

**[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Brecon Borough.**

**Contributors**

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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
1 SEP 1950

BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1949.

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Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....S.Jinks,  
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate  
of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's  
Examination Joint Board; Meat and Other Foods Certificate of  
the Royal Sanitary Institute; Testamur of the Cardiff Technical  
College.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1943.

Presented to the Board of Health on the 15th day of February, 1944.

Sanitary Inspector  
of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's  
Examination Joint Board; West and Other Local Authorities of  
the Royal Sanitary Institute; Treasurer of the Cardiff Technical  
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BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1949

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Borough of Brecon for the year 1949.

The arrangement of the report is in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 2/50 (wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year 1949.

Area.....2868 acres.  
Population (Census 1931).....5332.  
Population (Estimated at Midsummer,1949).....5658.  
Number of inhabited houses.....1636.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate.	46	60	106	1
Illegitimate.	1	2	3	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47	62	109	19.2
Still Births.	1	0	1	0.17
Deaths from all causes	39	43	82	14.4

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under 1 year.  
.....5 Rate per 1000 live births.....45.

Deaths from special causes.  
Infectious disease.....Nil.  
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....2.  
Other tuberculous disease.....3.  
Cancer.....15.

Area.

The Borough of Brecon, which has an area of 2868 acres, is a County Town of a shire of its own name, containing the County Offices of various government departments and a large Military Camp and Barracks. The town consists of the parishes of St. John's and St. Mary's on the north side of the River Usk, these parishes being divided by the Honddu stream; and of the parish of St. David known as St. David's Within and also, more familiarly as Llanfaes, which lies south of the River Usk and eastward of the confluence of the Tarell stream with that river.

The two parts of the town are connected by an ancient stone bridge over the Usk.

The town is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation in the surrounding districts.

Population. Census 1931.....5332.

<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>
5498.	5877.	5431.	5149.	4926.	4618.	4629.	5515.	5627.	5658.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population has increased since the last census was taken and the figure for the year under review -5658 shows a slight increase over the preceding year -5627. The total population is estimated to be 6728.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1636 giving an average number of 3.4 persons per house.

Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</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
1945.....	39.....	34.....	73.....	15.8
1946.....	51.....	55.....	106.....	22.8
1947.....	43.....	60.....	103.....	22.3
1948.....	42.....	42.....	84.....	14.8
1949.....	47.....	62.....	109.....	19.2
England and Wales, 1949.....				16.7.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales and the number of births was the highest since I have been your Medical Officer.

Deaths.

After into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents of the Borough is shown in the following table.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....				11.4
1939.....				16.0
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
1945.....	39.....	37.....	76.....	16.2
1946.....	41.....	37.....	78.....	16.8
1947.....	39.....	37.....	76.....	16.4
1948.....	29.....	26.....	55.....	9.7
1949.....	39.....	43.....	82.....	14.4
England and Wales, 1949.....				11.7

The deathrate for 1949 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but was considerably lower than the birthrate.

Still Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</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
1945.....	1	1	2	0.4
1946.....	2	2	4	0.86
1947.....	2	1	3	0.60
1948.....	1	2	3	0.5
1949.....	1	0	1	0.17
England and Wales, 1949.....				0.39

The stillbirth rate was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality.

This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<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.
1945.....	2	1	3	41.
1946.....	3	1	4	37.
1947.....	3	6	9	87.
1948.....	0	0	0	0.
1949.....	3	2	5	45.
England and Wales, 1949.....				32.

The infantile mortality rate for 1949 was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of causes of deaths.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis Respiratory System.....	1	1
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	1	2
Cancer uterus.....	0	1
Cancer stomach.....	2	2
Cancer breast.....	0	1
Cancer all other sites.....	4	5
Intracranial vascular lesions.....	6	6
Heart disease.....	14	19
Bronchitis.....	1	0
Ulcer stomach.....	2	0
Nephritis.....	0	1
Premature Birth.....	1	1
Congenital malformations.....	2	0
Violent causes.....	2	1
All other causes.....	3	3

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

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.
1945.....	9.....	3.
1946.....	14.....	5.
1947.....	8.....	1.
1948.....	7.....	6.
1949.....	15.....	5.

