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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Chepstow:

Davies & Roberts, Printers, 26a High Street.



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FOR THE YEAR 1938

Printed by the Council
Chepstow, Gloucestershire

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman : Canon W. H. WILLIAMS.

Vice-Chairman : H. L. PRICE, Esq.

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. |
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| 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, A.M.I.S.E., Cert. R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. WM. PLIMMER, M.S.I.A., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. J. J. O'REILLY, M.B., B.Ch.

Valuation Officer : Mr. T. T. BIRBECK, F.A.I.

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

Rate Collectors :

Caldicot Collection District Mr. E. SQUIBBS.

Mathern Collection District Mr. M. E. SMITH.

Shirenewton Collection District Mr. F. C. PRICE

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Ministry of Health was created in 1919, to prepare, carry out, and co-ordinate measures conducive to the health of the people; and, as legatee of the Local Government Board, it is also concerned with linking together the central and local governments.

Chepstow Rural District is administered under the Ministry by Monmouthshire County Council in respect of certain services, and by Chepstow Rural District Council in respect of others.

The County Council, besides being an appeal and supervisory authority in all public health matters, administers directly public assistance, elementary and secondary education the maternity and child welfare and school medical services, tuberculosis and venereal disease schemes, and the mental health services. It is the local authority under the Midwives Acts, the Blind Persons Act, the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, the Poison and Pharmacy Act, the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, and the Shops Act.

The Rural Council is responsible for the notification and control of infectious disease, housing, sanitation, water supply, street cleaning and refuse removal, and the prevention of atmospheric and river pollution. It is also the Local Authority under the Factories Act,

"ST. ANNS,"

CHEPSTOW,

August 30th, 1939.

*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, 1938.

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 1938 was 8,678. The Vital Statistics are based on this figure.

THE NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES at the end of 1938 was, according to the rate books, 2,961.

THE RATEABLE VALUE of the District is £31,453.

A PENNY RATE produces £96/19/6.

The drop in the product of a penny rate (from £129/13/7 in 1937) was due to the payment of a large refund of rates to Railway Companies, and is therefore temporary.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Chepstow Rural District lies in the south-eastern part of Monmouthshire, in the angle formed by the rivers Severn and Wye. It is roughly twelve miles from north to south and nine from east to west. Broadly speaking it is an agricultural area. Tintern Abbey and the scenery of the Wye Valley attract visitors, so that catering is an occupation of some importance. The northern end of the Severn Tunnel lies in the district, together with its pumping station at Sudbrook, so that directly or indirectly, the railway gives a good deal of employment.

The main Newport-Chepstow Road divides the district into contrasting parts. That to the north of the road is undulating or hilly; it contains over seven thousand acres of woodland

and much inferior farm land, deteriorated in parts to patches of bracken-covered sheep runs. This northern part comprises about three-quarters of the area and two-fifths of the population. It may be described as "truly rural," as compared with that part of the district lying south of the road. This latter is comparatively flat and fertile, being to some extent a continuation of the Plain of Gwent. Here on one-quarter of the area live three-fifths of the people, with something approaching urban density of population in the Caldicot sector.

This distribution of the population, here as elsewhere, determines the provision or otherwise of sanitary and utility services. Thus in the semi-urbanised southern portion of the district there may be found domestic water supplies, a water carriage sewage system, a scheme for refuse removal, as well as provision of "company" electricity and gas. Practically none of these services are to be found in the scattered district north of the road.

A feature of the agricultural industry in the district is the division of the land into smallholdings under the County Council, and a further development of the same tendency proceeds at Leechpool, where about forty families farm less than ten acres each, which they devote to the intensive production of market produce, pigs and poultry: certain features of this scheme, such as co-operative marketing, appear to be quite novel. The "settlers" at Leechpool are drawn chiefly from the unemployed mining population, and have been specially trained for their new life.

The main sources of employment continue to be:—

- (1) Farming, including the Leechpool Holdings and those of the Welsh Land Settlement Society at Caerwent.
- (2) The Severn Tunnel Railway Junction.
- (3) The Tunnel Pumping Station and Works.
- (4) The Cambrian Wagon Works, Ltd., Severn Tunnel.
- (5) Road Construction.
- (7) The Tin Stamping Co., Caldicot (chiefly young girls employed).

