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BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1952

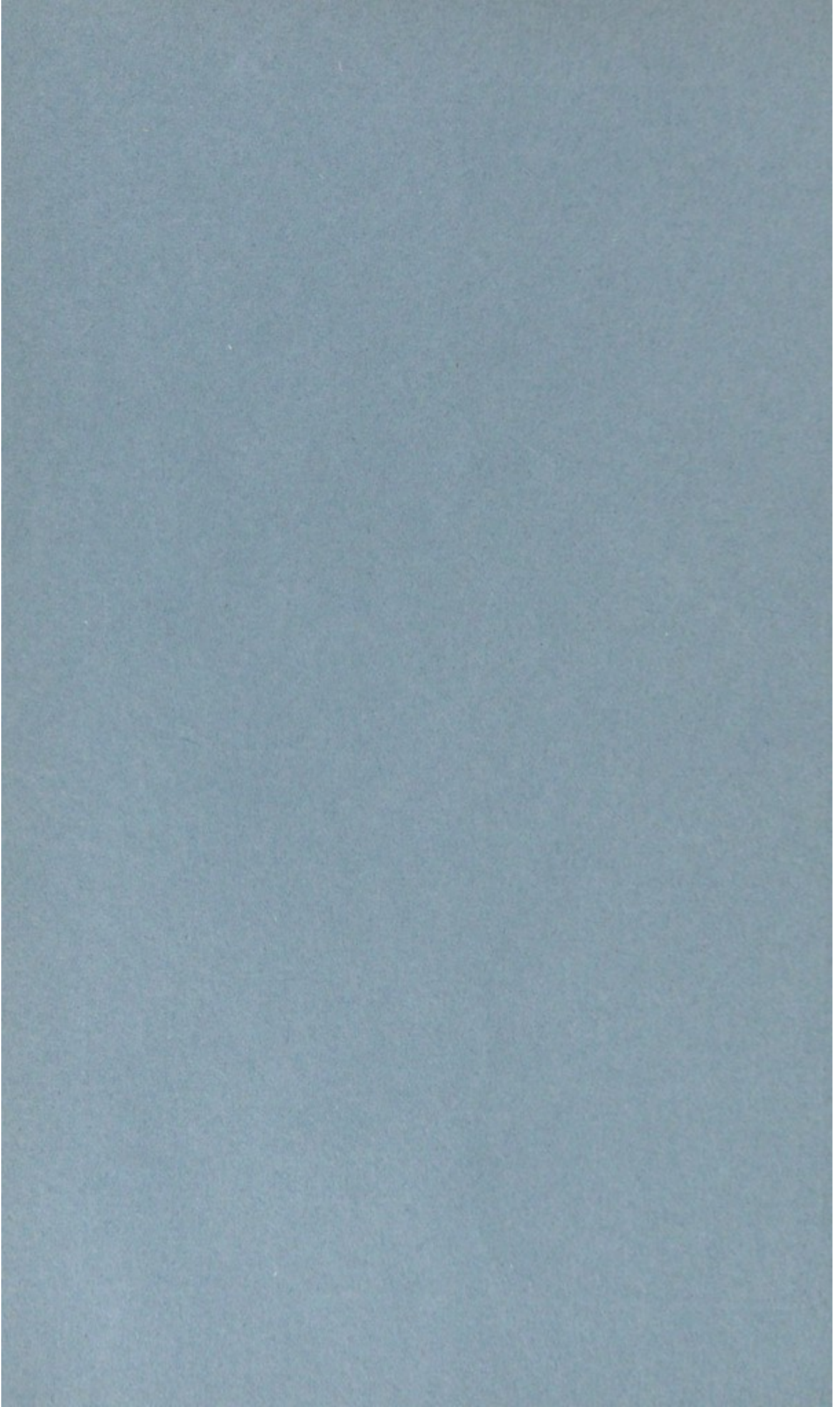
by

W. F. W. BETENSON, M.B., D.P.H.

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BRECON :

Express and County Times, Printers.



**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

I have the honour to submit to you my Twenty-first Annual Report with Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of Breconshire for the year 1952.

The death rate for the year was 11.81 compared with 11.3 for England and Wales and 13.30 for the County in 1951.

The Birth Rate for Live Births was 14.64 compared with 15.58 for England and Wales and the Birth Rate for Still Births was 0.60 compared with 0.35 for England and Wales, the corresponding Birth Rates for the County in 1951 being Live Births 15.58 and Still Births 0.46.

The Infantile Mortality rate for the year was 27.94 compared with 27.6 for England and Wales and 36.86 for the County in 1951.

There was no death of a Mother during Childbirth in the year. The rate for England and Wales is 0.72.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. F. W. BETENSON,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Health Offices,
Watton, Brecon.

10th October, 1953.

Telephone: Office Brecon 214.

Home Brecon 167.

CONSTITUTION OF HEALTH COMMITTEE, YEAR 1952/53.

Chairman: Ald. J. G. Eadie, Fronheulog, Builth Wells.

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL:

Coun. David Lewis, M.B.E., Cwmpadest, Cray.

Coun. Com. C. M. Evan-Thomas, Llwynmadoc, Llanwrtyd Wells
(Decased, March, 1953).

Brecon District:

Coun. Col. Sir John Lloyd, Abercynrig, Nr. Brecon (Retired Sept., 1952).

Coun. W. J. Bevan, 17, Trenewydd, Llanfaes. Brecon.

Brynmawr District:

Coun. James Pritchard, 4, Clydach Street, Brynmawr.

Coun. T. R. Jones, The Daren, Darenfelen Road, Brynmawr.

Builth District:

Ald. J. G. Eadie (Chairman), Fronheulog, Builth Wells.

Crickhowell District:

Coun. John Thomas, Saladdin House, Llangynidr, Nr. Crickhowell.

Coun. D. P. Thomas, Brynteg, Bronllys, Nr. Talgarth.

Devynock District:

Coun. Rhys O. Jones, Aberseven, Trallong, Sennybridge.

Hay and Talgarth District:

Coun. T. I. Watkins, Graigend, Talgarth.

Coun. T. Havard, Little Lodge, Three Cocks, Brecs.

Vaynor District:

Coun. Mrs. M. E. Morgan, 33, The Copse, Trefechan, Cefn Coed.

Coun. L. I. Moses, Plasydinas, Pontneathvaughan, Via Neath.

Ystradgynlais District:

Ald. Idris Davies, O.B.E., Bwlfa, Abercrave, Swansea.

Coun. J. E. Williams, Tanybedw, Cwmgiedd, Ystradgynlais.

Ald. E. J. Gittoes, Bryndu, Talgarth.

Ald. H. Evans, 10, Vaynor Villas, Cefn Coed.

Coun. D. I. Williams, Glyndwr, Llanwrtyd Wells (Retired Oct., 1952).

Coun. John Jones, "Voel," 12, King Street, Brynmawr.

Coun. W. J. Millichap, Llwynnoyadd Farm, Llandefalle, Nr. Brecon.

Coun. Thomas Rees, Thornleigh, Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch.

Coun. L. F. Saunders, 2, Factory Road, Brynmawr.

Coun. E. W. McIntosh, Dinas View, Clydach, Nr. Abergavenny.

Coun. J. V. Like, Skynlais House, Church Street, Hay-on-Wye.

MEMBERS CO-OPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Aline Sparrow, Glawcoed Cottages, Talybont-on-Usk.

Mrs. E. Smetham, Carn Brae, Cefn Coed

Mrs. J. G. Eadie, Fronheulog, Builth Wells.

Dr. Jenkin Davies, Ruperra House, Brecon.

Mrs. M. M. Prosser, Lletty Dafydd, Ystradgynlais.

Dr. R. J. Jayne, The Cottage, Talgarth.

Mrs. J. Walford Price, 27, King Edward Road, Brynmawr.

Mrs. J. G. Rees, Glan-Nant, Crickhowell.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL.

County M.O.H. and School M.O.	Dr. W. F. W. Betenson.
Assistant C.M.O.H. and Assistant School M.O.	Dr. C. M. Evans.
Assistant C.M.O.H. and Assistant School M.O.	Dr. D. W. T. Harris (Resigned 31/7/53).

DENTAL.

Senior Dental Officer.	Mr. R. G. Downs.
Assistant Dental Officer.	Mr. J. H. Sutcliffe.
Dental Attendant.	Miss M. Anthony.
" "	Miss W. A. P. Mills.

NURSING.

Superintendent Nursing Officer.	Miss E. Bestford Dunn, Brecon.
Health Visitors and School Nurses.	Miss H. K. King, Brynmawr. Miss S. M. Thickens, Cefn Coed. Mrs. C. M. Bowen, Tretower. Mrs. Myra Davies, Ystradgynlais.
Health Vistors.	Mrs. A. R. Evans, Ystradgynlais.
District Nurses/ Midwives/ Health Visitors.	Miss M. L. Evans, 16. Penpentre, Talybont-on-Usk. (Tele. Talybont-on-Usk 265). Miss D. I. Peregrine, Malwa, The Avenue, Brecon (Tele. Brecon 298). Miss D. O. Mathias, Tyclyd, Alexandra Road, Brecon (Tele. Brecon 361).
District Nurses/ Midwives.	Nurse F. M. Bound, Fire Tree Cottage, Talgarth (Tele. Talgarth 66). Nurse G. D. Freebury, High Trees, Abergavenny Road, Gilwern (Tele. Gilwern 33). Nurse G. A. Jenkins (Resigned 31/7/53), 8, Lamb Lane, Crickhowell. Nurse G. Jones, Glanavon, Castle Street, Builth Wells (Tele. Builth Wells 2165). Nurse S. Morgan, Hendre, Bear Street, Hay-on-Wye (Tele. Hay-on-Wye 39). Nurse I. M. Williams, 42, Lansbury Road, Brynmawr (Tele. Brynmawr 367). Nurse D. G. Berry, 2, George Street, Brecon (Tele. Brecon 431). Nurse I. E. Chilton, Colindale Bunaglow, Brynmawr (Tele. Brynmawr 330). Nurse A. Evans, Bristol House, Abercrave (Tele. Abercrave 207).

District Nurses/
Midwives.—Continued.

- Nurse M. Jones,
10, Tudor Avenue, Hirwaun
(Tele. Hirwaun 291).
- Nurse M. C. Joseph,
1, William Street, Glanrhyd, Ystradgynlais
(Tele. Glantawe 3244).
- Nurse A. E. Williams,
Tyclyd, Sennybridge, Nr. Brecon.
(Tele. Sennybridge 47).
- Nurse D. S. Lewis,
2, Ffynnon Dewi, Llanfaes, Brecon
Tele. Brecon 405).
- Nurse A. M. Daniel,
Caemaen, Penycae, Swansea Valley
(Tele. Abercrave 254).
- Nurse E. J. Davies,
The Warren, Three Cocks, Brecs.
(Tele. Glasbury 60).
- Nurse F. M. Davies,
Dolfari, Beulah, Garth, Brecs.
(Tele. Llangammarch 212).
- Nurse A. Messer,
Clovelly, Erwood, Brecs.
(Tele. Erwood 214).
- Nurse E. R. Page,
3, Trawscoed Villas, Llanwrtyd Wells
(Tele. Llanwrtyd Wels 223).
- Nurse Elonwy Powell,
School House, Troer'glien, Upper Cwmtwrch
(Telephone—Not yet installed).
- Nurse M. A. Davies,
Brynteg, Bwlch, Brecs.
(Tele. Bwlch 240).
- Nurse M. Harman,
Tyclyd, Llanfihangel Tallylyn
(Tele. Langorse 25).
- Nurse M. M. Jones (Relief),
Westlyn, Garth Road, Builth Wells
(Tele. Builth Wels 3121).
- Nurse M. Forest (Relief).

District Nurses.

- Nurse S. E. H. Paige,
33, Heolmeurig, Lower Cwmtwrch
(Tele. Glantawe 3292).
- Nurse C. Hughes,
63, Garn Road, Nantyglo, Mon.
(Tele. Brynmawr 296).