#### Illegitimacy.

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Borough Residents during 1949 amounted to three.

#### Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

#### Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers of the Council during the year. Mr S. Jinks remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Cardiff laboratory and any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was also performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. Milk sampling was performed by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Laboratory at Brecon and the Cardiff laboratory, whilst the Brecon War Memorial Hospital made use of the Beck Laboratory Swansea. The Cardiff Laboratory was used for the examination of milk for the presence of tuberculosis.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes became operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council became responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council is responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations are whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such have now ceased to function.

#### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council, are held regularly at the Watton Chapel Schoolroom. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental and eye defects, orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices. These are also administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the Borough, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the Borough suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

### Section 3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental treatment, orthopaedic treatment, visual defects and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

### Section 4. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. The Brecon Borough water supply is taken from a stream which originates on the Brecon Beacons. It is then conveyed to a large open storage reservoir and then through slow sand filters to a small clear water chamber. After this the water is chlorinated.

(a) Quantity. Normally the water is fairly adequate as regards quantity although some difficulty is always experienced in supplying the upper reaches of the Borough. The reservoir holds approximately 2,375,000 gallons but this storage was insufficient to prevent a shortage of water due to the general drought conditions in 1949. First the intake stream fell to a low level and the water supply was augmented by pumping water from a large pool at the foot of the Beacons into the intake stream. Pumping was carried out for 38 days; and though a costly business provided the town with water. Water was also turned off, mainly during the night, for 75 days. Daily water consumption was reduced from 539,000 gallons to 449,000 gallons.

#### (b) Quality.

##### Bacteriological Examinations.

Results of water samples taken:-

Source	Number	Coli. organisms per 100 ml.	Approx faecal coli. per 100ml	Result
Brecon Waterworks before filtration	1	170	80	Unsatisfactory
and sterilisation	2	180	160	Unsatisfactory
Brecon Waterworks after filtration	3	170	35	Unsatisfactory
before sterilisation	4	13	8	Unsatisfactory
Piped Supply	5	25	1	Unsatisfactory
to consumer.	6	absent	absent	Satisfactory
Water filtered	7	absent	absent	Satisfactory
and	8	absent	absent	Satisfactory
chlorinated.	9	absent	absent	Satisfactory
	10	absent	absent	Satisfactory
	11	absent	absent	Satisfactory
	12	absent	absent	Satisfactory
	13	absent	absent	Satisfactory



Water Supply. The results indicate that, whilst the final water after chlorination and as consumed in the Borough could be classified as excellent, the water before treatment could only be regarded as unsatisfactory. It is essential that the depth of sand in the filters should not be allowed to drop below a very minimum of 12 inches. Seven samples of water were taken from the stream near Ffrwdgrech, but the results showed heavy contamination and the water was not used to augment the Town Supply during the drought.

(2) Chemical Examination.

No chemical examination of the water was made. There was no evidence of plumbo solvent action by the water.

C. Piped Supply.

All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 17 of these on the extreme borders have a tapped supply to the house. The 17 others have their own private supplies.

D. New Water Scheme.

The Borough Council have received from their Consulting Engineer a comprehensive scheme, which can be developed in five stages, to supply water, even in drought conditions to the Town. This involves a new intake on the Nant Sere, provision of pressure filters and ultimately a new high level reservoir. This scheme would not only prevent the serious conditions as existed during the summer months of 1949, but would be a further benefit to the town to develop it into a holiday and residential centre. The town would be provided with an adequate supply of wholesome water without having to rely upon chlorination which is not altogether a safe process.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the Borough is treated by means of intermittent downward filtration and the effluent finally passes into the river Usk.

The number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with drainage work.....48.

Closet Accommodation. The number of houses within the Borough unconnected with the sewerage system was 31.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the weekly collection and disposal of house refuse, this work being done by the Council employees under the supervision of your Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping, the use of the incinerator being discontinued.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr S. Jinks. At this juncture I must state that I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the figures and details of his work contained in this report. This information has proved most useful in the preparation of this report.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	108.
Number of complaints investigated.....	108.
Number of premises inspected.....	142.
Number of premises revisited.....	201.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	53.
for (a) Structural defects.....	33.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	20.
(c) Foul conditions.....	0.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	26.

