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BRECON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1951.

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector ... W.J. Rees,

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;
Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and
Hygiene.

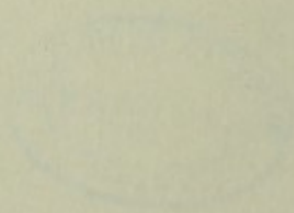
Additional Sanitary Inspector .. R. Taylor, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.





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Q. 134



Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1951.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecon Rural District for the year 1951.

The arrangement of the report is in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 42/51 (Wales), issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION I. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1951.

Area	189,532 acres.
Population (Census 1951)	7430.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer, 1951)	7338.
Number of inhabited houses	2,205.

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	45	49	94	
Illegitimate	0	3	3	
	45	52	97	13.2
Still Births	2	3	5	0.68
Deaths from all causes	41	39	80	10.9

Maternal Deaths Nil.

Deaths under one year :

All infants 2 Rate per 1000 live births ... 20.5
 Legitimate infants 2

Deaths from special causes :

Infectious disease	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4
Other tubercular disease	0
Cancer	9

Area.

The Rural District of Brecon, which has an area of 189,532 acres, is a large district in the County of Breconshire. The district is situated mainly in the northern part of the County and consists of rather more than one-third of the total size of the whole County.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants.

There are no large towns in the area and the administrative offices are situated in the Borough of Brecon.

<u>Population.</u>		Census, 1931	8302.								
		Census, 1951	7430.								
1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	
8238.	7699.	7298.	6980.	7057.	7074.	7065.	7113.	7042.	7178.	7338.	

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 2205 giving an average number of 3.3 persons per house. The above population figure includes members of the armed forces stationed in the area.

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940	62	63	125	16.8
1941	51	50	101	12.2
1942	71	54	125	16.3
1943	52	57	109	14.9
1944	82	60	142	20.3
1945	53	52	105	14.8
1946	71	60	131	18.4
1947	58	68	126	17.8
1948	74	62	136	19.1
1949	55	54	109	15.5
1950	57	59	116	16.1
1951	45	52	97	13.2
England and Wales, 1951				15.5

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths.

After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940	55	51	106	13.6
1941	45	58	103	12.5
1942	49	52	101	13.2
1943	40	49	89	12.2
1944	36	56	92	13.2
1945	51	55	106	15.0
1946	43	42	85	12.0
1947	41	39	80	11.3
1948	45	38	83	11.6
1949	38	31	69	9.8
1950	40	51	91	12.9
1951	41	39	80	10.9
England and Wales, 1951				12.5

The deathrate for 1951 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and very much lower than the birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940	4	1	5	0.6
1941	3	3	6	0.7
1942	6	3	9	1.1
1943	1	5	6	0.8
1944	0	2	2	0.3
1945	0	1	1	0.1
1946	1	4	5	0.71
1947	4	3	7	0.90
1948	4	4	8	1.1
1949	3	1	4	0.57
1950	2	1	3	0.41
1951	2	3	5	0.68
England and Wales, 1951				0.36

The stillbirth rate was higher 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>
1940	6	5	11	88
1941	6	3	9	89
1942	3	3	6	48
1943	0	1	1	9
1944	2	4	6	42
1945	3	4	7	66
1946	1	1	2	15
1947	3	4	7	55
1948	4	1	5	36
1949	2	0	2	18
1950	1	1	2	17.1
1951	1	1	2	20.5
England and Wales 1951				29.6

The Infantile Mortality rate was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales. One of these deaths occurred in a child of under 4 weeks old.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u> 41	<u>Females</u> 39
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	0
Other malignant neoplasms	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	2
Coronary disease	2	3
Hypertension with heart disease	3	3
Other heart disease	9	13
Other circulatory disease	1	0
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	3	2
Other respiratory diseases	0	1
Gastritis	1	0
Nephritis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0
Congenital malformations	2	0
Other diseases	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	0	1

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

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district was three.

Maternal Mortality. There was no death during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There were changes in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. E.D. Grant left in December, 1950 to take up another appointment and, in his place, Mr. R. Taylor commenced duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector on 1st. February, 1951.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst at Carmarthen and to the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are 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 are 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.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council are held regularly in Brecon and Sennybridge. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental and eye defects and orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices, Brecon. These are administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district 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 Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

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 Supplies. Water is derived for domestic and other purposes in the district from 32 Council supplies, private supplies, wells and springs.

