

**[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Brynmawr U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Brynmawr (Wales). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1955

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zh9wn6z5>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WEST GLAMORGANSHIRE  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
30041836

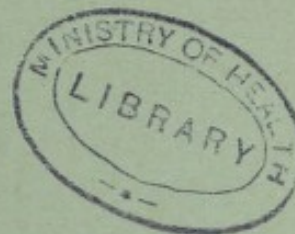
BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(Dr. J. Tate)

AND  
SANITARY INSPECTORS

(E. Thomas Hall)  
and (D. Arthur Jones)

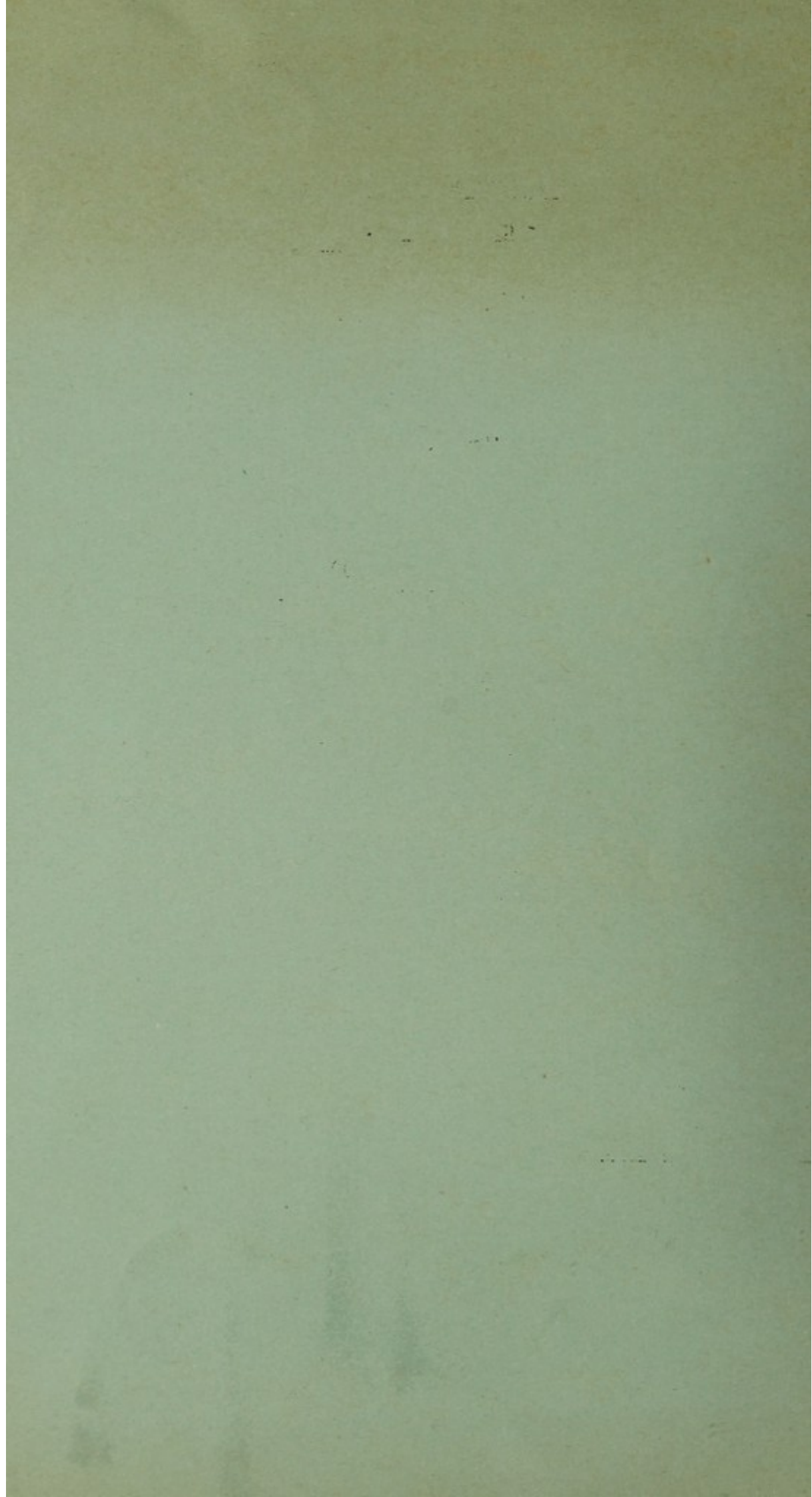
FOR  
1955.



