

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow R.D.C.

Contributors

Chepstow (Wales). Rural District Council. nb2006021759

Publication/Creation

1937

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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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27 SEP 1938

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

CHEPSTOW :
CHEPSTOW PRESS, PRINTERS, BANK STREET.



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REPORT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

Annual Report

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1932

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Chairman: A. W. WAINWRIGHT, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Canon W. H. WILLIAMS.

Councillors:

Mr. F. S. BAKER	Mr. W. C. JONES
Mr. R. G. BENJAMIN	Mr. J. E. LIDDIARD
Mr. A. E. BOYE	Mr. W. T. LINES
Mr. H. J. CANE	Mrs. M. E. PAGET
Mr. H. HASTINGS CLAY	Mr. D. H. PARRY
Rev. IVOR DAVIES	Mr. H. L. PRICE
Mr. J. EDWARDS	Mr. J. W. PRICE
Mr. A. HALE	Mr. N. W. PRICE
Mr. J. E. HANCOCK	Mr. W. E. PRICHARD
Mrs. G. I. HEATH	Mr. C. R. READ
Mr. F. H. HEWINGS	Mr. A. REECE
Mr. T. HILLIER	Mr. E. S. SPARKS
Mr. H. HUGHES	Mr. S. J. THORNE
Mr. A. JONES	Mr. G. M. VAUGHAN-HUGHES
Mr. J. JONES	Mr. F. C. WALKER
Rev. W. JONES	Mr. W. WATKINS
Mr. W. T. WHEELER.	

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk: Mr. G. D. SPEARING.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor: Mr. HUGH J. WARD.

Sanitary Inspector: Mr. WM. PLIMMER.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. J. O'REILLY.

Rating Officer: Mr. T. T. BIRBECK.

Rating Clerk: Mr. J. W. T. SMITH.

Rate Collectors:

Caldicot Collection District ...	...	...	Mr. E. SQUIBBS.
Mathern .. ..	...	...	Mr. M. E. SMITH.
Shirenewton .. ..	...	...	Mr. F. C. PRICE.

CHEPSTOW,

August 30th, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chepstow Rural
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

THE AREA of the District is 42,459 acres.

THE POPULATION at the census of 1931 was 8,710. The estimated population at the middle of 1937 was 8,566. The Vital Statistics are based on this figure.

THE NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES at the end of 1937 was, according to the rate books, 2,368.

THE RATEABLE VALUE of the District is £30,167.

A PENNY RATE produces £129 13s. 7d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Chepstow Rural Area roughly comprises the eastern angle of Monmouthshire reaching from Tintern, across country through Trelleck, to meet the Severn beyond Undy, and including, amongst others, the districts Tintern, Trelleck, Shirenewton, Itton, Kilgwrrwg, St. Arvans, Caerwent, Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett, Rogiet and Undy.

The geographical contour of this angle, combined with the sources of employment, governs the area distribution of its population, it being heaviest where factory work is obtainable, less with agricultural work, and least in the hilly and wooded areas. Taking the area as a whole, however, agriculture forms the main source of employment, with factory and tourist catering work ranking as important subsidiaries. In hilly and wooded districts social amenities are largely influenced by their inapplicability—population

or other reasons—or inaccessibility. This holds not only for such as electric light, water, and sewerage, but also for medical and nursing facilities.

Unemployment shows a slight decrease. The main sources of employment continue to be :—

- (1) The Severn Tunnel Railway Junction.
- (2) The Tunnel Pumping Station and Works, Sudbrook.
- (3) The Tin Stamping Company, Caldicot (chiefly young girls employed).
- (4) Wagon Reconditioning Company, Severn Tunnel Junction.
- (5) Leechpool Holdings under the County Council.
- (6) Welsh Land Settlement Society, Llanvair and Caerwent.
- (7) Road Reconstruction.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births 121.

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births	{	Legitimate ...	115	62	53
	{	Illegitimate ...	6	3	3

Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14·125.

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Still Births	...	...	7	2	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 54·687.

Deaths 94.

Total.	Male.	Female.
94	49	45

(including residents who died outside the District).

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10·973.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	nil
„ „ other Puerperal causes	...	...	nil
			—
	TOTAL	...	nil
			—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	49·586
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	52·173
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	15
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

The corresponding rates for 1936 were :—

Birth-rate	...	...	11·7
Death-rate	...	...	12·6
Infant Mortality rate	...	...	69·3

The rates for the whole of England and Wales, and for the County of Monmouth for 1937 were :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infant Mortality rate.
England and Wales	14·9	12·4	—
County of Monmouth	15·5	12·6	63·9

No unusual or excessive mortality has occurred during the year deserving of special comment, nor has there been during this period any epidemic illnesses. No instance has arisen wherein occupation or environment has had a prejudicial effect on health. There is no evidence that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part-time), and two full-time Sanitary Inspectors. The chief Sanitary Inspector holds the Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is a Member of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers. The additional Inspector is, of course, certified by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Ambulance Facilities.

