

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Brynmawr U.D.C.

Contributors

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Whitehall

BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman, 1944.

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Vice-Chairman, 1944.

Chairman, 1945.

Councillor J.B. Jones

Public Health, Health

Committee

Councillor T. Parry



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL  
OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

1944.

COUNCIL

COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Western Ward.

Eastern Ward.

COUNCIL

COUNCIL

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COUNCIL

COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Public Health Officers of the  
Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health  
(Part-time).

Dr. S.H. Chopra, M.B.C.S.,  
F.R.C.S.D.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods.

D.T. Jones, M.B.I.A., Cert.R.B.I.  
and S.I.E.V.D. (Designated July,  
1944.)

B.V. Hall, M.B.I.A., Cert.R.B.I.  
and S.I.E.V.D. (Appointed  
October, 1944.)

Surveyor.

H.E. Morris Parry, A.S.I., Cert.S.S.,  
S.S., Inter.  
(Designated September, 1944.)

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BRYNMAWR.

November, 1945.

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BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman, 1944. Councillor T. Parry, J.P.  
Vice-Chairman, 1944. Councillor J.E. Jones.  
Chairman, 1944. Public Health, Housing & Highways  
Committee:-  
Councillor T. Parry, J.P.

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MEMBERS.

North Eastern Ward.

Counc. R.J. Rowson.  
Counc. T.J. Minton.  
Counc. Tom Parry, J.P.

South Eastern Ward.

Counc. H.C. Jones.  
Counc. Frank Bush.  
Counc. Mrs. C.M. Gardner.

Central Ward.

Counc. W. Heaton.  
Counc. Gurnos Jones.  
Counc. Denias Smith.

Western Ward.

Counc. B.W. Jones.  
Counc. J.E. Jones.  
Counc. James Lewis.  
Counc. V. Purnell.

Southern Ward.

Counc. W.M. Jenkins.  
Counc. J.R. Morgan.  
Counc. J.T. Harding.  
Counc. T.H. Davies.

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Public Health Officers of the  
Local Authority.

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Medical Officer of Health  
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L.R.C.P.

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October, 1944.)

Surveyor.

D.E. Morris Parry, A.M.I. Struct. E.,  
B.Sc., Inter.  
(Resigned September, 1944).

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To the Chairman and Members of the Brynmawr  
Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighth  
Annual Report upon the Sanitary circumstances of  
the District, the health of the people and the  
work of the Public Health Department, during the  
year 1944.

The Registrar General's estimate of the  
population of the District is 6,281.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members  
of the Council for their helpful consideration and  
co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

S.N. Chopra.

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

---

Brynmawr has always been the dormitory town for the adjoining mining areas and the depression in these districts has had its effect on the Urban District, but the establishment of War-time Industries has absorbed most of the men and women who were formerly unemployed.

It is impossible to keep records for Overcrowding Purposes for this reason, and it is hoped that provision will be made in our plans for post-war reconstruction for dealing with the housing shortage in districts such as ours which do not attract the speculative builder, with the result that the whole of the burden of providing additional houses falls on the Local Authority.

The exposed position of the area has the effect of making dampness in houses a serious problem and this dampness is the cause of a considerable number of cases of rheumatism and respiratory diseases. A large percentage of the working class dwellings in the district are badly in need of reconditioning or repair and whilst owners of the property referred to are being prevailed upon to put their property in repair, the bulk of the work will have to be left until the cessation of hostilities, when there will be a supply of labour and materials available. However, in the meantime, every effort is being made by our Sanitary Inspector in this direction.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to the Rate Books was:- 1,770.

The Rateable Value of the District is £20,295.

The Product of a Penny Rate for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1944 is £74.

|                 |               |            |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Rates in the £. | General Rate. | £1. 1. Od. |
|                 | Water Rate.   | 1s.0d.     |
|                 | Total.        | £1. 2. Od. |

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Birth Rate.



