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Contributors

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Carmarthenshire County Council

Annual Report

OF THE

County Medical Officer
of Health

For the Year 1956

LLANELLY :

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INTRODUCTION

Apart from the extension of the measles epidemic of the previous year into the early part of 1956 the incidence of communicable disease was low in the county during the year.

For those communicable diseases in which artificial immunisation is possible the County Health Staff made every effort to secure the highest possible response to the facilities available. At present they are Smallpox, diphtheria, whooping-cough, tuberculosis and anterior poliomyelitis.

The requests for poliomyelitis vaccination reached one of the highest levels in the country and at the present time, 4,661 children have had completed inoculations without any untoward effects.

Nearly 40% of the infants whose births were registered were vaccinated against smallpox, the best figure since 1952.

918 children were successfully given BCG Vaccination during the year. As a result of testing for BCG vaccination suitability, it was found that 41% of 543 children in contact with tuberculosis cases at home were already infected by the germ as against 18% of 778 school children at the age of 13 years, although in none of the latter group was the disease active in any form at the time of examination.

The death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis dropped to the lowest figure known in this county of 0.13 per 1,000 population and for the first time no death occurred from non-respiratory tuberculosis, which makes pleasant writing when the grim picture of tuberculous meningitis in children not so many years ago, is remembered. The recent fall in notifications of respiratory disease has, however, been checked this year and will undoubtedly show fluctuation from time to time until the unknown pool of infection has been more closely contained.

The shift of the highest incidence of new cases of respiratory disease to the age groups over 45 in males is becoming more marked, accounting for nearly 46% of the 128 new male cases notified. This shift is reflected also in the national figures and it has been suggested that heavy smoking may be a contributory factor, but in this county at least, the all too common presence of dust disease is, I think, the most important factor.

The Cancer Death Rate continues to increase and there were 422 deaths in 1956 as against 331 in 1952; this year lung cancer was second only to stomach cancer in prevalence, there being 58 of the former as against 101 of the latter. Undoubtedly, the ageing population of the county tends to raise the cancer rate, but in the age group 45-65, 28 (27 men) died of lung cancer as against 32 (19 men) of stomach cancer, and although the county figures are small they follow the national pattern in which heavy smoking and atmospheric pollution are incriminated as probable contributory factors.

Maternal Mortality (excluding abortions) remained at the low figure of 0.8, there being two deaths in each of the last three years.

During the year four trichloroethylene machines were in use by midwives and were found so eminently satisfactory that this type of analgesia is to be extended to the whole county.

It was not found possible to provide dental treatment for mothers and young children in 1956 but at this date, even with the existing shortage of dental staff, arrangements have been made which cover the needs of this section of the community.

The Mothercraft Hostel, Plasnewydd at Burry Port, was closed during the year, the need for this type of institution in the county being very small. Arrangements at Cardiff, Hereford, Swansea and Penarth have been very successful in meeting this need since the closure of the hostel.

It is disappointing to see that the Infant Mortality Rate, the Neonatal Death Rate, and Stillbirth Rate all increased this year.

Although 19 infants of the 71 deaths under one year were certified as due to congenital malformations, of 188 born prematurely no less than 34 died within twenty-eight days. The survival of premature infants and reduction in stillbirths are matters which must rest heavily on the obstetric and paediatric hospital services as I have stressed in previous reports.

The Home Nursing Service continues to increase and is doing excellent work together with the Home Help Service in helping the aged and chronic sick in their own homes. Very little voluntary help appears to exist nowadays, which is regrettable, as the care of the aged and elderly sick, especially that of ensuring their comfort at night, lends itself to voluntary effort.

There is one aspect of the Home Nursing Service which will, I hope, diminish in the near future and that is the number of visits made to give injections of antibiotics and other materials. Visits for this single purpose increased from 35,677 in 1955 to 45,333 in 1956.

The estimated population continued to drop at a rate equivalent to the average for the last thirty years and now stands at 170,400.

The following table is a summary of the main vital statistics for 1956 and the previous year :—

	1956	1955	England and Wales, 1956
Birth Rate	13.39	13.31	15.7
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.8	0.9	0.56
Infant Mortality Rate	31.1	26.4	*23.8
Neonatal Mortality Rate	24.1	18.9	16.9
Stillbirth Rate	30.17	24.04	23.0
Death Rate	13.58	14.1	(provisional) 11.7

* Wales only—28.9.

It is pleasing to include for the first time a report by Mr. Watkins, Chief Inspector of Food and Drugs.

I am grateful for the support and help of the Chairman and Members of the Health and Public Health Committee, and I must record my appreciation of the help and assistance I received from the professional, administrative and clerical staff of the County Health Department.

R. EVANS,

August, 1957.

County Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956

Chairman : Alderman Thomas Davies.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman Edgar Lewis.

Aldermen :

Evan Bevan.
Frank Davies.
J. M. Davies.
Griffith Evans.
T. Ll. Harries.

W. H. Mathias, O.B.E.
D. J. Stone.
S. O. Thomas.
T. J. Williams.

Councillors :

W. I. Daniel.
D. M. Davies.
G. V. Davies.
I. T. Davies.
J. H. Davies.
L. Dennis.
D. Ivor J. Evans.
D. S. Gwynfor Evans.
M. T. Evans, M.B.E.
H. H. Harries.
Gwyn Howells.
Mrs. Loti Rees Hughes.
Rev. R. G. James.
D. G. J. Jones.
J. Amos Jones.

Josiah Jones.
Edward Lewis.
Haydn Lewis.
Mrs. M. A. Lewis.
Sidney Lewis.
John Morgan.
William Morris.
J. D. Phelps.
W. J. Phillips (Abergwili).
Mrs. C. R. Rees.
S. J. E. Samuel.
T. E. Williams.
J. Zammit.
Two Vacancies.

Early in 1957, Councillors T. H. Maguire and John Williams were appointed to fill the two vacancies.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer :
R. Evans, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer :
D. G. G. Jones, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Principal Dental Officer :
G. Ungood Griffiths, L.D.S., R.C.S. (ceased 31st December).

Chief Nursing Officer :
Miss M. Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Organiser of Home Helps :
Miss Joan M. Crossman.

County Ambulance Officer :
G. B. Evans.

Assistant Medical Officers :

Elizabeth T. Davies-Humphreys, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

D. O. Davies, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

M. G. Danaher, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Marjorie J. A. Lewis, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.

Edna E. Williams, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.

J. G. E. Collins, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*E. H. Beynon-Hopkins, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (part-time).

*Gladys M. Herbert, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (part-time).

†Elfyn T. Jones, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (part-time).

Iris A. Jenkin Lloyd, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (part-time).

Audrey A. Jones, M.B., Ch.B. (part-time).

* Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

† District Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant Dental Officers :

J. L. T. Davies, L.D.S., R.C.S.

W. E. T. Llewelyn, L.D.S., R.C.S.

D. L. Walters, L.D.S., R.C.S.

F. G. Day (temporary).

Gwilym Evans, L.D.S., R.C.S. (part-time).

Medical Officer of Gynaecological Clinic :

J. Gwendoline Madel, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor :

Miss F. Hughes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Senior Nursing Officer :

Miss N. E. Russell, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Senior Orthopaedic Sister :

Miss E. R. Buckley, M.C.S.P.

Assistant Orthopaedic Sister :

Mrs. O. Turner Evans, M.C.S.P.

Speech Therapist :

Miss M. Philippa Francis, L.C.S.T. (ceased 23rd June).

Mrs. R. M. Morgan, L.C.S.T. (commenced 1st September).

Assistant Organisers of Home Helps :

Mrs. N. Davies.

Mrs. E. J. Griffiths.

Dental Attendants :

Mrs. V. M. Arundel.

Miss E. B. Evans.

Miss A. M. Maliphant.

Miss M. A. Thomas.

Miss Joyce Jenkins.

Miss Daphne M. Thomas (part-time) (ceased 2nd October).

Mrs. Florence Evans (part-time) (commenced 13th November).

Mental Health Social Welfare Officer :

D. T. Longhurst.

Duly Authorised Officers for Mental Health :

*J. A. D. Hopkins.

*W. A. Williams.

*D. J. Hughes.

*D. G. Jones.

*D. A. John.

*Esmor Evans.

* Also County Welfare Officers.

Supervisor Llanelly Occupation Centre and Home Teacher for Mental Defectives :

Mrs. M. A. Lewis.

Assistant Supervisors and Home Teachers for Mental Defectives :

Miss J. M. Lester.

D. E. Ambrose (commenced 5th November).

Home Teachers and Visitors for the Blind :

Miss S. M. Tidmarsh.

Miss A. Young.

Miss Myra Thomas.

Plasnewydd Mothercraft Hostel : (closed 31st March)

Medical Officer—E. Noel Rees, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G.

Matron—Mrs. E. A. Biddle, S.R.N., S.C.M.

County Analyst :

H. J. Evans, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S.

Inspectors under Food and Drugs Acts :

Chief Inspector—D. R. Watkins.

Deputy Chief Inspector—E. D. Roberts.

Educational Psychologist :

C. B. E. James, B.A., B.Ed., A.B.Ps.S. (commenced 1st October).

Consultants available for County Health Services

Pathologist :

Gwenfron M. Griffiths, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Bacteriologist under the Medical Research Council :

M. H. Hughes, M.A., D.M., D.T.M. and H., Dip. Bact.

Chest Physicians :

J. T. Jones, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.

D. B. Ll. Morgan, M.D.

Assistant Chest Physicians :

J. Williams, M.B., B.Ch.
Bronwen N. Davies, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.

Medical Officer of V.D. Clinic :

D. E. Thomas, M.B., B.S.

Obstetricians :

J. R. E. James, M.B., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.
Rhys M. Williams, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Orthopaedic Surgeons :

G. D. Rowley, M.Ch.
E. Mervyn Evans, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeons :

J. J. Healy, M.B., Ch.B., Llanelly.
G. S. Forrester, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S., Llanelly.
A. Philipp, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.O.M.S., Llanelly.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons :

T. I. Williams, F.R.C.S., Llanelly.
S. Morgan, F.R.C.S., Carmarthen.

Hon. Plastic Surgeon :

Professor T. Pomfret Kilner, F.R.C.S., Oxford.

Paediatrician :

R. T. Jenkins, M.R.C.P., D.C.H., Swansea.

Dermatologist :

D. Rhys Lewis, M.D., F.R.C.P., Swansea.

Consultant Orthodontist :

R. E. Rix, M.R.C.S., L.D.S., R.C.S., London.

Psychiatrists :

Sidney Davies, M.B., B.S., D.P.M.
J. Farr, M.B., B.S., B.Ch., D.P.M.
E. J. Eurfyl Jones, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.M.

Child Psychiatrist :

G. Crosse, M.B., B.S., D.P.M.

NURSING

District.	Nurse.	Qualifications.
Whole-time Health Visitors :		
Amman Valley	M. G. Evans.....	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Ammanford	A. Howells	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Burry Port	R. M. Walters	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Trimsaran	G. M. Williams	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Llangennech	E. Edwards	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
St. Clears	M. E. E. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Carmarthen Borough	G. I. Evans	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Llanelly Borough	M. C. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	G. Greene	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
	D. C. Insley	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
	G. M. Roberts	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Felinfoel	E. M. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Tumble	E. J. M. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Llandybie	A. E. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Pencader	O. M. Hobson	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Bankyfelin	E. N. E. Davies	S.R.N., H.V.Cert.
Llandeilo	C. M. Bailey	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Llangendearne	M. E. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Llandovery	M. M. Davies	S.R.N., H.V.Cert.
Nantgaredig	E. Evans	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Conwil	N. G. E. Baker	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Whitland	M. E. Fisk	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
District Nurse/Midwives/Health Visitors :		
Llansawel	M. L. Angel	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Cilycwm	E. G. Cox	S.C.M.
Caio	S. Jenkins	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
District Nurse/Midwives :		
Betws	L. M. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Ammanford	E. M. Morgan	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Brynamman	A. James	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Garnant	S. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Cwmamman	V. Sharp	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llangennech	L. C. Evans	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
	M. E. John	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
Llwynhendy	M. E. Richards	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Laugharne	E. John	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
St. Clears	D. Buckler	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Abernant	M. O. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Conwil	E. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Meidrim and Trelech	Vacancy	
Pwll, Sandy and Furnace	A. E. James	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Gorslas	M. L. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Tumble	H. E. A. Ratford	S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.
Felinfoel	A. R. Harries	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Dafen	E. M. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M., Tb.Cert.
Kidwelly	R. H. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llandybie	L. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Penygroes	S. E. G. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Trimsaran	E. M. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Saron	G. Edwards	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Tycroes	E. J. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llandeilo	G. M. Alcock	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llanstephan	M. D. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llanybyther	D. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Pencader.....	E. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.

