

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow R.D.C.

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Chepstow (Wales). Rural District Council. nb2006021759

Publication/Creation

1955

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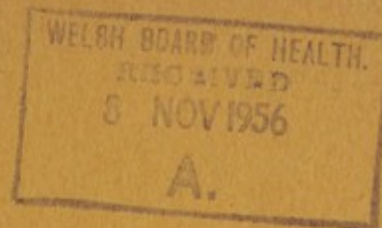
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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1955

R.D.C. OFFICES,
"HIGH TREES",
CHEPSTOW, MON.



CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman : Mr. W.J. Titley

Vice-Chairman : Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes.

Councillors :

Mrs. K. Amooore,
Mr. B. Beale,
Mr. D.T. Coleman,
Mr. S.P. Crompton,
Mr. E.M. Davis,
Mr. D.B. Dawson,
Mr. W.H. Gale,
Mr. L.H. Gardner,
Rev. D.E. Gravell,
Mr. E. Griffiths,
Mrs. G.I. Heath,
Col. E.R. Hill,
Mr. K.D. Hill,
Mr. S.M. Hill,
Mr. W.E.G. Hodges,
Mr. L. Hughes,
A. Jones,
A.E. Jones,

Mr. L. Jones,
Mr. S.G. Jones,
Mr. A.H. Morgan,
Mr. L. Nevison,
Mr. R.A. Newall,
Mr. N.B.R. Norton,
Mr. W.J. Parker,
Mr. D.H. Parry,
Mr. J.W.H. Petro,
Mr. L.H. Poole,
Mr. D.F.E. Price,
Mr. C.R. Read,
Mr. J. Roberts,
Mr. T.S. Rowlands,
Mr. E.G. Saunders,
Mr. W.J. Sterry,
Mr. F.C. Walker.

Officers of the Council :

Clerk - Mr. T.T. Birbeck.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E.N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor - Mr. L. Whittingham,
M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., M.A.Rur.S.,
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.C. Powell, A.M.I.P.H.E.,
M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert. S.I.B.,
Incorporated Sanitary Engineer. Certified
Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*"High Trees,"
Chepstow*

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health
and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st
December, 1955.

The health of your district was satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank
Mr. Whittingham and Mr. Powell for their help and co-operation during
the past year.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	42,459
<u>Population</u>	
Estimated mid-year population	10,420
Number of inhabited houses	3,378
Rateable Value	£42,358
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£169. 7s. 5d.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	76	89	165
Illegitimate	4	6	10

In 1952 the total live births were 177 and in 1953 they were 158. The number of illegitimate live births in 1954 was 5.

Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4

In 1950 there were 5 still births.

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year of age.			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	1		

In 1952 and 1954 there were 5 deaths of infants under one year of age.

The following gives a list of infant deaths under one year of age giving age at and cause of death :-

- (1) Female - 4 hours l.a. Prematurity.
- (2) Female - 3 hours l.a. Prematurity.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| (3) Male - 10 hours | 1.a. Anoxia.
b. Prematurity. |
| (4) Male - 3 months | 1.a. Meningitis. |
| (5) Male - 1 week | 1.a. Bronchopneumonia.
b. Prematurity. |

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	73	55	128

In 1954 and 1953 there were 112 deaths. In the former there were 58 male and 54 female deaths and in the latter year there were 64 male and 48 female deaths. There were 4 male deaths attributed to neoplasm of lung, bronchus, which is two more than in 1954. There were 16 deaths attributed to coronary disease this year and 13 last year. Of the total deaths 65 were 70 years or over at the time of death which is 7 more than in 1953. Table I gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diphtheria

No cases were notified. There were no cases in 1954 and 1953.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Of the children born in the years 1954, 1953, 1952 and 1951, at the end of the year 63, 79, 83 and 61 were immunised. At the end of 1954 the numbers immunised for these years were 7, 69, 81 and 57. In 1954 the total number of live births was 172 and in 1953 and 1952 they were 158 and 177. The total number of live births for 1951 was 166. This percentage of immunisation is still too low. It was hoped to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. 6 babies born in 1955 were immunised by the end of the year.

