

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Carmarthen (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

Carmarthen Union (Carmarthenshire, Wales). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

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Carmarthen Rural District Council.



34th Annual Report

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of the Carmarthen
Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

— BY —

LLOYD M. BOWEN-JONES,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



CARMARTHEN :

Printed at the "Welshman" Office, 123, Lammas Street

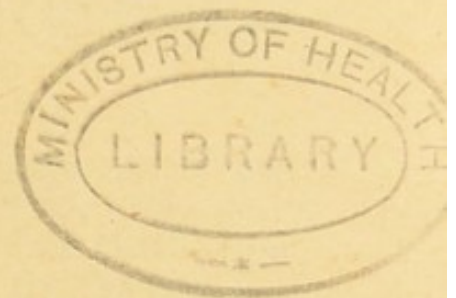
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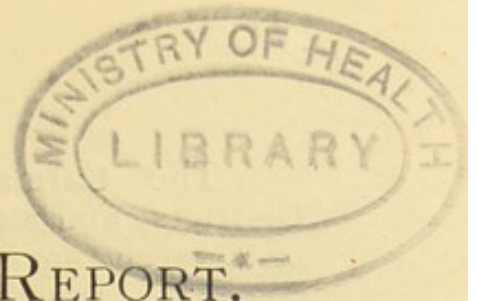
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THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

A Circular as to the contents and arrangements of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1925 was issued by the Ministry of Health, Welsh Board of Health, on the 31st of December, 1925, requesting that the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health for 1925 should be Survey Reports, and directed that they should be drawn up on the following lines:—

The Carmarthen Rural District comprises all the Parishes in the Carmarthen Union, with the exception of the Parish of St. Peter, which constitutes the Urban District of Carmarthen.

Population.

According to the Census of 1921 the population of the Area was 24,367.

The estimated population to the middle of 1925 is 24,420.

Physical Features and General Characters of the Area.

The physical features of the district may be described as undulating and hilly, and intersected by numerous streams and rivers, which ultimately find their way into the Carmarthen Bay, under the names of the Taf, Towy and Gwendraeth, which latter enters the sea near Kidwelly, just beyond the eastern boundary of the district.

The surface for the most part is well tilled as agricultural land, and in many parts is interspersed by woodlands, there being but little waste, marshy, or uncultivated land throughout the whole district, with the exception, perhaps, of small portions of the Parishes of Llanllawddog, Conwil and Trelech.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 5,729, and the number of families, or separate occupiers, in 1921 was 5,661.

The Rateable Value of the Carmarthen Rural District is £80,328.

The sum represented by a penny rate on the Assessable Value is £334 14s. od.

Social Conditions.

The Carmarthen, Conwil-Elvet and St. Clears Sub-Districts, and a portion of the Llangendeirne Sub-District, are of a purely agricultural character, while portions of the Parishes of Llanarthney, Llanddarog and Llangendeirne, bordering on the anthracite coalfield, where coal-mining is, to a considerable extent, carried on, assume more the appearance of an industrial character, and here, of course, the chief occupation of the inhabitants is that of coal mining, while in the remaining agricultural parts, the chief occupation is that of farming. In one portion of the district abutting on the sea a considerable industry is carried out, and mainly by women, in cockle gathering, while the male population find employment in some adjacent brickworks.

With regard to the influence of any particular occupation on public health, it may be mentioned that an excessive amount of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was observed to affect the workers employed in the last-mentioned industry, and some few years ago, during the war, some special enquiries into the matter were made by the local Tuberculosis Physician.

Vital Statistics.

During the year 1925 the births of 484 children, and the deaths of 341 persons, were registered. Taking the population of the whole district at 24,420, we find the birth-rate was 19.8, and the death-rate was 14.0, per 1,000 persons living.

The standardized or corrected death rate would be 11.95.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 living.														
	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence	Rate per 1000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
											Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
Carmarthen Rural	19.8	14.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.12	0.40	0.40	8.2	61	94.1	4.9	0.87
All England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0

Poor Law.