District.	Name.	Qualifications.
Drefach	E. A. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llangunnor	K. E. Critchley	S.C.M.
Abergwili	D. Morgan	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Nantgaredig	D. E. Davies	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
Llandovery	B. Harries	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llangadog	E. J. Powell	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
Llansadwrn and Llanwrda	M. E. Preece	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
Ferryside	M. M. T. Richards Jones	S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
Pontyates	A. M. Walters	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Pontyberem	M. B. Harries	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llandeilo (South Ward)	E. A. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Talley	Vacancy	
Velindre	G. R. Luke	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llanfihangel-Aberbythich	A. M. Pugh	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Newcastle Emlyn	V. J. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Whitland	A. R. M. Evans	S.R.N., S.C.M., Tb. Cert.
Llanfynydd and Llangathen	M. C. James	S.R.N., S.C.M.

District Nurses :

Carmarthen	D. M. Jones	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	E. G. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Burry Port	M. J. Davies	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Llanelly	M. Marpole	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	W. V. Griffiths	S.R.N.
	J. B. Tasker	S.R.N.
	H. Bushell	S.R.N.
	M. Griffiths	S.E.A.N.
Llanboidy	E. M. Adams	S.R.N.

Whole-time Midwives :

Llanelly	E. A. Beynon	S.C.M.
	M. Griffiths	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	K. Y. Perrott	S.C.M.
	M. David Griffiths	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	M. W. Evans	S.C.M.
Carmarthen	E. M. Evans James	S.C.M.
	E. M. James	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Burry Port	O. G. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Pembrey	M. E. Thomas	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Relief	H. Evans	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Relief	*G. M. Burford	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Relief	*M. Walters	S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Relief	E. M. Perrott	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Relief	M. Price	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Relief	Vacancy	
Relief	Vacancy	

* Temporary, pending appointment as Health Visitors.

STATISTICS

Area : 588,472 acres.

Population—Census 1951 : 171,742.

Estimated by Registrar General for 1956 : 170,400.

Product of a penny rate for general purposes : £5,527.

Rateable value for general purposes : £1,457,335.

In superficial area (588,472 acres) the County of Carmarthen is the largest of the Welsh Counties. Its length from the upper waters of the River Towy to the Pembrokeshire border is 50 miles. Its breadth from the River Teify on the Cardiganshire border to the River Loughor is 35 miles. Something like three-quarters of the area is agricultural, and the remainder (the eastern part of the County) is industrial, the chief industries being Coal Mining, Tinsplate and Steel. Rather more than one-half of the population is concentrated in the industrial area.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births :

			Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	.....	.....	1115	.....	1089	.....	2204
Illegitimate	.....	.....	43	.....	35	.....	78
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	.....	.....	1158	.....	1124	.....	2282
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 13.39.

The following table shews the number of live births registered and the birth rates during the past five years :—

	Urban		Rural		Admin. County		England and Wales
Year	No. Reg.	Rate.	No. Reg.	Rate.	No. Reg.	Rate.	Rate.
1952	926	13.27	1461	14.48	2387	13.98	15.3
1953	925	13.29	1482	14.63	2407	14.08	15.5
1954	902	12.99	1394	13.71	2296	13.42	15.2
1955	871	12.68	1402	13.73	2273	13.31	15.0
1956	889	13.01	1393	13.65	2282	13.39	15.7

Stillbirths

	Male		Female		Total
	43	.....	28	.....	71

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births : 30.17.

Deaths

	Male		Female		Total
	1264	.....	1051	.....	2315

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 13.58.

The following table gives a comparison of the total number of deaths and death rates during the past five years :—

Year	Urban		Rural		Admin. County		Rate for Eng. & Wales
	Deaths.	Crude D.R.	Deaths.	Crude D.R.	Deaths.	Crude D.R.	
1952	903	12.94	1257	12.46	2160	12.65	11.3
1953	1050	15.09	1165	11.50	2215	12.96	11.4
1954	1101	15.85	1263	12.42	2364	13.82	11.3
1955	1104	16.07	1304	12.77	2408	14.10	11.7
1956	1084	15.87	1231	12.06	2315	13.58	11.7

Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality covers the number of deaths in which pregnancy or childbirth was the primary cause of death. Two such cases occurred in this County during the year 1956, a maternal mortality rate of 0.8 per 1,000 total births. The figures for the last six years are as follows :—

Year.	Maternal Deaths.	Total births.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	Rate for England and Wales.
1951	1	2440	0.4	0.79
1952	3	2456	1.2	0.72
1953	3	2460	1.2	0.76
1954	2	2365	0.8	0.69
1955	5	2329	2.1	0.64
1956	2	2353	0.8	0.56

Although all abortions are included in the classification of maternal mortality, a truer picture of maternal mortality in the area is obtained by the exclusion of such cases. Maternal deaths in the County for the last six years not due to abortion are summarised in the following table :—

Year.	Total Maternal Deaths excluding Abortions.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
1951	1	0.4
1952	2	0.8
1953	3	1.2
1954	2	0.8
1955	2	0.9
1956	2	0.8

All deaths due to pregnancy are specially investigated by the Consultant Obstetrician concerned. The County Medical Officer of Health adds his comments to the report which is then passed to the Regional Assessor who submits his findings to the Principal Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health.

Infant Mortality

There were 71 deaths of infants under one year old during the year ; an infant mortality rate of 31.11 per 1,000 live births. This compares with a rate of 26.40 for 1955. For England and Wales for 1956, the rate was 23.8, but the rate for Wales only was 28.9.

A classification of 1956 deaths in the County is as follows :—

		Males		Females		Total		Rate
Legitimate	.....	36	.....	32	.....	68	.....	30.85
Illegitimate	.....	2	.....	1	.....	3	.....	38.46
Totals	.....	38	.....	33	.....	71	.....	31.11

The causes of death were :—

				Male		Female		Total
Influenza	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	—	.....	1
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2
Other diseases of the respiratory system	.....	.....	.....	—	.....	1	.....	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	—	.....	1
Congenital malformations	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	8	.....	19
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	23	.....	45
Accidents	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	—	.....	2
Totals	.....	.....	.....	38	.....	33	.....	71

Infant mortality in the County for the last six years is summarised in the following table :—

Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		England and Wales	Wales only
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	Rate
1951	55	23.92	5	55.55	60	25.12	29.6	—
1952	75	32.48	3	38.46	78	32.68	27.6	33.3
1953	81	34.94	2	22.47	83	34.48	26.8	31.3
1954	66	29.87	3	34.88	69	30.05	25.5	31.5
1955	60	27.29	—	—	60	26.40	24.9	31.4
1956	68	30.85	3	38.46	71	31.11	23.8	28.9

Neo-Natal Deaths

55 infants under four weeks old died (neo-natal deaths) during the year, a mortality rate of 24.10 per 1,000 live births. This figure was 43 for the previous year, a mortality rate of 18.92.

An analysis of the neo-natal deaths in the County during 1956 is as follows :—

			M.	F.	Total	Rate
Legitimate	.....	.....	29	23	52	23.59
Illegitimate	.....	.....	2	1	3	38.46
			—	—	—	—
Totals	.....	.....	31	24	55	24.10
			—	—	—	—

Neo-natal deaths in the County for the last five years are summarised in the following table :—

Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		England and Wales
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate
1952	51	22.09	2	25.64	53	22.20	18.3
1953	53	22.86	2	22.47	55	22.85	17.7
1954	45	20.36	3	34.88	48	20.91	17.7
1955	43	19.55	—	—	43	18.92	17.3
1956	52	23.59	3	38.46	55	24.10	16.9

Deaths from Infectious Diseases (up to 5 years of age) :

Meningococcal Infections	.....	.....	1
Measles	.....	.....	—
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	—
Diphtheria	.....	.....	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	.....	.....	1
Tuberculosis (all forms)	.....	.....	—
Influenza	.....	.....	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	.....	.....	—

Cancer

The death rates per 1,000 population for the last five years have been :—

Year	No. of Deaths	Rate
1952	331	1.9
1953	351	2.0
1954	364	2.1
1955	363	2.1
1956	422	2.5

A classification of the causes of death from Cancer during 1956 is as follows :—

Site of Cancer		Age Periods						Total	Grand Total
		0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—		
Stomach	M.	—	—	—	—	19	24	43	101
	F.	—	—	—	1	13	44	58	
Lung, Bronchus.....	M.	—	—	—	—	27	27	54	58
	F.	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	
Breast.....	M.	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	26
	F.	—	—	—	2	12	11	25	
Uterus.....	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
	F.	—	—	—	2	9	10	21	
Others.....	M.	—	—	1	6	22	86	115	216
	F.	—	—	—	9	31	61	101	
TOTALS	M.	—	—	1	6	68	138	213	422
	F.	—	—	—	14	66	129	209	

The following table gives the causes of death in 1956 at specified ages :—

Cause of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and over.
All Causes—Males	1264	38	6	7	62	349	802
Females	1051	33	2	4	52	220	740
Total	2315	71	8	11	114	569	1542
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	23	—	—	—	5	10	8
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	6	—	—	1	3	2	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	101	—	—	—	1	32	68
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	58	—	—	—	—	28	30
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	26	—	—	—	2	12	12
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	21	—	—	—	2	9	10
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	216	—	—	1	15	53	147
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	6	—	—	1	1	3	1
16. Diabetes	16	—	—	1	1	5	9
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	330	—	—	—	6	78	246
18. Coronary disease, angina	288	—	—	—	8	93	187
19. Hypertension with heart disease	65	—	—	—	1	17	47
20. Other heart disease	325	—	—	—	9	36	280
21. Other circulatory disease	129	—	—	—	4	17	108
22. Influenza	18	1	—	—	—	3	14
23. Pneumonia	38	2	1	—	1	10	24
24. Bronchitis	114	—	—	—	1	31	82
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	104	1	—	—	2	40	61
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	22	—	—	—	—	11	11
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	5	1	—	—	2	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	31	—	—	1	9	7	14
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	25	—	—	—	—	2	23
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	25	19	2	—	2	2	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	226	45	1	—	13	34	133
33. Motor vehicle accidents	22	—	2	1	10	6	3
34. All other accidents	50	2	1	5	8	13	21
35. Suicide	21	—	—	—	6	13	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	2315	71	8	11	114	569	1542

The chief causes of death during 1956 and the rates per 1,000 population compared with previous years were :—

Cause of Death	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Heart and other Circulatory Disease	717	4.20	762	4.46	839	4.90	871	5.10	807	4.74
Cancer	331	1.94	351	2.05	364	2.13	363	2.13	422	2.48
Vascular Lesions of Brain	339	1.98	337	1.97	317	1.85	351	2.06	330	1.94
Tuberculosis (all forms)	45	0.26	39	0.23	45	0.26	41	0.24	23	0.13
Pneumonia	57	0.33	66	0.39	48	0.28	53	0.31	38	0.22
Bronchitis	94	0.55	102	0.60	113	0.66	128	0.75	114	0.67
Other diseases of respiratory system	115	0.67	90	0.53	129	0.75	96	0.56	104	0.61
Nephritis	39	0.23	25	0.15	33	0.19	32	0.19	31	0.18

Deaths from the above causes for 1956 constitute 80.73% of the total deaths.

The number of deaths of persons 65 years of age and over was 1,542 or 66.61% of the total deaths in 1956.