Result of notices served.

Number completed.....47.  
 Number in hand of builder.....6.

Number and Type of nuisance abated by service of notice.

Dampness-14, Defective eaves troughing and downspouts -3, Defective internal plastering -6, Defective roofs -7, Defective floors -1, Defective doors and windows -3, Defective W.C. pans and cisterns -9, Defective fireplaces and ovens -1, Defective drains -17.

There has been an improvement in the provision of building materials this year, but large scale housing improvement is not yet possible. It is hoped that there will be in the near future a concentration of at least part of the building industry on improvements to domestic premises.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough of Brecon.

Licensed Premises.

Number of licensed premises.....26.  
 Number of visits to such premises.....57.  
 Number of notices.....2.

Particular attention has been given to the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation and proper washing facilities in licensed premises. There was a certain difficulty to carry out these improvements owing to shortages of building labour and materials.

Details: Provision of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

Dec. 1949 Dec. 1948.

Number of premises with separate sanitary accommodation.....21.....20.  
 Number of premises without separate sanitary accommodation.....5.....6.  
 Number of premises with proper washing facilities.....21.....17.  
 Number of premises without proper washing facilities.....5.....9.

Shops.

The number of shops in the district.....147.  
 Number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.....66.  
 Number of notices served.....2.

Factories.

The number of factories on the register.....71.  
 Number of inspections made.....81.  
 Number of notices served.....1.

Camping Sites.

Number of licences to erect/station a caravan granted.....3.  
 Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....23.

There is also one recognised yard which is mainly used by caravans during the Statutory Fairs of May and November.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

All premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very successful.

Number of premises inspected.....10.  
Number of premises disinfested.....10.

Rodent Control. One part time rodent operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The Council adopted the Financial arrangements outlined in Circular N.S.19 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and co-operation of occupiers of premises with regard to rodent control is very good.

Summary of inspections and treatment.

Number of premises inspected.....1042.  
Number of premises found infested.....97.  
Number of premises treated.....97.  
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....1256.

Details of Treatment.

	Trade Premises.	Private Premises.	Municipal Premises.
Number of major infestations	3	0	3
Number of minor infestations	18	46	2
Total number treated	21	46	5
Total number of retreatments	10	15	5
Infestations cleared	20	45	4
Number reduced to minor	1	1	2
Number for retreatments	1	1	2

Sewer Treatment. During the year two maintenance treatments were carried out. Details are given below:-

	6th.Maintenance treatment	7th.Maintenance treatment
Number of manholes	162	162
Number of manholes baited	70	149
Number of prebait takes	22	30
Number of complete prebait takes	22	25
Number of poison takes	22	25

Section 5. Housing

1.Housing Need. There is still a definite demand for housing accommodation in the Borough.It must be remembered that apart from the normal residents the demand is increased due to the fact that the town is a military and administrative centre for Government and other departments.

At the end of the year the Council's waiting list showed the following details:-

Type of applicants	Total	Residing in Borough	From outside districts
Without separate accommodation and living in overcrowded conditions	12	9	3
Without separate accommodation and T.B. patients.	0	0	0
Without separate accommodation	106	92	14
Living in unfit houses and overcrowded	23	21	2
Living in unfit houses & suffering from T.B	1	1	0
Living in unfit houses	71	68	3
Living in overcrowded houses	12	12	0
Other applicants	84	73	11
	309	276	33

Allocation of Houses. No new allocation of houses have been carried out during the year. The Council have instructed their officers to report on a points system for the allocation of future houses, and this report will also include the recommendations of the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health on the Selection of Tenants.

It is pleasing to report that T.B. patients and contacts in the Borough are receiving priority when houses are allocated.

Post War Housing. (a) BY Borough Council

The Borough Council have completed their first scheme of 64 houses on the Ffynnon Dewi Estate and all the houses are occupied. Total number of persons rehoused on this Estate was 259.