Owing to the occurrence within a fortnight of three cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in Monmouthshire a letter from the County Medical Officer on the 28th July, 1955, suggested that all vaccinations and immunisations should be discontinued until the beginning of October.

On the 9th August, 1955 owing to the occurrence of Poliomyelitis in this Area a circular letter was sent to all medical practitioners asking them to co-operate with us by postponing all vaccinations and immunisations until the beginning of October.

Vaccinations and immunisations were commenced again on 1st October, 1955.

Scarlet Fever

One case was notified. There were 3 notifications in 1953.

Measles

There were 65 notifications, 61 of these being notified in the quarter ending the 30th June, 1955. Of the 65 notifications, 40 of these were for children in the age group 5 - 9 years.

There were no notifications in 1954 and 30 in 1953.

Whooping Cough

There were 12 notifications as against 28 in 1954 and 22 in 1953. Immunisation against Whooping Cough was commenced in the Area in May, 1955.

Children were immunised against Whooping Cough alone and in combination with diphtheria vaccine. By the end of the year 2 children were immunised against Whooping Cough alone and 31 with the combined vaccine.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases were notified. There were no notifications in 1953 and 1954. It is of interest to note that there is a possible source of infection in connection with one of these cases. A male age 28 years was notified as suffering from paralytic poliomyelitis on the 4th August, 1955. The Aunt and Uncle of a confirmed case of poliomyelitis visited the farm for supper on the night of 24th July, 1955.

One of the three cases was a visitor to the Area and was incubating the disease whilst travelling here.

Tuberculosis.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year :-

- | | | | |
|-----|--------|-------------|------------------|
| (1) | Male | - 40 years. | Lungs |
| (2) | Male | - 51 years. | Lungs |
| (3) | Male | - 38 years. | Lungs |
| (4) | Male | - 32 years. | Lungs |
| (5) | Male | - 36 years. | Lungs |
| (6) | Male | - 59 years. | Lungs |
| (7) | Female | - 55 years. | Lungs |
| (8) | Male | - 28 years. | Lungs |
| (9) | Male | - 50 years. | Non-respiratory. |


During 1952 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. In 1954 and 1953 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. As in 1954 there were 2 deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DEATHS 1955

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	-
Meningococcal infections.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	6
Diabetes.	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	9
Coronary disease, angina.	13	3
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	3
Other heart disease.	17	17
Other circulatory disease.	1	2
Pneumonia.	1	1
Bronchitis.	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea.	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	9	5
Motor vehicle accidents.	2	-
All other accidents.	1	-
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
ALL CAUSES	<u>73</u>	<u>55</u>

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER
THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	CASES NOTIFIED - AGE GROUPS -						Total all ages
		1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	
Diphtheria								
Scarlet Fever					1			1
Pneumonia								
Cerebro-spinal Fever								
Acute Poliomyelitis				1			2	3
Enceph. Lethargica								
Dysentery		1	2	1				4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Measles and German Measles	3	8	12	40	2			65
Whooping Cough	3	1	3	5				12
Erysipelas								
Other Diseases								
TOTALS	6	10	17	47	3	-	2	85



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Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report
for the Year 1955

Inspections during the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	10
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	68
Bakehouses	...	...	18
Food Inspection	...	...	193
Drainage	...	...	86
Drain Testing	...	...	32
Sewerage	...	...	173
Water Supply	...	...	426
Housing (Complaints)	...	...	162
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	...	...	19
Nuisances	...	...	43
Disinfestation	...	...	5
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	1262
Shops Acts	...	...	121
Housing Accommodation	...	...	76
Housing Sites	...	...	462
Council House Repairs	...	...	526
Hutted Camps	...	...	15
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	242
Factories	...	...	104
Building Byelaws	...	...	314
Petrol Licences	...	...	62
Miscellaneous	...	...	386

Work Done

by Owners after Informal Notices :-

Housing Repairs	...	...	54
Drainage Repairs	...	...	17
Nuisances abated	...	...	14

by Owners after Statutory Notices :-

Housing Repairs	...	...	1
Drainage Repairs	...	...	-
Nuisances abated	...	...	2

Notices Served

Informal Under Housing Acts	...	12
Informal under Public Health Acts	...	46
Statutory under Housing Acts	...	-
Statutory under Public Health Acts	..	3