ADMINISTRATION

The County Health Services (apart from the School Health Service which is outside the scope of this report) are administered by the Health and Public Health Committee. This Committee have appointed seven Sub-Committees to assist in the administration of certain services, viz. :—

- (i) **Ambulance Transport Sub-Committee**, to supervise the administration and organisation of the County Ambulance Service and to make recommendations for the improvement of the Service. The Sub-Committee comprise representatives of the Authority, the West Wales Hospital Management Committee, the Women's Voluntary Services, and the Ambulance employees.
- (ii) **Care and After Care Sub-Committee**, to exercise the functions relating to the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. The Health and Public Health Committee have power to co-opt on the Sub-Committee persons who are interested in after-care work, provided that not more than one-third of the members of the Sub-Committee are co-opted members. The Sub-Committee have full powers, subject to any directions or restrictions imposed by the Health and Public Health Committee, and in an emergency the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee has full power to make temporary arrangements under the Scheme.
- (iii) **Mental Health Sub-Committee**, to undertake the functions for the development of the Mental Health Service. The Health and Public Health Committee have power to co-opt on the Sub-Committee two members of the County Education Committee and other persons who are experienced or interested in Mental Health work, provided that at least two-thirds of the members of the Sub-Committee are members of the Authority.
- (iv) **Three District Nursing Appointments Sub-Committees**, for the Carmarthen, Llanelly and Llandeilo areas, respectively, to make appointments to vacancies for District Nurses under District Nursing Associations. The Sub-Committees have full power, and comprise representatives of the Authority, the County Nursing Association, the District Nursing Association concerned, and the senior member of the County Council representing the area of the District Nursing Association.
- (v) **Home Help Service Sub-Committee**, to consider and make recommendations in unusual and difficult cases requiring Home Help assistance.

There is no divisional health organisation in the County. The County does not lend itself to divisional administration, although the School Health Service is partly decentralised for the area of the Llanelly Education Divisional Executive.

There are no formal joint "administrative" arrangements with other Local Health Authorities, but arrangements have been made with the Glamorganshire, Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire Authorities for Ambulance Services along the border areas. Arrangements have also been made with the Glamorganshire Authority for Home Nursing and Midwifery Services in the Cwmllynfell area and with the Pembrokeshire Authority in the Clynderwen area.

JOINT USE OF STAFF

Nine general medical practitioners were at the end of 1956 employed as part-time Medical Officers of Infant Welfare Centres. It is, however, the policy of the Authority, as laid down in the arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, that general medical practitioners be replaced by whole-time Medical Officers of the Authority. Disadvantages in the employment of general medical practitioners at Infant Welfare Centres include the following :—

- (a) The work of medical practitioners must of necessity make it difficult for them to keep regular clinic sessions.
- (b) There is the possibility of misunderstanding with other medical practitioners whose patients attend the Infant Welfare Centres.
- (c) Detailed preventive work at clinics is generally unattractive to general practitioners.

The West Wales Isolation Hospital is under the medical care of the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff as it was prior to 1948.

When required, the Orthopaedic Sisters of the Authority treat Hospital orthopaedic in-patients.

The arrangements of the Authority for a Mental Health Service provide for the joint use of staff with the Regional Hospital Board.

The Consultant Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Board undertake for the Authority all possible duties in connection with the prevention and after care of tuberculosis.

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons (Mr. G. Rowley and Mr. E. Mervyn Evans) under the Regional Hospital Board also attend the County Orthopaedic Clinics.

The County Medical Officer of Health attends the meetings of the Hospital Management Committees for Glantawe and Carmarthen Mental Hospital as well as the Carmarthenshire Executive Council.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The oldest voluntary organisations in the County with which the Health Authority are working are the County Nursing Association, the District Nursing Associations, and the Ladies Committees of Infant Welfare Centres. The Authority owe much to these early pioneers in voluntary social work.

Unfortunately, there has been a regrettable tendency since the inauguration of the National Health Service, for voluntary effort to decline in connection with the work of the District Nursing Associations. Four Nursing Associations disbanded during the year, making a total of sixteen Associations disbanded since 1948. It had been hoped that when the Authority relieved District Nursing Associations of almost all their financial worries, the Associations would have taken a greater part in the voluntary social work of the community. Although many District Nursing Associations still continue actively as they have done in the past, none has developed social work on the lines anticipated.

Voluntary Ladies Committees are active in the majority of Infant Welfare Centres in the County, but voluntary effort in this field also shows signs of waning. Six Centres now do not have a Ladies Committee.

The voluntary activities of the Women's Voluntary Services, the British Red Cross Society and the Women's Institutes, continue to flourish. The first two organisations are ever ready to assist by arranging escorts for patients without regard to distance or short notice of requirements, and the Women's Institutes are always ready to help by arranging for members to give tuition in hand-work to tuberculous patients. Particular reference must be made to the work of the County Branch of the Women's Voluntary Services in connection with the distribution of welfare foods, and to the tremendous amount of work undertaken by them in maintaining the Hospital Car Service.

All these voluntary organisations co-operate from time to time in connection with the Home Help Service, and the Women's Voluntary Services also kindly allow the use of their Llanelly Office as a Home Help Information Bureau two afternoons each week.

Valuable assistance and co-operation is obtained from the St. David's Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee in the care and rehabilitation of unmarried mothers and their children.

A good deal of assistance is also rendered by the Inspectors of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, but their work relating to problem families and neglected children is now undertaken through the Children's Officer.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Expectant and Nursing Mothers

Ante-Natal Clinics.—Owing to poor attendances, the Llandeilo Ante-Natal Clinic was discontinued and a Midwives' Clinic established there instead. At the end of the year, eight Ante-Natal Clinics were maintained by the authority and eleven sessions were being held weekly. A list of the clinics with information as to the attendances made during the year is as follows:—

Clinic	Sessions weekly	Medical Officer	Attendances		Average total attendance per session
			Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	
Ammanford	Two *	M. J. A. Lewis	691	—	8.86
			—	134	5.15
Llanelly	Two	M. G. Danaher	836	7	8.43
Llangennech	One	M. G. Danaher	287	3	5.69
Kidwelly	One	Davies-Humphreys	470	76	10.71
Burry Port	Two	Davies-Humphreys	919	143	10.84
Cross Hands	One	M. G. Danaher	303	13	6.08
†Llandeilo	One	M. J. A. Lewis	67	4	1.48
Pontyates	One	E. E. Williams	359	88	8.76
Amman Valley Hospital	One	John Davies	1821	—	37.16

* A Special post-natal session is held fortnightly at the Ammanford Clinic.

† Last Session held on the 28th November.

1,837 cases made 6,221 attendances at the Clinics during the year, viz. :—

Ante-Natal	.....	1,551 cases, 5,753 attendances.
Post-Natal	.....	286 cases, 468 attendances.

Cases for specialist opinion are referred to Clinics at the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen, the Llanelly Hospital, and the Amman Valley Hospital, Glanamman.

Blood specimens are taken at all the Authority's Clinics, and the blood groups and Rhesus Agglutinins are made known to midwives and general medical practitioners.

Many general medical practitioners hold their own Ante-Natal Clinics but, up to the end of the year, no arrangements had been made for the Staff of the Authority to assist at such clinics.

Midwives' Clinic.—The first session of the Midwives' Clinic established at Llandeilo was held on the 5th December. At the end of the year, two midwives' clinics were being maintained in the County; each held one session weekly. Attendances at the two clinics during the year were as follows:—

	Attendances.		
Carmarthen Clinic	269
Llandeilo Clinic	3

Maternity outfits are supplied by the Authority free of charge through the domiciliary midwife to all patients confined at home.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children

Plasnewydd Mothercraft Hostel, Burry Port, which had been administered by the Authority since the 1st April, 1947, was closed on the 31st March. After that date, arrangements were made for unmarried mothers to be admitted to the following Hostels:—

Northlands, Cardiff.
St. Martin's Home, Hereford.
Cwmdonkin Shelter, Swansea.
56, Stanwell Road, Penarth.

Five patients were admitted to Plasnewydd during 1956. (Two from Carmarthenshire and three from Pembrokeshire).

Particulars of admissions and discharges to Hostels outside the County during 1956 are given in the following table:—

Hostel.	Admissions.	Discharges.	In Residence on the 31st December.
Northlands, Cardiff	4	3	1
St. Martin's Home, Hereford	3	2	1
Cwmdonkin Shelter, Swansea	6	4	2
56, Stanwell Road, Penarth	1	1	—

Moral Welfare Workers act as escorts for the unmarried mothers when they are admitted to or discharged from Hostels under the Authority's arrangements.

Close co-operation is maintained with the St. David's Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee in the case of unmarried mothers generally. The Committee assist unmarried mothers in every way possible, and if necessary arrange for the adoption of the infants.

Child Welfare

Thirty-six Centres were being maintained by the Authority at the end of the year.

A list of the Centres and other information for 1956, is as follows :—

Centre	Where held	Day held	Attend- ances	Avg. attend- ances
Ammanford	Child Welfare Clinic, High Street, Ammanford.	Tuesday	1905	73.27
Brynamman	Yr Aelwyd, Upper Brynamman	Tuesday	639	26.63
Burry Port	Memorial Hall, Burry Port	Tuesday	902	34.69
Carmarthen Borough.	The Clinic, Pond Street, Carmarthen.	Monday	1423	29.65
Carmarthen Rural.	The Clinic, Pond Street, Carmarthen.	Wednesday	365	14.04
Cwmamman	Bethesda Chapel Vestry, Glanamman.	Wednesday	640	24.62
Felinfoel	Yr Aelwyd, Penygaer, Felinfoel	Thursday	884	34.00
Ferryside	Ex-R.A.F. Camp, Ferryside	Tuesday	268	10.72
Furnace	Saron Vestry, Furnace	Wednesday	274	10.96
Gorslas	Public Hall, Cross Hands	Tuesday	1126	45.04
Kidwelly	Trinity Methodist Church, Kidwelly.	Tuesday	764	29.39
Laugharne	The Clinic, Laugharne	Tuesday	584	23.36
Llandybie	Assembly Rooms, Memorial Hall, Llandybie.	Thursday	674	25.88
Llandeilo	Church Hall, Llandeilo	Wednesday	342	13.64
Llandovery	Reading Room and Institute, Llandovery.	Tuesday	396	15.23
Llanelly Borough.	Brynmair, Llanelly	Mon. and Fri.	4135	27.38
Llangadog	Y.M.C.A. Hall, Llangadog	Friday	62	7.75
Llangennech	Salem Chapel Vestry, Llangennech.	Tuesday	495	19.04
Llanstephan	Memorial Hall, Llanstephan	Wednesday	359	14.36
Llanybyther	Victory Hall, Llanybyther	Monday	253	10.54

Centre	Where held	Day held	Attendances	Avg. attendances
Llwynhendy	Nazareth Chapel Vestry, Llwynhendy.	Tuesday	1315	52.60
Newcastle Emlyn.	Cawdor Temperance Hotel, Newcastle Emlyn.	Tuesday	224	9.74
Pencader	Tabernacle Vestry, Pencader	Thursday	297	11.88
Pendine	The Institute, Llanmiloe, Pendine.	Wednesday	287	11.48
Penygroes	Congregational Chapel Vestry, Penygroes.	Tuesday	850	32.69
Pontyates	Welfare Hall, Pontyates	Wednesday	828	33.12
Pontyberem	Public Hall, Pontyberem	Wednesday	638	24.54
Pumpsaint	Coronation Hall, Pumpsaint	Thursday	85	9.44
Pwll	Salem Chapel Vestry, Pwll	Wednesday	372	14.31
St. Clears	Old Penuel Vestry, St. Clears	Tuesday	453	17.42
Trelech	Capel-y-Graig Vestry, Trelech	Thursday	93	3.58
Trimsaran	Workmen's Institute, Trimsaran	Tuesday	529	21.16
Tumble	Welfare Pavilion, Tumble	Tuesday	436	18.17
Velindre	Red Dragon Hall, Velindre, Llandyssul.	Thursday	298	11.92
Whitland	Memorial Hall, Whitland	Friday	474	18.23
Ystradowen	The County Primary School, Ystradowen.	Wednesday	394	16.46

All Centres are held fortnightly except as follows :—

Llanelly—Three sessions weekly.
 Carmarthen Borough—One session weekly.
 Llangadog—One session every six weeks.
 Pumpsaint—One session every six weeks.

Number of children who attended Centres for the FIRST TIME :—

Under 1 year of age	1620
Between 1 and 5 years of age	235
	<hr/> 1855 <hr/>

Number of children under 5 years of age who were attending Centres at the end of the year :—

Under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	1415
Over 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	2293
				<hr/>
				3708
				<hr/>

Number of individual children who attended Centres during the year—3913.