----- oOo -----

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Trafalgar House,  
BRYNMAWR, Breconshire.

October, 1956.



BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(Dr. J. Tate)

AND  
SANITARY INSPECTORS

(E. Thomas Hall)  
and (D. Arthur Jones)

FOR

1955.

----- oOo -----

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Trafalgar House,  
BRYNMAWR, Breconshire.

October, 1956.



STYRENE. NEBIA DISTRICT

COUGLE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WESTERN OFFICE OF HEALTH

(M. J. 1900)

AND

UNITARY INSPECTION

(M. J. 1900)  
(M. J. 1900)

FOR

1900

—

Public Health Department,  
Bureau of Hygiene,  
Washington, D.C.

October, 1900.

BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council

January to May, 1955.

Councillor Max Holley.

May to December, 1955.

Councillor E.J. Panton.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor E.J. Curtis.

Chairman of the Public Health, Housing  
and Highways Committee

Councillor E.J. Panton.

---

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

North Eastern Ward.

Councillor G. Jayne.

Councillor M. Holley.

Councillor J.R. Enoch.

South Eastern Ward.

Councillor W.H. Sutherland.

Councillor E.J. Williams.

Councillor W.B. Williams.

Central Ward.

Councillor Gurnos Jones.

Councillor E.J. Panton.

Councillor E.J. Curtis.

Western Ward.

Councillor J.H. Lewis.

Councillor W.G. Tucker.

Councillor M.L. Slade.

Councillor F.J. Sims.

Southern Ward.

Councillor Mrs. M. Pryce.

Councillor A. Rees.

Councillor J.R. Morgan.

Councillor J.H. Grubb.

---

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health for  
the Southern Combined Districts  
of Breconshire.

Dr. J. Tate, M.B., B.Ch.,  
M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspectors  
Inspectors of Meat and other  
Foods.

E.T. Hall, M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. S.I.B., (Part Year).

D.A. Jones, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
A.I. Hsg. (Part Year).



Tot:-

The Chairman and Members of the  
Brynmawr Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of its people and the work of the Public Health Department for the Year 1955.

The Registrar General's population figure for the urban area is 8,380.

This year has seen several changes. In July, Mr. D. Bevan, the Clerk of the Council was taken ill and admitted to hospital where he was still remaining at the end of this year. From July onwards the Deputy Clerk, Mr. T.G. Jones, carried out the duties of the Clerk of the Council.

On 3rd, March, the Council's Surveyor, Mr. Neil G. Davies, died very suddenly and Mr. J. Ross Galt carried out these duties pending the appointment of a Surveyor.

On February 1st, Mr. Harrington terminated his appointment as Meat Inspector at the Brynmawr Slaughterhouse and no inspector was appointed in his place for the remainder of the year. This threw a great deal of extra work on Mr. E.T. Hall the Brynmawr Sanitary Inspector who undertook some meat inspection duties when called upon, and time allowed, from his multifarious duties in the town.

On May 14th., Mr. E.T. Hall terminated his appointment with the Brynmawr Urban District Council and the position remained vacant until 29th., August when Mr. D.A. Jones commenced duty here as a Sanitary Inspector. He also endeavoured to do meat inspection in addition to his other town duties, but you will appreciate that it was virtually impossible for him to do both efficiently.

On 8th., November, Councillor John H. Gault passed away and the Council lost a very able, conscientious and popular member.

It is my desire to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for their co-operation in all matters connected with the health of the district, as can be appreciated, this has been a most difficult year.

Yours faithfully,

J. TATE, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health for the  
Southern Combined District of Breconshire.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN AREA

Brynmawr is situated at the head of the Western and Eastern Valleys of Breconshire and on the main Merthyr-Abergavenny road, this road links up with the Midlands and West of England.

The workers are mainly employed in the coal-mines and steelworks of the adjoining industrial valleys. During recent years there has been considerable factory development on the border of the town - a large modern factory has been erected (known as the Brynmawr Rubber Co.,) and employees are drawn from Brynmawr and the neighbouring areas. In addition, a modern Boot and Shoe making Factory and three Board of Trade standard type factories have been erected and although these are situated outside the town's boundary, they employ considerable numbers of Brynmawr people.



Within the area, there are two fairly large factories, one producing Tufted Chenille Products and the other Ladies' Raincoats. There is a small type factory occupied by the East Wales Co-operative Boot Repairs, Ltd.,

These industrial developments are a great boon to Brynmawr and the adjoining areas.

The housing problem remains a most urgent matter, as indeed it is an urgent national problem.

There are a large number of applications for new housing accommodation before the Council and new applications are being continually received.