ORTHOPAEDIC.

Orthopaedic Nurse.

- Miss I. B. Leefe,
Honddu House, Castle Street, Brecon.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Duly Authorised
Officers.

- Mr. H. G. Edwards,
13, The Watton, Brecon
(Tele. Brecon 240).
- Mr. D. J. Davies,
Welfare Office, Lower Bailey St., Brynmawr
(Tele. Brynmawr 254).

Duly Authorised
Officers.—Continued.

Mr. W. B. Hargest,
c/o Mason's Arms, Talgarth
(Tele. Talgarth 50).
Mr. D. W. Chambers,
Abertaff, Cefn Coed, Nr. Merthyr Tydfil
(Tele. Merthyr Tydfil 386).
Mr. Wm. T. Davies,
Peglers Buildings, Ystradgynlais
(Tele. Glantawe 3104).

CLERICAL.

Chief Clerk.	Mr. Rees Williams (Resigned 31/7/52). Mr. R. I. Jones.
Senior Clerk.	Mr. R. E. Page, Mr. I. Lewis, Mr. T. Jones, Miss M. J. Williams (Resigned 24/5/52). Miss A. Vaughan. Mr. R. W. Jones. Miss S. J. Evans. Miss S. Jose, Miss J. Hadley (Commenced 27/5/52). Mrs. A. J. G. Davies (Resigned 31/1/53). Mr. W. G. Phillips (Commenced 1/8/52). Miss E. Lewis (Commenced 2/2/53).

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH IN THE COUNTY.

Brecon Urban ; and Rural ;	} Dr. T. C. R. George, Guild Hall, Brecon (Tel.: Brecon 26).
Builth Urban ; and Rural ;	
Hay Urban ; and Rural ;	
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban :	
Brynmawr Urban :	} Dr. J. Tate, Crossley House, Great Oak Road, Crickhowell. (Tel. Crickhowell 123).
Crickhowell Rural :	
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural :	
Ystradgynlais Rural :	

SANITARY INSPECTORS IN THE COUNTY.

Brecon Urban :	Mr. S. Jinks, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Guild Hall, Brecon.
Brynmawr Urban :	Mr. Thomas Eli Hall, M.S.I.A., Council Offices, Brynmawr.
Builth Wells Urban :	Mr. E. V. Collins, M.R.S.I., Builth Wells.
Hay Urban :	Mr. Garfield G. Evans, Tower House, Talgarth.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban:	Mr. G. Williams, Llanwrtyd.
Brecon Rural:	Mr. W. J. Rees, M.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A., Oxford House, The Watton, Brecon.
Builth Rural:	Mr. G. H. Llewellyn, M.R.S.I., Builth Wells.
Crickhowell Rural:	Mr. R. A. Jackson, M.S.I.A., R.D.C. Offices, Crickhowell.
Hay Rural:	Mr. Garfield C. Evans, Tower House, Talgarth.
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural:	Mr. S. P. Harris, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., 26(b) Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.
Ystradgynlais Rural:	Mr. W. Emlyn Jones, M.R.S.I., M.I.S.A., Council Offices, Ystrad- gynlais.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Square miles)	...	733
Area (Acres)	...	469,281
Population (1931 Census)	...	57,775
„ (1939 Census)	...	54,357
„ estimated to Middle of 1952	...	56,200
Rateable Value (1st April, 1951)	...	£305,004
Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1951/52	...	£1,206 15 9

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Section 21.—Health Centres: Again it has not been possible to make any progress in the provision of Health Centres but the matter is still before the Committee.

Section 22. — Care of Mothers and Young Children: This Section covers the following activities:—(a) Ante-natal clinics, (b) Post-natal clinics, (c) Child welfare clinics, (d) Day nurseries and residential nurseries, (e) Mother and baby homes, (f) Dental treatment given to expectant or nursing mothers, and children under 5 years of age, (g) care of premature infants, (h) Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Maternal Deaths, etc., and replaces the old heading of Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Tables dealing with the various sections are given below:—

Care of Premature Infants.—i.e., babies, weighing 5½ lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of period of gestation.

(1) **Premature Live Births.**

(a) Total Number of Premature Live Births in the Area	46
(b) Number of Premature Live Births at Home	... 9
(c) Number of Premature Live Births in Private Nursing Homes	... 1

(2) **Premature Still Births.**

(a) Total Number of Premature Still Births in the Area	15
(b) Number of Premature Still Births at Home	5
(c) Number of Premature Still Births in Private Nursing Homes	1

Premature babies born in the area (whether their mothers normally reside in the area or not) but **excluding** babies born in maternity homes and hospitals in the National Health Service.

	BORN AT HOME.							BORN IN PRIVATE NURSING HOMES*								
	STILL BIRTHS	LIVE BIRTHS						STILL BIRTHS	LIVE BIRTHS							
		Transferred to Hospital.	Nursed entirely at Home						Transferred to Hospital.	Nursed entirely in Private Nursing Home						
			Died in first 24 hours	Died on 2nd to 7th day.	Died on 8th to 28th day	Survived 28 days.	TOTAL			Died in first 24 hours.	Died on 2nd to 7th day.	Died on 8th to 28th day.	Survived 28 days	TOTAL		
2lbs. 3oz. or less	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Over 2lbs. 3oz. up to and including 3lb. 4oz.	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Over 3lbs. 4oz. up to and including 4lb. 6oz.	1	..	1	..	..	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Over 4lbs. 6oz. up to and including 4lbs. 15ozs.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Over 4lbs. 15ozs. up to and including 5lbs. 8oz.	..	2	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	..	5	2	1	..	..	6	7	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..

*Including Maternity Homes not in the National Health Service and Mother and Baby Homes where the women are confined in the Home.

Complicated Maternity Cases.—There is a maternity ward in the County War Memorial Hospital at Brecon, and one each in the Crickhowell War Memorial Hospital, and Built Cottage Hospital.

During 1952 the following cases were admitted to hospital through the Health Department on account of bad housing, bad home conditions, or for medical reasons.

Brecon—31. Neath General—57. St. Tydfil's (Merthyr Tydfil)—14. Crickhowell—6. Gwaunfarren Maternity Home—11. St. James, Tredegar—7. Hereford County Hospital—3. Amman Valley—1. Morriston—5. Builth Cottage Hospital—4. St. David's Hospital, Cardiff—1. Llandrindod County Hospital—1.

In addition to the arrangements which were made in respect of the above, 4 investigations as to home conditions were made by this Department for the Glantawe Hospital Management Committee (Cases admitted to Amman Valley House) and 1 for St. James Hospital, Tredegar.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the District—

Arrangements are made with the Swansea and Brecon Moral Welfare Association to carry out this work in return for grant paid, the Health Authority being responsible for the maintenance of the mother for approximately one month before the confinement and for a period of 14 days after birth. Maintenance after this date becomes the responsibility of the Welfare Committee, who also give the Association an Annual Grant of £100.

Day Nurseries, Hospitals for Children, and Mother and Baby Homes.—There are none in the County. The Education Committee has one Nursery School at Brynmawr.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—

Number of cases in 1952, in which

(a) vision was unimpaired	...	Nil
(b) Vision impaired	...	Nil
(c) vision lost	...	Nil
(d) patient died	...	Nil
(e) patient still under treatment at end of year...	...	Nil
(f) patient removed from district	...	Nil
(g) classification under above heads cannot be made	...	Nil

Maternal Deaths—

(a) **Number of women who died in consequence of child-birth during the year:—**

		From Sepsis.	From Other Causes.	Totals.
Confined at home	...	—	—	—
Confined in Nursing Home	...	—	—	—

(b) **Number of women who died:—**

At home	...	Nil
In nursing homes	...	Nil
After removal to an Institution	...	Nil

Section 23—Midwifery Service—

Tables dealing with midwifery, notification of births, etc., are given below:—

Supervision of Midwives—

Fifty-six Midwives notified their intention to practice in the County, viz., 49 resident and 7 border midwives.

Of the above—

14 were resident in Institutions.

4 were in independent practice.

38 were employed by the County Council: County, 32,
Border, 6.

During the year, of the resident midwives 6 left the County.

Notification from Midwives during 1952—

96 Forms of sending for Medical Aid were received:—81 for mothers and 15 for children.

An analysis of the causes for summoning medical aid is given below:—

For the Mother:—

Miscarriage, Abortion, actual or threatened	...	5
Contracted Pelvis	...	—
Hæmorrhage, ante and post partum	...	6
Prolonged, obstructed and labour inertia	...	13
Malpresentation or Malposition	...	1
Other illnesses during pregnancy	...	2
Retained or adherent placenta or membranes	...	2
Ruptured perineum	...	25
Unsatisfactory condition of mother	...	11
Pyrexia	...	1
Premature Labour	...	—
Albuminuria	...	3
Breech	...	4
Phlebitis	...	1
Ante-Natal—re Position	...	—
Post Maturity	...	—
Oedema of Feet and Ankles	...	1
Offensive Lochia	...	1

Foetal Distress	...	2
Still Birth	...	1
Emergency Episiotomy	...	1
Toxæmia and Albuminuria	...	1

For the Child:—

Premature or feebleness	...	1
Deformity or abnormality	...	1
Eye Infections	...	7
Unsatisfactory Conditions	...	1
Skin Condition	...	—
Jaundice	...	2
Stillbirth	...	—
Cyanosis	...	1
Nasal Obstruction	...	1
Convulsions	...	1

Fees of Doctors called in under Midwives Act, 1918—Section 14 and N.H.S. (Amendment) Act, 1949, Section 29(2).

No. of cases in which General Practitioners claimed payment in respect of Medical Aid Forms	...	9
Total amount of Claims paid	...	£28. 12s. 6d.

Breaches of Central Midwives Board Rules.—No breaches of the rules occurred in the year.

Administration of Analgesics.

- Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer analgesics, in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board:—

(a) Domiciliary	...	27
(b) In Institutions	...	2
		—
Total		29
		—
- Number of cases in which analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year ... 147
- Number of Midwives trained in the year ... 1

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 4. Total number of sets of Minnitt's Gas and Air Apparatus supplied by the Council | ... 27 |
| 5. Number of Cases in which Pethedine was administered by Midwives in Domiciliary practice during the year | ... 5 |

Section 24.—Health Visiting.—The health visiting staff now consists of all nurses previously employed part-time by District Nursing Associations who were taken over by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, together with the whole-time School Nurses, Health Visitors and Midwives previously in the Council service.

Figures dealing with the Health Visiting are given below:—

Notification of Births—

The following notifications of births were received during the year: Live Births 609, Still Births 17, making a total of 626.

These births were attended by:—

District Nurse Midwives: County 317, Border 6	... 323
Private Midwives: County 7, Border 1	... 8
Hospital and Institutional Midwives	... 297

Number of Births notified in the Authority's Area during 1952 under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by any transferred notifications:—

(a) Live Births—826, (b) Still Births—33, (c) Total—859.

Health Visiting.—The Health Visiting Service in the County consists of 1 Superintendent Nursing Officer, 1 whole-time Health Visitor, and 22 part-time Health Visitors—County 19, Border 3.

Particulars of the number of visits paid to mothers and babies are to be found in Table VI appended.

Section 25—Home Nursing.—The County Council now provide a whole-time nursing service.

Figures of cases of home visits paid and cases attended are given below:—

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Number of Nurses employed at end of year:— | |
| (a) Whole-time | ... 2 |
| (b) Part-time (County) | ... 26 |
| ,, ,, (Border) | ... 3 |
| 2. Equivalent of whole-time service devoted to Home Nursing | ... 8 |

3. Number of visits paid by Home Nurses ... 38988
 4. Number of cases attended by Home Nurses... 1703

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation.—

(a) Vaccination—

Vaccination can be carried out by the family doctors at their surgeries at the request of the parents, and practitioners who have expressed a wish to undertake this work, are supplied with lymph free of charge, on request to the appropriate Public Health Laboratory, and record cards are supplied from the Health Department on which to enter the necessary particulars, these cards being for statistical purposes.