Medical Treatment of Infants

All arrangements for the medical treatment of school children are available for those under school age, but infants are now generally referred by the Medical Officers of Infant Welfare Centres directly to the family doctors for treatment. The following is a summary of the treatment facilities available for infants under the Authority during 1956. :

Ear, Nose and Throat Defects.—Under arrangements made with the West Wales, Llandovery and Llanelly Hospitals, the County Medical Officer of Health, directed parents to take their children to attend for specialist examination, attendances being made at the Outpatient Departments. Specialist examination at the Amman Valley Hospital was arranged by that Hospital. The names of children found to require inpatient treatment were placed by the specialists on the Hospital waiting lists, and the arrangements for admission were made by the Hospitals.

Eye Defects.—Specialist examinations were carried out at three Centres, viz. :—

- (i) Carmarthen.—At the West Wales General Hospital. Arrangements for the attendance of cases were made by the County Medical Officer of Health.
- (ii) Llanelly.—At Brynmair Clinic. Arrangements for the attendance of cases were made by the Hospital Authorities.
- (iii) Glanamman.—At the Amman Valley Hospital. Arrangements for the attendance of cases were made by the Hospital Authorities.

Plastic Surgery.—The arrangements for the plastic treatment of children at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, continued and one case of cleft palate was admitted for operative treatment there during the year.

Artificial Light Therapy.—Twelve children under school age received treatment during the year at the Authority's Clinic at Carmarthen.

Orthopaedic Treatment.—The work of the County Orthopaedic Clinics continued as in past years. The Regional Hospital Board bear the cost of the services of the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons: Mr. Gordon Rowley, who paid monthly visits to the County Clinics, and Mr. E. Mervyn Evans, who held a clinic quarterly at Carmarthen. Children requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Gorseinon, Morriston, Swansea and West Wales General Hospitals. Cases requiring X-ray or special examinations attend at the Out-patient Departments of the Hospitals.

Seventeen Orthopaedic Clinics were functioning in the County on the 31st December, 1956. 2,156 cases were being attended to for all Authorities, viz. :—

County Education Committee	1265
County Health Committee	865
West Wales Hospital Management Committee	12
Glantawe Hospital Management Committee	14

An analysis of the cases of the Health Committee and the Hospital Management Committees according to diagnosis is as follows :—

	Health Committee	Hospital Management Committees	Total
Paralysis :			
Infantile	4	14	18
Spastic	13	1	14
Obstetrical	—	—	—
Other	1	—	1
Congenital Deformities	113	2	115
Infective Conditions of Bones and Joints	1	2	3
Non-infective conditions of Bones and Joints :			
Rickets	—	1	1
Other	2	1	3
Static or Postural Defects	724	1	725
Traumatic Deformities	1	3	4
Multiple Defects	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	6	1	7
Totals	865	26	891

A summary of the work undertaken for these cases under the orthopaedic arrangements is given in the following table :—

	Health Committee	Hospital Management Committees	Total
Number of individual cases under Scheme on 1st January, 1956	804	28	832
Number of new cases during the year	375	—	375
Number of individual cases dealt with during the year	1179	28	1207
Number of cases withdrawn from Scheme	314	2	316
Number of cases under the Scheme on the 31st December, 1956	865	26	891
Total number of attendances made at the clinics	3986	87	4073
Number of individual cases received remedial exercises by Sisters	—	2	2
Number of individual cases massaged by Sisters	—	—	—
Number of home visits by Sisters	341	105	446
Number of cases examined by visiting Orthopaedic Surgeons	149	10	159
Number of cases recommended in-patient hospital treatment by Surgeons	6	—	6

Five children under school age were admitted to Hospitals for orthopaedic treatment during the year.

Premature Infants

Premature infants are those notified as having a birth weight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less, irrespective of the period of gestation. Premature Baby Outfits, which include cots complete with bassinette mattresses, rubber sheeting, blankets, Cestra Premature Baby Outfits, Belcroy Feeders, pipettes, layettes, etc., etc., are available to Midwives during normal office hours at the County Health Department, and at any time of the day or night under arrangements with the West Wales Isolation Hospital.

188 premature infants were notified during 1956 and further information is as follows :—

(a) Number born at home	33
(i) Nursed entirely at home	23
*(ii) Transferred to Hospital	10
(iii) Died within first twenty-four hours	1
(iv) Others who died within first twenty-eight days	—
(v) Survived at end of twenty-eight days	22

(b)	Born in Hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	155
	(i)	Died during first twenty-four hours	.....	.....	.....	16
	(ii)	Others who died within first twenty-eight days	.....	.....	.....	14
	(iii)	Survived at end of twenty-eight days	.....	.....	.....	125

* Of the 10 transferred to Hospital :—

	Died within first twenty-four hours	.....	.....	.....	2
	Others who died within first twenty-eight days	.....	.....	.....	1
	Survived at end of twenty-eight days	.....	.....	.....	7

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Five cases were notified during the year. The notifications for the last five years were as follows :—

Year	Cases		
	Notified	Treated	
		At Home	In Hospital
1952	9	5	4
1953	12	10	2
1954	5	5	—
1955	6	6	—
1956	5	5	—

There were no deaths from Ophthalmia Neonatorum during this period, and vision was unimpaired in all cases.

Three of the infants were born in Hospital.

Of the five cases notified during the year, four of them were notified by one general practitioner.

Every case reported to have “ discharging eyes ” however slight and whether or not notified as ophthalmia neonatorum is kept under special observation until the condition is cleared up. Swabs and smears are taken in each case, and the Laboratory results are made known to the General Practitioner, Midwife and Health Visitor.

Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of Welfare Foods continued to operate satisfactorily. During the year, one Infant Welfare Centre discontinued distribution, and one centre at the office of a Local Sanitary Authority was also discontinued and a voluntary centre under the care of the Women's Voluntary Service was opened in its place. At the end of the year, distribution was being undertaken at 49 centres as follows :—

- 2 Centres staffed by whole-time employees.
- 5 at the offices of Local Sanitary Authorities.
- 20 at Infant Welfare Centres.
- 22 Voluntary Centres.

The Welfare Foods are delivered from the Ministry Depots to a Central Stores in Carmarthen and all the Centres, with the exception of Llanelly, receive their supplies by van from the Central Stores. Llanelly Centre receives deliveries direct from Ministry Depots. Experience has shown that these arrangements work satisfactorily.

Tribute must be paid to the continued co-operation and assistance of voluntary workers in this invaluable, if routine work.

During the period 1st January—29th December, 1956, Welfare Foods as follows were issued to parents at Centres :—

National Dried Milk	.....	.....	96,795 Tins.
Cod Liver Oil	.....	.....	18,976 Bottles.
Orange Juice	.....	.....	112,039 Bottles.
" A " and " D " Tablets	.....	.....	6,046 Packets.

The figures do not include issues to Hospitals and Institutions.

The following table shows the average distribution per week during the four quarters of 1956 :—

Period	1/1/56 to 31/3/56	1/4/56 to 30/6/56	1/7/56 to 29/9/56	30/9/56 to 29/12/56
National Dried Milk (Tins)	1913	1841	1849	1840
Cod Liver Oil (Bottles)	408	324	306	420
Vitamin " A " and " D " Tablets (Packets)	115	116	115	117
Orange Juice (Bottles)	1940	2464	2277	1936

At the majority of Infant Welfare Centres in the County, special brand baby foods are also available for sale to parents who have been advised to obtain a particular food for an infant by the Medical Officer in charge of the Centre. This work is also carried out by Voluntary Workers or Health Visitors, except at the Llanelly Infant Welfare Centre where a clerk from the Health Department attends for the purpose. At the Centres where the special brand of foods are not available, the Health Visitors hold vouchers issued by some firms to enable parents to purchase " clinic packs " of the food at reduced prices.

Dental Care

There is no improvement to report in the establishment of the County Dental Staff. The present position in the County Dental Service is that two officers over retiring age are retained in a temporary capacity and the Principal Dental Officer retired at the end of the year. The services of the last-named have, however, been retained in a part-time temporary capacity. Despite this shortage of staff, the arrangements of the authority for the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children were put into operation just before the end of the year and they became effective early in 1957.

Gynaecological Clinic

This Clinic is held at Llanelly twice monthly for married women requiring advice on birth control on medical grounds. Dr. J. Gwendoline Madel, Swansea, is the Medical Officer of the Clinic.

304 cases were seen at the Clinic during 1956 (89 new cases and 215 old cases) and they made 523 attendances.

Family Planning Clinic

A Clinic is held at Carmarthen under the auspices of the Family Planning Association. Advice is given to married women in regard to spacing of children, and also to those unable to have children. The Association have been allowed by the Committee to use the premises and equipment at the Pond Street Clinic, Carmarthen.

Child Life Protection

The duties in connection with Child Life Protection are now undertaken by the Children's Committee. Although Health Visitors do not now act as Visitors for Child Life Protection such children under 5 years of age continue to be supervised by them as part of normal health visiting duties. On attending school, the children come under the supervision of the School Health Service.

Nurseries and Child Minders

No premises or persons are registered in the County under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948, and no application for registration was received during the year.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The establishment of Whole-time County Council Midwives at the end of the year was nine, viz. :—

Llanelly Borough	.....	.....	.....	5
Carmarthen Borough	.....	.....	.....	2
Burry Port and Pembrey	.....	.....	.....	2

Llangennech and Pencader District Nursing Associations disbanded during the year and this resulted in the number of District Nurse/Midwives in the direct employ of the Authority being increased to seventeen. Following the failure to obtain the services of a District Nurse/Midwife for the Llanboidy area, it was decided, as a temporary measure, to appoint a District Nurse. This necessitated a temporary revision of boundaries so that the midwifery work of Llanboidy District could be covered by neighbouring Districts. Thirty-one District Nurse/Midwives were still under the control of District Nursing Associations.

Great difficulty was again experienced in filling vacancies for Whole-time Relief Midwives. The establishment of Whole-time Relief Midwives is seven and, of the five on the staff at the end of the year, one had given notice terminating her appointment, and two were Health Visitors trained under the Authority's arrangements and were employed temporarily as Relief Midwives pending appointment as Health Visitors.

124 Midwives notified their intention to practise in the County during 1956, viz. :—

	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
Domiciliary Midwives	86	1
Institution Midwives	37	—

15 of the Domiciliary Midwives were in private practice but midwifery cases attended by them were those attended while undertaking relief duties for the Authority.

Cases attended by the Midwives in the County during the year were as follows :—

	Domiciliary Cases					Cases in In- stitu- tions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals	
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
County Council Mid- wives (including Dis- trict Nurse/Midwives employed directly by the Authority)	19	248	44	177	488	—
District Nurse/Mid- wives (under Nursing Associations)	11	121	27	88	247	—
Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees	—	—	—	—	—	1597
Private Midwives*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	30	369	71	265	735	1597
* Cases taken while relieving for County Council and included in Table above	—	9	3	16	28	—

The importance of early booking of Midwives by patients has been stressed for many years but Midwives are still called in emergency to cases of which they had no previous knowledge. It is disquieting that after so many years of effort and with so many facilities available free of charge to midwifery patients, we still have the minority who appear indifferent to their own welfare and that of the unborn child.

Hospital Provision for Maternity Cases

All Maternity Hospital accommodation is controlled and administered by the Regional Hospital Board through the Hospital Management Committees. The admission of cases on medical grounds is entirely in the hands of these Committees. The Glantawe Hospital Management Committee also control the admission of cases on social grounds but the County Medical Officer of Health supplies them with information as to home conditions. The County Medical Officer of Health recommends to the West Wales Hospital Management Committee, cases considered to require Hospital admission on social grounds, but decisions as to admission are in the hands of the Management Committee.

Gas/Air Analgesia

All the Midwives employed under the arrangements of the Authority are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia. All the Midwives have been provided with Minnitt's Gas/Air Apparatus except the Whole-time Relief Midwives who use the apparatus of the Midwife relieved by them. Nine private Midwives, who are occasionally employed on relief work, are also qualified to administer gas/air analgesia.