WATER SUPPLY

The parish of Portskewett and part of the village of Caldicot are supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Chepstow Water Company and distributed through the Council's own mains. Throughout the year, the standard has remained bacteriologically satisfactory. The summer of 1955 was particularly dry and this had a resultant effect upon the Monmouthshire County Council smallholdings at Leechpool where the shortage of water became a serious problem. To combat this, the intake of water from Newport Corporation was extended to supply a part of the village of Caldicot and although considerably more expensive, it did alleviate the position at Leechpool. There are 42 holdings in this group all supplied from a 2" main, and one wonders if it would not be a more satisfactory solution for the County Council to increase the size of their main. A further black spot on this supply is at The Brockwells and the position may become considerably worse when the draw-off is increased by the new Council Housing Estate at Caerwent and the extension to the existing housing site at Caldicot.

Highmoor Hill in the parish of Caldicot is supplied with water purchased in bulk from Newport Corporation and throughout the year quality and quantity have been satisfactory.

The villages of Mathern and Caerwent are supplied with water from Chepstow Water Company through their own and Monmouthshire County Council mains respectively. Quality has been satisfactory, but pressure has been poor in both villages. The Council supply their own houses in Caerwent.

Rogiet and Undy are supplied with water purchased in bulk from Magor and St. Mellons R.D.C. originating from Newport Corporation's supply and distributed in the Council's own main which is continuous from Undy to Moun-ton. It is, therefore, a simple matter to adjust the quantity taken from either Newport or Chepstow by the opening and closing of valves on this line.

Devauden is supplied by a scheme installed and operated by the Council and this consists of springs feeding a hydraulic ram and thence pumped to two 10,000 gallon header tanks. The water afterwards gravitates to supply the village. The quantity and quality were satisfactory and the installation of a liquid level recorder in one of the header tanks has considerably reduced the time spent on the maintenance of this supply and the necessity for constant checking of the storage water.

St. Arvans is supplied by a new 10,000 gallon reservoir receiving springs from Gorse Wood and linked to an original supply below Hill Farm which also has a header tank of 11,000 gallons capacity. The new reservoir has provided the extra storage capacity needed to ensure an adequate supply and quality too has been satisfactory.

Shirenewton is supplied by the Council through their own mains by water purchased from Chepstow Water Company, the agreement being for

15,000 gallons per day. This water is pumped to a 13,000 gallon reservoir from the Chapstow Water Company's source at Whitemill by electrically operated pumps.

Kilgwrrwg is supplied by the scheme purchased by the Council in 1954 from the Itton Estate and this again consists of a spring, hydraulic ram and 10,000 gallon header tank before gravitating to supply. It was actually taken over by the Council on 1st January, 1955 and it is anticipated that the 2" cast iron mains will require some attention during the next few years. It is possible to link this supply with the Devauden scheme and this eases the position which at times becomes acute. Quality has been satisfactory.

The hopeful forecast in the last years report that a start would be made on the Tintern Water Scheme during 1955 proved too optimistic and it is now anticipated that a start will be made early in 1956. It appears that the existing sanitary conditions in this village may even be aggravated by the installation of a piped water supply as there is no concurrent sewerage scheme and it is impossible to install alternative means of drainage at many premises. A large number of these dwellings are erected against the face of the rock with little ground attached and abutting a main road. It seems that the construction of cesspools will, in the most cases, be an impossibility so that the problem of disposing of waste water will be a very grave one and liable to give rise to considerable nuisance. One wishes that a sewerage system could have been installed at the same time.

Common-y-coed, Llangwm, Llansoy and Earlswood still remain without a piped public supply and in view of the cost per house that would be involved in any new scheme, it seems likely that this state of affairs will continue for many years.

The water is distributed throughout the area as follows :-

Parish	Size	Type	Age	Condition
St. Arvans	3"	Cast Iron	Part over 25 years. Part over 1 year.	Fair Good
Highmoor Hill	(3" (2"	Cast Iron & Galvd. Iron.	5 years	Good
Devauden	3"	Asbestos	Part 25 yrs Part 2 yrs.	Fair Good
Shirenewton	(4" (3"	Cast Iron	1 year	Good

Contd...