A large percentage of existing houses are occupied by more than one family and there are a considerable number of sub-standard dwellings and many properties which should be considered for demolition action. The exposed position of the district and the heavy rainfall has the effect of making dampness a serious problem, particularly in the older type of house which is of solid stone wall construction and not provided with damp-proof courses. The majority of these houses are let at a very low rental and numbers of property owners cannot afford to carry out extensive re-conditioning which would involve many years of profit rental. However, owners are being prevailed upon to repair and improve their properties and the Sanitary Inspector is continually taking action to secure essential repair works and in some cases improvements to existing houses.

The Council is energetically progressing with plans for the provision of new housing accommodation and during the year work had commenced on the erection of 26 new houses on the Twyncynghordy Estate. The position regarding housing at the end of December, 1955, was as follows:-

Total No. of Dwellings according to Rate Book on December 31st., 1954	=	1994
No. of Council owned houses built during, 1955	=	26
No. of places converted into flats by the Council during 1955	=	2
No. of new private houses built during, 1955	=	4
		<u>2026</u>
No. of Houses demolished during 1955 ... 2		
No. of Houses closed during 1955 ... 1		<u>3</u>
Total No. of Dwellings in area on 31st. December, 1955		<u>2023</u>
No. of Council owned Dwellings		518
Rateable Value of District	=	£23,637
Product of a Penny Rate for the Financial Year ending 31st., March, 1955	=	£90.
Rates in the £ :		
General Rate	=	£1. 11. 9d.
Water Rate		<u>2. 0d.</u>
		<u>£1. 13. 9d.</u>



# Live Births:

		Males 42.	Females 53.
Legitimate	94	42	52
Illegitimate	1	Nil	1

Showing a Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population of 14.9 as compared to 13.6 in 1954.

# Still Births:

	Total 3.	Males 2.	Females 2.
Legitimate	3	2	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

# Death Rate:

The number of deaths during the year was:-

Total 63	Males 34	Females 29
----------	----------	------------

Being a crude death rate per 1,000 of the population of 9.87 and a corrected death rate of 5.37. This compares with a death rate of 12.4 in 1954.

# Maternal Death Rate:

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	..	Nil.
Other Maternal Causes	..	Nil.

# Infantile Mortality:

Death of Infants under one year of age:-

	Total Nil.	Males Nil.	Females Nil.
Legitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

# CAUSES OF DEATH:

	Males.	Females.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	Nil
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Nil	"
Syphilitic Disease	"	"
Diphtheria	"	"
Whooping Cough	"	"
Meningococcal Infections	"	"
Acute Polio-myelitis	"	"
Measles	"	"
Other infective and parasitic disease	"	"

# CAUSES OF DEATH (Continued).

	Males.	Females.
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung bronchus	3	-
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	-
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	8
Leukaemia aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	4
Coronary disease, angina	3	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2
Other Heart Disease	7	4
Other circulatory disease	-	1
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	3	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	2	-
Suicide	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-

ALL CAUSES =		34	29
Pol.	Non-Pol.	Pol.	Non-Pol.
43	5	10	2
- 5 -			
M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	1	1



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:

The District is supplied with water from an impounding reservoir known as Carns Mound Reservoir, owned by the Council and situated about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north east of the town. The supply can be augmented by pumping water into the reservoir from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs at Clydach Valley.

The water is subject to slow sand filtration, three filter beds are provided.

The Chlorination Plant (Paterson Chloros type) became worn out and useless, and, owing to the very long dry period of weather, pumping from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs had to be resorted to very early in the year. During the period June to the beginning of October, pumping continued for 24 hours per day gradually being reduced as the year proceeded. This long period of sustained and heavy pumping resulted in the Springs becoming heavily contaminated and hand chlorination using chloros was put to hand. This necessitated a considerable amount of work not only in the labour involved in "topping" up the glazed stoneware receptacles twice daily, but also in sampling for bacteriological examination and chlorine content and in repeated checks several times daily by visual examination using a chloroscope. In this connection, Mr. Galt, Acting Surveyor, and his staff rendered noble service being always ready with advice and help. Dr. Grey and his staff at the Public Health Laboratories, Newport, were always ready to help and tender advice during this critical period.

A new chlorination plant is to be installed in the new year and as the working head is insufficient, it will require to be re-sited.

The reliable output of the Reservoir is estimated at about 120,000 gallons per day, but probably during rainy periods about 300,000 gallons per day could be relied upon. The Pumping Station at Clydach Valley is served by a Blackstone Diesel Engine and the Council are to instal an electrically operated pump to replace this engine soon.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for control of the reservoir, pumping station and mains connected in the supply of water to the Urban District.