Gas/air analgesia was administered by Domiciliary Midwives during the year as follows :—

	When Doctor was not present	When Doctor was present	Total
County Council Midwives (including District Nurse/Midwives employed directly by the Authority)	229	36	265
District Nurse/Midwives under Nursing Associations	133	21	154
Totals	362	57	419

Pethidine

Pethidine was also administered by Domiciliary Midwives to a number of cases as will be seen from the following table :—

	When Doctor was not present	When Doctor was present	Total
County Council Midwives (including District Nurse/Midwives employed directly by the Authority)	149	38	187
District Nurse/Midwives under Nursing Associations	69	22	91
Totals	218	60	278

Trichloroethylene

Four Midwives held Trichloroethylene apparatus which have been issued to them on trial. Provision has been made for the apparatus to be supplied to other midwives. Trichloroethylene was administered in domiciliary cases during the year as follows :—

	No. of Cases.
When doctor was not present	60
When doctor was present	2
Total	62

Refresher Courses

Provision is made by the Authority for Refresher Courses. Thirteen midwives attended courses approved for the purpose of Rule G.1 of the Central Midwives' Board Rules. Two midwives attended a special course of Parentcraft, Group Teaching, and Relaxation.

Pupil Midwives

No arrangements have been made by the Authority for the training of Pupil Midwives.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There were 18 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year ; four were confined at home and of these, two cases were admitted to Hospital for treatment.

Supervision of Midwives

The non-medical supervision of Midwives is undertaken by the Chief Nursing Officer who is also responsible for the supervision of the work of home nursing and health visiting. A Senior Nursing Officer assists her in midwifery and home nursing duties.

261 visits of supervision were made during the year as follows :—

District Nurse/Midwives	182 visits.
County Council Midwives	52 „
Independent Midwives	14 „
Hospital Midwives	13 „

Special visits of investigation were as follows :—

Puerperal Pyrexia	47
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	83
Maternal Deaths	5
Others	10

HEALTH VISITING

In accordance with the arrangements of the Authority under section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Whole-time Health Visitors are employed except in three areas. In these three sparsely populated rural areas, the District Nurse/Midwife also undertakes health visiting and school nursing duties.

Health Visitors, whose duties include the care of mothers and young children, tuberculosis visiting, and the care of the family in general, are, unfortunately, not so well known to the general public as the District Nurse and Midwife. Vagueness about the duties of Health Visitors, however, is not limited to the general public but appreciation of their importance in the social work of a community is now improving. This is undoubtedly linked with the realisation that social medicine has to play an increasingly important part in the National Health Service.

Every effort is made to ensure co-operation between General Practitioners and Health Visitors. All Medical Practitioners have been supplied with lists giving names and addresses of the Health Visitors and particulars of their districts, and instructions have been issued to the Health Visitors regarding co-operation with the Medical Practitioners. Profitable results will come only slowly and will be dependent to a large extent on the initiative and will to help of the individuals concerned.

Home visiting entailing family level education is of prime importance in their work and it is hoped that in time, clinic work will be done by staff other than the Health Visitors.

The number of home visits paid by the Health Visitors in connection with young children for the last five years is as follows :—

Year	Infants under 1 year		Children 1—5 years	Grand Total
	First visits	Total visits		
1952	2209	18442	23677	42119
1953	2416	19937	24355	44292
1954	2191	21120	25551	46671
1955	2080	20394	27385	47779
1956	2199	19547	27980	47527

Home visits in respect of other cases during 1956 were :—

Ante-natal .....	.....	.....	377
Tuberculosis .....	.....	.....	2612
Collection of swabs and specimens .....	.....	.....	660
Miscellaneous .....	.....	.....	417

Student Health Visitors

During the past few years, Student Health Visitors have been appointed by the Authority, and in this way it has been possible to maintain the health visiting establishment.

While in training, students receive a grant equivalent to three-quarters of the minimum salary scale for Health Visitors. All expenses incurred during training are paid by the students who are required to give an undertaking to serve the Authority for at least two years after qualification.

Refresher Courses

A limited number of Health Visitors are authorised to attend Refresher Courses each year. Two attended during 1956.

HOME NURSING

The arrangements for Home Nursing continued satisfactorily during 1956. As it had not been possible to fill the vacancy for a District Nurse/Midwife for the Llanboidy District, a whole-time District Nurse was appointed temporarily to the District. In order to enable neighbouring District Nurse/Midwives to cover the Llanboidy District for midwifery, arrangements were made for a temporary re-arrangement of boundaries so that the Llanboidy District Nurse could undertake district nursing in parts of the adjoining districts.

At the end of the year, nine Whole-time District Nurses were employed ; seven of whom came under the direct control of the Authority during the year because Llanelly and Carmarthen District Nursing Associations had disbanded. The number of District Nurse/Midwives under the direct control of the Authority increased to seventeen because Llangennech and Pencader District Nursing Associations had disbanded.

Thirty-one District Nurse/Midwives and two Whole-time District Nurses still remain under the control of District Nursing Associations. I must record appreciation of the co-operation received from the County Nursing Association and District Nursing Associations.

5,161 home nursing cases were attended during 1956, and 119,992 home visits were made by District Nurses. A classification of the cases is as follows :—

	No.	Percentage of Total.
Medical	3567	69.12
Surgical	1330	25.77
Infectious Diseases	4	.08
Tuberculosis	195	3.78
Maternal Complications	22	.43
Others	43	.83

1,085 of the cases received more than 24 visits each during the year. The age distribution was as follows :—

	No.	Percentage of Total.
Under 5 years	371	7.19
5 years and up to 65 years	2881	55.82
65 years and over	1909	36.99

The work undertaken by District Nurses varies a good deal from district to district according to demands of medical practitioners and the type of district. It is, however, obvious that a large part of the time of the District Nurses is taken up by special visits to give injections. Although there has been a slight decrease in the number of visits for "injections and other treatment," there has been a decided increase in the number of visits for injection only as compared with the previous year, as will be seen from the following table :—

Special Visits for injections only				Visits for injections and other treatment			
No. of Visits		% of total visits for County		No. of visits		% of total visits for County	
1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
35677	45333	31.24	37.78	9077	7610	7.95	6.34

An analysis of the main conditions attended to by District Nurses during the year is as follows :—

Classification.	No. of Cases.	Percentage of all types of cases.	No. of Visits.	Percentage of all types of visits.	Average visits per case.
Tuberculosis (All Forms) and Other Infectious Diseases	230	4.46	10581	8.82	46.00
Malignant Diseases	210	4.07	6954	5.80	33.11
Diabetes Mellitus	125	2.42	13121	10.93	104.97
Anaemias	550	10.66	14620	12.18	26.58
Vascular Lesions of Central Nervous System	217	4.20	6973	5.81	32.13
Other Mental and Nervous Diseases	104	2.02	3500	2.08	33.65
Ear and Nose Conditions	117	2.27	1067	.89	9.12
Diseases of the Heart and Vessels	518	10.04	15921	13.27	30.74
Diseases of the Respiratory System	574	11.12	9424	7.85	16.42
Diseases of the Digestive System	330	6.39	2814	2.35	8.53
Diseases of the Genito Urinary System	330	6.39	5286	4.41	16.02
Diseases of Skin and Sub-cutaneous Tissues	449	8.70	4908	4.09	10.93
Diseases of Bones, Joints and Muscles (Except Tuberculosis)	107	2.07	3495	2.91	32.66
Injuries	581	11.26	7506	6.26	12.92
*Therapeusis	215	4.17	1106	.92	5.14
*Preparation for Diagnostic Investigation	91	1.76	185	.15	2.03
*Social Welfare Work	111	2.15	361	.30	3.25

* Cases included under these headings have not been included under other headings.

In addition to visits of treatment, District Nurses find themselves having to :—

- (a) Telephone to doctors on behalf of patients.
 - (b) Obtain prescriptions from doctors and collect medicines and appliances from chemists for bedridden and lonely elderly people.
 - (c) Get in touch with relatives on behalf of the patients.
 - (d) Give advice on domestic, family and health problems.
 - (e) Complete forms of all descriptions on behalf of patients.
- Calls for this type of assistance are particularly common in rural areas.

The figures in the preceding table do not give a true picture of the work undertaken by District Nurses in the County. For example, the table shows that, for the County 12.18% of the total visits were made to patients suffering from Anaemia. However, when that classification is considered in relation to individual District Nurses it is found that one nurse paid 71.43% of her total visits to such cases, whereas no visits were made by another District Nurse.

Below are some further examples of the great variation in the work undertaken by District Nurses :—

Malignant Diseases.

One Nurse paid 38.11% of her total visits to these cases, whereas seven Nurses paid less than 1% of their visits and seven Nurses no visits to such cases.

Diabetes Mellitus

37.62% of her total visits was paid by one Nurse and six other Nurses paid less than 1% of their visits to these cases. Sixteen Nurses made no visits.

Diseases of the Heart and Vessels

The highest and lowest percentages of their total visits paid by individual Nurses were 55.33% and 0.51% respectively.

The visits made by Nurses to give injections specifically, varied from 0.47% to 95.78% of the individual total visits made.

From the information given above, it can be seen that to generalise on home nursing duties for the County as a whole would be entirely misleading. This is particularly emphasized in the visits for injections only, which have undoubtedly increased during recent years and show an actual increase of 9,656 visits (or 27.06%) on last year but which, for one district nurse still amounts to only 0.47% of her total visits.

No special provision is made for the home nursing of sick children.

PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES

Particular attention is paid by Health Visitors to problem families and regular visits are paid by them. In addition to this, special visits are paid by Senior Nursing Staff as often as it is considered necessary.

In 1950, the Children's Officer was, in this County, designated to co-ordinate all activities for dealing with children neglected or ill-treated in their homes. Bi-monthly meetings are held of a Co-ordinating Com-

mittee consisting of the Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, Senior Nursing Officers, Organiser of Home Helps, Boarding-Out Officers, Education Welfare Officers, Probation Officers, representatives of the National Assistance Board, the Local Inspectors of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Children's Officer.

Cases are specially considered at the meetings and decisions are reached as to the best action to be taken. Unnecessary overlapping of visits is prevented in this way.

The Authority have also agreed in principle to the provision of Home Helps in cases where it is considered necessary by the Co-ordinating Committee.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The arrangements of the Authority for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough provide for the work to be undertaken by General Medical Practitioners, Medical Officers of Infant Welfare Centres, and Medical Officers of Health. The majority of General Medical Practitioners co-operate in the arrangements.

Propaganda through personal contact with the parents is undertaken at the Infant Welfare Centres and by the Health Visitors at their home visits.

Smallpox Vaccination

Records in respect of 1,015 successful vaccinations undertaken during 1956 were received during the year, the ages of the cases being as follows:—

Under 1 year old	.....	908
Age 1 year	.....	17
Age 2 to 4 years	.....	26
Age 5 to 14 years	.....	17
Age 15 years and over	.....	47
Total	.....	1,015

The vaccination of infants under the age of one year is estimated to be equivalent to 39.79% of the registered births for the year. The percentages for the last four years are as follows:—

1953	.....	31.37%
1954	.....	36.11%
1955	.....	32.25%
1956	.....	39.79%

The comparable figures for 1956 for England and Wales 38.47% and for Wales only 26.26%.

Lists of children who have not been vaccinated at the age of about 5 months are received from Health Visitors, and the County Medical Officer of Health sends special letters to the parents.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

2,177 children, the majority of whom received the combined diphtheria /whooping cough prophylactic, were immunised during the year, and their ages at the time of immunisation were as follows:—

Under 1 year old	.....	1039
Age 1 year	.....	562
Age 2 years	.....	105
Age 3 years	.....	58
Age 4 years	.....	67
Age 5 years to 9 years	.....	309
Age 10 years to 14 years	.....	37
Total	.....	2177

1,831 children under five years of age were immunised during 1956 (16.34%) as compared with 1,563 during 1955 (13.8%) and 1,466 during 1954 (12.6%).

The above figures cannot, however, be considered to reflect accurately the immunisation state of the population under five years of age. A number of children at school immunisation sessions have stated that they have been immunised as infants although no records exist. It can be assumed that General Medical Practitioners do not forward records in respect of all the children immunised by them. Nevertheless, there is a tendency for parents to defer immunisation until school age.

The arrangements of the Authority provide for "boosting" doses of prophylactic to be given at five yearly intervals. These "boosters" may be given following sessions for medical inspection at schools or, where the numbers are sufficiently large, special sessions are arranged. During the year, 1,752 children received "booster" injections as compared with 1,567 during 1955.