Vaccination is free of charge to the patient.

Figures of Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1952.

Age at 31st Dec., 1951 i.e., born in years ...	Under 1 1952	1 (1951)	2 to 4 1948 to 1950	5 to 14 1938 to 1947	15 or over (before 1937)	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	70	77	5	7	11	170
Number Re-Vaccinated	..	..	2	3	31	36

(b) **Diphtheria Immunisation.** — Diphtheria Immunisation work is being carried out quite satisfactorily at the various Infant Welfare Centres, on school premises and clinics, and from the figures obtainable to the end of the year, there is no doubt that the scheme is working most efficiently. In addition children are immunised by private practitioners at their surgeries, and record cards are provided by the Health Department. Completed records are returned for statistical purposes.

Number of children immunised during the year 1952.

District	Primary Immunisation		Totals	Re-inforcing Dose
	Under 5	5-14		
Brecon Urban	83	8	91	152
Brynmawr Urban	57	43	100	73
Builth Urban	22	16	38	56
Hay Urban	36	4	40	2
Llanwrtyd Urban	8	..	8	14
Brecon Rural	43	5	48	97
Builth Rural	32	14	46	36
Crickhowell Rural	73	76	149	83
Hay Rural	32	3	35	36
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural	36	17	53	140
Ystradgynlais Rural	122	88	210	296
Totals, 1952	544	274	818	985
Totals, 1951	504	156	660	459

On the 31st December, there were 7,796 children in the County who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date. The number of children thus protected represents 61.8 per cent of the estimated child population.

The following table shows the children in age groups who were immunised at the 31st December, 1952:—

Age @ 31-12-52, i.e., born in year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5 to 9 1943-47	10 to 14 1938-42	Total Under 15
Number Immunised	31	432	476	590	668	3206	2393	7796

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

During the year modified proposals were submitted to the Welsh Board of Health in accordance with Section 20 (4) of the National Health Service Act, 1946. A letter dated 9th December, 1952, Ref. No. L.S. 2/222/1, from the Board formally approved of the amendments which are as follow:—

BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

New proposals for the modification of the existing arrangements for the ambulance service provided under Section 27.

From the date of the approval of these proposals by the Minister of Health the proposals approved by him on the 8th June, 1948, will cease to operate and the following provisions will apply:—

1. **Ambulances.** — The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee will act as the sole agents of the Authority for the provision and maintenance of ambulances (as distinct from sitting-case cars) and ambulance stations on such terms, and with such variations as to the number and sitting of ambulances, and the number of staff, as may be mutually agreed from time to time after consultation by the Authority with the Welsh Board of Health.

For the time being ambulances will be stationed as follows:

Brecon	...	2
Builth	...	1
Hay	...	1
Crickhowell	...	1
Brynmaur	...	1
Ystradgynlais	...	2

and five garage proprietors have contracted to run the service together with the three whole-time drivers at Ystradgynlais up to the equivalent of thirteen whole-time officers. Arrangements will be made for securing that whole-time drivers shall hold the first-aid certificate of the St. John Ambulance Association, or the British Red Cross Society, or the St. Andrew Ambulance Association, or such first-aid qualification as may be recommended by the Minister of Health, and that part-time drivers, where possible, shall hold a similar qualification.

2. **Sitting-case Cars.**—Sitting cases will be conveyed by hired cars provided by garage proprietors under contract with the Authority, except in the Ystradgynlais district, and the Authority will review the arrangements from time to time and may themselves provide and maintain additional sitting case cars to such an extent as may be decided after consultation with the Welsh Board of Health.

3. **Administration.**—The general administration of the ambulance service will be exercised by the Authority through a sub-committee of their Health Committee and their Medical Officer of Health. All possible steps will be taken to co-ordinate journeys and eliminate unnecessary mileage, and to check abuse of the service by persons who cannot be regarded as reasonably needing special transport.

Without prejudice to such other controls as may be introduced by the Authority in the light of experience, garage proprietors will for the time being notify the Authority of requests for journeys exceeding 25 miles each way and await approval before undertaking them.

4. **Infectious Disease Cases.**—All ambulances will be available for the conveyance of cases of infectious disease. All driver/ attendants will be available for this purpose and will be required to understand and take the precautions necessary if an ambulance has been used for an infectious case.

5. **Conveyance of patients by railway.**—Where a person for whose conveyance the Authority have a duty under Section 27 has to make a long journey and can, without detriment to his health, most conveniently be conveyed for part of it by railway, as a stretcher case or in some similar way involving special arrangements with the railway undertaking, the Authority will arrange accordingly.

6. **Call-out Arrangements.** — The Authority will keep all hospitals and other institutions for the sick, all general medical practitioners dentists, nurses, domiciliary midwives, the police, fire service and telephone authorities in or serving the county, informed of the action to be taken to call an ambulance.

The following persons only will be authorised to call an ambulance in circumstances other than emergency: — Doctors, midwives, hospital officers or dentists.

7. **Joint arrangements with other Local Health Authorities.**—Arrangements will be made with neighbouring Local Health Authorities for mutual aid in emergencies, and arrangements may be made for a joint ambulance service in particular areas on a regular basis.

Further details of the arrangements under this Section will be found in the "Special Survey of Local Health Services."

Figures of the ambulance and sitting-car services during 1952 are given below:—

Section 27.—Ambulance Services, 1952.

Ambulance Station	Number of Journ'ys (1)	Patients Carried		Total Patients Carried (4)	Total Miles Tr'v'll d (5)	Number of Accident Cases Carried (Included in Column 1) (6)
		Str'tchr (2)	Sitting (3)			
Brecon ...	211	223	23	246	10643	29
Brynmawr ...	151	149	33	182	3503	19
Builth ...	219	229	1	230	8044	2
Crickhowell ...	125	138	4	142	3954	8
Hay ...	57	55	5	60	3052	12
Ystrad'lais ...	1002	724	2516	3240	43035	91
Totals ...	1775	1518	2582	4100	72231	161
1951 ...	1697	1331	2403	3734	72684	129
1950 ...	1395	—	—	2913	67874	129
1949 ...	1216	—	—	2475	52668	90

Sitting Car Services, 1952.

Month.	Journeys.	Patients.	Mileage.
January ...	311	621	8763
February ...	283	644	9053
March ...	294	577	8671
April ...	336	714	9126
May ...	390	797	12009
June ...	385	838	10960
July ...	343	728	10425
August ...	351	656	9215
September ...	381	789	11294
October ...	443	873	11364
November ...	355	707	8987
December ...	351	749	9771
Totals ...	4223	8693	119638
1951 ...	3577	5804	107172
1950 ...	2690	2736	84205
1949 ...	2064	2129	63045

Fuller details in connection with the ambulance service will be found in the Special Survey included in this report. (See Page 37).

Section 28. — Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.—

Medical Comforts. — With regard to nursing equipment, apparatus, and medical comforts, full use is being made by the Council of the equipment already owned by the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society.

ORTHOPÆDIC WORK.— The treatment of Orthopædic cases is undertaken and the services of Mr. Parker, Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, are available. An orthopædic sister, Miss Ivy B. Leefe, is also engaged.

Table shewing Cases referred to Orthopædic Surgeon.

CENTRE.	DATE OF EXAMINATION.	Brecon 3/10/52
1.	Number of Children called up for Examination	... 73
2.	Number of Children Present and Examined	... 66
3.	Number found not to require Treatment	... 8
4.	Number found to require Domiciliary or Clinic Treatment	... 48
5.	Number found to require Hospital Treatment	... 2
6.	For Further Observation	... 7
7.	For X-Ray	... 1

TUBERCULOSIS. — The Treatment of Tuberculosis in the County is carried on by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board (Tuberculosis Division). Table V (appended) shows the number of cases notified on Form "A" during the year.

The Time Tables of the Tuberculosis Chest Physicians are as follows:—

Name and Address of Chest Clinic.	Dates of Attendance.	Times.
1. Dr. D. I. Williams, 2, Bulwark, Brecon—Telephone 54.		
Brecon	.. Tuesdays	.. 9.30 a.m.—Clinic. 11 a.m.—Consultations (Brecon Hospital). 2 p.m. Contacts Domiciliary Visits
	Fridays	.. 10 a.m.—New and old patients. 2 p.m.—Contacts.
Builth Hospital Builth Wells	.. Mondays	.. 10.30 a.m.—Clinic and Consultation.
The Hospital Llandrindod	.. Mondays	.. 2 p.m. — Clinic and Consultation
Knighton	..	
Presteigne	..	
New Radnor	..	Patients seen by ap pointment only.
Penybont	..	
Ystradgynlais-- at Adelina Patti Hospital	.. Wednesdays Thursdays	2 p.m.—Clinic .. 2 p.m.—Contacts. 3 p.m.—A.P. Clinic.
2. Dr. A. E. Aslett, "Hawthorns," Courtland Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil— Telephone 129.		
For Cefn, Vaynor and Pontsticill Patients.		
Courtland Terrace	.. Monday	.. 2 p.m.—New and Old cases.
Merthyr Tydfil	Wednesday	.. 9.30—Contacts (by ap- pointment).
	Wednesday	.. 2 p.m.—New and Old cases.
	Thursday	.. 2 p.m.—A.P. Refill.
	1st Friday in month..	2 p.m.—Non - Pulmon- ary Consultation Clinic.
For Penderyn and Hirwaun Patients.		
42, Cannon Street, Aberdare	.. Mondays & Thurs- days	.. 10 a.m. — New and old patients, Contacts
3. Dr. R. G. Prosser Evans, 107, London Road, Neath. Telephone, Neath 278.		
For Pontneathvaughan.		
107, London Road, Neath	.. Mondays, Wednes- days & Thursdays	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon Old and New Cases New Cases by Ap- pointment only
	Tuesdays & Thursdays	2 p.m. — 5 p.m. Domiciliary Visits, etc.
	Wednesdays, 2 p.m. ..	B.C.G. Contact Clinic

4. Dr. F. W. Godbey, "Ennisclare," Llanarth Road, Pontllanfraith.
Telephone—Blackwood 3281.

"Ennisclare," Llanarth Road, Pontllanfraith	.. Mondays, Wednesdays	Old and New Cases
	and Fridays	10 a.m.
	Other days and times..	Special Clinics and Appointments

Note.—Brynmawr patients can also be seen at Blaina and District Hospital—Tuesdays—11 a.m. New and Old patients.

B.C.G. Vaccinations.—During the year, 43 cases were dealt with under this head.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

A mass radiography unit provided by the Welsh Regional Board visited the County during November and December, 1952. The main centres of the County were visited and periods were set aside for the school-children over 14 years of age to be X'Rayed.

At Gwernyfed School it was decided to depart from the normal policy of X'Rays being taken of persons over 14 years since the Unit had time at its disposal and the facilities were made available to all the children who were attending on the day of the Unit's visit.

The following table shows the numbers of X'Rays taken and the results notified:—

District	No. Examined.	Classification of Abnormalities.		
		Definite Pulm. Tuberculosis.	Needing. Observn.	Other Ab- normalities.
Brecon ...	1272	—	10	21
Llanwrtyd ...	139	—	1	1
Builth Wells ...	541	—	1	16
Sennybridge ...	112	—	2	2
Gwernyfed School	198	—	—	3
Crickhowell ...	499	1	—	12
Brynmawr ...	471	—	—	32
Ystradgynlais ...	781	—	—	54
Cefn Coed ...	117	—	—	3
Totals	4130	1	14	144

VENEREAL DISEASES.—

The figures relating to patients known to have been treated during 1952 are as follows:—

1. Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

		Swansea Gen. Hospital
Syphilis	...	} Nil
Soft Chancre	...	
Gonorrhœa	...	
Conditions other than Venereal	...	