The Sanitary Inspector takes periodical samples and these are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newport for bacteriological examination.

SAMPLING:

During the year 1955 thirty seven (37) samples of water were submitted for examination, twenty-nine (29) were of household supplies, two (2) were of untreated water from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs and three (3) from springs serving cottages in isolated parts of the area and three (3) for Chlorine Content.

The results are summarised as follows:-

Total Samples taken	...	...	37.
Main Supplies:-			
Satisfactory	...	...	7.
Slightly contaminated	...	...	4.
Unsatisfactory	...	...	18.
Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs:-			
Satisfactory	...	...	Nil
Unsatisfactory	...	...	2.
Chlorine Content Main Supplies	...	...	3.
Samples of Springs serving outlying dwellings:-			
Satisfactory	...	...	3.
Unsatisfactory	...	...	2.
	...	...	1.



# WATER SAMPLING (Continued).

N.B:

The 18 unsatisfactory samples from the main supplies were taken before emergency hand chlorination commenced. The 7 samples taken afterwards showing three satisfactory and the other 4 samples slight contamination.

## RAINFALL.

### Comparative Figures in Inches.

	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
January	3.60	2.36	1.65
February	2.54	5.52	2.37
March	3.05	5.92	3.63
April	2.25	1.19	5.81
May	8.05	3.66	5.81
June	5.39	8.40	2.62
July	1.83	3.58	6.11
August	1.14	5.01	6.06
September	2.82	6.59	6.17
October	3.10	9.88	4.30
November	7.96	15.68	3.25
December	8.25	4.62	2.83
Totals for Years:-	49.98	72.41	50.61

It will be noted that the monthly rainfall from June to October inclusive was well below normal and necessitated augmenting the upland surface reservoir supply by pumping from the Ffynnon Gisfaen Springs.

Pumping commenced 12th., June at 8 hrs per day.

Pumping for 24 hrs per day commenced 23rd., June and continued until the end of September.

Pumping 2 shifts (16 hrs) per day to 20th., October and 1 shift (8 hrs) thereafter until pumping ceased on 8th., November.

### TESTS FOR PLUMBO-SOLVENT ACTION:

The water is of a 'soft' character and consequently samples have been submitted specifically for plumbo-solvent tests. The Laboratory reports that the solvent action is so slight as to be inappreciable - due to the fact that the lead surfaces become covered with an insoluble coating.

Few lead services are in use, the exception being the use of lead piping in hot-water systems.



## PARTICULARS REGARDING WATER SERVICES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT:

Total Number of Dwelling Houses in the area	...	2023
Population	...	6380
Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from public water mains	...	1990
Estimated number persons supplied	...	6280
Number of dwelling houses <u>not</u> supplied from mains	...	33
Estimated number of persons <u>not</u> supplied from mains	...	100

In all dwellings supplied from the public water mains the service is direct to the house - there are not any properties served by stand-pipes.

The houses not supplied from mains are properties widely separated in isolated parts of the urban area and are sited, in most instances, above the level of the reservoir. These houses take supplies from mountain springs which are periodically inspected and every possible precaution is taken to prevent contamination.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The whole town, with the exception of a few cottages situated in isolated parts of the district, is served by public sewers.

In some of the older parts of the town the sewers are brick-built and have been in existence for a great many years. The system is 'combined' the sewers taking both foul sewage and storm water.

The sewage is purified at a Sewage Disposal Works owned by the Local Authority and the effluent discharged into the River Clydach. These Works were built in 1924 and have been well maintained but will probably need to be enlarged at some future date.

Periodical samples of sewage effluent are taken for examination as a check upon the operation of the Plant.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The Council operate a thrice weekly collection of refuse from practically all parts of the town and disposal is by tipping, designed to level sites of dis-used workings of outcrop coal seams, which are numerous in the area.

One S/D Freighter is employed full-time and one other vehicle part-time on the work of refuse collection.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for public cleansing work.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:

The work of Rats and Mice destruction had proceeded satisfactorily and has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act.

Two maintenance treatments of the town's sewers have been completed and the results are summarised below:-

#### Maintenance Treatment carried out during April:

Number of sewer manholes baited	...	...	216
Number showing complete 'takes' of bait	...	...	18
Number showing partial 'take' of bait	...	...	89
Number showing 'no take' of bait	...	...	109



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. (Continued).