The following table gives the immunisation state of the children in the County at the end of the year :—

No. of children under 5 years of age	No. Immunised	%	No. of children 5—14 years of age	No. Immunised	%
11200	5778	51.59	24300	23644	97.30

Of the 23,644 immunised children between 5 and 14 years of age, 9,662 (40.86%) were immunised or received "booster" injections in the last five years.

BCG Vaccination

Children of 13 years of age.—The arrangements of the Authority for the BCG vaccination against tuberculosis of children of 13 years of age were implemented during the year—the work being undertaken by Assistant Medical Officers of the Authority. This is an important step in safeguarding the health of adolescents. 778 children were skin tested of whom 145 (18.04%) proved positive, i.e., they had at some time or other been infected with tuberculosis bacilli, and had developed a resistance to the disease. In order to ensure that they were not suffering from active disease, they were investigated by the Mass Radiography Unit and, if necessary, by a Chest Physician. Satisfactory reports were received in respect of these children.

Of the 633 negative reactors, 623 were successfully vaccinated with BCG. The remaining 10 cases failed to attend for various reasons. One girl developed tuberculosis shortly after the vaccination. The case was fully investigated by a Chest Physician who came to the conclusion that the infection was not related to the vaccination.

Child Contacts of Tuberculosis.—The BCG Vaccination of child contacts of tuberculous patients is the responsibility of the Chest Physicians. 543 children were skin tested by them during the year, of whom 223 (41.07%) proved positive. Of the 320 who proved negative 295 were successfully vaccinated.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

An important step in the efforts to prevent acute poliomyelitis was taken during the year when the Minister of Health approved arrangements for the vaccination of children against the disease. Children born in the years 1947-1954 were eligible for registration with a view to vaccination, and it is praiseworthy to record that the parents of 10,367 children in the age group gave their consents to have their children vaccinated. This represented 55% of the eligible child population and it is understood that Carmarthenshire had the highest registration rate of all Local Health Authorities in England and Wales. The result reflects much credit on the ready co-operation of general medical practitioners, head teachers, and health visitors.

The following table is an analysis of the total number of consents received :—

Year.	Consents Received		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1947	911	888	1799
1948	834	773	1607
1949	825	785	1610
1950	751	727	1478
1951	609	601	1210
1952	479	460	939
1953	457	449	906
1954	429	389	818
Totals	5295	5072	10367

The amount of vaccine available was very limited and on instructions from the Ministry, vaccination was restricted to children born in certain months. The following is a summary of the work carried out up to the end of the year :—

Months of Birth.	Registered.	Received the full course of two injections.	Received only one injection.
November, 1947—1954	798	651	12
March, 1951—1954	360	281	9
August, 1947—1954	827	217	13
October, 1947—1950	493	—	23
Total	2478	1149	57

No serious reactions to vaccination were noted in this County.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE

The arrangements of the Authority provide for :—

- (a) A 24 hours service at nine ambulance stations.
- (b) Five "sitting case" ambulances, all dual purpose vehicles, stationed at Llanelly, Carmarthen, Ammanford, Llandeilo and Tumble, respectively.
- (c) A Hospital Car Service for the conveyance of "sitting cases" arranged by the Women's Voluntary Services.
- (d) An Ambulance Control Centre under the County Ambulance Officer undertaking the operational control of the Service and co-ordinating all requests for ambulance transport.

The ambulance stations providing a 24 hours service are as follows :—

Station	Number of Ambulances	Whole-time Drivers	Attendants
Llanelly	2*	4	Two whole-time and Volunteers
Carmarthen	2*	4	Two whole-time and Volunteers
Glanamman	1	2	Volunteers
Ammanford	1	2	Volunteers
Trimsaran	1	2	Volunteers
Tumble	2*	3	Volunteers
Llandeilo	1	2	Volunteers
Llandovery	1	1†	Volunteers
Whitland	1	2	Volunteers

* 1 Ambulance only on 24 hours service.

† Garage arrangements.

The maintenance and repair of Ambulances continued to be undertaken at local garages. Preventive maintenance of the vehicles is carried out in accordance with a comprehensive schedule at intervals of 4,000 miles. Sub-overhauls are undertaken at intervals of 12,000 miles. Complete overhauls, the need for which is based on the performance of the vehicles, are undertaken as required.

There was a slight increase in the demand for transport during the year, the average number of patients conveyed per month being 4,575 as compared with 4,511 during 1955 (an increase of 1.42%).

The total mileage for all vehicles also increased, being 534,460 miles as compared with 528,905 miles in 1955 (an increase of 1.05%) and 545,645 miles in 1954 (a decrease of 2.05%).

A comparison of the mileages for each quarter of the last four years is given in the following table :—

	1953	1954	1955	1956
March Quarter	143,334	141,310	126,594	133,422
June Quarter	137,159	132,706	137,612	138,555
September Quarter	136,879	135,031	132,340	129,186
December Quarter	132,292	136,598	132,359	133,297
Totals	549,664	545,645	528,905	534,460

The average number of trips per month for 1956 was 1,169, as compared with 1,133 for 1955, an increase of 3.18 %.

Month	TRIPS				PATIENTS				MILEAGE						
	Ambulances	Hospital Car Service	C.C. "Sitting Case " Vehicles	Hired Cars	Total	Ambulances	Hospital Car Service	C.C. "Sitting Case " Vehicles	Hired Cars	Total	Ambulances	Hospital Car Service	C.C. "Sitting Case " Vehicles	Hired Cars	Total
January	648	235	216	54	1153	2429	813	1075	105	4422	21680	10697	6160	2981	41518
February	744	291	268	47	1350	2956	937	1442	93	5428	25160	14615	7515	2849	50139
March	592	273	211	40	1116	2286	962	994	82	4324	18576	15326	5308	2555	41765
April	573	267	196	47	1083	2295	956	1139	92	4482	19079	14092	6495	3018	42684
May	737	327	254	51	1369	2694	1034	1499	116	5343	24125	17017	8414	3552	53108
June	603	266	152	59	1080	2356	965	836	134	4291	19395	14803	4606	3959	42763
July	575	258	187	54	1074	2045	985	914	149	4093	18004	13922	5507	3895	41328
August	586	248	129	67	1030	2043	826	715	132	3716	18566	14305	4519	3552	40942
September	739	254	228	30	1251	3042	808	1246	79	5175	24391	12912	7375	2238	46916
October	562	298	191	76	1127	2043	954	1153	182	4332	17731	15072	6576	4790	44169
November	757	353	232	82	1424	2857	1135	1386	192	5570	23585	17315	6702	5420	53022
December	565	174	186	48	973	2021	571	1005	132	3729	17713	9522	5401	3470	36106
Total	7681	3244	2450	655	14030	29067	10946	13404	1488	54905	248005	169598	74578	42279	534460
Average per month for 1956	640	270	204	54	1169	2422	912	1117	124	4575	20667	14133	6214	3523	44538
Average per month for 1955	673	241	197	22	1133	2568	830	1074	40	4511	23231	12869	6769	1207	44075

The following table shows the origin of requests received for ambulance transport during the year :—

Origin	Stretcher cases		Sitting cases		Total	
	No. of calls	% of total calls received	No. of calls	% of total calls received	No. of calls	%
Medical Practitioners	3108	8.63	7501	20.83	10609	29.46
Hospitals	2284	6.34	21162	58.76	23446	65.10
Nurse/Midwives	324	0.90	143	0.40	467	1.30
Clinics	54	0.15	533	1.48	587	1.63
Police	101	0.28	13	0.04	114	0.32
Welfare and Authorised Officers	43	0.12	23	0.06	66	0.18
Ministry of Pensions, etc.	435	1.21	292	0.81	727	2.02
Totals	6349	17.63	29667	82.37	36016	100

Of the 29,667 requests for the conveyance of "sitting" patients 13,746 were conveyed by ambulances.

The proportion of calls received from the various sources are roughly equivalent to that for 1955, and indicate a continued heavy demand from hospitals. There is room for assessing more realistically the needs of out-patients attending hospital clinics.

Radio Control of Ambulances

The radio control of ambulances continued to function satisfactorily and enabled the service to deal more expeditiously with emergency cases and ensured a more efficient use of the ambulances.

The following is a comparison of miles per patient conveyed by ambulance for the last five years :—

Year.	Miles per patient.
1952	10.01
1953	9.53
1954	8.43
1955	9.05
1956	9.73

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The arrangements for this Service in the County cover :—

- (a) Tuberculous patients and their families.
- (b) Patients suffering from malignant disease, and their families.
- (c) The provision of sick room and nursing requisites required by patients being nursed at home.

The Health Committee have appointed a Care and After-Care Subcommittee to exercise the functions of the Authority under the arrangements.

Home Nursing and Home Helps are provided when necessary under the County arrangements for those services. Care and after-care of patients suffering from mental illness or mental defect forms part of the Authority's arrangements for a Mental Health Service.

Tuberculosis

The work of the Authority is directed to the physical and social well-being of the tuberculous patient and the welfare of his family. In practice, it has been found that the needs of patients and their families are confined to the following :—

- (a) The loan of beds and bedding where necessary to enable a patient to be segregated. Issues were made to one patient during the year, and 20 sets were on loan at the end of the year.
- (b) The loan of sleeping-out shelters in those cases where adequate segregation cannot otherwise be arranged. Four shelters were being used by patients at the end of 1956.
- (c) Assistance to obtain suitable housing accommodation in co-operation with Local Housing Authorities.
- (d) Home Help Assistance. 36 households with tuberculous patients were assisted during the year.
- (e) Nursing requisites.
- (f) Assistance towards the cost of travelling expenses of relatives to visit patients in Hospitals and Sanatoria. 42 applications from relatives of tuberculous patients were granted during the year.
- (g) BCG vaccination of child contacts. Details will be found in the section devoted to Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (h) Occupational Therapy. This aspect of the service has been started only in a very small way in the County. It is an important factor in the care and treatment of patients, and requires expansion.

Co-ordination of the care and after-care work, and the diagnostic and treatment services for the tuberculous patient, is achieved by personal contact between the officers of the Authority and the Chest Physicians and by interchange of reports and recommendations.

Malignant Disease

The Care and After-Care Service of the Authority for tuberculosis applies where appropriate to cases of malignant disease, but the demand for such assistance has been almost entirely for sick-room requisites and Home Help. The only other assistance granted has been the provision of bedding in necessitous cases, but no application for bedding was received during 1956.

Travelling Expenses of Relatives

Assistance is granted by the Authority in necessitous cases towards the cost of the travelling expenses of relatives visiting long-stay patients in Hospitals and Sanatoria. In practice, it has been found that the great majority of applications for assistance have been by relatives of tuberculous patients. Four applications by relatives of other cases were granted during the year.

Assistance is granted for visits to Hospitals and Sanatoria which are not less than 40 miles from the residence of the applicant, and is subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) That there is urgent reason for the visit because of the patient's serious condition, or that the visit would in medical opinion do the patient good and aid response to treatment.
- (b) That because of the length of the journey the relatives concerned are unable to afford it from their own resources without substantial hardship.
- (c) That subject to (a) above, the assistance is restricted to one relative every month or two relatives every two months, unless a senior member of the Medical Staff of the Hospital certifies that more frequent visits are essential on account of the patient's serious condition.

Venereal Disease

The Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor made nine home visits in connection with the following-up of cases suffering from Venereal Diseases.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Home Help assistance continued to be provided on the same lines as for last year; assistance being limited to the amount needed for the essential duties of the household. It is unfortunate that the other needs of patients—particularly the aged and chronic sick, still remain unfulfilled. The welfare of these unfortunate people is outside the scope of the Home Help Service and to those who come into contact with them, there appears to be little hope of a solution to the problem at present except by voluntary effort. I am pleased to report that some Home Helps continue to assist these old people voluntarily over and above their official duties. This, however, caters for a small proportion of the patients only; greater publicity of the need might perhaps, stimulate voluntary bodies or individuals to take action to fill the gaps in the arrangements for the welfare of the aged and chronic sick.

The extent to which assistance was necessarily limited will be seen from the following table showing the authorised assistance during the last normal week of 1956 :—

Weekly Assistance.	No. of Cases.
6 hours and under	55
Over 6 hours and up to 9 hours	93
Over 9 hours and up to 12 hours	150
Over 12 hours and up to 15 hours	41
Over 15 hours and up to 18 hours	33
Over 18 hours	*3

* Of these, two were maternity cases.