2. Total number of attendances of all patients residing in the area—Swansea, 27.

Treatment under provision of Ministry of Health Circular 2226.—At Doctors' Surgeries:—

	Syphillis.		Gonor- rhœa.	Other Conditions,
	Male.	Female.		
Cases seen for first time ...	—	1	—	—
Number discharged after treatment ...	1	—	—	—
Total Attendances ...	1	7	—	—

	Syphillis.
Number of specimens sent to a pathological laboratory	... 3

CANCER. — During the year, 108 deaths were recorded, giving a death rate of 1.95 per 1,000, as compared with 90 and a death rate of 1.61 in 1951.

Section 29—DOMESTIC HELP.—

Number of Domestic Helps on roll at 31st December, 1952:—

- (a) Whole-time, "Nil"; (b) Part-time, 79.

Number of cases where Domestic Help was provided during the year, together with the figures for 1949, 1950 and 1951, for comparison:—

	1952	1951	1950	1949
Confinement Cases (including illness of Expectant Mothers)	...	35	41	54
Tuberculosis Cases	...	5	3	6
Others	...	94	89	68
Totals	...	<u>134</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>128</u>
				<u>122</u>

Section 51 — MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE. — Under this section the County Council, through the Health Department, is responsible for the Mental Health Services.

LIST OF DOCTORS APPROVED UNDER THE MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930.

The following Doctors have been approved by the Welsh Board of Health for the purpose of making recommendations under the provisions of the above Act:—

Section 1 (3) and 5 (3).

- Dr. S. N. Chopra, Dunedin House, Alma Street, Brynmawr.
- Dr. T. L. Davies, Buckingham House, Brecon.
- Dr. G. Diggle, Chancefield, Talgarth.
- Dr. Brian J. Hand, Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth.
- Dr. D. L. Lees, Cantre Selyff, Lion Street, Brecon.
- Dr. D. Kyle, Glasfryn, Alexandra Road, Brecon.
- Dr. D. F. Cameron, Tyn-y-berllan, Builth Wells.
- Dr. J. K. Pugh, "Maesycoed," Builth Wells.
- Dr. C. M. Fenn, "Meadow Way," Llanwrtyd Wells.
- Dr. N. E. Melling, "Wenentune," Sennybridge.
- Dr. R. F. Jayne, The Cottage, Talgarth.
- Dr. R. C. Humphreys, "Dilvinia," Crickhewell.
- Dr. G. H. Beck, The Grange, Cefn Coed.
- Dr. Margaret Barry, "Avondale," Ystradgynlais.
- Dr. W. Boladz, "Avondale," Ystradgynlais.
- Dr. E. W. Jones, "Brynheuliog," Lower Cwmtwrch.

In addition to the above list the following Doctors who live outside the County have been approved for similar purposes:—

- Merthyr Tydfil—Dr. S. Bloom, 108, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil.
- Merthyr Tydfil—Dr. F. E. Cresswell, "Hillside," Dowlais.
- Glamorganshire—Dr. S. D. Stewart, "Cilbrwyn," Godrergraig, Swansea.
- Monmouthshire—Dr. A. Brookes, Penylan, Beaufort.
- Carmarthenshire—Dr. F. W. Richards, "Glen View," Llandovery.

List of Doctors approved by the Mental Health Services Subcommittee of the 3rd March, 1953, for the certification of Mental Defectives:—

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913. Section 5 (2).

- Dr. W. F. W. Betenson, County Medical Officer, Brecon.
- Dr. D. W. T. Harris, Assistant County Medical Officer, Brecon. (Resigned 31/7/53).
- Dr. C. M. Evans, Assistant County Medical Officer, Brecon.
- Dr. D. Kyle, Glasfryn, Alexandra Road, Brecon.
- Dr. D. F. Cameron, Tynyberllan, Builth Wells.
- Dr. J. K. Pugh, Maesycoed, Builth Wells.
- Dr. C. M. Fenn, Meadow Way, Llanwrtyd Wells.
- Dr. N. E. Melling, "Wenentune," Sennybridge.
- Dr. R. F. Jayne, The Cottage, Talgarth.
- Dr. A. Brookes, Penylan, Beaufort.
- Dr. R. C. Humphreys, "Delvinia," Crickhowell.
- Dr. C. Cianter, Plasyddol, Abercrave.
- Dr. H. Beck, The Grange, Cefn Coed.
- Dr. S. Bloom, 108, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil.

Dr. P. E. Cresswell, Hillside, Dowlais.
 Dr. Margaret Barry, "Avondale," Ystradgynlais.
 Dr. E. W. Jones, Berynheulog, Lower Cwmtwrch.
 Dr. W. Boladz, Avondale, Ystradgynlais.
 Dr. S. D. Stewart, Cilbrwyn, Godrergraig, Swansea.
 Dr. G. W. Farrington, The Hermitage, Brynmawr.
 Dr. R. M. Farrington, The Hermitage, Brynmawr.

Work undertaken—

(A) Under Section 28, Prevention, Care and after-Care Nil

(B) 1. Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts by Duly Authorised Officers—year 1952.

Section 14, of the Lunacy Act, 1890—

Brecon and District	...	1
Builth and Talgarth Districts	...	5
Brynmawr and Crickhowell Districts...		1
Cefn Coed District	...	2
Ystradgynlais District	...	4
Outside County	...	1

Section 20, of the Lunacy Act, 1890 ... Nil

2. Other information—

(a) Cases admitted to and discharged from Mental Hospitals during 1952—

	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged.	Died
Certified Patients under Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890	14	7	9
Voluntary Patients, under Section 1, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	66	48	4
Temporary Patients under Section 5, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	3	1	2

(b) Actual number of Breconshire patients in Mental Hospitals on the 31st December, 1952—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Certified Patients	57	96	153
Voluntary Patients	20	25	45
Temporary Patients	—	—	—
Totals	70	120	198

Note.—For names and addresses of Duly Authorised Officers see under heading, National Assistance Act, 1948 (Welfare Services—Page 25).

(C) **Under Mental Deficiency Act, 1913-1938—**

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(1) Under Statutory Supervision —			
Under 16 years of age...	4	4	8
Aged 16 years and over...	47	40	87
(2) In Institutions—			
Under 16 years of age...	2	2	4
Aged 16 years and over...	5	19	24
(3) On Licence from Institutions—			
Under 16 years of age...	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over...	2	4	6
(4) Patients certified in the year—			
Under 16 years of age...	1	1	2
Aged 16 years and over...	—	2	2

Ambulance Services.—The ambulance service for mentally ill patients is the same as set out in Section 27.

St. David's Hospital, Brecon, is recognised as a place of safety under Section 15 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The Report of Miss Gwendoline Morgan, the Psychiatric Social Worker for Breconshire, is given below:—

**REPORT ON THE PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORK IN
THE COUNTY OF BRECON FOR THE YEAR
JANUARY — DECEMBER, 1952.**

The Psychiatric Social Worker has dealt with three main groups of patients in the County of Breconshire:—

- (a) Persons treated for psychotic and neurotic conditions at the Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth, the Psychiatric Clinic at Brecon and those returning to their homes from other Mental Hospitals.
- (b) Mentally defective persons.
- (c) Maladjusted and nervously affected children referred by the school authorities.

A. Psychotic and Neurotic Patients.

The work with this branch of mental illness has consisted of:—

- (i) compiling case histories on admission in order to give the Psychiatrist an all round picture of the patient's development, environment and family background;
- (ii) visiting patients in hospital in order to discuss and, if possible, alleviate social problems before departure;
- (iii) rehabilitation after discharge with particular reference to employment, personal and family problems.

Patients have been encouraged to use the facilities provided by the weekly Psychiatric Clinic at Brecon and the growing willingness to seek advice and help has been noticeable. Due, however, to the rural nature of part of the County and the lack of public transport, a section of the out-patient population is unable to attend the Clinic and misses the medical reassurance, advice and encouragement which is so important during the early stages of readjustment to home life. Further, relatives are apt to be apprehensive and unnatural in the attitude to the patient when they realise how difficult it is to get help and direction in unforeseen occurrences. The Psychiatric Social Worker serves a useful purpose in such instances, in that a link is forged between the patient, his family and the hospital.

B. Mentally Defective Patients.

Holiday leave has been granted to some defective persons resident at colonies during the year. The Social Worker has visited the homes to assess the adequacy of supervision likely to be exercised and the suitability of environmental conditions before leave has been granted. When necessary help and advice is given during the period the patient is away from hospital.

A further duty in the M.D. field has been the furnishing of information concerning the patient's family background, local conditions and opportunities, etc., for the use of the Committee of Visitors, which periodically reviews each case. Recommendations are made to this Committee concerning licensing, discharge and welfare.

C. School Children.

Problem children of those suffering from nervous traits have been treated at the Psychiatric Clinic and the Social Worker has visited parents or guardians at home in order to give them encouragement and help in remedying the difficulties in the early stages. This preventative treatment has been the most progressive feature of the Mental Service and it has been gratifying to find the willingness with which all authorities have co-operated.

During the year 1952 visits made by the Psychiatric Social Worker in Breconshire number 202.

Analysis.

Case histories on admission to the Mid-Wales Hospital...	24
After care	... 170
Patients referred by outside agencies	... 3
Mentally defective care	... 5

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GWENDOLINE MORGAN,
Psychiatric Social Worker.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.—The Welfare Committee of the County Council is responsible for the work under this Act.

Section 47.—No action was taken by the County Council under this section in the year.

WELFARE SERVICES.

The County of Brecon comprises one area for Welfare purposes divided into the following Districts:—

District.	Welfare Officer and Duly Authorised Officer.
1. *Brynmawr, Llanelly and Crickhowell	Hill, Mr. D. J. Davies, Welfare Offices, Bailey St., Brynmawr
2. Vaynor and Penderyn	Mr. D. W. Chambers, Abertaf, Cefn Coed.
3. Ystradgynlais	Mr. Wm. Davies, c/o. Roger E. L. Thomas, Pegler's Buildings, Ystradgynlais.
4. *Brecknock and Devynock...	Mr. H. G. Edwards, 13, The Watton, Brecon.
5. *Hay, Talgarth and Builth...	Mr. W. E. Davies, c/o. Masons Arms Talgarth. (Retired 3/5/53). Mr. W. B. Hargest, c/o. Mason's Arms, Talgarth. (Commenced 11/6/53).

*Whole-time County Officers.

Welfare of the Blind.—Mr. A. C. Jardine commenced duties on 15th October, 1951, and continues to look after the welfare of Blind Persons.

Welfare Home.—There are two Welfare Homes in the County, viz., Cockcroft House, Hay-on-Wye, and Brynhyfryd, Builth Wells.

The Home, Brynhyfryd, Builth Wells, was opened on 21st July, 1951, to accommodate 12 old people, and another house at Ashburnham, Talgarth, was being adapted for this purpose during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Smallpox Hospitals.—Arrangements have been made for Smallpox Cases to be admitted to Penrhys Hospital and for Consultants to be called in to suspected cases. On diagnosing a case the Consultant will be responsible for arranging for Penrhys Hospital to be ready to receive the patient. In emergencies, where the consultants are not immediately available, a telephone call should be put through to the City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff (Telephone: Cardiff 21466), giving details to a responsible officer. The patient will be removed by the County Council under their Ambulance Scheme made under Section 27 of the N.H. Service Act, 1946.

SPECIAL SURVEY OF LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS.

Reference—Circular 29/52 (Wales) dated 19th August,
1952.

1. ADMINISTRATION.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation on the 5th July, 1948. After, therefore, a space of four and a half years sufficient time has elapsed for a review to be given of the Service as it affects this County.

Breconshire is a county of 469,281 acres with a population (estimated to the middle of 1951) of only 55,700. The county is almost entirely of sparsely populated rural character and in no particular area of it do we find large concentrations of population. Generally speaking, the occupation of the county is in agriculture, but from an administrative point of view the county presents many and varied difficulties by reason of the insufficient and inconvenient rail routes—it is one of the few counties in the country which has no main line passing through it—and the scanty bus services which do not by any means cover many of the frequently used routes in the county. The county has a southern industrial fringe containing populations of 7,247 in Brynmawr in the south east corner, 5,021 at Cefn Coed adjacent to Merthyr Tydfil, and 11,061 at Ystradgynlais in the south west corner. These three areas combined give 40 per cent of the total population.