Generally speaking, it is safe to say that the supply of water is poor, none of the supplies being chlorinated and only one filtered.

During the year, 175 inspections of public and private supplies were carried out. The water from public supplies was sampled bacteriologically on 19 occasions giving 11 satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory results. Two satisfactory chemical samples were also obtained.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, investigations were made and remedied action carried out until check samples proved satisfactory.

88 samples of private supplies were taken and, of these, 38 were found to be satisfactory and 50 unsatisfactory. The majority of these samples were taken at the request of the Breconshire Agricultural Executive Committee in support of grant aided schemes for the provision of water to individual premises.

In all cases the Committee and the owners of the supplies were advised of the results of the analyses.

The preparation of Engineering details etc. for the Council's major water scheme continued during the year, and numerous samples were also taken to ascertain optimum doses of alumina and chlorine.

Water Supplies Improved, Augmented etc.

The following work was

carried out during the year :-

1. Extension of water main to Llanfrynach Housing Site.
2. Additional Storage tank at Pennorth to augment Pennorth - Tallylyn Water Supply.
3. Provision of a water supply scheme for the village of Llanspyddid.
4. Provision of an Additional Storage Tank to augment the water storage to the Cray Water Supply Scheme.
5. Extension of Water Main to the Llanddew Housing Site.

Details of Water Supplies in District.

Parish	Whether Public Supply Available	Houses with water laid on.	Population served with water laid on.	Houses served by stand- pipes.	Population served with water from Standpipes.
Aberyscir	Aberbran	5	10	None	None
Battle	No.	None	None	None	None
Cantref	No.	None	None	None	None
Cathedine	Cathedine	8	24	None	None
	Bwlch	6	18	4	12
Cray	Cray	12	36	None	None
	Ponyrynis	2	6	6	18
Fennifach	No.	None	None	None	None
Garthbrengy	No.	None	None	None	None
Glyn	Libanus	2	6	6	18

Parish	Whether public supply available	Houses with water laid on.	Population served with water laid on.	Houses served by standpipes	Population served with water from standpipes.
Glyntawe	Penwyllt	1	4	11	33
Llandetty)	Talybont	34	110	46	170
Llanfigan)	Pencelly	10	30	4	12
	Aber	3	9	6	18
Llanddew	Llanddew	10	37	6	21
Llandefaelog fach	Pwllgloyw Sarnau	3 None	15 None	3 10	9 30
Llandefalle	No	None	None	None	None
Llandilorfarn	No	None	None	None	None
Llanfihangel Fechan	Lower Chapel	1	4	7	21
Llanfihangel Nant-bran	Llanfihangel Nant-bran Boar	1 1	4 4	8 6	17 18
Llanfihangel Talylllyn	Llanfihangel Talylllyn	10	30	6	18
Llanfillo	Llanfillo	4	12	8	24
Llanfrynach	Llanfrynach	17	73	33	95
Llangasty Talylllyn	Penorth	8	24	4	12
Llangorse	Llangorse	42	140	7	29
Llanhamlach	Groesfford Llechfaen	None None	None None	4 16	12 48
Llansantffraed	Scethrog	6	20	6	20
Llanspyddid	Yes	7	21	2	5
Llanwern	No	None	None	None	None
Maescar	Yes	140	405	44	114
Merthyr Cynog	Yes	None	None	6	18
	Pontfaen	None	None	6	18
	Upper Chapel	3	9	5	15
Modrydd	No	None	None	None	None
Penpont	No	None	None	None	None
St. Davids Without	No	None	None	None	None
Senny	Yes	3	15	3	10
Talachddu	Talachddu Felinfach	11	33	1	2
Traianglas)					
Traianmawr)	Trecastle	26	70	27	79
Trallong	Trallong	1	3	6	18
Yselydach	Pentrefelin	None	None	8	24

Of the Council's 32 supplies only 11 can be considered adequate for the immediate needs of the inhabitants for domestic purposes, and only those of Sennybridge and Devynock, Llanfrynach, Trecastle and Llangorse are adequate for a proper drainage scheme.

It will be seen from the above that adequate and wholesome supplies of water are very badly needed and every effort is being made to complete the preparation of the major scheme.