Maintenance Treatment carried out during November:

Number of sewer manholes baited	...	...	236
Number showing complete 'take' of bait	...	...	25
Number showing partial 'take' of bait	...	...	114
Number showing 'no take' of bait	...	...	77

The bait was deposited on the 'benching' of the manholes or upon metal baiting trays fitted to the manhole walls. Each manhole being pre-baited upon alternate days and on the third day a proportionate amount of poison was added to the base bait and laid at all points which had resulted in a take of pre-bait.

It became evident that as the time for the second sewer treatment approached that the rodent population of the sewers had increased and Mr. R. Davies, Divisional Rodent Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was approached. He advised a 3 weekly period of sewer treatment twice annually in lieu of the previous 2 weekly periods, and, in addition to "double-up" pre-bait and poison bait where complete takes took place.

I am very grateful to Mr. R. Davies for his ever ready help and advice and am pleased to report that a marked improvement became evident and is continuing.

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Infestation Control Department), the base Bait and Poison used, are alternated for sewer treatments and the results prove the efficiency of this change in bait and poison.

The work of Rodent Control in this area is carried out by a part-time Operator. This Operator is engaged in other miscellaneous duties, but those of Rodent Control are given priority.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS:

Treatments of the town's sewers for the destruction of Rats were followed by inspection and test baiting at the Sewage Disposal Plant. A major infestation responded to treatment, a total of 20 points being laid.

REFUSE DISPOSAL TIP:

Periodical inspections were made at the refuse tip. During the year 24 treatments for the destruction of rats were successfully completed, a total of 288 points being laid. The tip was rather heavily infested, but as a result of treatment the infestation was cleared. However, regular inspections continued to be made.

SURFACE INFESTATIONS:

Every complaint of infestation by Rats or Mice was investigated and surveys of the town periodically carried out.

The undermentioned is a summary of the work completed at surface premises during the year:-

Number of dwelling houses in the area	...	2023
Number of Local Authority Premises	...	8
Number of Business Premises	...	176
Total number of Inspections	...	530
Number of Infestations by Rats (including Re-infestations)	...	232
Number of Infestations by Mice	...	85
Number of Treatments carried out by Local Authority	...	317
Number of Informal Notices served requiring rat proofing	...	1
Number of cases when rat proofing works carried out by informal action.	...	10
Number of block treatments	...	Nil

The use of warfain as an alternate poison for treatment of surface infestation has been proved highly efficacious.



# FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

The following is a list of trades carried on at factories within the urban area and a statement where mechanical power is used:-

<u>Type of Trade.</u>	<u>Number of Factories.</u>	<u>Mechanical Power used.</u>	<u>Mechanical Power not used.</u>
Motor Vehicle Repairs etc.	10	10	-
Motor Bodies, Vehicle Painting etc.	2	2	-
Joinery	3	3	-
Boot Repairs	2	2	-
Beer Bottling	1	-	1
Sausages	1	1	-
Tyre Repairs	1	1	-
Aerated Waters	1	1	-
Letter Press Printing	1	1	-
Raincoats	1	1	-
Tufted Chenille	1	1	-
Cakes (Confectionery)	2	1	1
Bread	1	1	-
	27	25	2

## PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes as to health.

	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are enforced.	2	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced.	25	20	2	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced (excluding out-workers)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	27	22	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

PARTICULARS.	Number of Cases in which Defects were found.				Prosecution Instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	4	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS -	6	5	-	1	-

PART 8 OF THE ACT. OUTWORK - SECTIONS 110 and 111.

There are no 'outworkers' in the urban area.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts.  | 81  |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose  | 129 |
| (c) Number of dwellings, included under sub-heading (a) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1936  | 11  |
| (d) Number of inspections made for the purpose.   | 11  |
| (e) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation. This figure viz., 137 houses is that returned to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under Section 1 proposals under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 | 137 |
| (f) 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 and subsequently repaired as a result of action by the Local Authority.   | 21  |



# HOUSING STATISTICS (Continued).

## 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

- (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.

18

## 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 -  
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices -  
By owners -  
By Local Authority in default of owners -

- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in which Formal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9  
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices 9  
By Owners -  
By Local Authority in default of owners -

- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 2  
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 2  
(3) Number of undertakings accepted that house will not be used for human habitation. 1

## 4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year;  
(2) Number of families dwelling therein;  
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein;

No figures Available  
"

- B. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year;

"

- C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year;  
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases;

36  
143

- D. (1) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding;

-

- E. (1) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to report. Every consideration is given by the Council to families living under overcrowded conditions when considering application for new housing accommodation.