An extra source of employment in the near future will be provided by the establishment of an armaments factory at Dinham.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births 136.

| | | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Live Births | Legitimate | 131 | 58 | 73 |
| | Illegitimate | 5 | 1 | 4 |

Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.6.

| | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Still Births | 11 | 4 | 7 |

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 75.

Deaths 135

| Male. | Female |
|-------|--------|
| 774 | 61 |

(including residents who died outside the district).

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 14.4
(corrected by A.C.F.)

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis Nil

Deaths from other Puerperal Causes Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

| | |
|--|------|
| Total rate per 1,000 live births | 51.5 |
| Legitimate rate per 1,000 legitimate live births | 53.4 |
| Illegitimate, no deaths. | |

| | |
|--|----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 16 |
| „ „ Measles (all ages) | 1 |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 |
| „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. old) | 0 |

The corresponding rates for 1937 were :—

Birth-rate 14

Death-rate was not corrected either as regards A.C.F. or transferable deaths, and therefore is not comparable.

Infant Mortality rate 49.5

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 | 15.1 | 11.6 | 53 |
| County of Monmouth | 16.1 | 12.1 | 55.8 |

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 significance on the health or physique of children or adults.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers.

(see page 1)

Full Time Medical Officer of Health. Under the Local Government Act (1933) Section III, it is the duty of the County Council to arrange for securing that every M.O.H. shall be restricted from engaging in private practice. Generally, it is proposed to do this by appointing such a full time officer to a number of Local Authorities. Thus, under the scheme prepared by Monmouthshire County Council, Chepstow Urban and Rural, and Monmouth Urban and Rural District Councils would be served by the same Medical Officer. These combined Districts have a population of 23,434.

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 local Associations affiliated with Monmouthshire Nursing Association, which appears to exercise the powers of the County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936. There are Associations at Caerwent,

Portskewett, Itton and Llanishen, each employing a nurse-midwife, and at Caldicot, where both a midwife and general nurse are maintained. Taking the Rural District as a whole, the work is unevenly distributed, and Mathern seems to be quite unprovided for.

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 Ante-natal 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 patients (26 beds and 4 cots).

Proposed New Isolation Hospital. The County Council, under Section 185 of the Public Health Act (1936), has linked the County Districts together so as to form four units, and it is proposed to establish an isolation hospital to meet the needs of each. In this scheme, Chepstow Rural District is united with the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons, and the Urban Districts of Chepstow and Caerleon, the total combined population being 28,147. The number of beds in the proposed hospital would be 34, with 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 has 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 ante-natal 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 Richards 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.

Orthopædic 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 FOR THE AREA

Water

The Scheme for supplying the villages of Portskewett, Caldicot, Rogiet, and Undy, with water purchased from the Chepstow Water Company is nearing completion. In all, about 12 miles of mains will be laid; and this with the necessary Valves, Hydrants, Meters, etc., will cost approximately £12,000.

Chepstow Water Company derives its water from two sources: Rogerstone Grange, St. Arvans and White Mill, in the Shirenewton district. The Rogerstone Grange supply comes from springs and a deep well; these are piped a short distance into a chlorinating tank, and thence into a 1,000,000 gallon reservoir. The White Mill supply, which is the chief one, is taken from Mounton Brook soon after its junction with the Glyn Brook. It contains the surface water of a large catchment area with poor soil and a small scattered population engaged in "mixed" farming. These streams are further fed by a large number of small springs. Above the point at which the water is taken, the stream is fenced off for a third of a mile to permit of aeration. This water is treated by rapid mechanical filtration, alumino-ferric being used as a coagulant, followed by chlorination. There is no storage reservoir on this supply. Chlorination of both supplies is carried out by means of the 'chloramine' process, and new and up-to-date apparatus has been installed in each case.

Complaints have been made by consumers that the water sometimes tastes strongly of chlorine, and that, following heavy rain, it carries a heavy sediment. Neither of these complaints involves any direct public health danger, although it is obviously desirable to provide a drinking water which is pleasant as

well as safe. Probably both of these objections will be corrected in time. The small percentage of chlorine necessary to purify the water is generally only noticed by people unused to a chlorinated supply, and our trouble locally has arisen from the use of an excessive dose intermittently. Experience in this treatment, which has nowadays become a standard procedure of water undertakings, should soon lead to uniformity of dosage and an end of taste troubles. The sediment complained of is due to storm water at White Mill, and the remedy is to supply only from Rogerstone during heavy rain; this the Company is planning to do.