According to the printed accounts of the Guardians of the Carmarthen Union the total cost of out-door relief during the year ending 31st March, 1925, was £6,881 5s. 8d.

Hospital Accommodation.

There is a County Infirmary at Carmarthen, supported by voluntary contributions, into which cases from the Rural District are admitted for treatment.

There is also the Carmarthen Union Workhouse, situated in the Borough of Carmarthen, and cases of Tuberculosis are treated at the various Sanatoria and Tuberculosis Hospitals under the scheme of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

No Hospitals are provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

1. **Tuberculosis.**—The King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial, established for the abolition and treatment of Tuberculosis in Wales, provides Sanatoria, Hospitals, Tuberculosis Officers and Nurses throughout the Principality. The up-keep is partially maintained by a subsidy from the various County Councils, in addition to the interest of the Funded Capital, derived from donations.

2. **Maternity.**—

(a) **General.**—Eight District Nurses, under the South Wales Nursing Association (in affiliation with Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses) are distributed as follows:—Drefach, 1; Llangunnor, 1; Llanddarog, 1; Llangendeirne, 1, Abergwili, 1; Nantgaredig, 1; Llanstephan, 1; Ferryside, 1. These Nurses are partly employed by the County Council for Maternity and Child Welfare work, and for School Medical Inspection, being paid £60 a year by that body for these services.

3. **Children.**—There is no provision.

4. **Fever.**—There is no Infectious Hospital.

5. **Small Pox.**

6. **Other.**—There are none.

There is the Carmarthenshire County Infirmary, supported by Voluntary Contributions, situated in the Town of Carmarthen, where general medical and surgical cases may be treated. There is no subsidy from the Local Authority. The Hospital is capable of accommodating 29 adults, besides six children.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—No provision.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—None exist.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Public Health Officers of the Council:—One part-time Medical Officer of Health, D.P.H., London, moiety of salary contributed; two whole-time Sanitary Inspectors, one of whom is certificated, moiety of salaries contributed.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A sum of £5 is annually subscribed to the funds of 8 Nursing Associations, by the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, for nursing attendance on any paupers that may be required in their respective districts. In addition to these 8 nurses attending midwifery, there are 8 other bona-fide Nurse Midwives practising as follows:—Laugharne, 1; Ponthenry, 1; Nantgaredig, 1; Llangendeirne, 1; Llanllawddog, 1; Cross Hands, 1; Mydrim, 1; and Bancyfelin, 1.

Also there are three whole-time combined Health Visitors and School Nurses, for the areas served by the following Schools:—One for Trelech Village School, Penybont Trelech, Alma Trelech, Penrhiwlas, Abernant, Nantcwmrhys and Merthyr. One for Cwmdud, Conwil, Llanpumpsaint, Llanllawddog and Newchurch; and one for the St. Clears three schools, Llanddowror, Laugharne, Brook, Llanginning, Mydrim and Bancyfelin. These are all employed by, and provided for, by the County Council.

Midwives.—The above 8 Nurses, each holding the C.M.B. qualification, also act as Midwives.

Chemical Work.

Arrangements have been made for the Bacteriological examination of milk at The Beck Laboratory, Swansea. Samples of water are usually sent to the Hygiene Laboratory at University College, London. Samples of food and drugs are sent by the County Council to a Public Analyst in Swansea, and the following is the report for the year:—

Report of Samples taken during the year ending 31st December, 1925:—

Number of Samples taken.	Number Genuine.	Number Adulterated	Nature of Adulteration.	Action taken.	Fines.		
					£	s.	d.
Milk .. 62	61	1	11 % added water	Proceedings taken.	3	10	0
Jelly ... 1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ground Rice... 1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Green Peas ... 1	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
Self-Raising Flour 1	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
Vinegar .. 2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total 68	67	1	...	...	...	...	...