Re: 4 (C) (1 and 2) the 26 new houses and 2 flats constructed during the year were, by a system of exchange, used to relieve overcrowding within Council houses and flats and in privately owned dwellings. By so doing, the Council were able to relieve overcrowding in a greater number of dwellings than they had new houses, thus utilising their resources to the fullest possible extent.

The Council consider the problem of overcrowding to be of major importance and are proceeding as rapidly as is possible with the building programme. It is, however, difficult to assess the true position, as most of the newly married couples have to take up residence with their relatives, due to lack of other housing accommodation, often causing overcrowded conditions at these homes. Within a comparatively short time these young families make application to Council for accommodation and it is this factor which Council have to carefully consider when allocating newly erected houses.

The Sanitary Inspector investigates all applications for new housing accommodation and reports upon overcrowded conditions to the Housing Allocation Committee.

In addition to the foregoing:

Relets by Council during year	...	4
No. Statutory overcrowding cases rehoused	...	2
No. of persons involved in such cases	...	9
No. of families morally overcrowded rehoused	...	2
No. of persons involved in such cases	...	8
No. of families rehoused not overcrowded but due to unfit houses	...	3
No. of persons involved in such cases	...	5
No. of cases rehoused due to special hardship (Tuberculosis etc.)	...	3
No. of persons involved in above cases	...	9

----- 000 -----

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number & nature of inspections made.

HOUSING:

Complaints received	102
Complaints investigated	102
Houses inspected and recorded	22
Re-visits to properties under Notice	54
Dirty or otherwise unsatisfactory houses	6
Bisinfestations	3

GENERAL SANITATION:

Drainage inspections	10
Drain testing	6
Factories	19
Refuse Collections - inspections	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Enquiries	17
Disinfections	6



## House to House Inspections of Council owned Properties:

Routine inspections have been carried out at Council's Housing Estates during the year.

Vermineous or dirty premises are dealt with immediately and the conditions subsequently reported to Council. There are very few unsatisfactory types of tenant and these are kept under close observations by the Sanitary Inspector.

Lists of necessary repairs noted are passed to the Surveyor's Department for attention.

----- oOo -----

## F O O D.

### Food Premises:

During the year 164 visits were made to retail food shops and premises where food is prepared, stored or deposited for the purpose of sale.

The undermentioned is a list of such premises:-

<u>Type of Food Premises.</u>	<u>Number in Area.</u>
Grocers	24
Greengrocers and Wet Fish Shops	5
General Stores	18
Market - covered and open	1
Bakeries	5
Mineral Water Manufacture	1
Restaurants (including Snack Bars)	5
Butchers' Shops	12
Slaughterhouse	1
Confectioners, etc.	19

### Food Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Preparation, manufacture and storage of preserved foods (cooked meats etc., in connection with Butchery Businesses)

3

Fried Fish Shops

3

Manufacture of Ice Cream

1

Storage and sale of Ice Cream

20

A total of 72 inspections were made at such premises the Sanitary Inspector stressing the need for a high standard of personal hygiene by food handlers.

### Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling wrapping and delivery of food are in operation in the urban area. It has not been necessary to take legal action as generally, food traders are co-operative in the question of food hygiene.

### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1952.

There are 20 registered retailers and one manufacturer of Ice Cream within the urban area. The Retailers obtain supplies mainly from the large Ice Cream Companies who have Depots sited in various parts of the country from which frequent deliveries to small traders are made. The one manufacturer uses the heat treatment method and his apparatus conforms to the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, all premises in the district conform to legal requirements and are registered in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts.

Routine inspections are made to all premises having regard to hygienic conditions and legal requirements.



### Milk Supply:

There are 9 persons licenced as Dealers in Pasteurised Milk in accordance with the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 and 2 Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

All milk sold in the area is 'pasteurised' and supplied mainly by large Dairy Companies having Pasteurisation Plants in the neighbouring towns. There is one such Dairy within the urban area.

### Inspections at Dairies:

During the year 19 visits were made to dairies for inspection of plant, utensils and premises. The trade is most co-operative in the question of clean milk production, and it was not necessary to resort to legal action in any instance.

### Laboratory Examination of Milk Supplies:

16 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination during the year and the results are summarised below:-

Number of samples conforming to the standards for Pasteurised Milks	13
---	----

Number of samples <u>not</u> conforming to the standard (N.B. one sample was broken in transit).	2
--	---

### Licenced Hotels and Inns:

There are 24 Licenced Houses in the urban area and routine inspections have been carried out at all premises, particular attention being given to sanitary accommodation, methods of cleansing of glasses and condition of cellars etc.