Local cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital in a proper motor-ambulance which is on hire from a local garage. Other County Districts which send cases to the hospital provide the ambulance.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is conducted by the District Nursing Association, which retains a full-time nurse in the following districts :—(1) Caerwent, (2) Portskewett, (3) Itton, including Shirenewton, (4) Caldicot, (5) Llanishen. The district nurse in Llanishen is also district nurse to Devauden, Tintern, Trelleck, Llansoy and Wolvesnewton. This is indeed a very extensive, if not impossible, area for one nurse. In addition to general nursing, these nurses do practically all the maternity nursing in their respective districts.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There are no treatment centres in the area—cases needing such attention are referred to the County Authorities in Newport.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every Thursday in the Annexe of the Bridge Street School, Chepstow, where also is held, once monthly, an Antenatal Clinic. A weekly Infant Welfare Clinic is held in Caldicot.

Hospitals.

- PUBLIC.** 1.—Regent House Institution, Chepstow.
2.—The Joint Isolation Hospital for the Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts.
3.—Infectious Diseases Hospital, Crick.
- VOLUNTARY.** 4.—The Chepstow and District Hospital, Chepstow.

1. Regent House Institution, Chepstow.

This Institution is under the control of the County Council. It is part of a general scheme for the County, and patients are admitted not only from the Chepstow District, but from other parts of the County. They are mainly of a chronic type. There are no proper facilities for surgical work, and cases requiring operation are usually transferred elsewhere. A few maternity cases are admitted during the year ; these are usually from the poorest homes or are illegitimate, and it is an excellent service. There is also the "house" side, devoted to the destitute who are not ill.

2. The Joint Isolation Hospital for the Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts.

The joint Isolation Hospital for the Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts is situated about one mile from the town on the Usk Road. It is maintained by joint contributions from both

Councils, and can accommodate thirty-eight patients (34 beds and 4 cots).

3. *Infectious Diseases Hospital, Crick.*

This belongs to the Newport Borough Council. It is fully equipped and serves as an "overflow" hospital for cases of infectious disease that cannot be accommodated in Newport.

4. *Chepstow and District Hospital.*

The Chepstow and District Hospital is the only voluntary hospital in the area. It has eighteen beds, i.e., sixteen open to subscribers, and two private beds. This popular institution continues to develop, and is equipped to deal with all but the most complex cases. It is managed by a Committee, and is supported by voluntary contributions, a Workman's Fund, and payments from private patients.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

There have been no changes in the Midwifery and Maternity Services for the area. There is no maternity home in the District. Emergency cases are admitted to Regent House Institution, Chepstow and District Hospital or to hospitals in Newport, Cardiff or Bristol. An antenatal clinic is held in Chepstow and in Caldicot once monthly.

Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.

This is afforded, in a minor scale, by Regent House Institution, and by the County Authorities.

For unmarried mothers further provision is made by the Nantyderry Maternity Home and Hostel. It has twelve beds and caters for girls of hitherto good character expecting their first baby. It is partly maintained by voluntary contributions, supplemented by grants from the County Council and other public bodies.

Health Visitors.

Sisters Webb and Spencer are the Health Visitors for the area. Child Life Protection for the area is very ably conducted by Mr. Jones, N.S.P.C.C.

Orthopaedic cases are referred to the Central Authority in Newport, who direct further treatment.

There are no registered maternity or other nursing homes in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Rogiet.

A length of 210 yards of 2-inch main has been laid to meet the requirements of new houses built by the Severn Tunnel Junction Garden Village Society.

St. Arvans.

To overcome the inconvenience of an intermittent supply to the highest stand-pipe a subsidiary storage tank has been constructed to supply this stand-pipe only.

The Severn Tunnel Area Water Scheme.

A tender has been accepted for this work, and before this Report is printed the work will be well in hand.

Earlswood, Shirenewton.

Complaints have been received that the water supply to this neighbourhood is not satisfactory. Investigations are being made with the view to a better supply being provided.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A new 6-inch branch sewer about 450 yards long, with the necessary manholes, etc., has been constructed to take the drainage of several houses which were provided with cesspits.

Several new drains, connected to the sewer, have been constructed by house owners—see detailed report.

Rivers and Streams.

No official action taken beyond the removal and burial of carcasses.

Closet Accommodation.

The substitution of water-closets for pails is being steadily done.

Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary.

Schools.

Earlswood.

Earlswood school needs a better water supply.

Undy.

The water supply to this school has been put right.

Tintern.

Repairs and improvements required to this school. The owners have been communicated with.