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

There are no local Public Health Acts in force in the District.
The following Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations are in force :—

BYE-LAWS.

Dates of adoption
by Council.

May, 1886 { Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, Removal of House Refuse
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools.
Nuisances.
Common Lodging Houses.
Houses Let in Lodgings.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND POWERS.

Oct., 1907—New Streets and Buildings and certain matters in connection with building.

Jan., 1891—Infectious Diseases Preventions Act, 1890

Feb., 1891—Public Health Amendment Act (Part III.) 1890.

Dec., 1885 { Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 44.

Ditto ditto Sec. 169, Sub-Section (2) and (3).

Ditto ditto Sec. 170, for certain parishes only.

Ditto ditto Sec. 157 and 158, certain parishes only.

Mar., 1895 { Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Sec. 23, Sub-Sections (1) (2)
and (4).

Ditto ditto ditto Sec. 25 and 33.

Jan., 1906—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 39, for St. Ishmael's Parish only.

Ditto ditto Sec. 154, to a certain extent.

Ditto ditto Sec. 20, for certain Parishes only.

Ditto ditto Sec. 160, ditto

May, 1906 { Public Health (Buildings and Streets) Act, 1888, Sec. 3.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Secs. 29, 30 and 31, in certain parishes only.

June, 1912—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 45, for Laugharne Township,

Mar., 1913—Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Sec. 25 in Part II. and Secs. 35 and 38, in Part III., subject to certain conditions.

Oct., 1914—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 39, for Llangendeirne Parish.

June, 1915—Ditto ditto Sec. 45, for Abergwili Parish.

Jan., 1900—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

July, 1922—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 45 for Llandefeilog, Llangendeirne, Llanstephan and St. Ishmael.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

RAINFALL IN 1925.

The following is a summary of the Record of the Rainfall kept at The Friary, Carmarthen, which is 61·9 feet above sea level :—

Month	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 Hours		Number of Days with	
		Inches	Date	·01 in. or more	·04 in. or more
January	3·68	1·07	1st	24	15
February	7·06	·75	25th	27	24
March	1·89	·42	24th	17	12
April	3·18	·69	4th	21	15
May	7·55	1·00	26th	26	20
June	·02	·02	1st	1	0
July	2·495	·385	6th	16	15
August	4·805	·85	8th	20	16
September.. ..	3·965	·63	15th	20	19
October	7·215	1·14	28th	17	13
November	4·295	1·45	1st	14	11
December	4·54	·86	22nd	22	16
Total	51·595			225	176

Water Supplies.

In the villages the water supply is in many instances obtained from deep wells provided with pumps; for instance, Laugharne, Lower St. Clears, Pwlltrap, Bankyfelin, Tynewydd and Dinas (Trelech), Banc-capel, Minke, Llansaint, Croesyceilog, Ferryside (partly), Llanarthney, Glangwili, Llanfihangel and Llanddowror.

Fourteen villages are supplied by gravitation schemes, namely, St. Clears, Llanstephan, Rhydargaeau, Ferryside, Llandefeilog, Pontantwn, Pontyeates, Llangendeirne, Abergwili, Gorslas, Cefneithyn, Bridgend (Pensarn), Carway, Penybont (Trelech), White Mill and Llanpumpsaint.

The supply is constant at all these places, except at Ferryside, where it is intermittent occasionally.

The following Township and villages have no satisfactory supply, viz.:—Laugharne, Conwil, Llanddarog, Porthyrhyd, Pentre (Llanfihangel), Llansaint, Llanybri, Mydrim, Talog and Nantgaredig. These for the most part rely on shallow dip wells, or (as in the case of Conwil) on a closed-in well, provided with a spout, or else private pumps..

The existing supplies, of whatever nature, have been kept in order, and several pumps and taps have been repaired, but no samples of water were analysed during the year.