### Inspection of Foodstuffs:

During routine inspections at food premises the undermentioned foods were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Apricots 14 tins; Bacon 12 lbs. 6 oz.; Beans 13 tins;  
Cheese 19 lbs; Condensed Milk 2 tins; Cherries 4 tins;  
Corned Beef 11 tins (45 lbs); Evaporated Milk 40 tins;  
Ham (cooked) 8 tins (104 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs); Jellied Veal 4 tins (24 lbs);  
Oranges 1 tin; Onions 1 jar; Pears 19 tins; Peas 11 tins;  
Pineapples 14 tins; Peaches 37 tins; Potatoes 70 lbs; Plums 20 tins;  
Pork Luncheon Meat 12 tins (14 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.); Raspberries 1 tin;  
Soup 34 tins; Stewed Steak 7 tins (7 lbs); Sausages 38 lbs;  
Tongue 2 tins (6 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs); Tomatoes 134 tins; Tomato Ketchup 1 bottle;

In no case were any of these food stuffs exposed for sale and all were voluntarily surrendered by the Retailers.

All such unsound foods are, under strict control, conveyed to the refuse tip and buried well below the surface in such a manner as to prevent any access to them by any person or animals.

### Heathcote Slaughterhouse:

In July 1954, Government Control of the Slaughterhouse under the Ministry of Food, ceased, and the complete control of the premises taken over by Messrs. Weeks (Brynmawr) Ltd., as a Wholesale Meat Supply Company. This continued until 13th., November, 1955, when the Fatstock Marketing Corporation took over part of the business as follows. The Fatstock Marketing Corporation became responsible for supplying livestock "on the hoof", and Messrs. Weeks (Brynmawr) Ltd., purchasing the dead meat "off the hook" from the Fatstock Marketing Corporation. Lairage and slaughtering are controlled and managed by Messrs. Weeks (Brynmawr) Ltd., as Contractors to the Fatstock Marketing Corporation.



This Slaughterhouse for its size has a very high throughput, and supplies a total of approximately 130 shops. The area covered consist of the Urban Districts of Blaenavon, Nantyglo and Blaina, Abertillery, Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr, and partly Abercarn, Risca, Tredegar and Rhymney; the Rural District area of Crickhowell and also some shops in the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

As has been mentioned in the beginning of this Report, the Meat Inspector terminated his appointment on February 1st., 1955, and no successor was appointed for the remainder of the year. After a great deal of negotiation during the year, it was agreed at a Joint Conference of the following six Local Authorities held on 1st., December, 1955, to advertise for a Meat Inspector, the cost to be apportioned between them. The Local Authorities are:-

Abertillery Urban District Council.  
Ebbw Vale Urban District Council.  
Nantyglo & Blaina Urban District Council.  
Blaenavon Urban District Council.  
Brynmawr Urban District Council.  
Crickhowell Rural District Council.

(N.B. Mr. J. Russell Parry was appointed on 17th., January, 1956, and commenced his duties as Meat Inspector on 20th., February, 1956).

From February to December, 1955, inclusive there was no Meat Inspector at the Slaughterhouse, and my predecessor, Mr. E.T. Hall, and I, late in the year endeavoured to spare as much time as we possibly could for this work. It was, however, impossible to cover the additional work efficiently. In addition it may be mentioned again, that Brynmawr was without a Sanitary Inspector from 14th., May to 29th., August, 1955.

----- oOo -----

DETAILED STATEMENT OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.

MINISTRY OF FOOD RETURNS.				HEALTHCOTE SLAUGHTERHOUSE.				KILLING FIGURES FOR 1955.				
T Y P E.	2.1.55.to 5.2.55	6.2.55.to 5.3.55.	6.3.55.to 2.4.55.	3.4.55.to 7.5.55.	6.5.55.to 4.6.55.	5.6.55.to 2.7.55.	3.7.55.to 6.8.55.	7.8.55.to 3.9.55.	4.9.55.to 1.10.55.	3.10.55.to 5.11.55.	6.11.55.to 3.12.55.	4.12.55.to 31.12.55
Steers.	306	159	193	457	352	248	115	143	267	284	223	180
Heifers.	152	120	132	120	44	123	75	121	94	200	180	152
Cows & Bulls	85	101	115	3	31	28	56	-	82	52	54	44
Calves	37	-	5	93	76	35	51	150	127	210	133	34
Sheep and lambs	1790	1102	696	1700	1691	2754	2877	2302	3237	4680	3616	2723
Rams & Ewes	84	16	16	91	22	28	44	178	184	119	110	95
Pigs	1770	1668	1548	1724	1510	1269	621	874	1026	1183	1016	1239
Sows & Boars	2	7	2	3	6	5	-	2	1	1	4	-

TOTALS:-

Steers = 2967; Heifers = 1513; Cows & Bulls = 651; Calves = 951; Sheep & lambs = 29158; Rams & Ewes = 987; Pigs = 15448;  
Sows & Boars = 34.