Refuse Removal.

Forty houses, built by the Council, have been provided with new bins which are emptied by contract,

Sanitary Officer's Report of Inspection of the Area.

Bakehouses visited ...	...	...	7
Dairies and Cowsheds—visits ...	...	...	47
" " " repaired ...	...	...	2
Milk Samples sent for Analysis ..	...	...	25
New Drains ...	...	...	27
Drains repaired ...	...	...	2
New W.C.'s provided ...	...	...	6
Houses repaired ...	...	...	26
" demolished ...	...	...	nil
New Houses built ...	...	...	101
House Plans approved ...	...	...	156
" " disapproved ...	...	...	1
Repairs to Water Supplies ..	...	...	16
New Water Meters fixed ...	...	...	2
Water Analyses ...	...	...	nil
Slaughterhouses—visits ...	...	...	170
Carcases inspected ...	...	...	181
" condemned ...	...	6)	Total weight
Other Meat condemned ...	484 lbs.	6)	2,090 lbs.
Shops inspected and registered ...	...	...	29
Visits to Factories ...	...	...	5
Informal Notices ...	...	...	16
Statutory Notices ...	...	...	53
*Legal Proceedings ...	...	...	2

*One prosecution for Nuisance arising from defective drainage.

The second prosecution arose from the letting of a house to a family in excess of the permitted number.

Shops.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, as the ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences have been reported satisfactory.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, the following table shows the work done :—

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	...	12	nil	nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	...	6	nil	nil
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	...	nil	nil	nil
Total	...	18	nil	nil

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	1	nil
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective	1			
Not separate for sexes				
Total ...	2	1	1	nil

Schools.

Rogiet Council School.

Owing to the rapid growth of the parish of Rogiet this school has become very badly overcrowded. The County authorities have inspected sites for a new school both in the parish of Rogiet and also the parish of Caldicot.

Earlswood School.

During the year the Water Committee of the Council visited the Earlswood school to inspect the water supply. The findings of this Committee have been reported to the Council, and in the near future it is quite possible that a water scheme will be put into force covering nearly the whole of the parish of Shirenewton, in which parish the school is situated.

Undy Council School.

The water supply to this school has been totally inadequate during the past year. Works have been carried out to improve this supply, but a good supply will not really be available until the school is supplied from the new main from Chepstow.

Portskewett Council School.

Overcrowding will most likely occur in this school owing to the erection of the small holdings at Leechpool, during the next year.

Tintern Church School.

An inspection of this school has been carried out during the year. Repairs and a re-construction of the drainage and closet system are required—these facts have been forwarded to the Chairman of the School Managers.

HOUSING.

The chief feature of the Council's activity this year has been that dealing with the erection of houses for Overcrowding and Slum Clearance.

Altogether in the year ending December 31st, 1937, the Council built three houses at Undy for the displacement of families from unfit houses, five houses at Caerwent—three for

unfit houses and two for overcrowded houses, ten at Caldicot for overcrowding, whilst the foundations for seven houses at Devauden were laid in November, 1937—these houses should be finished during the first half of 1938.

The Council have yet to build houses in the parishes of Portskewett, Shirenewton, Mathern, St. Arvans and Tintern. In the case of the Portskewett houses considerable delay has been caused owing to the difficulty of obtaining a site. When a site was obtained another difficulty arose in who should be responsible for making up an access road. With regard to the Tintern houses, twelve are to be built. Eight of these houses are to be built to replace houses scheduled for demolition by the Tintern Housing Confirmation Order, 1938—the other four houses being for overcrowding. Work under Section 9 of the Act has not been carried out as much as might have been possible owing to the amount of work now entailed in the Health Department.

Housing Statistics.

1. *Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	74
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	101
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	11
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	52

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	41
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	35
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices:—				
(a) By owners	...	...	..	nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..	...	...	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Regular inspection of Cowsheds, Dairies, etc., has been carried out during the year and the general condition is fairly good. By this statement it must not be understood that no great improvement could be effected—the general conditions found are the minimum required for the production of clean milk. The standard of milk production required will never be achieved until every milk producer can give an unconditional invitation to all customers to visit his or her premises at any time during working hours and inspect the methods of production.

During the year one producer has been struck off the Register of Milk Producers and no appeal against the decision of the Council was lodged. The grounds for this action were as follows:—(1) Unsuitability of the premises. (2) Lack of repairs. (3) Lack of care, cleanliness and attention by the producer.

As regards school samples taken during the year it is a pleasure to report that of the seven samples taken, all seven were favourably reported on by the County Pathologist. The road-side samples are a definite disappointment—out of eighteen samples taken, nine were found to be unsatisfactory. In seven cases the samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory, and in the remaining two cases the samples were unsatisfactory owing to the high coliform bacillus content.