No steps of any practical importance have been undertaken towards providing or improving the water supplies in the following places: Laugharne Township, Conwil, Llanddarog, Porthyrhyd, Drefach.

In the following districts certain works have been executed, viz., Extension of the water main from Cefneithin to the Rhos-y-Bonwen Road, and down towards Drefach, as far as Cwm.

Bancytwr, near Capel Seion.—Extensive excavations have been recently made in a field near the above to provide water by gravitation for the adjacent houses. This work will be resumed when the weather is favourable. Excavations and gauging of springs have been carried out for the purpose of obtaining an additional water supply for Pontyates; while several Committee meetings were held and numerous springs were examined and gauged for the purpose of endeavouring to improve the Ferryside supply. The water supplies to the Pontantwn and Llangendeirne villages have also received attention, and sanction obtained from the Rural Council for the future carrying out of proposed schemes.

Rivers and Streams.

Most of the rivers and streams in the Rural Districts are polluted by cattle, and the drainage of habitations and groups of houses in their vicinity. Perhaps the greatest amount prevails at Pontyates, a portion of the industrial area, where the river Gwendraeth-fach receives the washings of coal from some of the pits adjacent to its banks. Here the colour of the water is more or less black, and I am not aware of any action having been taken by any authority to check it. At St. Clears the river Ginning receives a considerable amount of sewage from the Upper Village, at a point about a quarter of a mile above its confluence with the Taf. The high spring tides, however, reach the point of the outfall of the sewage.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In many parts of the Rural District the necessity of undertaking schemes for drainage, and for the disposal of sewage, is becoming more and more essential. The standard of living has been raised very considerably during the past few years, and there is a greater demand, and more especially is this apparent in the industrial portions of the area, where the majority of the male population is engaged in coal mining, for baths and water closets, as well as a plentiful supply of water. A better class of houses is becoming more general, and there are numerous groups or streets of houses where no proper drains exist. Several of these localities have been reported upon and brought to the notice of the Rural Council. Committees have visited, and in several cases have advised that steps be taken to improve the existing conditions, but in view of the abnormal conditions still existing, as a consequence of the war, and the excessive rates and taxes, render the contemplation of any great expenditure out of the question, at all events for the present.

Closet Accommodation.

The pail closet system is the one mostly in vogue in the area for the disposal of excrement. In certain villages, viz., Laugharne, Ferryside, St. Clears and Llanstephan there are water closets in some of the more important and most recently erected houses, as well as in the more pretentious country houses. Where pit privies still remain, the Sanitary Inspectors serve notices to have them converted into pail closets. In many remote country cottages and small farms, a closet is erected over a convenient small stream or ditch of running water.

In the Llangendeirne Sub-district there exist: Water Closets, 139; Pail Closets, 2,376; Pit Privies, 93; and in the St. Clears Sub-district, Water Closets, 446; Pail Closets, 1,205; Pit Privies, 324. Two have been converted into the Water Carriage System.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging, or disposal of House Refuse, always a difficult problem in a rural area, has been somewhat improved upon during the past five years. In remote country places a great deal, in fact the majority, of house refuse, and the contents of pail closets, are disposed of or buried in the manure heap. In rural cottages, whether isolated or in groups, forming small villages, where there are nearly always gardens attached, contents of pail closets and privies are buried.

In certain portions of the industrial parts of the district, where groups of houses are springing up, there is an increasing tendency to utilise the storm water road gutters for the disposal of house slops, and thus creating a nuisance, and in the absence of any system of sewerage, this is becoming a difficult problem to deal with.

The provision of refuse tips for various villages has occupied the attention of the Rural Council to a considerable extent during the past few years, and the difficulty of acquiring suitable sites, and of arranging for the collecting and removal of household refuse, has been very great. Still, the work has been progressing, and up to the present the following villages have been provided with suitable tips, at reasonable distances, and arrangements made with contractors for the weekly removal, viz.: Abergwili, White Mill, Cefneithin, Carway, Pont-yates, Laugharne, St. Clears, Llanfihangel Abercowin and Llanstephan.