Drainage and Sewerage. During the year sewage disposal works were completed at Talybont and Llanddew. Work was commenced and good progress made on works at Llangorse, Llanfrynach and Trecastle. Preliminary details were commenced on similar schemes for Llanfihangel Tallyllyn and Cray.

Number of visits by Sanitary Inspector.....138.

Public Cleansing. The collection and disposal of household refuse has been carried out during the year by contract labour under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A comprehensive scheme for the removal of refuse is now therefore in operation throughout the district.

The Council is at present maintaining 4 refuse tips, i.e. Sennybridge, Trecastle, Llanfihangel-Tallyllyn and Talybont. These are, however, filling rapidly and the securing of new tipping sites is likely to become very urgent.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. J. Rees, and the additional Sanitary Inspector Mr. R. Taylor.

The following summary gives information relating to the work of the sanitary inspectors during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	57.
Number of complaints investigated.....	57.
Number of premises inspected.....	57.
Number of preliminary notices.....	23.
for (a) Structural defects.....	17.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	6.
Number of statutory notices served.....	2.

There has been great difficulty during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repair work is largely of a patching nature and it is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature 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 district.

Licensed Premises. Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector ... 6
 Number of defects 0

Shops. Number of inspections made 17

Factories. A complete survey of the factories in the district was carried out with the following results :-

a) Factories in which the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature etc., are enforceable by the Council 6
 b) Factories in which the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences only are enforceable by the Council 14
 Total number of factories 20
 Total number of inspections made 42
 Total number of defects found (want of cleanliness) 8
 Number of defects remedied 8

Tents, Vans and Sheds. Number of visits made 98

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Any 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. No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr. J.C. Reynolds is still employed as the Rodent Officer to carry out the work of rodent destruction under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Details of the work carried out are given below :-

Number of premises inspected 482
 Number of premises found infested 72
 Number of Agricultural premises found infested 10
 Number of premises treated by Rodent Officer 107
 Number of premises treated by occupier 11
 Number of premises treated by B.A.E.C. 0

Sewers were treated during the year in neighbourhood of infested houses.

Section 5. Housing. The following details show the housing position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of houses built by Council 74
 Number of houses built by private enterprise 15

24 houses were built by the Council during the year and 6 by private enterprise.

Number of Inspections under Housing Act 84
Improvement Grants. Housing Act, 1949.

Two applications were made during the year, one in the parish of Cray, and one in Glyntwe.

Rural Housing Survey. This was continued during the year. The following figures show the position at the end of the year.

Work during the year :- Number inspected	Category				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
460	87	62	111	95	105
<u>Previously inspected</u>					
907	146	194	173	209	185
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1367</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>304</u>
				<u>290</u>	

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Considerable changes in the legislature governing the production of milk occurred by the coming into operation on October 1st, 1949 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944. Briefly under this Act the supervision of milk production on farms now passes to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and local authorities are left with the control of distributors.

Number of samples taken during the year	93
Number of samples satisfactory	76
Number of samples unsatisfactory	17

The results of all these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry at Brecon.

Sixteen samples of milk were submitted during the year for the presence of tuberculosis and all proved negative.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is distributed from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot in Brecon.

Food Condemned. The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed 20 lbs.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made	26.
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Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made	54
Number of samples taken, all returned as Grade 1	5

There are 8 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made	30
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Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made	2
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There was one premises registered for the sale of fried fish.

Wrapping of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

During the year Byelaws, made under Section 15, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were adopted by Council.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable Infectious Disease were reported to me during the year :-

Measles	88 cases
Scarlet Fever	1 case
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 case
Whooping Cough	54 cases
Dysentery	1 case
Influenzal Pneumonia	1 case
Erysipelas	1 case
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1 case

As will be seen the district experienced epidemics of Measles early in the year and of Whooping Cough towards the end of the year. Both these epidemics occurred mainly in the Trecastle, Devynock and Sennybridge areas. The cases of Scarlet Fever and Poliomyelitis were removed to Hospital where the diagnosis of the latter case was not confirmed

Venereal 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	29
Number of fresh cases notified during the year	13
Number of cases removed from the register .	
(a) Deaths	4
(b) Left district	0
(c) Disease arrested	3
Number of cases remaining in register at end of year	35

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below :-

1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
9	6	9	7	4	9	5	8	7	11	13

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.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

In the 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 requested by the Welsh Board of Health.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.