More serious doubt has recently been thrown on the purity of this water supply by Dr. G. Rocyn-Jones, Director of the County Laboratory and analyst to your Council. Rather contradictory findings from another laboratory examining on behalf of the Water Company, suggested the advisability of a conference, together with a 'field inspection' by both analysts and the interested officials of the Water Company and of your Council. At this it became clear that nothing in itself harmful had even been detected in the water, but that the margin of safety favoured by Dr. Rocyn Jones was somewhat more exacting than that of his colleague. However, all suggestions put forward by Dr. Rocyn Jones for the further purification of the water were accepted by the Water Company, and the impression left by the conference was that the purity of the supply would be adequately safeguarded.

Periodic sampling will of course continue.

Earlswood.

This district is supplied by a large number of scattered surface springs. Many of these were examined during the year and the analyst's reports were, generally, unfavourable. A scheme for a piped supply was submitted by Mr. Ward. In this, water from the Pandy Spring, situated a few yards from the Nedyrn Brook at the lowest level of the area, would be pumped by a ram to a reservoir on the highest level and thence piped over the district. The cost of this proposal led to a good deal of local opposition and its further consideration was deferred.

Tintern.

Tintern also depends on shallow wells of poor quality for its water supply. Indeed the general standard of sanitation

in Tintern has been unfavourably commented on by officials of the Welsh Board of Health during a very recent inspection.

Portskewett.

160 yards of 2" main have been laid to the Council's new Housing Site at "The Close".

St. Arvans.

In consequence of Road Improvement Works, a section of the village water main has been lowered for protection from traffic.

Llansoy.

A public well at 'The Wern' has been repaired and provided with a new cover, etc.

Sewerage

Rogiet.

A new 6" branch sewer, 450 yards long has been laid to take drainage from houses which previously were served by cess-pits.

Streams and Rivers

No special action has been taken apart from the removal of carcasses from the banks of the Wye and the Severn.

Closet Accommodation

Six Water Closets have been provided by house owners to replace unsatisfactory privies.

Schools

These have all been visited during the year. The old Church School at Undy has been closed. Five schools have been connected up to the new water main. Earlswood School is still without a satisfactory water supply. Minor repairs have been done to the Tintern school but more work is necessary yet.

Lighting

The village of Rogiet is now lit with electric light.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no such baths in the area. Blackrock beach attracts a good many people and the provision of some sanitary accommodation might be considered.

Smoke Abatement

Following repeated complaints from cottagers living near the Caerwent Lime-stone Quarry, and failing to get any satisfaction from the management with regard to the abatement of a dust nuisance, proceedings were instituted. The defence, that all reasonable steps had been taken to prevent such a nuisance, was upheld in court. The vital weakness in the Council's case was the absence of a skilled engineering witness to support our contention that the quantity of dust blowing from this particular 'crusher' was unusual and unnecessary.

Bed Bugs

Eleven houses in Caldicot were treated for bed bug infestation by the Associated Fumigator Co., Ltd., London. H.C.N. was used and the results were satisfactory.

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 Acts, 1901 and 1937, 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 | Occupies 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 |

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

| PARTICULARS | No. 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 ... | | | | |
| Want of ventilation ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | nil |
| Overcrowding ... | | | | |
| Want of drainage of floors | | | | |
| Other nuisances ... | | | | |
| Sanitary accommodation : | | | | |
| Insufficient ... | | | | |
| Unsuitable or defective ... | | | | |
| Not separate for sexes ... | 1 | | | |
| Total ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | nil |