During the year the plans for the building of 48 houses on the Council's second site at Penpentre were confirmed and tenders received for the building of 30 houses on this site. It is hoped that these houses will be started early in 1950. Houses on this site will consist of:-

4 bedroom houses	- 6
3 bedroom houses	-36
Bungalows	- 6

(b) By Private Enterprise.

Total number of licences for dwelling houses.....	31.
Number of houses completed.....	18.
New buildings under construction.....	13.
Number of licences for farm houses.....	1.
Number of farmhouses completed.....	1.

Housing Act, 1949.

This Act came into force during the year. The Provisions of the Act dealing with financial assistance towards improvements of housing accommodation may, if taken advantage of, improve the standard of housing in the Borough. No definite applications apart from enquiries have yet been received.

Inspections.

Housing Inspections by Sanitary Inspector

Number of house to house inspections.....	59.
Number of visits to Council houses.....	385.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. On the 1st. October 1949, the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949, Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 came into operation. These regulations meant definite changes in the responsibility of the control of the production and distribution of milk. In future, whilst the Council will be responsible for the distribution of milk in their area and the control of dairies, other than those at dairy farms, the control of milk production and the registration of dairy farms and dairy farmers will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. Therefore to give a true picture of conditions existing in the Borough for 1949, this part of the report is divided into two parts i.e. conditions existing under the Milk & Dairies Orders, 1926 and those under the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949.

Milk & Dairies Orders, 1926

Number of wholesale producers in the Borough.....	7.
Number of producer/retailers in the Borough.....	3.
Total number of registered cowkeepers in the Borough.....	10.
Number of retail purveyors from Borough.....	6.
Number of retail purveyors from Rural district.....	2.
Total number of retail purveyors in Borough.....	8.

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of registered distributors of Milk.....6.  
 Number of registered Dairies.....6.

Record of Inspections.

Number of Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies.....30.

Milk Sampling.

Before the 1st. October 1949 milk sampling in the Borough was carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Retail milk was sampled twice monthly and examined at the Brecon Laboratory. Under this scheme milk was graded into the following categories:-

- Category A - Good keeping quality milk  
 Category B - Doubtful keeping quality milk  
 Category C - Poor keeping quality milk

Number of samples taken under scheme by Sanitary Inspector.....121.

<u>Result of Samples</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Samples in Category A	88	72.72
Samples in Category B	9	7.44
Samples in Category C	24	19.84

Details of Results.

<u>Retailers Results</u>			<u>Monthly Results</u>				
<u>Retailers</u>	<u>Category</u>			<u>Month</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>C.</u>
	<u>A.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>C.</u>				
1.	15.	1.	2.	January	12.	0.	1.
2.	11.	3.	2.	February	20.	0.	1.
3.	14.	0.	4.	March	12.	1.	0.
4.	12.	1.	5.	April	6.	0.	1.
5.	9.	1.	5.	May	13.	0.	0.
6.	13.	2.	3.	June	3.	3.	8.
7.	14.	1.	3.	July	0.	1.	5.
				August	12.	3.	5.
				September	10.	1.	3.
<u>Totals</u>	<u>88.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>24.</u>		<u>88.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>24.</u>

It will be noted from the above how the keeping quality of milk deteriorates in the summer months.

After the 1st. October 1949 sampling was still carried out of all milk retailed in the Borough. The samples are examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Samples taken and Results.

<u>Retailers.</u>	<u>Retailers. Results</u>		<u>Monthly Results</u>		
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
1.	3.		October	6.	2.
2.	3.		November	7.	0.
3.	3.	1.	December	10.	0.
4.	4.				
5.	1.				
6.	4.				
7.	3.	1.			
8.	2.				
<u>25.</u>	<u>23.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>92.</u>	<u>8.</u>

Sampling for the Presence of Tuberculosis

Number of samples taken.....	12.
Number of samples positive.....	0.
Number of samples negative.....	12.