From the reports on the school and road-side samples it appears that more care is taken in the production of school milk than with milk retailed to the public. Looking through the list of satisfactory and unsatisfactory road-side samples there does not appear to be any appreciable difference between the premises used for the production of the satisfactory and unsatisfactory samples—this leads to the assumption that the human element is responsible in many cases for the unsatisfactory samples.

Meat and other Foods.

After the prosecutions last year there has been a definite improvement in the carrying out of the Public Health Meat Regulations.

The quantity of meat condemned during the year is rather high, being 2,090 lbs. This, I would like to point out, is no reflection on the standard of meat sold in the District—on the other hand all the animals killed have been of a fairly good standard.

The following is a list showing the detailed amount of meat condemned and the causes :—

Detailed List of Meat condemned during year.

MEAT.	CONDITION OR DISEASE.	Wgt. lbs.	ACTION TAKEN AND DISPOSAL.
Calf	Broken Leg (Septic) ...	60	Buried. Voluntary surrender.
Heifer	Generalised Tuberculosis	400	Buried in Lime. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Liver 	Cirrhosis 	10	Burned. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Liver 	Cirrhosis 	10	Burned. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Lungs 	Tuberculosis 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Stomach and Intes- tines 	Tuberculosis 	160	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Sheep	Badly bled. Stoppage due to roots	75	Buried. Voluntary Surrender
Sheep	Badly bled. Stoppage due to roots	65	Buried. Voluntary Surrender
Bovine Lungs 	Tuberculosis 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Liver 	Tuberculosis 	10	Burned. Voluntary Surrender.
Cow	Bruising extensive and severe	750	Buried. Voluntary Surrender
Bovine Lungs 	Tuberculosis 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Heifer	Generalised Tuberculosis	450	Buried. Voluntary Surrender
3 Bovine Livers 	Cirrhosis 	30	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Liver 	Flukes 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Liver 	Fatty Degeneration 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Liver 	Abscesses 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Bovine Lungs 	Tuberculosis 	10	Buried. Voluntary Surrender.
Total 		2090 lbs	

Meat and other foods condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...					
Number inspected ...	60	14	14	33	60
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	1	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8				
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	13%	7%	7%	6%	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	2 (Heifers)	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. ...	10%	—	—	—	—

Fish	} NIL.
Bottled and Tinned Foods ...	...	...	...	...	...
Bacon ...	...	...	...	...	...
Offal, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	...
Cooked Meat ...	...	...	...	...	...
Fruit ...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases have occurred during the year, and
an analysis according to age groups is appended :—

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	5	5	nil
Scarlet Fever ...	11	11	nil
Primary Pneumonia	10	nil	10

Analysis of the Total Cases and Deaths from Notifiable Diseases according to Age Groups.

DISEASE.		CASES NOTIFIED.														
		AGE GROUPS.														
		Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total all ages	Deaths (all ages)	No. admitted to Hospital
Diphtheria	...				1				2	2				5		5
Scarlet Fever	...			1		1	3	3	2		1			11		11
Pneumonia	...	2									2	2	4	10	10	
TOTALS	...	2		1	1	1	3	3	4	2	3	2	4	26	10	16
DEATHS	Diphtheria	...														
	Scarlet Fever	...														
	Pneumonia	...	2								2	2	4	10	10	
	TOTALS	...	2								2	2	4	10	10	

Diphtheria.

Immunization against diphtheria was carried out during the year in the various schools of the District.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free, both for curative and precautionary treatment.

Tuberculosis.

Number on Register (all types) at end of 1937 :—48
(Male 23, Female 25).

Site of the Disease.			Total.	Male.	Female.
Lungs	...	...	37	22	15
Joints	...	...	3	—	3
Spine	...	...	3	1	2
Glands	...	...	2	—	2
Skin	...	...	1	—	1
Peritonitis	...	...	1	—	1
Unclassified	...	...	1	—	1

Deaths from Tuberculosis in 1937 :—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Of the Lungs	...	...	3	3	—
Other forms	...	...	1	—	1
Total			—	—	—
			4	3	1

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Sanitary Inspectors and your Clerk for their unfailing courtesy and loyal co-operation on all occasions.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'REILLY.

Number on Register (all types) at end of 1937--48
(Male 28, Female 22)

Part of Hand	Total	Male	Female
Large	37	23	14
Joint	8	5	3
Spine	8	4	4
Blade	2	2	0
Shin	1	1	0
Portion	1	1	0
Unidentified	1	1	0

Deaths from Tuberculosis in 1937:

Of the Range	Total	Male	Female
Other forms	1	1	0
Total	1	1	0

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Secretary, Inspectors and your Clerk for their untiring courtesy and loyal co-operation on all occasions.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'BRIEN.