Sanitary Officer's Report on the Inspection of the Area

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Bakehouses visited ... | 4 |
| Dairies and Cowsheds—visits ... | 48 |
| „ „ „ repaired ... | 6 |
| „ „ „ new sheds ... | 4 |
| Milk Samples sent for Analysis ... | 38 |
| New Drains ... | 19 |
| New W.C.'s provided ... | 7 |
| Drains repaired ... | 11 |
| Houses repaired ... | 21 |
| New Houses built ... | |
| House plans approved ... | 22 |
| „ „ disapproved ... | nil |
| Visits to works of water supply ... | 190 |
| Repairs to water supplies ... | 24 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------|
| New Water Meters fixed | ... | ... | 22 |
| Water Analyses | ... | ... | ... |
| Visits to Slaughter-houses | ... | ... | 97 |
| Quantity of Meat condemned | ... | ... | 799 lbs. |
| Visits to Factories | ... | ... | 10 |
| Statutory Notices | ... | ... | 8 |
| Informal Notices | ... | ... | 20 |
| Legal Proceedings | ... | ... | 1 |
| Works in Progress | ... | ... | 32 |
| Inspection for Vermin | ... | ... | 17 |
| Disinfections | .. | ... | 39 |
| Fumigation (H.C.N.) | ... | ... | 11 |
| Disinfestation (Cimex) | ... | ... | 5 |
| Dirty Houses inspected | ... | ... | 6 |
| Visits to Caldicot Moors <i>re</i> burying of car- | | | |
| cases washed up by the tide | ... | ... | 7 |
| Drains tested | ... | ... | 17 |
| Schools (visits) | ... | ... | 19 |
| Camping Sites (visits) | ... | ... | 3 |
| Schools (disinfected) | ... | ... | 1 |
| Extermination of Rats | ... | ... | 4 |
| Shops (visits) | ... | ... | 15 |
| Drain pipes condemned | ... | ... | $\frac{1}{2}$ ton |
| Nuisances abated by informal action | ... | ... | 15 |
| Miscellaneous Visits | ... | ... | 52 |

HOUSING

During the year the Council have erected 8 houses at Portskewett, 77 at Devauden, 10 at Caldicot, and 7 at Shirenewton to abate overcrowding and to replace unfit houses.

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) ... 64
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 100
 - (2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 13

| | |
|--|-----|
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 25 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| (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 | 42 |
| 2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :</i> | |
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 12 |
| 3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i> | |
| 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 | 13 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | 6 |
| (a) By owners | 6 |
| (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 | 5 |
| (a) By owners | 5 |
| (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 ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | nil |

4.—*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.*

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | | | | 8 |
| (b) | Number of new cases reported during the year | | | | | nil |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Detailed List of Meat condemned during the Year 1938.

The slaughter-houses are all frequently visited and most of the carcasses inspected. The following is a list of meat and animals which are found unfit and destroyed.

| Description | Condition or Disease | Weight lbs. | Disposal |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2 Sheep Livers | Cirrhosis | 5 lbs. | Burned |
| 1 Heifer | Generalised Tuberculosis | 600 lbs. | Buried in Lime |
| 1 Bovine Liver | Flukes | 17 lbs. | Buried |
| 2 sets of Bovine lungs | Tuberculosis | 24 lbs. | Buried |
| 1 Bovine head | Actinomycosis | 33 lbs. | Buried |
| 1 Sheep | Moribund | 50 lbs. | Buried |
| 1 Pig | Fevered | 70 lbs. | Buried |

Total 799 lbs.

All the above Meat was Voluntarily Surrendered by the persons concerned.

MILK SUPPLY

During the year ending December 31st, 1938, 38 samples of Milk have been taken by the Health Department and reported on by the County Pathologist (Dr. G. Rocyn Jones). These reports are definitely disappointing, 20 out of the 38 samples proving to be unsatisfactory. Further division of the 20 unsound samples reveals that 7 samples were below standard as regards both the decolourisation period and the coliform bacillus limit only. The persons responsible have been informed of the adverse nature of the samples and advice has been given on the methods to be adopted to remedy these reports.

School Milk

11 of the above 38 samples of Milk were taken from school supplies—6 samples proving to be unsatisfactory. Out of these 6 unsatisfactory samples, 2 were below standard as regards the period of decolourisation. The Headmasters of the schools receiving unsatisfactory Milk have been seen and informed of the nature of the reports and in one case the Headmaster has changed the school milk supply from ordinary milk to Tuberculin Tested Milk. With regard to the supply of Tuberculin Tested Milk to school children the above Headmaster encountered serious difficulties before he obtained the supply—the chief obstacle being the Milk Marketing Board who queried the increased cost. The result is that children have to pay more for their milk at this school but balanced against this must be the added protection against bovine (that is, “milk conveyed”) tuberculosis.