## GENERAL.

Infectious Diseases reported were:-

|                                |                           |      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Scarlet Fever.                 | 21. Measles.              | 10.  |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever. | Nil. Pneumonia.           | 18.  |
| Whooping Cough.                | 24. Cerebro Spinal Fever. | Nil. |
| Diphtheria.                    | 2. Puerperal Pyrexia.     | Nil. |
| Erysipelas.                    | 1. Ophthalmia Neonotorum. | 1.   |
| Small Pox.                     | Nil.                      |      |

## SECTION B.

Laboratory Facilities:- Monmouthshire County Council,  
Public Health Department,  
Newport.

Ambulance Facilities:- No change.

Nursing in the Home:- No change.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:- No change.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary:- No change.

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) WATER. The District is supplied with water from the Reservoir on the Llangattock Mountain, which is fed from the upland gathering grounds. When the need arises, this supply is augmented by pumping a supply of water into the Reservoir from the Clydach Springs, by means of a Blackstone Engine which pumps 12,000 gallons per hour. However, it was NOT necessary to resort to pumping during this year.

The supply is, therefore, satisfactory in quantity.

The water is chlorinated after sand filtration and is of a satisfactory quality. Frequent samples are taken from the raw water reservoir, valve chambers, storage tanks and household supplies and submitted to the Laboratory of the Monmouthshire County Council for Bacteriological and Chemical examination. During 1944, a total of 19 samples were taken and proved to be satisfactory.



The last report for 1944 on the treated water is given below:-

#### CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

|                                                            |                    |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Appearance:                                                | Clear & sparkling  |                        |
| Colour:                                                    | Green.             |                        |
| Reaction:                                                  | pH 8.0 (Alkaline). |                        |
| Free and saline Ammonia:                                   | 0.001              | parts per 100,000.     |
| Albuminoid Ammonia:                                        | 0.012.             | do.                    |
| Oxygen absorbed from Potassium Permanganate after 4 hours: | 0.196              | do.                    |
| Chlorides:                                                 | 0.9                | do.                    |
| Nitrates:                                                  | Less than 0.01     | do.                    |
| Nitrites:                                                  | Absent             | do.                    |
| Total Solids:                                              | 14                 | do.                    |
| Fixed Solids:                                              | 2                  | do.                    |
| Volatile Solids:                                           | 12                 | do.                    |
| Total Hardness:                                            | 7.9                | Degrees Clark's Scale. |
| Permanent Hardness:                                        | 5.7                | do.                    |
| Temporary Hardness:                                        | 2.2                | do.                    |
| Poisonous Metals:                                          | Not detected.      |                        |
| Test for plumbo-solvency:                                  |                    |                        |

This sample of water, after being in contact with lead for 24 hours, contains 1.82 grains of lead per gallon of water.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Blood-Heat organisms: | 4 per ml.               |
| B. Coli:              | Absent from 100 ml.     |
| Streptococci:         | Not detected in 60 ml.  |
| B. Enteritidis        |                         |
| Sporogenes:           | Not detected in 100 ml. |

#### REMARKS:

Chemically and bacteriologically this sample of water is satisfactory.

From this typical report, it will be observed that no form of contamination was noted.

#### Particulars regarding water services in the Urban Area.

|                                                             |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Total number of dwelling houses                             | 1,770. |
| (Estimated population).                                     | 6,281. |
| Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains: | 1,714. |
| (Estimated number of persons supplied).                     | 6,057. |
| Number of dwelling houses <u>not</u> supplied from mains.   | 56.    |
| (Estimated number of persons <u>not</u> supplied).          | 224.   |



In all dwelling houses supplied from the public water mains, the service is direct to the house - there are not any properties supplied by means of standpipes.

It will be noted that the percentage of dwelling houses in this area not served by public water services is 3.3%, while the percentage of population not served is 0.87%.

The dwellings not supplied are properties widely separated in isolated parts of the Urban Area, and situated above the level of the Reservoir. These houses and farms take supplies from mountain springs and these are periodically inspected.

#### SECTION D.

##### Housing Statistics.

##### Public Health.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.
  - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts). . . . . 160.
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. . . . . 340.
  - (2) (a) Number of dwellings (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925. . . . . 36.
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. . . . . 36.
  - (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation. (Scheduled for proposed Clearance). 120.
  - (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 127.
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.
 