At Ferryside, Llansaint, Llandefeilog and Minke refuse tips are provided, and the various inhabitants themselves convey their household refuse to them.

No moveable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, and result of action, taken in regard to these:—

	Llangendairne District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
Number of Houses systematically inspected	473	446	919
Number re-visited	403	167	570
Number of Visits as per Inspector's Journal	274	196	470
Number of Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds	205	54	259
Number of Visits to Factories and Workshops	18	12	30
Number of Defects discovered	2	0	2
HOUSES—Defects or Nuisances discovered:—			
Number of premises cleaned and limewashed	9	1	10
Number of floors and passages re-laid	4	4	8
Number of roofs repaired	15	3	18
Number of eavestroughs repaired and new ones provided	17	1	18
Number to repair and pave yards	4	0	4
Number to construct windows to open	12	2	14
Number of walls rendered damp proof	17	12	29
HOUSE DRAINS— Number re-laid	3	15	18
Number of new drains provided	4	13	17
Number of drains cleansed, trapped and ventilated	5	4	9
Number provided with stone-ware gullies	2	4	6
CLOSETS— Number of additional closets	16	8	24
Number converted to pail closets	8	1	9
WATER SUPPLY— Wells cleansed and repaired	8	18	26
Number to provide houses with water supply	5	2	7
GENERAL— Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	6	2	8
To remove accumulation of offensive rubbish	9	11	20
SLAUGHTER HOUSES— Number visits to	97	97	194
Number registered	13	8	21
Number of defects discovered	2	2	4
SCHOOLS— Number of visits paid to	49	18	67
Defects found	8	2	10

Other Sanitary Conditions Requiring Notice.

In several portions of the mining districts of the Rural Area there is an increasing and growing demand for schemes for the disposal of sewage and house refuse. This question was submitted to the notice of one of the Medical Inspectors of the Welsh Board of Health, who made an inspection of the area in the early part of the year, and it was suggested that some of these places should be sewered, and further dealt with, as soon as the financial position of the Country had become easier, and could allow of it.

Schools.

There are 50 Public Elementary Schools in the Rural District of Carmarthen, and they have been frequently inspected from time to time.

Forty-nine visits to schools were paid in the Llangendeirne Sub-district, and eight defects were found, and, after notices, were duly remedied. In the St. Clears Sub-district eighteen visits and two defects.

Water Supplies.—Some of the schools are fairly well provided with drinking water, whilst the situation of others renders the provision of a constant water supply impossible, such as Llanybri, Llansaint and Llangain. In certain cases the County Education Committee have endeavoured to provide a supply by sinking wells on the school premises, but these have only been successful in overcoming the difficulty for the winter months, when water may be obtained by sinking wells almost anywhere. These wells become dry during the summer months, when a good supply is most needed. Generally speaking, the arrangements in the different schools for washing hands is more or less unsatisfactory.

Sanitary Conveniences.—These require constant supervision, otherwise much neglect occurs from time to time. Schools exist where the provision of a place wherein to deposit the contents of the closet pails has never been acquired, and in these cases it is useless blaming the school cleaners, as the responsibility rests with the managers, and on some of these notices were served to provide suitable accommodation for this purpose, and in two the accommodation was provided.

No Schools were closed during the year on account of Epidemics of Infectious Disease by the District Medical Officer of Health under Art. 57 of the Code, and no Certificates were issued in accordance with Schedule IV., Rule 23-2 (a) of the Code.

Housing.

I.—General Housing Conditions in the Area.

(1). General Housing Conditions.—The total number of houses in the district as at present constituted is, according to the last Census, 5,536; the number for the working classes may be roughly estimated, according to their rateable value, at about 4,542.