Kilgwrrwg	2"-1"	Galvd. Iron.	45 years	Poor
Caldicot) Portskewett) Rogiet) Undy) Caerwent)	6"-3"	Asbestos	18 years	Good

Generally speaking leakage is negligible, but although the Water Inspector should be employed full time on waste detection, it is not possible as yet for him to do so owing to his other duties. The average daily consumption during the year was 155,983 gallons for domestic use and 47,627 for trade purposes, making a total of 203,610 or 26 gallons per head of population supplied.

There are a number of public wells in the district which are inspected regularly and during the year 20 samples were taken of which 10 were satisfactory. Work was undertaken at 4 wells and subsequent samples revealed that the work had had a beneficial effect.

Samples of water are taken at the request of the Agricultural Executive Committee where grants are paid by them to farmers providing themselves with piped supplies from springs, boreholes etc. The grant is not payable until the use of the water for domestic purposes has been sanctioned by this Authority and 8 such samples were taken during the year.

The following table shows the number of samples taken on public supplies during the year :-

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	RESULTS	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Mathern	2	-	2	2	-
Shirenewton	13	-	13	13	-
St. Arvans	8	8	-	6	2
Caldicot	3	-	3	3	-
Rogiet	2	-	2	2	-
Undy	2	-	2	2	-
Caerwent	3	-	3	3	-
Devauden	2	2	-	2	-
Kilgwrrwg	2	2	-	2	-
TOTAL	36	12	25	35	2

HOUSING

The following table shows the housing progress made during the year :-

Parish	Type	Completed	Under Construction
Caldicot	Unity	42	20
	Hawksley	92	28
Caerwent	Gregory	16	30
Mathern	Traditional	10	-
Undy	Gregory	-	8
Fairoak	Traditional	6	-
Portskewett	Traditional	12	-
Rogiet	Unity	24	-
TOTALS		202	86

During the nine post war years the Council have completed 630 houses making the total owned by them in December 1955 at 730. Although 202 families were rehoused there were still 216 applications outstanding at the end of the year. The six families remaining at the hutted camps were rehoused and the vacant huts sold by auction. The total value of such sales has been £1,343. The land at Racecourse Camp and Ifton Hill Camp was derequisitioned and the tenant of the land at Tunnel Mouth Camp, Caldicot was given twelve months notice to quit as required by Agricultural Law.

No progress was made on the scheme to build 6 houses at Mynyddbach although tenders had been received and at the end of the year were being checked by the Council's Quantity Surveyors.

A survey of all houses in the Rural District was undertaken in accordance with the terms of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, so that the number requiring demolition, improvement and repair could be ascertained. It was decided that 57 houses existed where demolition was necessary during the next five years and a further 17 were borderline cases which would be kept under observation to see if they deteriorated during that period. During the year 4 properties were dealt with and in each case an undertaking not to relet the premises in their present condition was accepted by the Council. One owner was prosecuted for allowing two cottages

to be relet despite the fact that an Undertaking had been given and she was fined a total of £4 with £3. 3s. Od. costs. The Council further accepted proposals in respect of these dwellings and suspended the operation of the Demolition Orders in accordance with Section 5 of the 1954 Act.

The Council operated the Improvement Grant Scheme in its entirety and during the year 10 applications were approved totalling £1,436. A great deal of publicity has been given to this scheme, but yet one encounters many owners who have not heard of it and who are anxious to avail themselves when they become aware of it. In addition to the improvement grants, one advance was made to a person wishing to improve and repair his house.

It may be an indication of the general standard of housing in the district or alternatively the leniency of landlords in not increasing the rent that no certificates of disrepair were asked for by tenants during the year.

The proposal to build bungalows for aged persons at Rogiet was not commenced as anticipated, but it is hoped that a start will be made early in 1956.