Some cases were taken over by the National Assistance Board during the year but the revised arrangements to relieve the Authority of some of the financial burden as envisaged in my last Annual Report did not materialise. The new proposals submitted to the National Assistance Board were not acceptable, and the position still remains that where the assistance needed exceeds 9 hours a week or where a patient is unable to find anyone to assist privately, the Authority accept responsibility. In view of the steady increase in the number of aged and chronic sick patients receiving Home Help Assistance this expenditure will continue to increase.

646 cases received Home Help assistance during 1956, as compared with 612 cases during 1955. The cases for 1956 were :—

Maternity Cases	74
Tuberculous Cases	36
Chronic Sick	493
Others	43
Total	646

There was an increase in the number of cases assisted during the year ; the increase was almost entirely confined to chronic sick, 493 of whom received assistance during 1956 as compared with 432 in 1955. The continued upward trend indicated by these figures shows again the increasing problem of the aged chronic sick at home which can only be solved by a more enlightened basic approach.

375 cases were being assisted on the 31st December, 1956, and at least 324 of them (86.4%) were "long term" cases, i.e. those who had been receiving assistance for more than three months. An analysis of the periods of assistance is given in the following table :—

Period of Assistance.	Cases.
Less than one month	17
One month to two months	19
Two months to three months	15
Three months to four months	17
Four months to five months	11
Five months to six months	12
Six months to twelve months	65
Over twelve months	219
Total	375

The age distribution of the 375 cases was as follows :—

	Cases.
30 years of age and under	9
Over 30 years of age and up to 40	23
Over 40 years of age and up to 50	29
Over 50 years of age and up to 60	45
Over 60 years of age and up to 70	73
Over 70 years of age and up to 75	59
Over 75 years of age and up to 80	74
Over 80 years of age and up to 85	40
Over 85 years of age and up to 90	16
Over 90 years of age	7
Total	<hr/> 375 <hr/>

196 of the cases (or 52.27%) were over 70 years of age, and 269 of the cases (or 71.73%) were over 60 years of age.

These figures again show that the care of aged remains a solid problem and needs to be dealt with sympathetically in order that as much help and consideration as possible may be granted to them to brighten their closing years.

On the 1st January, 1956, 284 Home Helps were available for duty. 155 new Home Helps were enrolled during the year and 148 resigned. On the 31st December, 291 were available for duty. Service given in the last normal week of the year was equivalent in terms of whole-time employment to 92 Home Helps.

No arrangements were made for training Home Helps during the year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education is undertaken through personal contact with parents and others, by Medical Officers, Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives. As an aid to the staff in this work, pamphlets on relevant topics, including the prevention of accidents in the home, are distributed from time to time.

Particulars are now being supplied by Hospital Management Committees to the County Medical Officer of Health of home accident cases treated at Hospitals. Health Visitors and District Nurses are informed of the cases residing in their areas and advised to use the circumstances of particular accidents to supplement their general health education work.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The arrangements of the Authority provide for :—

(a) the employment of :—

- (i) A Medical Officer to assist the County Medical Officer of Health in the development of the service and its medical supervision.
- (ii) A Psychiatric Social Worker to assist the Medical Officer in the community care of the mentally ill and mental defectives.

- (iii) One Social Welfare Officer for the community care of the mentally ill and mentally defective.
- (iv) Six Duly Authorised Officers who combine their duties of taking initial proceedings under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts with their duties as Welfare Officers under the County Welfare Committee.

(b) The establishment and Staffing of Occupation Centres.

It has unfortunately been impossible to implement the provision for the employment of a Psychiatric Social Worker.

Lunacy Acts

During the year, the Duly Authorised Officers arranged for the certification of 38 patients who were admitted to Mental Hospitals under the provisions of the Lunacy Acts. Records have also been received of the following admissions :—

Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890 (Three day Order)	46
Section 21(1) of the Lunacy Act, 1890 (Justice's Order authorising the detention of patients for 14 days without certification)	18
Voluntary Patients	223
Temporary Patients	2

At the end of the year, the Social Welfare Officer had 8 psychotics under supervision following discharge from Mental Hospitals.

Mental Deficiency Acts

23 defectives (9 males and 14 females) were brought to the notice of the Health Authority during the year ; 7 of them (1 boy and 6 girls) were reported by the Education Committee. These 23 cases were dealt with as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total
Admitted to Institutions	2	3	5
Placed on Waiting List for admission to Suitable Institutions*	2	2	4
Placed under guardianship	—	—	—
Placed under Statutory Supervision	3	6	9
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	1	1	2
Action Unnecessary	—	—	—
Action pending	1	2	3
Found not to be defective	—	—	—
Totals	9	14	23

* These cases were under statutory supervision pending admission.

Of the cases reported during previous years, eight (4 males and 4 females) were admitted to Institutions during the year.

Nine cases ceased to be under care during the year, viz. :—

	M.	F.	Total
Removed from the Register as " not subject to be dealt with ".....	—	—	—
Deceased	1	6	7
Left Area	—	—	—
Discharged by Order of the Board of Control	1	1	2
Totals	2	7	9

At the end of 1956, the Authority held records of 189 defectives as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total
At Institutions	30	57	87
Under Guardianship	3	—	3
Awaiting Admission to Institutions*	7	4	11
Under Statutory Supervision	16	22	38
In a " place of safety "	—	—	—
Under voluntary supervision	26	24	50
Totals	82	107	189

* These Cases were also under Statutory Supervision pending admission.

Cases on Licence.—Of the 87 cases at Institutions, one female was out on licence at the end of the year.

Occupational Training of Mental Defectives

The Occupation Centre established at Llanelly was opened on the 21st March of this year, the staff consisting of a Female Supervisor, a Female Assistant Supervisor, both of whom had previously been employed as home teachers for mental defectives, and a domestic assistant.

The fact that the supervisors had been teaching the defectives at their homes proved to be a great advantage in effecting their smooth transition from a sheltered existence at home to the wider experience of life in the Centre. It was deemed advisable to restrict the initial

intake ; nine defectives only were admitted in the first week, additional cases being introduced gradually. Within three months there were 15 on the register and a further ten, of whom four were on trial, were admitted before the end of the year.

One girl has been temporarily excluded as unsuitable and one boy was withdrawn from attendance as he suffered from increasingly severe epilepsy ; two defectives (one male and one female) were admitted to Institutions.

At the end of the year there were on the register 21 defectives (9 males and 12 females). Their ages were as follows :—

	Under 5 yrs.	5-16 yrs.	16-20 yrs.	Over 20 yrs.
Males	—	3	1	5
Females	—	4	3	5

Because of the wide age range, difficulties were experienced by the female staff in coping with the older boys and the need was felt to train them in crafts, such as woodwork and brushmaking, which are usually taught by male staff.

Consequently a male Assistant Supervisor was appointed and commenced duties on the 5th November.

The opening of the Centre has been fully justified by the results obtained in its first year. It has relieved parents of a heavy burden and has opened wider fields of experience to a group of the community whose life is very restricted.

The curriculum is as varied as possible and includes many kinds of handwork, sense and habit training, physical training, number work, reading, writing, nature study and story telling.

The progress made by the defectives in handwork was such that it was possible to hold a sale of work at the Centre at the end of the year and the varied work displayed was of an excellent standard.

Home Teaching

A few defectives who cannot attend the Centre are still being visited in their homes for tuition. They, also, are making good progress with handwork and sense training.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of infectious diseases received during 1956 :—

Disease.	No. of cases notified.
Scarlet Fever	127
Whooping Cough	227
Diphtheria	—
Measles	577
Pneumonia	100
Meningococcal Infection	2
Acute Poliomyelitis :	
Paralytic	1
Non-Paralytic	1
Acute Encephalitis :	
Infective	—
Post-infectious	1
Dysentery	92
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	18
Enteric Fever	—
Para-typhoid	4
Food Poisoning	7
Erysipelas	12

It will be noted that for the ninth year in succession, no case of diphtheria was notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Two cases (both adults) of acute poliomyelitis, one of which was paralytic, were confirmed in the County during the year.

In 1955, there were 19 cases, 3 of whom were under five years of age, and 8 over 15 years of age. Of these, 6 cases had residual paralysis and there was one death.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen, which is controlled by the Medical Research Council, is available for the examination of bacteriological specimens in connection with the County Health Services. The services rendered by the Laboratory are particularly valuable in the control of epidemics, and full co-operation is maintained between the staff of the Laboratory and the Health Department. 22,229 specimens were examined at the Laboratory during 1956.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Carmarthenshire cases are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinics at Mount Pleasant Hospital, Swansea and Llanelly General Hospital. 111 new patients from the County attended during the year as follows:—

		Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Non-V.D. and other conditions	Total
Swansea Clinic	.....	2	14	51	67
Llanelly Clinic	.....	4	6	34	44
Total	.....	6	20	85	111

Total attendances of patients during the year :—

Swansea Clinic	.....	.....	.....	399
Llanelly Clinic	.....	.....	.....	601
Total	.....	.....	.....	1000

The following Table gives the number of cases dealt with for the first time during each of the last five years :—

Year	Acquired and Congenital Syphilis			Gonorrhoea			Other conditions
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	T.
1952	6	8	14	17	1	18	78
1953	1	4	5	11	2	13	67
1954	6	2	8	21	1	22	73
1955	—	3	3	12	2	14	77
1956	4	2	6	17	3	20	85

The following Table summarises the work of the Clinics during 1956 :—

New and Old Cases	Swansea Clinic		Llanelly Clinic		Total Male	Total Female	Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.			
(1) Cases under treatment or observation on January 1st	21	8	18	8	39	16	55
(2) Returned defaulters	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Dealt with for the first time and suffering from :—							
(a) Syphilis :							
Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Secondary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Latent first year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Later stages	1	—	1	—	2	—	2
Congenital	—	—	1	2	1	2	3
Others	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
(b) Gonorrhoea	11	3	6	—	17	3	20
(c) Other conditions or Undiagnosed	45	6	30	4	75	10	85
Totals	79	17	56	14	135	31	166
Attendances as Out-Patients :—							
(a) Seen by Medical Officer	218	83	253	62	471	145	616
(b) For intermediate treatment	92	6	239	47	331	53	384
Total attendances	310	89	492	109	802	198	1000

The following Table shows the results of treatment in 1956 :—

	Swansea Clinic			Llanelly Clinic		
	Syphilis	Gonor- rhea	Other con- ditions	Syphilis	Gonor- rhea	Other con- ditions
Cases under treatment, etc., on January 1st	8	7	14	19	1	6
Cases dealt with for first time, including new cases, returned defaulters and transfers in	2	14	51	4	6	34
Total	10	21	65	23	7	40
Discharged cured after completion of treatment	4	10	50	—	7	35
Ceased to attend before completion of treatment and/or observation	—	4	—	8	—	—
Cases under treatment or observation that died from the disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transferred out to other Centres, Institutions, etc.	1	1	—	—	—	—
Cases remaining under treatment, etc., on 31st December	5	6	15	15	—	5
Totals	10	21	65	23	7	40

TUBERCULOSIS

Two Chest Physicians each with an Assistant Chest Physician cover the County. The Physicians of Pembrokeshire and Swansea also attend Carmarthenshire cases along the borders of the County.

The number of new cases reported by formal notification or otherwise and the case rates per 1,000 population during the past five years are as follows :—

Year	No. of Respiratory cases	Case rate	No. of Non- Respiratory cases	Case rate
1952	200	1.17	42	.25
1953	215	1.26	29	.17
1954	197	1.15	43	.25
1955	192	1.12	40	.23
1956	223	1.31	29	.17

The mortality figures for the same five years are as follows :—

Year	Deaths from Respiratory T.B.	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Deaths from Non- Respiratory T.B.	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1952	35	.20	10	.06
1953	32	.19	7	.04
1954	39	.23	6	.04
1955	38	.22	3	.02
1956	23	.13	—	—

The following Table shows the age distribution of all new cases notified during 1956 :—

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1	—	1	—	—	1
1—5	4	1	2	—	7
5—15	7	7	—	8	22
15—25	22	21	1	3	47
25—35	19	38	1	1	59
35—45	18	16	3	3	40
45—55	29	5	1	1	36
55—65	13	2	2	3	20
65+	16	4	—	—	20
Total	128	95	10	19	
Grand Total	223		29		252

The following Table shows the deaths from Tuberculosis classified into the various age groups for the year 1956 :—

Age Periods	Deaths from Tuberculosis			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—
15—45	—	5	—	—
45—65	8	2	—	—
65+	7	1	—	—
Totals	15	8	—	—
Grand Totals	23		—	

Examinations at Chest Clinics

During the year, 4,400 new cases, including 1,051 contacts, were examined. Of these 190 were diagnosed as definitely tuberculous and 3,971 as non-tuberculous. 239 cases were not finally diagnosed.