The Rural District of Carmarthen consists of 28 Parishes, and with the exception of three, viz., those of Llanddarog, Llanarthney and Llangendeirne, are almost entirely of an agricultural character, where the majority of dwellings consist of farm houses of various degrees, interspersed with villages or small groups of houses and cottages, as well as a few more or less pretentious residences of a superior type. Taken as a whole, the housing conditions are fairly satisfactory. In the three parishes above named, where coal mining is extensively undertaken, the class of dwelling house is, as a rule, superior, and of a more modern character than in the more strictly agricultural portions of the area.

(2).—(a) Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses. In the immediate vicinity of the anthracite coal mines in the parishes of Llanddarog, Llanarthney and Llangendeirne, the shortage of houses is greatest, and there is more overcrowding, as a result of the custom of young and unmarried miners obtaining lodgings in houses and cottages that are already fully occupied by married men and their families. In addition to this, many of the houses are occupied by more than one family. In the agricultural portions of the district there is but little overcrowding, and there is little evidence of any excess of housing in any part of the district.

(b). Measures Taken or Contemplated to meet any Shortage.—The Rural Council have borrowed money under the Government Housing Subsidy Scheme, and advance sums of £75 per house, if of a certain area, to people of the working classes, to assist in erecting new houses, and considerable advantage has been taken of this arrangement for the past two years.

II. Overcrowding. (1) Extent. According to the last Census there were found to be 60 houses containing more than one family. In 19 cases, six persons occupied two rooms. In 15 cases there were seven persons in two rooms; there were 8 persons in five cases; 9 persons in seven cases, occupying two rooms, and in two cases there were eleven and twelve persons respectively occupying two rooms. The above overcrowding occurred in the three industrial parishes.

(2). Causes.—These have been already explained.

(3). Measures Taken or Contemplated to meet any Shortage.—The above-mentioned loans advanced by the Council.

(4). Principal Cases of Overcrowding During the Year 1925.—Fifty-eight cases reported. Notices served in some of the worst, and as a result a few of them were abated.

III.—Fitness of Houses:—

1. (a) General Standard of Housing in the District.—In the industrial portions of the district, where modern houses have been more recently erected, the standard is all that can be desired, consisting of stone or brick walls, with Carnarvon slated roofs, and for the most part standing on their own ground, with ample garden space and the usual offices.

In the purely agricultural portions the standard is not so good, there being many old, badly contrived and partially dilapidated dwellings.

(b) General Characters of the Defects Found to Exist in Unfit Houses are as follows:—Houses built up against earth banks, or in insanitary positions, defective roofs, walls, floors and windows, damp and insanitary surroundings, deficient light and ventilation.

(c) Defects Due to the Lack of Proper Supervision by Owners.—No complaints have been received, neither have any cases of neglect by tenants been observed to any appreciable extent.

(2) General. Action Taken as Regards Unfit Houses Under (a) the Public Health Acts.—Numerous notices served by the Inspectors of Nuisances to carry out minor repairs.

(b) The Housing Acts.—Notices served under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1909-1925, Sec. 3 and Sec. 11-14 and 15.

(3). Difficulties in Remedying Unfitness.—There are many Cottages in the Rural Agricultural Area with thatched roofs and earth walls that are not worth repairing, and the excessive cost of materials and labour rendering even moderate repairs a difficulty from an economic point of view. No special measures have been taken to secure improved management by owners, or care by tenants.

(4). Conditions, so far as they affect Housing, as Regards Water Supply, etc.—Most of the villages have public water supplies, that are more or less satisfactory, others are inefficiently supplied. Isolated farm houses and cottages have wells with pumps, or only rely on surface supplies in spouts or shallow dip wells. Closet accommodation consists

for the most part of the pail closet system. In three of the villages there are a good number of water closets, and in a few isolated houses of the better sort. Very few pit privies now exist, as the majority have been converted into pail closets.

Refuse is generally buried in the garden. In thirteen villages there are refuse tips provided.