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers. 31



### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

#### (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after the service of Formal Notices.

(a) By owners ..... Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

#### (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 127.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices.

(a) By owners ..... 96.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owner. .... Nil.

Many difficulties were experienced in remedying defects in houses. Contractors were generally anxious to carry out repairs for owners, but were delayed, owing to labour shortage and scarcity of some building materials.

#### (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. .... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. .... Nil.

(3) Number left standing pursuant to Circular 1366. .... 22.

#### (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. .... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit. .... Nil.

### 4. (a) Housing Act, 1936. Part (iv) - Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year. See Section .....A - Page 3.

2. Number of families dwelling therein. "

3. Number of persons dwelling therein. "



- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. .... See Section .....A -Page 3.
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. .... Nil.  
Number of persons concerned in such cases.... Nil.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. .... Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to report. .... Nil.

Influx of evacuated persons and lack of Housing accommodation has made this problem of major importance during the year. This problem still continues.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Council Houses. | Infested - Nil.                     |
| Other Houses.   | Infested - 15.<br>Disinfested - 15. |

All infested premises are visited by the Sanitary Inspector who decides on methods of disinfection to be adopted. Bed Bugs are usually dealt with by fumigation, followed by spraying with liquid insecticide.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### Milk Supply.

|                                         |         |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| Number of cowsheds on the Register.     | ... 6.  |
| Number of Retail-Purveyors on Register. | ... 16. |

Every effort has been made by the Sanitary Inspector to ensure the production of as clean a supply as possible.

21 Visits have been made to cowsheds and dairies in the area. Instructions and advice where necessary have been given to Producers regarding the production of a clean milk. All Dairies have been inspected having regard to general cleanliness and sterilization of utensils. Those Dairymen in whose premises hygienic precautions were not being observed were warned and consequent improvements noted. It was not necessary to resort to Legal Proceedings.

10 samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis, 5 of which were satisfactory. In the cases where unsatisfactory samples were obtained, the matter was taken up with the milk vendors and with the producers, through the Sanitary Inspectors of the Districts in which the milk was produced.



### Meat and Other Foods.

The Heathcote Abattoir, which has been taken over by the Ministry of Food for the duration of the War, serves the whole of the meat supply for the five Urban Districts of Abertillery, Abercarn, Blaenavon, Nantyglo and Blaina and Brynmawr, and a large proportion of our Sanitary Inspector's time has to be devoted to Meat Inspection as a 100% inspection is being maintained.

The following is a table showing the number of animals killed and inspected at the Heathcote Abattoir, together with particulars of meat condemned:-

|                                                                         | Cattle. | Calves. | Sheep.  | Pigs. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| No. of animals killed and inspected.                                    | 1,281.  | 1,160.  | 21,806. | 50.   |
| Whole carcasses condemned for diseases other than T.B.                  | 61.     | 1.      | 32.     | 8.    |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned except T.B.         | 323.    | -       | 1,111.  | -     |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected by diseases other than T.B. | 29.9    | .09.    | 5.2     | 16.0  |
| Whole Carcasses affected by Tuberculosis.                               | 13.     | -       | -       | -     |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned for T.B.            | 127.    | -       | -       | -     |
| Percentage affected by T.B.                                             | 10.9.   | 0       | 0       | 0     |

### Other Foods.

The number of food shops in the area is given below:-

|                 |                |                                                                    |                     |                                           |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <u>Grocers.</u> | <u>Bakers.</u> | <u>General Stores</u><br><u>including</u><br><u>Green-grocers.</u> | <u>Fish Friers.</u> | <u>Catering</u><br><u>Establishments.</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|

|     |    |     |    |    |
|-----|----|-----|----|----|
| 31. | 4. | 60. | 5. | 6. |
|-----|----|-----|----|----|

Routine inspections have been made of all food shops, warehouses, food manufacturing and preparing establishments. All unsound foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered to the S.I., and those capable of being salvaged were returned to the wholesaler, on the instruction of the Ministry of Food.



## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

-----

During the year the Public Health Department of the Urban District Authority has continued arrangements for the immunisation of the children. Accordingly the Medical Officer of Health attended the clinic at regular intervals and, with the help and co-operation of the School Nurse (Nurse King) and the District Nurse, the majority of the school children were immunised. There still remains the problem of getting hold of the children under 5. Intensive propaganda and canvassing is still being carried on, with the hope that mothers will co-operate and bring their children for immunisation. The Public Health Department of the Local Authority is doing its utmost to bring home to the mothers the urgency of having their infants immunised against diphtheria. Many personal appeals and leaflets were sent to the Public, and I am glad to say that the response to our appeal has been most encouraging.

The Council is anxious to facilitate every possible means of assisting the public of Brynmawr in the matter, and I congratulate the Members of the Council on their keen interest in the matter.

Number of children, who at 31st December, 1944 had received a full course of immunisation:-

|                                        |   |      |
|----------------------------------------|---|------|
| Age under 5 years                      | - | 393. |
| Age 5 years and over,<br>but under 15. | - | 981. |

#### Percentage of child population immunised.

Estimated population of children at 31st December, 1944.

|                    |                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Age under 5 years. | Age 5 years and over, but<br>under 15. |
| 430.               | 1,043.                                 |

Estimated percentage of child population who had received a complete course of immunisation:-

|                    |                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Age under 5 years. | Age 5 years and over, but<br>under 15. |
| 91.3%.             | 95%.                                   |

The incidence of infectious diseases was not high and in spite of the war conditions, the health of the general public is very good. There was a mild epidemic of scarlet fever and whooping cough during the year. Two cases of diphtheria were reported during the year, as compared to 11 in 1943 - only one case of mild clinical diphtheria occurred in a child who was previously immunised.



SECTION 2.

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The Council is anxious to facilitate every possible means of assisting the public of Epsom and the district and I congratulate the members of the Council on their keen interest in the matter.

Number of children, who at 31st December, 1944 had received a full course of immunisation:

| Age under 5 years | Age 5 years and over, but under 15 |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 305               | 301                                |

Percentage of child population immunised.

Estimated population of children at 31st December, 1944.

| Age under 5 years. | Age 5 years and over, but under 15. |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 430                | 1,043                               |

Estimated percentage of child population who had received a complete course of immunisation:

| Age under 5 years. | Age 5 years and over, but under 15. |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 81.3%              | 96%                                 |

The incidence of infectious diseases was not high in spite of the war conditions. The health of the general public is very good. There was a mild epidemic of scarlet fever and whooping cough during the year. Two cases of diphtheria were reported during the year, as compared to 11 in 1943 - only one case of mild clinical diphtheria occurred in a child who was previously immunised.

Notifiable Diseases other than  
Tuberculosis during the year  
1944.

-----

| Diseases.             | Total Cases<br>Notified. | Total Deaths. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Small Pox.            | nil.                     | nil.          |
| Diphtheria.           | 2.                       | nil.          |
| Scarlet Fever.        | 21.                      | nil.          |
| Typhoid Fever.        | nil.                     | nil.          |
| Paratyphoid Fever.    | nil.                     | nil.          |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.    | nil.                     | nil.          |
| Pneumonia.            | 18.                      | 9.            |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever. | nil.                     | nil.          |
| Erysipelas.           | 1.                       | nil.          |
| Whooping Cough.       | 24.                      | nil.          |
| Measles.              | 10.                      | nil.          |

TUBERCULOSIS.

| New Cases.        |    |           |    |                   |              | Deaths.           |      |              |    |                   |              |
|-------------------|----|-----------|----|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|------|--------------|----|-------------------|--------------|
| Respirat-<br>ory. |    | Non.Resp. |    | Total.            |              | Respira-<br>tory. |      | Non<br>Resp. |    | Total.            |              |
| M.                | F. | M.        | F. | Respira-<br>tory. | Non<br>Resp. | M.                | F.   | M.           | F. | Respira-<br>tory. | Non<br>Resp. |
| 4.                | 6. | 1.        | 1. | 10.               | 2.           | 2.                | Nil. | 1.           | 2. | 2.                | 3.           |

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

S.N. Chopra.

Medical Officer of Health.