The County Medical Officer is the responsible officer for the control, supervision and co-ordination of the various services provided under the National Health Service Act and he has a staff of one male and one female assistant medical officers, but since the County Council is the Administrative Authority under the Education Act throughout the whole of the county the above-mentioned staff can only give part-time service to work under the Public Health Act.

All the county services are administered from the centrally situated County Offices in the county town of Brecon. There are no decentralised arrangements necessitating area sub-committees. In some instances for the better working of the service it has been found necessary to make joint arrangements with neighbouring authorities. This has been found particularly desirable for the Ambulance Service and to a lesser extent for the Maternity and Child Welfare and the Nursing and Midwifery Services and these arrangements will be found under their respective headings.

2 CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Every effort is made to ensure the fullest possible co-operation between the Local Health Authority and the three other services provided by the Hospital, the Specialist, and the General Practitioner. It is becoming increasingly apparent that as time goes on a general scheme is developing to obviate the feeling in each of these services of working in water-tight compartments. Difficulties are still being experienced but it can be said that when these are explained all the services do their best to co-operate but the drawback, as often as not, lies not so much in the fact that the matter in hand is not being tackled but in excessive duplication and wastage of effort in finding out which service is making the arrangements which apparently lie in the power of one or more of them to do.

(a) The hospitals in the county and the base hospitals at Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Hereford notify the authority of cases being discharged who may require domiciliary nursing, supervision or advice. Among them are included early discharges to their homes of mothers and babies so that the local midwife can continue with the case. There is now considerable co-operation between the Hospital and the Local Health Authority in regard to the admission and discharge of cases necessitating conveyance under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act. It will be appreciated that, when the main treatment centres of Newport, Cardiff, Swansea and Hereford are between 38 and 45 miles from many parts of the county, the expenditure entailed in transport under Section 27 is very considerable and requires constant supervision to ensure that every ambulance or sitting car used in sending patients to hospital returns with a discharged patient when there is one to be transported in the direction from which the vehicle has come. As the hospitals have gradually become more acquainted with the local authority's transport scheme co-operation has considerably improved, though it is not always easy to get the hospitals to allow for the difficulties patients in the county are under to arrive on time for specialist out-patient sessions. It is for instance useless for the hospital notifying a patient who is fit to travel by public transport and who lives in the country to be at the hospital by 9 a.m. when the session lasts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. When this happens means are generally found by the patient to get a certificate from their doctor purporting to justify the provision of a car under the authority's scheme when such conveyance is really unwarranted.

(b) General practitioners constantly refer cases to the County Health Department or seek advice as to how the authority can assist in any particular case within the framework of the National Health Service Act. They work in close liaison with our district

nurses and midwives and the Department strives to assist them on all occasions. It can be said that arrangements have been working very smoothly since the commencement of the Act and both the Hospital Service and general practitioners seem to be more conscious of the assistance which can be provided by the Local Health Authority. It is to be hoped that this spirit of co-operation will continue and that as time goes on there will be no further erosion into the clinical work of the local health authority which has already lost much. Midwives and health visitors employed by the local health authority appreciate working under their local health authority's instructions but the recent extension of activities on the part of hospital almoners into spheres outside their hospital however ostensibly connected with the welfare of their discharged patients will be difficult to countenance, and the recent innovation of general practitioners in holding their own private ante-natal sessions at which they expect the attendance of the local health authorities' midwives will mean that this branch of the work will be lost to the local health authority.

On the 5th July, 1948, a printed copy of the local health authority's proposals under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III, was distributed to all general practitioners who were practising in the county. No further handbook has been issued to date but all concerned have been informed of amendments, etc., by circular letters issued from time to time by the local health authority. The services available are explained to the public by all the staff of the Department as and when occasion demands. The National Assistance Board also plays a prominent part in drawing attention to services which are available. Notices appear in local post offices and in the authority's clinic buildings.

3 JOINT USE OF STAFF.

There are at present no doctors in general practice working for the authority and it is only in very exceptional circumstances that any practitioner has ever been called upon. None of the medical officers employed by the authority works part-time in the Hospital and Specialist Services.

The local health authority's orthopaedic nurse is now an exception since she does work part-time in the Hospital Service at the Brecon War Memorial Hospital and accordingly receives part of her salary from the Regional Hospital Board who reimburse the local health authority.

Under arrangements made with the regional Hospital Board Mr. A. O. Parker visits the county at special clinics as necessary, arrangements for which are made by the local health authority since they cater for children under and of school age. Similarly the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mr. G. W. Hoare, attends clinics about

once a month. Each specialist visits at whichever centre his presence is most required.

The Psychiatric Social Worker employed at the Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth, holds an appointment jointly paid for by the local health authority together with Radnorshire, Montgomery, and the Regional Hospital Board. A proportion of the salary of one clerk engaged in this work is also paid by the local health authority.

4. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

Throughout the County use is made of the following voluntary bodies for the execution of obligations under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

- (1) The Welsh Home Service Ambulance (St. John) Association acts as sole agent for the County in making provision for an Ambulance Service under Section 27 of the above-mentioned Act. Of the fleet of 8 ambulances this Association own 4, but all are operated under their control.
- (2) The Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Moral Welfare Association undertakes work on behalf of the local health authority in respect of the provisions made for unmarried mothers.
- (3) St. John's (Medical Comforts) assists in providing nursing requisites for patients under the Prevention of Illness, Care, and After-Care, Section 28, of the National Health Service Act, 1946.
- (4) The Family Planning Association undertake blood testing for which the local health authority pay a fee of 10s. 6d. in respect of each sample sent to them.

5. PARTICULARS OF VARIOUS SERVICES.

(a) **Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under School Age.**

(1) Ante-Natal Clinics.

Facilities for ante-natal examinations are provided by the local health authority at the following centres where one of the Assistant Medical Officers is in attendance. These clinics are held at the times and places as stated:—

1. Abercrave—2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
2. Brynmawr—1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
3. Cefn Coed—1st and 3rd Mondays, a.m.
4. Ystradgynlais—1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
5. Defynnock—3rd Tuesday, at 11 a.m.
6. Brecon—3rd Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
7. Hirwaun—Bethel Church Vestry, weekly, Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.

These clinics are held in—one Welfare Hall, one converted dwelling house, and one church vestry, which are all hired premises, one school and three permanent clinic premises which are owned by the Education Authority and/or the Local Health Authority.

The clinic at Hirwaun is conducted weekly by the Glamorgan County Council and persons from the Hirwaun and Penderyn portion of Breconshire attend under a joint arrangement between the two authorities.

(2) Post-Natal Clinics.

There are no specially held post-natal clinics—all patients attend the ante-natal sessions.

(3) Specialist Clinics.

There are no specialist clinics held under the auspices of the local health authority.

(4) Assistance given at Clinics in General Practitioners' Own Premises.

Assistance is not normally given at clinics held in general practitioners' own premises apart from the district nurse/midwives attending at surgeries with their patients when requested to do so.

(5) Blood Testing.

Arrangements are made for collecting blood specimens at the clinics and these are sent to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, or the Family Planning Association.

(6) Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.

Arrangements for securing accommodation in hostels, etc., for unmarried mothers are undertaken by the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Moral Welfare Worker on behalf of the local health authority. Responsibility has been accepted by the local health authority for approximately one month prior to the confinement, and the Welfare Committee has agreed to accept financial responsibility for a further two months after the birth of the infant.

(7) Mothercraft Training.

No special clinics are held for this purpose since all advice is given by the health visitors in the course of their rounds.

(8) Maternity Outfits.

Maternity outfits are distributed free of charge to expectant mothers by the midwives who are booked for the cases. The outfit provided is a standard sterilized pack, supplied by a manufacturer of surgical dressings, and contains the following:—

- 1 doz. maternity (large) pads.
- 1 doz. extra large maternity pads.
- 1 sheet gamgee tissue, 36 in. x 36 in.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. absorbant cotton wool.
- 1 sheet waterproof paper, 30 in. x 36 in.

Necessary items required for the lying in, which are not included in the maternity outfit, are provided by the midwife attending the case.

(b) Child Welfare.

Child Welfare Centres are held throughout the County at the following places and at the times shown:—

Centre and Place of Meeting.	Day and Time of Meeting.
1 Abercrave—Miners' Welfare Hall ..	2nd & 4th Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
2 Brecon—Clinic, Watton Offices ...	3rd Friday in month at 2 p.m.
3 Brynmawr—School Clinic ..	1st and 3rd Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
4 Builth Wells—Park House, Park Road Builth Wells ..	1st Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
5 Cefn Coed—School Clinic ...	1st and 3rd Monday in month at 2 p.m.
6 Clydach—Welfare Hall ..	2nd Thursday in month at 2 p.m.
7 Colbren—Miners' Welfare Hall ...	2nd Monday in month at 2 p.m.
8 Crickhowell—Senior School ..	4th Thursday in month at 1.30 p.m.
9 Cwmtwrch—Miners' Welfare Hall ..	4th Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
10 Darenfelen—Welfare Hall ..	2nd Thursday in month at 10 a.m.
11 Defynock—Reading Room, Seanybridge..	3rd Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
12 Gilwern—Church Hall ..	4th Thursday in month at 1.30 p.m.
13 Hay—Wesley Hall, Oxford Road ..	4th Thursday in month at 10 a.m.
14 Hirwaun—Bethel Church Vestry ...	Tuesdays, weekly.
15 Llanwrtyd Wells—War Mem. Institute	1st Friday in month at 2 p.m.
16 Talgarth—Town Hall ...	4th Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
17 Ystradgynlais—School Clinic ...	1st and 3rd Thursday in month at 2 p.m.

When necessary cases are referred to their own doctors or to Hospital for treatment or consultation.

The clinic held weekly at the Bethel Church Vestry, Hirwaun, is organised by the Glamorgan County Council, and mothers from the Vaynor and Penderyn district of Breconshire are catered for by arrangement with Glamorgan. Breconshire pay a proportionate cost of this clinic based on the population of the area covered and a Breconshire health visitor attends regularly.

(c) Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment for the domiciliary nursing of premature infants is held at the offices of the local health authority.

If found necessary to admit such infants to hospitals, the local hospital authority would be approached by the nurse or midwife and the greatest possible assistance would be given to arrange accommodation.

During 1952 the number of notifications of premature births in the County, after correction, was as follows:—

(a) Premature Live Births.

(1) At home	...	9
(2) At Hospital	...	36
(3) At private nursing home	...	1

(b) Premature Still Births.

(1) At home	...	5
(2) At Hospital	...	9
(3) At private nursing home	...	1

(d) Supply of Dried Milks, etc.

In Breconshire welfare foods provided under the Government Welfare Foods Scheme are distributed by the local Food Offices.

The Supply of proprietary brands of dried milk is not undertaken at the clinic. The demand for the various brands is so small that stocks would deteriorate before being used. In parts of the County there is a system of chits being used which enable Cow and Gate or Ostermilk to be purchased from the local chemists at a slightly cheaper rate. This scheme is dependent on the readiness of the local chemists to honour these vouchers or even to stock the brand of milk. Many chemists consider that the demand is so small that they do not feel it justifies them taking part in any such scheme. The majority of children in the county are fed on National Dried Milk.

The local health authority has, as an experiment for one year, commenced the supply of Scots Twin Pack cereal at clinics. This is sold for 1s. 0½d. as against the usual retail price of 1s. 4½d. per packet.

(e) Dental Care.

The demand under this heading has been small and since 1948 only three mothers have been treated. Children under school age are treated by the School Dental Staff when they attend for treatment. These cases of dental treatment required by expectant mothers were dealt with by local dentists, the cost of such treatment being borne by the local health authority.

During the year the local authority approached the school authority for permission for the School Dental Staff to devote one-eleventh of their time to the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children which had been suggested by the Ministry of Health, and this was agreed to provisionally until the need for enlarging the dental staff for this purpose manifested itself more plainly.