During the year 1925 the water supplies throughout the Area were periodically inspected, and all necessary repairs attended to. The supply to Carway Village was opened up at the source, and a new line of pipes laid on to the intake tank, together with other necessary alterations and repairs. The Llanstephan Western Supply, and the Llanybri Village Supply were also put in order, and in addition to these, repairs were executed to the wells and pumps at Llanarthney, Pwll-trap and St. Clears. Notices to provide twenty-four additional Closets, and eight to convert pit privies, were issued and in most cases these were complied with. Refuse tips were provided for five villages that had none previously.

IV.—No representation has been made with regard to Unhealthy Areas.

V.—Bye-laws Relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.:—

(1). Bye-laws relating to Houses are efficiently administered by the Building Surveyor. No Houses are let in Lodgings, and no Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., exist.

(2). Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings were revised and published in July, 1924.

VI.—General and Miscellaneous.—There is nothing of importance to report.

Housing Statistics For The Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(i.) By the Local Authority Subsidy Scheme	33
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(ii) By other bodies or persons	16
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Total	49
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1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	919
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	366
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	50
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2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	57
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	3
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(a) by owners	3
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	0
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B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	235
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
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(a) by owners	186
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a). Milk Supply.—The Rural District of Carmarthen may be classified as a milk producing area for its own supply, and distribution, as well as for several large towns in South Wales, such as Swansea, Cardiff and the Rhondda Valley, where a very large quantity is daily sent by train. The wholesomeness, taken as a whole, is most satisfactory, as the report issued by the County Food and Drugs Inspector indicates that out of 62 samples sent for Analysis, all were genuine with the exception of one. Little milk is brought into the district excepting small quantities that may be delivered at the two Milk Factories in the immediate vicinity of St. Clears G.W. Railway Station, or to a branch of one of these near Laugharne, produced in the adjoining parishes, outside the Area. Three or four villages in the Industrial Districts also obtain a small quantity from outside the Rural Area. Constant and regular supervision over the premises, utensils, cattle, and methods of production are exercised by the Sanitary Inspectors, and occasionally by the Medical Officer of Health at the various milk producing farms. In most of the larger villages or groups of houses, milk produced in the neighbouring farms is retailed in milk floats, or by hand.

(I.) Action Taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle.—No information has been received as to the

presence of either of the above during the year 1925.

(II.) One Licence to sell Grade A milk was granted by the County Council during the year, and there is one producer of Certified Grade A milk in the district. There are three Pasteurisation Plants of the Bernard Type, licensed.

(III.) No licences have been either refused or revoked.

(IV.) No samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during 1925 of either graded or other milk.

(b) Meat.

(I.) Meat Inspection.—The Sanitary Inspectors make a weekly round of the several licensed Slaughter-houses in the Area, and arrange the times of their visits to coincide with the times fixed upon for regular slaughtering. Where alterations of times occur, due notice is given by the butchers. In a scattered rural area this inspection becomes difficult to arrange so as to bestow adequate supervision, especially during hot weather, but the best is done that can be, under the circumstances. No system of marking under the Meat Regulations, 1924, is carried out.

One hundred and ninety-four Visits were paid to Slaughter-houses; 775 Carcasses were examined, none were wholly condemned, but 36 livers were condemned and immediately buried.

(II.) No Stalls or Stores exist, and the few shops in the larger villages, and all the vehicles, are regularly inspected.

(III.) No Public Slaughter-house exists.

Private Slaughter-houses.

	In 1920.		In January, 1925.		In December, 1925.
Registered	0	...	0	...	0
Licensed	17	...	21	...	21
Total	17		21		21

(c) Other Foods.

Unsound Foods.—Six tins of salmon, four of tinned fruit and two barrels of fish were condemned by one of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Bakehouses.—The bakehouses, of which there are 22 in the district, are visited and inspected occasionally. Thirty visits were paid, and notices were given to lime wash in two instances. The various small grocers and provision shops in

the country villages were also kept under observation, but there was nothing of any importance to report.