Meat. The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point and the Wholesale Meat Supply Association Depot are situated at the Council's Slaughterhouse. Meat from this point is supplied to the districts of the Borough Council, Hay U.D.C. & R.D.C. and Brecknock R.D.C. The Council have instructed their officers to prepare a scheme for improving the slaughterhouse and hereby increasing the slaughtering and hanging accommodation. This point in addition to the importance of having a slaughterhouse in a producing area, should be remembered if the policy of centralised slaughtering is to remain or to be extended.

Meat Inspection.

Number of Inspections by Sanitary Inspector...455.

Animals killed and inspected.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Killed	265	107	558	10132	57
Dressed carcasses	4	1	7	59	11
Total	269	108	565	10191	68

Meat Condemnation. Percentage of killing

<u>For T.B.</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses condemned.	0	3	0	0	0
Percentage	0	2.8	0	0	0
Part carcasses condemned	2	0	0	0	3
Percentage	0.78	0	0	0	4.4
Organs condemned	9	12	0	0	2
Percentage	3.3	11.1	0	0	2.9

For other Diseases.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	9	2	46	3
Percentage	0.37	8.3	0.35	0.45	4.4
Part carcasses condemned.	10	10	5	25	8
Percentage	3.7	9.2	0.88	0.24	11.9
Organs		150 whole 61 part	12	993	11

Slaughter of Casualties.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected	45	60	48	364	43
Percentage of Total Kill	16.9	55.5	8.5	3.5	61.8

Meat Condemned.For T.B.

Whole carcasses	0,	3	0	0	0
% of casualty kill	0	5	0	0	0
Part carcasses	0	0	0	0	2
% of Casualty Kill	0	0	0	0	4.6
Organs	1	9	0	0	1
% of Casualty Kill	2.2	15	0	0	2.3

For other diseases.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole carcasses	1	9	2	44	3
% of Casualty Kill	2.2	15	4.2	12.1	6.9
Part Carcasses	7	12	5	20	8
% of Casualty Kill	15.4	20	10.4	5.5	18.6

The casualty Figures indicate:-

1. The importance of having a slaughterhouse available in a producing area for it will be noticed that an appreciable amount of the slaughtering this year was the slaughtering of Casualties. This ensures a good percentage of sound meat for the general public and prevents a serious waste of the country's meat supply.
2. The higher percentage of condemnation indicates the need for keen inspection.

Total Weight in lbs. condemned.For T.B.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole carcasses	0	1442	0	0	0
Part carcasses	516	0	0	0	69
Organs	400	430	0	0	40
Total Weight	916	1872	0	0	109

For other Diseases.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole carcasses	413	3368	89	1447	539
Part carcasses	718	871	148	385	187
Organs		3637	91	2708	109
Total Weight		9007	328	4540	835

Detailed Causes for condemnation other than Tuberculosis.

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Animals wholly or partly condemned</u>				
	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Emaciation	0	6	0	13	0
Bruising, Broken bones	8	6	2	23	5
Dropsical and fevered	2	3	0	18	3
Abcess	1	2	3	8	2
Septicaemia	0	0	1	0	0
Septic Metritis	0	1	0	0	0
Moribund	0	1	0	8	0
Navel Ill	0	0	1	0	0
Swine Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1
Decomposition	0	0	0	1	0

Condemnation of offal.

It will be noticed that over 6000 lbs. of offal were condemned. The greater percentage of this was the condemnation of liver due to fluke infestation.

Condemnation of Frozen Meat.

Beef.....130 lbs.

Other foods condemned.

Number of tins condemned.....502.  
Number of lbs. of other foods condemned.....618.

Other foods.Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses)

Number of bakehouses.....	12.
Number of inspections made.....	39.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of producer retailers.....	5.
Number of retailers only.....	27.
Number of new registrations.....	2.
Number of inspections made.....	95.

Bacteriological Grading of Ice Cream.

Samples of ice cream have been taken and submitted to a form of Methylene Blue Test as adapted for ice cream. Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector and testing was carried out at the Brecon Laboratory who also carried out an investigation on the bacteriological grading of ice cream. In addition to the ordinary weekly sample from each manufacturer for methylene blue examination, four samples from different manufacturers were taken. These latter samples were examined separately for methylene blue reduction, bacterial count and presence of coliform organisms. A proper investigation of the icecream produced in the Borough could not have been undertaken if it had not been for the kind and active co-operation of the Brecon Lab.