The following table summarises for the year the Register of Tuberculosis cases in the County :—

	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Totals		Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 population.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Cases on Register 1/1/56	664	567	104	120	768	687	1455	8.52
New Cases, 1956	128	95	10	19	138	114	252	1.48
Withdrawn :—								
Recovered	51	33	6	5	57	38	95	—
Left Area	22	24	—	1	22	25	47	—
Change of Diagnosis	1	2	—	2	1	4	5	—
Deaths	15	8	—	—	15	8	23	—
On Register, 1/1/57	703	595	108	131	811	726	1537	9.02

COUNTY WELFARE SERVICES

Under the National Assistance Act, 1948, the County Council were given power to make arrangements for promoting the welfare (but excluding financial assistance or medical treatment) of persons who are blind, deaf or dumb, aged, and others who are substantially and permanently handicapped. The County Welfare Committee was appointed to undertake the Council's functions under the Act.

Blind Persons

There is no change to report in the arrangements for the care and welfare of blind persons, and the Carmarthenshire Blind Society continued to act as agents of the County Council. Medical examination and certification of cases is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health, and specialist examination, when necessary, is undertaken at the Ophthalmic Clinics of the Regional Hospital Board at Carmarthen and Llanelly. If a patient is unable to travel, a domiciliary visit is made by the Ophthalmologist.

During 1956, 112 new cases (47 males and 65 females) were examined and 72 (26 male and 46 female) were certified as blind, and 24 (11 males and 13 females) were found to be partially blind. The total number of blind persons on the Register at the end of the year was 608 (as compared with 604 on the 31st December, 1955). The age distribution of these cases was as follows:—

Age	M.	F.	Total	Age	M.	F.	Total
0—5	—	1	1	50—60	25	31	56
5—15	4	3	7	60—70	29	86	115
15—30	11	3	14	Over 70	140	230	370
30—50	23	22	45	Totals	232	376	608

278 (100 male and 178 female) became blind when over 65 years of age. 23 (9 male and 14 female) became blind in infancy (under 12 months old).

At the end of the year one male was under training at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind. One male blind person was studying Social Science at University College, Cardiff. Seven males were employed at home. Six males and one female were employed in workshops (two males at Swansea, three males and one female at Llanelly, and one male at Cardiff.).

Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F. 1 of Form B.D.8. recommends :—				
(a) No treatment	28	12	—	19
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	28	5	—	4
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	26	5	—	4

Ophthalmia Neonatorum :

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the year—5.
(ii) Number of cases in which :—
- | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| (a) Vision lost | | | } Nil |
| (b) Vision impaired ..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| (c) Treatment continuing at end of year | | | |

Epileptics and Spastics

There are no arrangements catering for the special welfare needs of adults suffering from Epilepsy or Cerebral Palsy. The County Welfare Committee, however, bear the maintenance fees in respect of two epileptics at Homes for Epileptics, and one old poliomyelitis case at a Home for Cripples.

MILK CONTROL

The number of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, during the past five years is as follows :—

1952	.....	.....	7
1953	.....	.....	2
1954	.....	.....	1
1955	.....	.....	Nil
1956	.....	.....	Nil

The enforcement of regulations relating to Raw Milk is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries [Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.]

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, responsibility for the registration of dairy farms and of persons carrying on the trade of dairy farmer falls on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Local Authorities retain responsibility for dairies which are not dairy farms and of dairymen who are not dairy farmers, and for the enforcement of the regulations relating to diseases communicable to man.

FOOD AND DRUGS

The duty of the County Council under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is an important part of the comprehensive public services which are essential to the maintenance of good health. Past Health Reports have been silent on this topic. This year, however, the omission is corrected and the following report from the Chief Inspector of Food and Drugs is incorporated :—

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR

The Weights and Measures Department has been assigned several duties outside Weights and Measures legislation, among the most important of which are the sampling of articles of food and enforcing parts of the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations to ensure that food sold for human consumption is of good quality and wholesome.

In the execution of these duties throughout the county during the year 1956 the total number of samples taken was 1,979, of which 1,112 were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. The remaining 867 were informal samples of milk taken at schools, canteens, County Council Homes, hospitals and Welfare Centres, and Spirits which were tested at this office or on licensed premises.

Summary of Samples Taken

MILK.

Official Samples.

Total number taken	.....	744
Number certified genuine	.....	601
Below standard but not adulterated	.....	64
Number containing added water	.....	23
Deficient in Fat	.....	37
Deficient in Fat and Solids-not-Fat	.....	19

"Appeal to Cow" Samples of Milk.

Total number taken	.....	27
Certified genuine	.....	16
Deficient in Fat	.....	3
Deficient in Solids-not-Fat	.....	4
Deficient in both Fat and Solids-not-Fat	.....	4

Informal Samples of Milk.

Total number taken	.....	831
Deficient in Fat	.....	35
Containing added water	.....	2

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Name of Article.	Number of Samples taken.	Certified as adulterated or below standard.
Butter	54	2
Margarine	9	—
Cheese	7	—
Cream (Tinned)	7	—
Milk (Tinned)	5	—
Ice Cream	52	4
Sausages	24	1
Meat Pastes	7	—
Cake and Pudding Mixtures	12	—
Baking Powder	3	—
Baked Beans	12	—
Tomatoes (Tinned)	8	—
Fruit Juices	4	—
Soft Drinks	13	—
Tea	10	—
Malt Vinegar	10	—
Miscellaneous Foods	80	1
Miscellaneous Drugs	18	1
Spirits and Liquors (Formal)	6	4
Spirits and Liquors (Informal)	36	2
	<hr/> 377 <hr/>	<hr/> 15 <hr/>

The butter in both instances was found to contain an excess of water but not to such an extent that legal action was necessary.

The sausages were certified to contain 90 parts per million of the preservative Sulphur Dioxide but this was not declared on the label or wrapping as required. The manufacturers were warned, as although the preservative would not be harmful to healthy persons it could aggravate stomach trouble in some cases.

One sample of Tincture of Iodine was reported to be 1.6% deficient in Iodine.

Legal Proceedings

Legal proceedings were taken in cases where samples were found to be adulterated as follows :—

Ice Cream—21.4% deficient in Fat—Seller fined £15, plus £1 15s. 0d.
Costs (Second Offence).

Whisky—4.4% Excess Water	} Licensee fined £30, plus £7 10s. 0d. Costs.
Rum —8.0% do.	
Gin —9.3% do.	

Whisky—5% Excess Water.—Licensee fined £5 with £2 10s. 0d. Costs.

Milk—Legal action was taken in respect of nine samples reported to contain added water and fines and costs totalling £74 were imposed on the five suppliers concerned.

As a result of complaints by private purchasers legal action was also taken in the following cases :—

Ginger Beer contaminated with Paraffin Oil—Manufacturer fined £10, plus £2 10s. 0d. Costs.

Cigarette-end in a muffin—Baker fined £20, plus £1 17s. 6d. Costs.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations

Visits of inspection were made to all the dairies in the County licensed to pasteurise milk, the plants were examined at intervals and the number of samples taken throughout the year totalled 284. Of these nine proved to be unsatisfactory and reports were made to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in all cases.

Warnings that their licences might be suspended or revoked were issued to the operators in two instances.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1955.

The industrial areas and parts of the rural districts of the County have been designated by the Minister as Specified Areas where no milk which is not designated, i.e. Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised, can be sold by retailers. Observation is kept by officers in the course of their duties in an effort to ensure that the Orders are not infringed.

Cases did come to our notice where breaches of the Orders had occurred and appropriate advice, as well as a caution, was given in most cases.

Legal proceedings were taken against one producer-retailer for selling non-designated milk in a Specified Area and a fine of £2 was imposed.

Milk in Schools

Considerable quantities of milk, in cans or churns as well as in one-third pint bottles, are supplied to schools every day, and samples are taken at regular intervals (about once every month) from each supplier. The samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, while their chemical composition is checked at this office and followed up where necessary.

The samples taken are summarised as follows :—

		Pasteurised Milk.	Raw Milk
Number of samples taken	.....	286	469
Number satisfactory	.....	268	388
Number unsatisfactory	.....	18	81

In the case of the pasteurised milk the unsatisfactory condition of some was due to inadequate pasteurisation but in most cases it was lack of keeping quality, while the unsatisfactory raw milk all failed to satisfy the keeping quality test.

It must be appreciated that conditions under which milk is delivered to the schools, stored after delivery and weather conditions have much to do with the keeping quality of milk and milk which falls below the required standard is not likely to prove harmful to the children.

Reports on all the samples are sent to the County Education Department as they are received from the laboratory and appropriate action taken.

Legal proceedings were instituted against a dairyman who had delivered bottles of milk for consumption by the children at a school and one bottle was found to contain a metal foil cap. The justices imposed a fine of £20.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

At the time of the completion of this report only the District Medical Officers of Health for Llanelly Borough and Llandovery Borough had submitted their reports on the sanitary circumstances of the areas. The following is a summary :—

Water Supply.

Llanelly Borough.—Main extensions to the Box and Tanygraig Housing Sites were completed during the year and extensions to the Brynhyfryd Housing Site were under construction. Extensions to the Techion Fach and Gordon Road housing sites were under consideration at the end of the year.

Llandovery Borough.—Mains extensions to Velindre was completed during the year. Provision of permanent building in place of temporary structure at Tonn Borehole was under consideration at the end of the year.

Sewage Disposal

Llanelly Borough.—The ejector scheme at Machynys was completed during the year.

Llandovery Borough.—Sewerage scheme under construction.

Housing.

Llanelly Borough.—The temporary cessation of the Council's Building Scheme was reflected in the fact that only 17 cases of overcrowding was relieved whereas 132 families were scheduled as overcrowded during the year. Only two council houses were completed during 1956.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1956

Name of District	Estimated Population for 1956	Live Births		Deaths registered in District		Transferable Deaths		Deaths under 1 year		Area of District in Acres	Census 1951 Total population at all ages
		No.	Rate per 1,000 Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 Population	Outward	Inward	No.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
URBAN:											
Llanelli	31,900	399	12.51	483	15.14	64	33	8	20.05	2069	34,329
Cardarthen	11,840	168	14.19	280	23.65	141	8	9	53.57	5160	12,121
Llandeilo	1,860	12	6.45	26	13.98	1	4	—	—	311	2,003
Llandovery	1,910	28	14.66	29	15.18	12	7	1	35.71	1266	1,856
Kidwelly	3,010	48	15.95	37	12.29	—	4	—	—	2854	3,007
Newcastle Emlyn	750	5	6.67	12	16.00	—	—	—	—	208	763
Ammanford	6,700	83	12.39	78	11.64	1	24	4	48.19	944	6,578
Burry Port	6,030	96	15.92	71	11.77	—	15	1	10.42	1374	5,927
Cwmaman	4,320	50	11.57	68	15.74	8	23	2	40.00	756	4,593
Total	68,320	889	13.01	1084	15.87	227	118	25	28.12	14942	71,177
RURAL:											
Llanelli	39,670	549	13.84	447	11.27	14	107	25	45.54	51367	37,000
Cardarthen	28,310	387	13.67	323	11.41	4	66	10	25.84	202733	28,469
Llandeilo	25,570	349	13.65	333	13.02	9	85	6	17.19	236588	26,404
Newcastle Emlyn	8,530	108	12.66	128	15.01	5	23	5	46.30	82842	8,692
Total	102,080	1393	13.65	1231	12.06	32	281	46	33.02	573530	100,565
Urban Districts	68,320	889	13.01	1084	15.87	227	118	25	28.12	14942	71,177
Rural Districts	102,080	1393	13.65	1231	12.06	32	281	46	33.02	573530	100,565
Whole County	170,400	2282	13.39	2315	13.58	259	399	71	31.11	588472	171,742
England and Wales	—	—	15.7	—	11.7	—	—	—	23.8	—	—