(f) Complicated Maternity Cases.

For selection of cases for admission to hospitals see Item 6.

6. DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

Under the provisions of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the local health authority has fulfilled its

obligations by covering its area by a sufficient number of qualified midwives to meet the needs thereof. To this end the authority has in its employ three whole time and 31 part-time midwives, giving an equivalent whole-time staff of 19 midwives available to attend upon women being confined in their own homes. In addition to these there are four private midwives and 12 hospital midwives practising in the County during 1952, the total number of practising midwives during the year being 38.

One Superintendent Nursing Officer is employed who is also the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. Periodic inspections are made to the midwives employed by the local health authority, and visits made to midwives not employed by the local health authority.

(a) Administration of Analgesics.

25 midwives employed by the local health authority are qualified to administer gas and aid analgesia to patients under their care. The authority has supplied apparatus to all the midwives. Only two of the midwives employed by the local health authority are not qualified to administer gas and air analgesia—both are considered unsuitable for training on account of age and one of these midwives will be resigning in March, 1953.

(b) Ante-Natal Supervision by Midwives.

Domiciliary midwives undertake ante-natal supervision of their patients. This supervision is backed by a comprehensive service provided by the general practitioners, the local health authority at their ante-natal clinics, and the Hospital Service. The local health authority has discontinued its scheme for the ante-natal examination of women by general practitioners since the operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The domiciliary midwives work in close co-operation with the local general practitioners undertaking maternity medical services. They attend with these patients whenever required to do so, at the doctors' surgeries. All doctors are notified of the infant's birth by the Public Health Department within a week of the notification of birth being received. This has been arranged at the instigation of the Local Medical Committee.

The selection of cases for hospital confinements is undertaken by the department. Such cases are brought to the notice of the authority in four ways:—(1) the general practitioner, (2) the Clinic Medical Officer, (3) the midwife, or (4) the patient herself. In each individual case a report is then obtained on the housing conditions (or other social defect) and consideration is given to the question of whether hospital accommodation is required. Where the request for a hospital confinement is based solely on lack of assistance, this is in some cases overcome by the provision

of domestic help, though the extent to which this help can be given depends on the domestic helps available and the accessibility of the home. Having decided that the case requires accommodation in hospital a request is then made to the most convenient hospital to book the case for accommodation.

Three hospitals in Breconshire admit maternity cases:—

Brecon War Memorial Hospital	...	2 beds.
Crickhowell War Memorial Hospital...		7 beds.
Builth Cottage Hospital	...	3 beds.

In addition accommodation is provided for Breconshire cases at the following hospitals outside the county borders:—

Hereford County Hospital.
 Blaina and District Hospital.
 St. James Hospital, Tredegar.
 Gwaunfarren Maternity Home, Merthyr Tydfil.
 St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.
 Neath General Hospital.
 Abergavenny Cottage Hospital (occasionally).
 Llandrindod County Hospital (occasionally).

In numerous instances it is necessary for a patient to be conveyed 20 or more miles to the nearest hospital where accommodation can be found and possibly the patients from Brecon Town and the surrounding countryside fare worse in this respect because of the added distance to any of the larger hospitals in the above lists.

During 1951, 519 births occurred in hospitals out of a total of 881 and for 1952, 528 births occurred in hospitals out of 859.

Generally speaking cases are not selected by the local health authority for admission to hospital on social grounds. The local health authority selections are primarily made on account of unsuitable housing conditions. Very frequently, however, practitioners succeeded in obtaining accommodation for their patients by arrangement direct with the hospital, this particularly applies in the Builth and Crickhowell areas.

(c) **Refresher Courses for Midwives.**

No midwives have undergone refresher courses apart from attendances at the Sorrento Maternity Hospital, Birmingham, to undergo training in gas and air analgesia. It has been found impracticable to spare midwives for this purpose owing to much illness among them.

(d) **Training of Pupil Midwives.**

No facilities exist for the training of pupil midwives.

7. HEALTH VISITING.

The health visiting staff consists of 1 Superintendent Nursing Officer and 24 part-time health visitors, who also act some as district nurses and/or school nurses.

The health visitors visit monthly to children under one year of age and thereafter at three monthly intervals to those between one and five years although the two year olds are visited more frequently. Health visitors are also called upon to investigate cases requiring domestic help to ease the strain of this work on the Domestic Healp Supervisor who is also the County Superintendent Nursing Officer.

In addition to health visiting of expectant and nursing mothers and young children, the health visiting staff works in close co-operation with the hospitals. When notices of discharges are received from the hospitals these are forwarded to the appropriate health visitor for the area giving the diagnosis, treatment and recommendation as to further treatment needed. In some instances the health visitor being also the district nurse undertakes any practical nursing required.

The Council has in the past offered scholarships to suitable candidates who are prepared to train for the Health Visitors Certificate. This is generally undertaken as a combined training under the auspices of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. No nurses were so trained in 1952 as there were no suitable candidates forthcoming. There are no facilities for the training of student health visitors within the County.

No arrangements have been made for refresher courses for health visitors.

8. HOME NURSING.

A whole time nursing service is provided by the local health authority. The staff consists of two whole time and 26 part time nurses giving an equivalent of 8 full time nurses. The nurses in the various districts co-operate to the fullest extent and work in conjunction with the general practitioners. The supervision of the nursing in the home is exercised by the Superintendent Nursing Officer. Liaison with the hospital and domiciliary nursing service does not generally exist in a direct nature. In the small hospitals within the County the doctors at the hospitals are normally the general practitioners who are already in close contact with the district nurses. In the case of the larger base hospitals situated outside the County the patient's doctor is aware of the requirements of discharged cases and he requests what attention is necessary. Also as in the case of health visitors, hospitals contact the department when they require domiciliary nursing of any case being discharged.

(a) **Classification and Proportion of Main Types of Cases attended by Home Nurses.**

During the year 1703 patients were nursed in the homes and 38,988 visits were made.

These cases were classified as follows:—

	Medical	Surgical	T.B.
Patients	1074	597	32
Visits made	27184	10760	1044

In future the visits paid for home nursing will be further classified to show maternal complications and infectious diseases cases.

(b) **Night Service.**

No arrangements are available for a night nursing service, though nurses are on call for 24 hours and are available in emergencies.

No nurses have undergone refresher courses.

Arrangements are made for nurses to receive training in district nursing though no nurse took advantage of this during 1952.

9. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Under the provision of Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, arrangements are made for vaccination to be carried out by general practitioners and for immunisation against diphtheria by the general practitioner and at clinics by the local health authority's Medical Officers.

Figures of persons vaccinated each year from 1948 to 1952 are given below:—

Year.	Primary Vaccination.	Re-Vaccination.
1948	89	17
1949	112	16
1950	141	25
1951	215	69
1952	170	36

Health visitors in their visits to the homes encourage the parents to avail themselves of the opportunity of having the children vaccinated.

Health Visitors also encourage the mothers to bring their children to the clinics for immunisation against diphtheria or take them to the general practitioner. Furthermore the parent of each child is sent an individual notice at about the child's eighth month urging the mother to take advantage of the facilities available. Boosting injection of diphtheria prophylactic are given at five years and again at ten years. These last two boosting injections are usually given at schools or school clinics

During the year the following number of children were immunised by the officers of the Council and by general practitioners:—

Primary immunisation	...	818
Re-inforcing doses	...	985

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

No arrangements have been made for the immunisation of children against whooping cough as a general scheme. Some doctors, however, who participate in the scheme of immunisation against diphtheria do a small amount of pertussis immunisation jointly with the injection for diphtheria.

Consideration is, however, being given to the question of inaugurating a scheme for immunisation against whooping cough.

10. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Services in the County are undertaken by the St. John's Welsh Home Ambulance Service Association who act as sole agents for the County.

Eight ambulances are used in the service, four provided directly by the authority and four provided by St. John's. All are, however, under the direct control of St. John's for operational purposes. The day to day administration is the responsibility of the County Medical Officer on behalf of the local health authority. The ambulance arrangements remain as follows:—St. John's Ambulance Stations are established at Brecon, Builth, Crickhowell, Hay and Brynmawr. In addition the local health authority has taken over the Ystradgynlais Ambulance Association with two ambulances and two whole-time drivers, which is now run under the control of St. John's.

1. Brecon Ambulances.—Two ambulances cover Brecon Borough and the whole of the Brecon Rural District.
2. Builth Ambulance covers Builth Urban, Llanwrtyd Urban, and Builth Rural District, with the exception of the parish of Llanwrthwl at the very north of the County. This ambulance will also, by arrangement with Radnorshire, in emergency cases only, continue to cover as heretofore a small area of that County adjoining Builth Urban, viz., the parishes of Llanelwedd, Llansantffraed-in-Elvei, Aberedw, Disserseth, Rhulen, Llanbadarn-y-garreg, Llanfaredd and Cregrina, Glas-cwm and Colva. Radnorshire on their part will cover for us the three Breconshire parishes of Llysdinam, Llanfihangel Brynpabuan, and Llanwrthwl in the north of the County by their ambulance from Llandrindod Wells.
3. Hay Ambulance covers Hay Urban and Hay Rural Districts, together with the Radnorshire District of Painscastle Rural and villages of Newchurch and Michaelchurch-on-Arrow.

4. Crickhowell Ambulance covers the whole of the Crickhowell Rural District, other than Clydach and Darenfelen areas.
5. Brynmawr Ambulance.—An additional ambulance for the Brynmawr, Clydach, and Darenfelen areas was provided on the 1st April, 1950, by St. John's.

The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee act as sole agents of the authority for the above areas of the County and operates the Brecon, Builth, Hay, Crickhowell and Brynmawr ambulances on terms mutually agreed and as may be approved by the Minister of Health from time to time. The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of an efficient ambulance service in these areas.

6. Ystradgynlais Ambulances.—Two ambulances owned by the local health authority in this area operate within the framework of the County Ambulance Service, are controlled by St. John's and are subject to the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Apart from what has been mentioned above in connection with Radnorshire there are two areas of the County both situated on the southern border, for which arrangements have been made for them to be covered by outside authorities as follows:—

- (a) Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District, including the Brecon Rural appendage of Hepste. Glamorgan has undertaken to cover this area in their scheme by their ambulances stationed at Seven Sisters, Glynneath and Aberdare.
- (b) The Village of Cefn Coed and the adjoining Parish of Vaynor (Pontsticill). The Borough of Merthyr Tydfil has undertaken to include this area in their ambulance scheme.

Since a considerable number of people live in the rural part of the Penderyn parish situated on the eastern border of this parish where it adjoins the parish of Vaynor but live within easy access of the main Brecon-Merthyr road, arrangements have been made that these people should be covered for ambulance purposes by the Merthyr Borough even though they actually live within part of the area for which Glamorgan has undertaken responsibility since it is much more easy to obtain ambulance transport from Merthyr and the Merthyr General Hospital is the one to which they always go when in need.

The arrangements with the Border counties have worked satisfactorily and the various difficulties which periodically arise are always smoothed out without any trouble. I think it can be considered that the scheme is working very well.

A County Ambulance Transport Committee meet regularly, and includes representatives of the County Council, the Ystradgynlais District Ambulance Association, the Regional Hospital Board, and co-opted representatives of other interested bodies, to-

gether with the Welsh Home Service Ambulance Association who operate the service.

The ambulances are mainly situated at garages under contract agreements between St. John's and the proprietors, with the exception of the Ystradgynlais ambulances which are housed in a County Council garage at which three whole-time drivers are employed by St. John's. It must be pointed out that in the Ystradgynlais area the ambulances also undertake the conveyance of all sitting case patients as well as those requiring ambulance transport.