Grading of icecream.

The following are the grades of icecream.

Methylene Blue Reduction	4½ hrs.	Grade 1
" " "	2½ to 4 hrs.	" 2
" " "	1½ to 2 hrs.	" 3
" " "	0 hrs.	" 4

Grading of samples taken.

Total number of samples taken.....78.

Results of samples taken.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>	<u>Recommended %</u>
1.	22	28.2)	80
2.	16	20.5)	
3.	13	16.7	20
4.	27	34.6	0

Grading of samples from each manufacturer.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Grade</u>			
		1	2	3	4
1	18	2	3	3	10
2	19	5	5	4	5
3	20	13	3	3	1
4	19	1	4	3	11
5	2	1	1	0	0



The results from the majority of producers are far from satisfactory. However steps are being taken to improve the premises where the icecream is manufactured. The following action is being taken :-

No.1. Ordering new equipment.

No.2 Equipment provided but improvement required in method of production.

No.3 Good premises and equipment.

No.4 New premises and equipment is being provided.

No.5 Supply from outside the district. Steps taken to contact Council in which icecream manufactured.

Icecream is a commodity which requires careful and hygienic handling.

Comparison of Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests

Methylene Blue Grade	Number of samples	Coliform Absent	lml	1 10	1 100	1 1000	1 10000
1	21	13	4	3	1	-	-
2	15	5	3	1	3	3	-
3	13	1	1	2	2	6	1
4	27	1	-	-	8	3	15

Comparison of Methylene Blue and Colony Count - 2 days at 37°C.

Methylene Blue Grade	Number of samples	Less than 10,000	10,000-1000,000	over 100,000
1	21	15	5	1
2	15	6	7	2
3	13	0	8	5
4	27	0	11	16

These tables show a fairly satisfactory corollation between the Methylene Blue and Coliform Colony Count Tests.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved food.....9.  
Number of inspections made.....56.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of fried fish shops.....4.  
Number of fish shops.....5.  
Number of Inspections made.....29.

Civic Health Exhibition In May the Council in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (Infestation Control Division) held a Civic Health Exhibition in Brecon. This exhibition which was held for a week with its film displays and exhibits illustrating various aspects of the activities of the Council in connection with health and hygiene administration, proved very instructive and was well attended.

Other Propaganda Occupiers of food premises were circularised drawing their attention to the importance of cleanliness in food premises and also to the relevant sections of the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938.

Handling, Wrapping etc., of Foods

The Council have received the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Food relating to the Handling, Wrapping and delivery of Food and sale of Food in the open air, and have set up a Sub-Committee to deal with this matter.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year :-

Scarlet Fever.....	3 cases
Acute anterior poliomyelitis.....	1 case
Measles.....	16 cases
Food poisoning.....	1 case
Abortus Fever.....	1 case

One of the cases of scarlet fever and also the case of acute anterior poliomyelitis were removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital. The remaining cases were isolated at home.

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year, the infection being due to Bacillus Aertrycke. In spite of a thorough investigation the exact mode of infection of this case remained unknown.

Number of cases investigated by sanitary inspector.....	6
Number of disinfections including those required.....	
for tuberculosis.....	18
Number of revisits.....	6

Veneral Disease The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

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

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....	44
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	8
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	8
Number of cases removed as left the district.....	0
Number of deaths in year.....	5
Number of cases left on register at the end of year.....	39

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
10.	14.	7.	12.	11.	12.	10.	7.	11.	8.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

Early in the year it came to my notice that an old woman, aged 91 years, was living alone in one of the Almshouses in the Borough. As this woman was aged, living in very insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to herself and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, a Court order was obtained under the above Section and she was removed to St. David's Hospital which was previously the Public Assistance Institution.

The period specified in the Order was for three months and before this time had expired, the old lady had died.

The Almshouse in question was cleaned and made satisfactory by the Church Authorities.

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In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically asked for by the Welsh Board of Health.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.