(d). No cases of Food Poisoning have been recorded.

(e) and (f). The Rural Council is not the Local Authority under these Acts.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally.—During the past five years the prevalence of notifiable infectious disease has been far less in the Area than it used to be, and there has been no alarming epidemic or outbreak of any special infectious disease during the past five years, and the number of cases notified during the same period is, on referring to previous annual reports, gradually declining, as well as that of the deaths. During 1924 and 1925 Pneumonia became more generally notified, and there was an increase in the number of deaths recorded from this disease. With this exception the mortality from Infectious Disease showed a decrease. Little, and in some years no, Enteric appeared. Generally speaking Scarlet appeared most frequently in the districts adjacent to the industrial areas. The disease is becoming milder in character and there occurred only three deaths out of a total of 263 notifications during the five years in question. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied at the cost of the Council occasionally, where the circumstances of the affected people render the cost prohibitive. Prompt use of this remedy is now generally adopted. Two fatal cases of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred. There were no "return" cases of Scarlet, there being no Infectious Hospital. No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever occurred.

No arrangements for the examination of Pathological Specimens have been made. Samples of milk are sent to the Beck Laboratory at Swansea for Bacteriological examination, as well as occasional swabs of suspected Diphtheria cases. The addresses of notified cases of Diphtheria are forwarded to the County Offices, and these are forwarded to the various District Nurses employed by that body, who visit at these addresses and take swabs of all contacts for examination. No Isolation Hospital exists, and isolation of infected persons is carried out in the home in the best manner available, while subsequent disinfection of the premises is invariably observed where necessary, while infected bedding and clothing is dealt with at the Steam Disinfecting Station at the Poor Law Institution, No. 1, Penlan Road, Carmarthen.

No use has hitherto been made of either the Schick or of the Dick Tests, or of artificial methods of immunization.

No (a) Primary, or (b) Revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Non-notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases, viz., Measles and Whooping Cough.—Of these there is but little to report. Small localised epidemics occurred at intervals in various portions of the Area from time to time. The number of deaths that occurred during the past five years was, from Measles 2, and from Whooping Cough 13. Occasionally information has been received of low attendances in consequence of the outbreak of one or other of these diseases, or perhaps of Chickenpox, from Head Teachers. The Schools are then forthwith visited, and inquiries made and advice given, but, generally-speaking, the Public Elementary Schools have been closed by the County Education Authority without reference to the District Medical Officer, in which case the latter may be unaware of any such Epidemic existing.

The deaths that occurred during the past five years from Influenza were as follows:—In 1921, 11; 1922, 18; 1923, 2; 1924, 15; 1925, 10, making a total of 56. There has been no noteworthy Epidemic, and no special enquiry has been undertaken in connection with it.

No other diseases have received special attention, e.g., Cancer, Anthrax or Rabies.

There is a Thresh Disinfectant in the Town of Carmarthen, belonging to the Guardians, where the clothing of verminous persons, and where infected bedding and clothing are conveyed from the Rural Area to be disinfected.

Notifiable Diseases (Other Than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	32	"	"
Diphtheria	14	"	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	"	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	"	"
Pneumonia	8	"	20
Erysipelas	4	"	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	"	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	"	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925:—

Age Period	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...
10	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
15	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	...
20	5	4	1	1	...	3	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	1	5	...	...	6	8	...	...
45	2	2	...	3	...	2	...	...
55 to	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	..	...	...	2	2	1	4
Totals	10	13	3	6	11	16	4	5

All recorded deaths of tuberculosis were previously notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action taken. There being no cases recorded.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action taken; no cases having arisen.

L. M. BOWEN-JONES, D.P.H. (Lond.)

The Friary, Carmarthen,
10th May, 1926.