Sitting Car Service—

This service is running quite efficiently and works as follows:—

Each medical practitioner, midwife, hospital matron, etc., is supplied with voucher books authorising journeys to be made by private car at the expense of the local health authority in all cases where by reason of physical or mental defect the patient is unable to travel by public conveyance, and the starting point is situated within the County. The charges permitted are agreed by the local health authority who advertise for tenders from car proprietors who are willing to undertake the conveyance of patients. For this purpose the County is divided into 13 areas which are covered by 10 contractors. The following table shews the contractors, the parishes covered and charges during the year ending 31st March, 1953. At Ystradgynlais, sitting patients are conveyed by the ambulances since whole-time personnel are employed. Cefn Coed and Penderyn, although not covered by an official contractor, present no difficulties, much of the work being done by the bordering authority on our behalf, and a few isolated cases are conveyed by local garage proprietors.

Area No.	Contractor.	Districts.	Terms quoted.	
			Per mile.	Waiting Time.
1.	T. J. Brown & Sons, 1, George St., Brynmawr.	Brynmawr, Darenfelen, & Clydach.	11d.	2/6d.
2.	A. Parry, Cynidr House, Llangynidr.	Llangynidr, Bwlch, and Cwmdu.	11d.	2/6d.
	(Has also made arrangements with Woodford, Cwmdu, so as to cut costs of journeys in Cwmdu District.)			
3.	J. A. Ward (Motor-sprays), 13, Danycrug, Crickhowell.	Crickhowell, Gilwern, Grwynefawr, Grwynefechan, Llanbedr, Llangattock, Llangenny, Partrishow.	11d.	2/6d.

Area No.	Contractor.	Districts.	Terms quoted. Per mile.	Waiting Time.
4.	Mrs. M. Williams, County Garage, The Watton, Brecon.	Borough of Brecon, Parishes of Merthyr Cynog, Llanddew, Llandefaelogfach, Battle, Aberyscir, Vennyfach, Llanspyddid, St. David's Without, Glyn, Modrydd, Cantref, Llanfrynach, Llanhamlach, Llanwern, Llansantffraed, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llangasty Talyllyn, Cathedine, Llangorse, Llanfillo, and Llanfigan (excepting Torpantau) and Llandetty (excepting Pontsticill and Dolygaer).	10d.	3/-
5.	T. C. Davies, Drug Stores, Sennybridge.	Parishes of Llandeilorfan, Llanfihangel Nantbran, Trallong, Ysclydach, Traianmawr, Traianglas, Cray, Senny, Maescar, and Penpont.	1/-	No charge
6.	No tenders.	Vaynor, Penderyn and		
7.		Ystradfellte.		
8.	D. C. Hill, Ffynonau, Llanwrtyd.	Urban District of Llanwrtyd, and Parishes of Llanwrtyd Without, Llandulas, Penbualt, Gwarafof, Llanafanfechan, Llanlleonfell, Llanafanfawr, Llanfihangel Abergwessin, Llandewi Abergwessin, Treffis.	1/-	2/6d.
9.	Lewis Bros., The Garage, Garth Road, Builth Wells.	Urban District of Builth and Parishes of Rhosferig, Llanganten, Llanynis, Maesmynis, Llangynog, Llandewi'r Cwm and Alltmawr.	10d.	2/6d.
10.	E. D. Morgan, Dolgai, Llanwrthwl.	Llanwrthwl, Llysdinam (Breconshire) and Llanfihangel Brynpabuan.	10d.	No charge
11.	H. V. Webb & Sons, Lion Garage, Hay-on-Wye.	Urban District of Hay, and Parishes of Hay Rural, Llanigon, and Tregoyd and Velindre.	9½d.	2/6d.
12.*	Davies & Son, Wye Garage, Llyswen.	Talgarth, Llanellieu, Llandefalle (Southern half), Bronllys, Aberlynfi and Pipton.	10d.	2/6d.
13.*	Ditto.	Llyswen, Gwenddwr, Crickadarn, Llandefalle (Northern half).	10d.	2/6d.

* (When any single journey exceeds a total of 60 miles in one day there will be no charge for waiting.)

No tenders were received in respect of Districts No. 6 and 7—Vaynor, Penderyn, and Ystradfellte—but the Sub-Committee understand that the firm providing the cars for this service are prepared to continue on terms which differ very little from the foregoing contracts.

The Sub-Committee would point out that no tenders were invited and, therefore, no contracts entered into in respect of the Ystradgynlais District, in view of the fact that this district is at present adequately covered by the County Council's ambulances operating in that district.

The Ambulance Service in Breconshire has no 24-hour central control but on the whole the service operates very smoothly indeed, in spite of this. Much consideration has been given to the question of central control and the question has also been subjected to considerable investigation by officers of the Welsh Board of Health and Ministry of Health, with the conclusion that a compromise has been arranged whereby a 24-hour service is guaranteed by the garages, and the County Health Department can act as central control during office hours. Calls for sitting cars during the day are normally made from hospitals outside the County to the County Health Department or to one of the ambulance stations. Requests from doctors within the County are made direct to the various contractors.

As a result of consultations, it was decided to incorporate a further clause in the contracts that all journeys of 50 miles or more should be authorised by the local health authority before being undertaken.

This condition has enabled the local health authority to combine a considerable number of journeys (thereby reducing the cost accordingly).

Doctors and hospitals are from time to time reminded of economy and letters have been repeatedly written to hospitals requesting them to change times of appointments in order to fit in more than one patient in a car proceeding to the hospital.

The inconvenience and remote situation of many dwellings must have a direct bearing on the demand for transport under this scheme and although general practitioners are being constantly informed of this, it is inevitable that it must tend to increase the demand.

There does not appear to be any deliberate abuse of the scheme, which the local health authority supervises very carefully for any irregularities. Apart from the above, there were no difficulties encountered. No new equipment was brought into use during the year.

Since the inception of the scheme, the demands made upon the services have steadily increased and the following figures are given for the sake of comparison:—

Ambulances.

Year.	No. of journeys.	Patients carried.	Miles.
1948 ($\frac{1}{2}$ year)	669	1040	22107
1949	1216	2475	52668
1950	1395	2913	67874
1951	1697	3734	72684
1952	1775	4100	72231

Sitting Case Cars.

Year.	No. of journeys.	Patients carried.	Miles.
1948 ($\frac{1}{2}$ year)			
1949	2064	2129	63045
1950	2690	2736	84205
1951	3577	5804	107172
1952	4223	8693	119638

11. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Under this heading comes the after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defectiveness, all types of illnesses, the provision of equipment and apparatus (medical comforts) required for nursing the patients in the homes, and accommodation in the recuperation homes. The local health authority, as was the case previously, is responsible for the provision of extra nourishment and clothes for the patient and his family, except in the case of patients who are in receipt of National Assistance, when these items would be the responsibility of the National Assistance Board. Provision of out-door shelters, special beds and bedding, and other nursing requisites, etc., is the concern of the local health authority, and applicants for any of these services are dealt with by furnishing them with forms on which they must enter particulars of all members of the family, income, etc. When assistance is given, it is either free of charge or on whole or part payment by the patient. The amount of payment to be made by the patient is assessed on an income scale adopted by the local health authority and approved by the Ministry of Health.

Such items as wheel-chairs and crutches are provided by the County Council if the need is a temporary one, but if the necessity is likely to be permanent, then the responsibility for the provision of the articles rests with the Regional Hospital Board, such items being supplied through the Ministry of Pensions. Any applications of this nature are forwarded by this Department to the appropriate Hospital Management Committee requesting them to deal with the case.

(1) Tuberculosis—

Where necessary, the local health authority will provide tuberculosis patients with shelters on loan, though only one

application has ever been received for such assistance. The health visitors visit households in which there are tuberculosis patients and offer advice as to contacts and preventive measures which should be taken by them. Cases of bad housing conditions are referred to the local housing authorities and extra nourishment can be provided by the local health authority for them.

The local health authority, with the Regional Hospital Board, arrange for the joint appointment of a medical officer who is employed in connection with the local health authority's services in relation to the prevention of illness, care and after-care of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Chest Physician at Brecon undertakes the work of B.C.G. vaccination in the County area under his control and the following cases have been vaccinated:—

1951 99 cases vaccinated.

1952 43 „ „

The Domestic Help Scheme under Section 29 also plays its part in the prevention of illness, care and after-care of these cases.

(2) Illness Generally.

Arrangements exist for the follow-up of all cases discharged from hospital and work in the after-care of patients is closely linked with the Domestic Help and Home Nursing Services.

Nursing equipment and apparatus are loaned to patients in accordance with a scale of assessment, but such items as air rings, bedrests, etc., are issued on loan free of charge. Items are loaned through St. John's, when the local health authority pay the loan charges, and also items have been purchased and loaned direct by the authority. As well as meeting the actual loan charges for the nursing equipment and apparatus, the local health authority has assisted the St. John's Association by allowing the use of suitable premises for storage and paying half the cost of improving these premises by installation of water and light.

During the year the following action was taken by the local health authority in regard to applications received for assistance. There is no doubt that the St. John's Association meet quite a number of requests for assistance by direct arrangement between the Association and the applicant, and the local health authority has no knowledge of this.

No. of cases.	Articles supplied or action taken.
2	Air beds.
1	Invauid chair (temporary).
2	Bed rests, bed pans, bed cradles, bed trays, urinals.
1	Bed chair.
1	Hospital type bed with lifting pole and rubber mattress.

5	Air rings.
13	Extra nourishment.
7	Period at convalescent home.
12	Referred to appropriate authority, i.e. National Assistance Board, Hospital, etc.
1	Over scale.
2	Application withdrawn.

In addition to the above known applications, the nurses have for their own use such items as air rings and rubber sheeting which are loaned to patients.

Orthopaedic Work.

The treatment of orthopaedic cases is undertaken and the services of Mr. A. O. Parker, the orthopaedic specialist, Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, who is an officer of the Regional Hospital Board, are available. A full time orthopaedic sister, Miss I. B. Leefe, is on the staff of the local health authority.

Miss Leefe works in the fullest co-operation with the Hospital Service and assists at Mr. Parker's operation sessions at Brecon Hospital; the Hospital Management Committee re-imburses the local health authority for her services.

Primarily the scheme for orthopaedic treatment affords treatment for school children since before the National Health Service Act, it was a scheme sponsored by the Education Committee for school children. This is gradually including adults which are referred to the orthopaedic sister by general practitioners though the treatment and supervision of adults must of necessity remain a very small proportion in view of the demands already made upon Miss Leefe's services by the school and under school age children.

Mr. Parker pays special visits to the clinics arranged by the authority as required and during 1952 the following centre was visited showing the cases referred:—

Brecon, 3.10.52	No. seen	Hos. pital.	X-Ray.	Domi- cili- ary.	Observ.	No. treat- ment.
School age	44	1	1	30	5	7
Under School age	22	1	—	18	2	1
Totals	66	2	1	48	7	8

Venereal Disease.

The authority's health visitors are available for the visiting of these cases to encourage them to keep up their attendances at special clinics and continue with the prescribed treatment.

Apart from any assistance as above the treatment of V.D. has been transferred to the Regional Hospital Board. There are no treatment centres in the County and patients attend at Swansea General Hospital, Hereford General Hospital, Newport, Royal Infirmary, Cardiff Royal Infirmary and Mardy Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

During the year the following cases were known to be treated:—

1. Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from—

	Swansea Gen. Hosp.	
Syphilis	...	Nil
Soft Chancre	...	Nil
Gonorrhoea	...	Nil
Conditions other than venereal		Nil

2. Total number of attendances of all patients residing in the area—Swansea, 27.

Treatment under provision of Ministry of Health Circular 2226.

At doctors' surgeries:—

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea		Other Conditions.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases seen for first time	—	1	—	—	—	—
No. discharged after treatment	...	1	—	—	—	—
Total attendances	...	1	7	—	—	—

Syphilis.

No. of specimens sent to a pathological laboratory 3

No information has been received from the other hospitals as to the number of persons dealt with, etc.

12. DOMESTIC HELP.

Probably no service has been the cause of more controversy than this one, which is the most expensive service run by the Health Department. Help is given in cases of confinement, general illness (including tuberculosis) and chronic sick on a doctor's certificate and a visit from the Superintendent Nursing Officer acting as Domestic Help Supervisor.