“It is estimated that about 6% of all deaths from tuberculosis in England and Wales are caused by the bovine type of organism, that about 2,000 deaths, mostly in children, occur annually from this cause, and that at least 4,000 fresh cases of bovine infection develop each year, and that an immense amount of suffering, invalidity, and often permanent deformity is caused by this bacillus.”

In the Chepstow Rural area there are well over 100 farms engaged in the production of Milk—the majority of this milk is collected by the large Dairy companies and taken to a central depot. I do not know what procedure these companies adopt before agreeing to take a milk supply, but if, before accepting the milk they could inspect the premises, methods of production and periodically carry out further inspections and also test the milk supplied from time to time, I am sure they could help the cause of clean milk production considerably. Any producers with unsuitable premises, poor methods of production or whose milk failed to pass the test would soon find themselves without a market. The advent of the large Dairy company with a fleet of lorries visiting the farms has caused many farmers to take up milk production when otherwise owing to the lack of transport facilities they would never have attempted it.

As to inspections by the Sanitary Inspector I am afraid it is an impossibility to visit each of the premises more than once per year. The farms situated in the semi-urban portions of the district receive more attention as it is possible to combine these visits with other Public Health work in the same area.

In conclusion I think that of all the varied duties of a Sanitary Inspector the supervision of the production of milk shows the least returns for the amount of work and time spent, but even then progress however minute is far better than retrogression.

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 | | Cases admitted | |
|-------------------|-------------|----|----------------|---------|
| | notified | | to Hospital. | Deaths. |
| Diphtheria | ... | 7 | 7 | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 40 | 40 | — |
| Primary Pneumonia | — | — | — | 4 |

**Analysis of the total cases and deaths from Notifiable
Diseases according to Age Groups**

| DISEASE | | CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total All Ages | Deaths (all Ages) | No. Admitted to Hospital |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 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 | | | | |
| Diphtheria... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 7 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 10 | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 40 | .. | 40 | |
| Pneumonia... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | ... | | |
| TOTALS | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 6 | ... | 3 | 3 | 1 | 51 | 6 | 47 | |
| DEATHS | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | | |
| | Scarlet Fever... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | ... | | |
| | TOTALS | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | ... | | |

Diphtheria

7 cases were notified during the year.

The school children were offered free immunisation. Dr. Pauls of the County Council staff carried out the work, and he has supplied the following figures :

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|
| Number over 9 years Schick tested | ... | 312 | |
| Result of test: | Positive | ... | 234 |
| | Negative | ... | 72 |
| Number under 9 years inoculated | ... | 384 | |
| Total number inoculated | ... | ... | 618 |

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

Pneumonia

Only a small proportion of the total cases probably notified.

Puerperal Sepsis

There were two cases; no deaths.

Tuberculosis

Number on Register (all types) at end of 1938 ... 49
(Male 24, Female 25).

| Site of Disease | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Lungs | 35 | 21 | 14 |
| Lungs and finger ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Hip joint | 1 | — | 1 |
| Spine | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Sacro-iliac joint ... | — | — | — |
| Cervical Glands ... | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Skin | 1 | — | 1 |
| Abdomen | — | — | — |
| Ankle joint | 1 | — | 1 |
| Arm Abscess | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Forms | 2 | — | 2 |
| Total | 49 | 24 | 25 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.*

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938 should be given in the Report in the following form:—

| Age Periods. | New Cases † | | | | Deaths. ‡ | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15— | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 25— | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35— | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 45— | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 55— | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals ... | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | — |

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

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'REILLY.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1932.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the year ending 1932 should be given in the Report in the following form:

| Age Period | New Cases | | | | | | Deaths |
|-----------------|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| 0-4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5-9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10-14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15-19 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20-24 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25-29 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 30-34 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35-39 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 40-44 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45-49 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 50-54 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55-59 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 60-64 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65-69 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 70-74 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 75-79 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 80-84 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 85-89 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 90-94 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 95-99 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 100 and upwards | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | — |

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

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'BRIEN.

