.44.....	981.	3465.
c. Percentages immunised on 31.12.44.....	62%.	89%.
d. Child population immunised during the year.....	225.	38.
e. Number of cases of diphtheria in children of under 15 years notified during the year.....	1.	
f. Number of deaths from diphtheria in the year.....	0.	

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in the Borough in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at the commencement of year...	34.
Number of cases added to register during the year.....	11.
Number of deaths during the year.....	2.
Number of cases otherwise removed by recovery or other ways...	8.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	35.
Number of notifications in recent years.....	1939.....9.
	1940.....10.
	1941.....14.
	1942.....7.
	1943.....12.
	1944.....11.

Infestation.

All houses which were reported to me as being verminous during the year were dealt with by the sanitary inspector with the only available means, i.e., spraying and the use of fumigation.

As a result of the Infestation Order, 1943, a full time Rodent Officer was appointed in December, 1944. The whole of the Borough was surveyed and a start was made in an attempt to clear the Borough of rats and mice using modern methods as recommended by the Ministry of Food.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

During the year a tremendous amount of work was necessary at the Borough Slaughterhouse. The following figures show the work done there.

Number of animals killed and inspected.

Cattle....671. Calves....1236.. Sheep....16,004. Pigs....44.

The following amount of meat was found unfit and was not used for human consumption,

Cattle. Tuberculosis.....11,364 lbs. Other diseases...9254 lbs.

Other animals. Tuberculosis...207 lbs. Other Diseases...6173 lbs.

In addition the following amount of other foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after condemnation.

Sugar...264 lbs.	Tinned Milk.....226 lbs.
Butter..8 lbs.	Tinned Meat.....206 lbs.
Cheese..234½ lbs.	Other tinned foods..113 lbs.
Fish....39 lbs.	Other foods.....195 lbs.
Fruit...415 lbs.	

Milk Sampling.

During the year milk sampling was carried out in accordance with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. A District Laboratory was set up in Builth Wells and samples of all producer retailers milk were taken fortnightly throughout the year by the Sanitary Inspector. All wholesale milk is tested as a routine at the various milk depots and creameries. Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories, i.e.,

Category A.....	Milk of good keeping quality.
Category B.....	Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
Category C.....	Milk of bad keeping quality which is retunable to the vendor.

On the receipt of samples of Category C milk advisory visits are paid to the particular farm by an officer of the War Agricultural Executive Committee and if no improvement occurs as a result of these visits the producer is referred to the Local Authority for any action that is deemed necessary.

The following figures show the results of the samples taken during the year.

Total samples taken.....	86.
Category A samples.....	64.
Category B samples.....	14.
Category C samples.....	8.

No producer was referred by the War Executive Committee during the year.

Sanitary Officer. The position of sanitary officer was held during the year by Mr. H.T. Jones. He travelled daily from his home in Abercynon and this proved not too easy especially when one considers the inclement weather during the winter months. A successor was advertised for on two occasions but no applicants were received for the position and at the end of the year Mr. H.T. Jones was still employed by the Council and doing very useful work.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector in addition to work previously mentioned in this report.

Houses disinfected.....	13.
Interviews with or letters to owners of property.....	59.
Visits to Common Lodging House.....	2.
Visit to fried fish shop.....	1.
Follow up visits to properties.....	34.
Inspection of work done without notice.....	15.
Visits to bakehouses.....	1.

Visits on account of waste water.....	2.
Visits to factories.....	2.
Visits to cowsheds.....	4.
Preliminary notices served.....	31.
Statutory notices served.....	0.
Various matters in capacity of Billeting Officer.	

Water Supplies.

The water supply throughout the year was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. The water is taken from a stream which has its source in upland surface and spring water. It is then conveyed to a large open storage reservoir and then through slow sand filtration filters to a small clear water chamber. After this the water is chlorinated.

During the year a considerable improvement was made in the filter beds both as regards the total area and the depth of filtering material and the pressure to the higher reaches of the Borough was improved by the duplication of approximately 1000 feet of 8 inch main.

Careful daily checks were made of the chlorination process which has proved satisfactory throughout the year.

In order to test the efficiency of the new filter beds a bacteriological examination was made of the filtered and unfiltered water. As a result of this the water supply was proved to be of excellent quality. No chemical examination was made.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

The supply is constant and all the houses supplied from the waterworks have a tapped supply, there being no standpipes.

There are fourteen houses and farms in the outlying parts of the Borough which have their own private supply this being the same as in the previous year.

During the year the Borough also supplied the War Department with 11,747,000 gallons and the G.W.R. with 10,963,000 gallons.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. Name of person: _____
2. Date of birth: _____
3. Sex: _____
4. Race: _____
5. Religion: _____
6. Education: _____
7. Occupation: _____
8. Address: _____
9. Telephone: _____
10. Other: _____

11. Description of person: _____
12. History of person: _____
13. Current status of person: _____
14. Other information: _____
15. Signature of reporter: _____
16. Date of report: _____
17. Name of agency: _____
18. Address of agency: _____
19. Telephone of agency: _____
20. Other information: _____

21. Remarks: _____
22. Signature of official: _____
23. Date of signature: _____
24. Name of official: _____
25. Title of official: _____
26. Address of official: _____
27. Telephone of official: _____
28. Other information: _____