All domestic helps are employed on a part-time basis and are paid on a hourly rate in respect of the work undertaken.

At the end of 1952 the number of part-time domestic helps on the roll was 79 and the number of cases helped was 134. Their supervision is undertaken by the Superintendent Nursing Officer, who used to visit each case personally to decide on the number of

hours of help required before the domestic help was sent in, but the work has grown so enormously that much of it has to be delegated to the health visitors and nurses.

The cost of the Service to date is over £6000 a year and patients' contributions are insignificant. The scheme has worked well, but is dependent entirely on the number of women offering their services and this has been most unequal throughout the County. The result has been that whereas the Service can be said to fulfil requirements on the southern border it is unequal over the remainder of the County.

Since 1949 the following cases have been provided with domestic help.

	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Others		6	3	5
Tuberculosis cases	} 122	54	41	35
Confinement cases		68	89	94
	—	—	—	—
Totals	122	128	133	134

The authority employs no whole-time domestic helps.

13. HEALTH EDUCATION.

Work under this heading is undertaken by the health visitors who give advice in the homes. The local health authority has no official scheme or special staff for this purpose.

14. MENTAL HEALTH.

In accordance with the proposals under Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the responsibility in respect of mental illness and mental defectiveness has been assumed by the Mental Health Sub-Committee which is a sub-committee of the Health Committee, as follows:—

(1) Administration.

(a) Committee responsible for Service.

Mental Health Sub-Committee.

(b) Number and Qualifications of Staff employed in the Mental Health Service.

Dr. W. F. W. Betenson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., County Medical Officer of Health, is responsible for the work of ascertainment of mental defectives and administration. Assistance is given by two Assistant Medical Officers, Dr. D. W. T. Harris, L.R.C.M., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., D.P.H., and Dr. C. M. Evans, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., who have recently been approved by the Council to act as approved doctors in the certification of mental defectives.

One Psychiatric Social Worker is employed by the Border Hospital Management Committee (Regional Hospital Board) who also gives part of her services to Breconshire patients. Breconshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire, together with the Regional Hospital Board, have an agreement whereby each contributes a proportion of the salary of this officer.

Five Duly Authorised Officers, residue of the Relieving Officer staff prior to 1949, are engaged throughout the County, and these work in the five areas as follows:—

- (1) Brecon and Sennybridge.
- (2) Brynmawr and Crickhowell.
- (3) Builth and Talgarth.
- (4) Ystradgynlais.
- (5) Vaynor and Penderyn.

These officers give part-time service only and they are also Welfare Officers and Registrars of Births and Deaths.

Although these officers only give part-time service in the Mental Health field those at Brecon, Brynmawr, and Hay are actually whole-time officials of the Council, transferred from the Public Assistance staff, whereas those at Vaynor and Penderyn, and Ystradgynlais are only part-time officials, appointed since 1948.

(c) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Committees.

One Psychiatric Social Worker is employed in conjunction with the Board's Hospital Management Committee,

Doubtful cases of mental deficiency are referred to the psychiatrist. In this connection the Medical Superintendent of the Mid Wales Mental Hospital gives every possible help.

Patients on trial from Mental Hospitals are supervised by the Psychiatrist Social Worker, and in some instances patients on licence from institutions for mental defectives are also visited by her. Visits are also made by the health visitors for the area to mental defectives on licence.

(d) Duties of the Local Health Authority under the Mental Treatment Act, Lunacy Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts, are carried out directly by officers of the Council, no duties being delegated to voluntary associations.

(e) Training of Staff.

No arrangements exist for the training of staff.

(2) Account of work undertaken in the Community.

(a) Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946.

No occasion has arisen whereby the function of Section 28 has been necessary on account of mental illness or mental defectiveness. The services of domestic helps have, however, been

allowed on account of the presence of a mental defective in the household.

(b) Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 to 1930, by Duly Authorised Staff.

During the year the duly authorised officers carried out the necessary duties under Section 14 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, to effect the certification of patients under Section 16 and subsequent removal to Mental Hospitals in the following cases:—

Brecon and District	...	1
Brynmawr and Crickhowell Districts		1
Builth and Talgarth Districts	...	5
Ystradgynlais District	...	4
Vaynor and Penderyn District	...	2

The following cases were also admitted to hospitals and in all cases the services of the duly authorised officers were available where required:—

Voluntary cases	...	66
Temporary cases	...	3
Urgency orders	...	Nil

The following figures give the numbers of Breconshire patients in hospitals under the provisions of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts as at 31/12/52:—

	Mid Wales Hospital, Talgarth.	Other Hospitals.
Certified cases	145	8
Voluntary cases	39	6
Temporary cases	—	—

Only in one instance was it found necessary to seek the assistance of the County Medical Officer and in this instance the patient, being a child under 16 years, was admitted to hospital as a voluntary case. On his discharge from hospital he was removed from his foster parents' care and placed in the Authority's Home for Children at Maesyderi, Abercrave.

On the 31st December, 1952, there were registered in the County the following mental defectives:—

	Under 16.		Aged 16 and over.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under statutory supervision	...	4 4	47	40
Under guardianship	...	— —	—	—
In a "place of safety"	...	— —	—	—
In institutions (including those on licence)	...	2 2	7	21
Totals	...	<u>6 6</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>61</u>

(c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

(1) The ascertainment of mental defectives is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. W. F. W. Betenson) and by the Assistant Medical Officer (Dr. D. W. T. Harris), who has been approved by the Board of Education to undertake the ascertainment of mental defective children in accordance with Section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944.

Mental defectives under statutory supervision and on licence are visited by the health visitors or in some instances by the Psychiatric Social Worker.

(2) Guardianship.

There are no patients under guardianship within the administrative county of Breconshire, neither are there any Breconshire cases under guardianship elsewhere.

(3) Arrangements for carrying out the statutory duty to provide occupation and training for defectives in the area.

The local health authority has no occupation or industrial centres for adults nor any method of home teaching.

Mental Hospitals.

The Regional Hospital Board has one hospital in the County, viz., the Mid Wales Hospital, Talgarth.

The Mid Wales Hospital, Talgarth, is recognised as a place of safety under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and patients in need of control can, therefore, be admitted and detained there for not more than three days. The hospital has accommodation for both males and females.

St. David's Hospital, Brecon, is recognised as a place of safety under Section 15 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

Table III.—Vital Statistics.

Causes of Death in the Separate Districts of the County during the year 1952.

Cause of Death.	URBAN					RURAL					TOTAL	
	Brecon	Brynmawr	Builth Wells	Hay	Llanwtyd Wells	Brecon	Builth	Crickhowell	Hay	Vaynor and Penderyn		Ystradgynlais
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	3	8
2 Tuberculosis, Other ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
3 Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
4 Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	7	3	4	...	...	2	1	3	...	1	1	22
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	3	9
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	1	1	2	12
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	4
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	6	9	1	...	1	12	2	9	4	3	12	61
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16 Diabetes ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	12	16	4	1	3	16	6	7	5	14	17	101
18 Coronary Disease, Angina ...	20	8	7	...	1	13	3	4	4	6	14	80
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	5
20 Other Heart Disease ...	12	17	7	10	4	15	17	22	14	14	15	147
21 Other Circulatory Disease ...	2	1	...	1	1	5	1	3	...	4	14	32
22 Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
23 Pneumonia ...	1	4	...	1	...	2	1	2	...	...	2	13
24 Bronchitis ...	1	7	1	1	...	1	...	3	...	5	8	27
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	10	15
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	5
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	5
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	8
29 Hyperplasia of Prostrate ...	1	1	...	1	...	2	1	1	1	2	1	11
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31 Congenital Malformations ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
32 Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	5	10	...	3	...	3	2	7	1	10	10	51
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	1	1	7
34 All Other Accidents ...	2	4	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	4	15
35 Suicide ...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	4	1	...	...	8
36 Homicide and Operations of War ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	79	88	27	21	11	85	40	73	34	74	132	664
Totals, 1951 ...	95	108	20	24	6	80	50	100	34	89	138	744

Table V.—Tuberculosis.

Summary of Notifications during the period from 1st January, 1952, to 31st December, 1952.

		Notification on Form A.											Total (All Ages).		
		Number of Primary Notifications.													
Age Periods	...	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 and upwards	
Respiratory—Males...	...	...	...	2	2	...	3	2	1	3	2	1	...	...	16
" Females	...	...	1	...	1	2	3	5	4	2	...	...	...	...	20
Non-Respiratory—Males	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" Females	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	9
Totals ...	...	2	1	4	6	4	7	9	7	5	2	1	..	..	48

Table IV.—Notifiable Diseases, 1952.

DISTRICT	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox	Malaria	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Para Typhoid	TOTALS
Brecon Urban	..	3	..	..	11	1	1	..	..	..	210	3	..	..	..	..	1	68	75
Brynmawr Urban	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	1	251
Builth Wells Urban	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hay Urban	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Brecon Rural	2	25	..	3	1	..	..	29	61
Builth Rural	..	7	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Crickhowell Rural	..	9	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	38	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Hay Rural	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6
Ystradgynlais Rural	31	25	..	..	..	..	..	27	83
Totals	..	35	2	1	14	1	2	..	..	1	285	138	..	3	1	1	1	133	618
Total, 1951	..	48	2	..	38	4	2	..	..	1	464	139	..	..	..	2	2	..	702

DISTRICT	Pre-Natal Visits		First Visits		Re-Visits		Special Visits		Other Visits					Totals
	First Visits.	Re-Visits	To Infants under one year	To Children one to five years	To Infants under one year	To Children one to five years	To Infants under one year	To Children one to five years	Still Births.	Tuberculosis	Mental Defectives	Blind	Others.	
Brecon Urban and Rural (Part)	16	42	61	1	713	1020	..	..	..	142	26	..	29	2050
Brynmawr Urban	2	..	48	3	474	482	1	1	3	129	9	..	38	1190
Builth Urban and Rural (Part)	8	2	31	6	144	216	11	5	1	34	3	..	4	465
Hay Urban and Rural (Part)	..	..	15	7	310	283	6	8	..	37	..	..	502	1168
Llanwrtyd Urban and Builth Rural (Part)	1	..	19	3	130	182	17	6	1	23	3	..	4	389
Brecon Rural & Crickhowell Rural (Part)	1	..	69	14	994	2179	12	2	..	97	7	..	..	3375
Brecon Rural (Dyvynock, etc.)	..	..	20	..	70	136	1	..	2	41	..	..	16	286
Brecon Rural (Part)	2	..	27	5	131	115	..	1	..	6	2	..	8	297
Builth Rural and Hay Rural (Erwood and Llyswen)	..	..	6	..	123	368	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	497
Builth Rural (Llanwrthwl)	..	..	..	1	14	98	2	8	..	3	..	..	..	126
Builth Rural (Llwyumadoc)	..	..	7	..	127	112	7	5	..	6	..	..	30	294
Builth Rural (Llysdinam, etc.)	..	1	2	7	6	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Crickhowell Rural (Clydach and Gilwern)	..	..	22	..	92	66	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	197
Crickhowell Rural (Darenfelen)	..	..	11	..	49	33	..	..	..	11	2	..	..	106
Crickhowell Rural (Glynfsoh)	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hay Rural and Brecon Rural (Talgarth, etc.)	..	..	39	4	354	254	..	..	..	106	12	..	31	800
Hay Rural (Glasbury and Llanigon)	..	..	13	1	201	198	8	9	..	9	3	..	100	542
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural	..	..	95	5	491	809	22	..	3	258	8	..	32	1723
Ystradgynlais Rural (Part)	1	..	139	36	1305	1235	..	7	3	169	15	21	107	3038
Ystradgynlais Rural (Abercrave)	..	..	26	..	707	430	..	..	4	145	36	..	51	1399
Ystradgynlais Rural (Colbren)	..	..	11	..	556	332	..	..	..	29	..	..	640	1568
Relief Nurses	2	1	92	91	11	1	..	3	2	..	16	219
TOTAL	31	45	664	94	7083	5669	98	53	17	1265	128	21	1608	19776

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