The Slaughterhouse was partly closed while repairs to drainage, floors and paving carried out during period the 3rd., to 24th., July, 1955.



APPROXIMATE AND ESTIMATED FIGURES FOR CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL.  
(Weights given in Pounds).  
HEATHCOTE SLAUGHTERHOUSE 1955.

Month	Cattled Killed	Beef	Beef Offal	Calves Killed	Veal	Calves Offal	Sheep Killed	Mutton	Sheep Offal	Pigs Killed	Pork	Pigs Offal
Jan.	543	2263	2208	37	4	-	1874	125	187	1772	443	82
Feb.	380	1000	1400	-	-	-	1118	35	112	1675	300	76
March.	440	1230	1100	5	-	-	712	20	60	1550	300	60
April.	580	1560	1500	93	3	2	1791	50	120	1727	200	60
May.	427	1050	1000	76	3	-	1703	50	120	1516	250	60
June.	399	1020	1000	35	6	-	2782	90	200	1275	200	90
July.	246	620	700	51	3	6	2921	90	150	621	100	30
August.	264	750	700	150	50	-	2480	65	150	876	150	40
Sept.	443	1000	1500	127	-	5	3421	110	300	1027	150	40
October.	536	2026	2000	210	2	4	4799	192	480	1184	298	56
November.	457	1971	1653	133	22	40	3726	133	376	1020	267	46
December.	376	1177	1479	34	-	-	2818	141	277	1239	284	53
TOTALS:-	5091	15667	16240	951	283	57	30145	1101	2532	15482	2942	693

N.B: The only correct figures for meat and offal condemned are for January and period from 13th., November to end of the year.

CARCASSES & OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN  
WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Steers & Heifers.	Cows & Bulls.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
No. Killed	4440	651	951	30145	15482	Nil
No. Inspected (approx. 15% of Total Kill).	666	100	143	4522	2322	Nil
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole Carcase Condemned: a)	1	3	-	4	2	Nil
b)	4	12	-	16	8	Nil
Carcases in which some part or organ was Condemned: a)	246	72	-	359	16	Nil
b)	1001	276	-	1678	64	Nil
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: a)	36.9	72.0	-	8.0	0.7	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis Only:</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned a)	3	3	-	-	-	Nil
b)	12	12	-	-	-	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned: a)	34	21	-	-	44	Nil
b)	139	84	-	-	180	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis: a)	5.1	21.0	-	-	1.9	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned: a)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
b)	10	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration: a)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
b)	10	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned: a)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

In the above table (a) represents the 11½ weeks consisting of the month of January and 13th., November to the end of the year. (b) represents the approximate and estimated figure based on the following data for the year 1955:-



	<u>Stewers &amp; Heifers.</u>	<u>Cows &amp; Bulls.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
A) Total Kill for whole Year.	<del>445</del> 4440.	651	951	30,145	15,482.
B) Kill for January plus period 13th Nov. to 31st Dec.	1092	170	201	7,493	3,776.
Percentage:-					
(b) bears to (a) above:	24.4	26.1	21.4	24.6	24.4

#### APPROXIMATE AND ESTIMATED TOTALS.

Total Carcass Meat Condemned = 19,993 lbs.

Total Offal Condemned = 19,522 lbs.

Total weight of Meat and Offal Condemned:-

17 cows, 12 cwt., 2 lbs. 7 lbs.

#### Disposal of Condemned Meat and Offal:

Meat and Offal found to be unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouse is stained green before being collected by Messrs. J.H. Wainbrough, Ltd., Newport, who are authorised buyers.

Indisole offal is collected by Newport Corporation and processed by them into pig food.

#### Slaughter of Animals

The number of slaughtermen licenced by the Council on 31st December, 1955, was 14, most of which are employed at Heathcote Slaughterhouse in various capacities.

#### Conclusion:

The Public Health Department gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the co-operation received from other Departments of the Council and is indebted to the Chairman and members of the Council for their support and consideration extended during the year of this report.

Yours obediently,

E. J. BATES,  
Medical Officer of Health.

E. T. HALL,  
E. A. JONES,  
Sanitary Inspectors.