SEWERAGE

The only villages which are served by public sewers are Caldicot, Rogiet and Sudbrook in the parish of Portskewett. The outfall in each case is the River Severn and the sewage is discharged in its crude state. Part of the Caldicot sewage is pumped by means of 3" Stereophagus electrically driven pumps to the West End of the village from whence it gravitates to link up with the Rogiet system and subsequently to run under the railway lines to the river. A large portion of this system becomes surcharged at varying periods owing to the tide and considerable difficulty is sometimes experienced particularly with the Rogiet section.

Flooding has also occurred during storm periods where the surface water drains at the East End of Caldicot have been inadequate and the time is rapidly approaching when the whole of the Severn Tunnel area will need a completely new sewerage system. The parishes of Portskewett, Caldicot and Rogiet can be linked together whilst Undy can be served by a joint scheme with Magor and St. Mellons R.D.C. The latter question was again considered by the Council but no material progress was made. As previously mentioned elsewhere in this Report, attention is drawn to the urgent need for a sewerage system at Tintern where the proposed new water scheme will create many difficulties and give rise to considerable nuisance.

The remainder of the district, with the exception of the Council's Housing Estates which are served by small treatment plants, rely entirely upon cesspools and septic tanks whilst in the more Northerly part of the area, pail closets and chemical closets are prevalent.

The dispute between Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Board, the British Transport Commission and the Council as to the responsibility for disposing

of the surface water from the Caldicot Housing Estate was satisfactorily settled with the result that a storm water sewer was constructed from Caldicot Pool to discharge into the reens on the Southern side of the railway.

No progress can be reported upon the Devauden sewerage scheme which has now been temporarily abandoned.

The sewage disposal plants on Council Estates referred to previously are inspected regularly to ensure that they are functioning correctly and in the case of one particular complaint, a sample of the effluent was submitted for Analysis and this proved conclusively that the source of the nuisance was located elsewhere.

The cesspool emptying scheme which operates on 3 days per week worked satisfactorily during the year and 361 cesspools were emptied at a total cost of £1,125. This is an average cost of £3 per pit. When one bears in mind the long period of travelling involved to dispose of the contents of some of these cesspools it can be seen that the cost is fairly low. When possible, private work at industrial premises or premises outside the district was undertaken and the resulting revenue was £114. There were 418 persons taking advantage of the scheme which allows for two free emptyings per house per year and additional emptyings at 10s.0d. each. Business premises and premises outside the district are emptied at the rate of £1 per hour.

The Council own two public conveniences at Caldicot and Tintern and these are inspected regularly to ascertain if they are properly cleansed. The standard is quite good and a person is employed on a part-time basis for cleansing duties.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a full time Rodent Operative and during the year he inspected 731 private dwellings, 444 farms and agricultural holdings and treated 12 business premises. This is shown in monthly form in the following table :-

Month	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Sewers	Local Authorities Premises
January	56	3	-	2
February	62	-	-	2
March	59	-	-	2
April	67	4	-	2
May	67	-	-	2
June	62	2	10 M.H's	2
July	56	-	-	2
August	71	2	-	2
September	62	-	-	2
October	49	1	-	2
November	56	-	-	2
December	64	-	10 M.H's	2

Although the farms are not treated by the Council's operative, it is the duty of the Local Authority to inspect all land within their district in order to discover any infestations of rats and mice. When this is done an Informal Notice is served upon the occupier of any land found to be infested informing him of his obligation to destroy all rats and mice and at the same time the County Agricultural Executive Committee are notified of the address of the farm. They then endeavour to secure a contract with the farmer concerned and notify this Council accordingly, so that it is not then necessary to inspect this same farm for twelve months. One can be sure that the farmer will notify the A.E.C. immediately he notices the first signs of the presence of rats when he is paying to have them destroyed. It is fair to say that the problem of rodent control is considerably easier than it was ten years ago and during the whole of the year, only one major infestation was discovered. This was due entirely to the neglect on the part of the owner

of a large poultry house, who made no effort to store his feeding stuffs properly. It is only by remaining constantly alert and by regular inspections can the rat menace be kept down and this Authority may be considered among the leaders in their efforts in this respect.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, were operated and these specify the steps required to be taken to ensure the destruction of rats and mice escaping from ricks which are being threshed or dismantled. Difficulty was at first experienced with local threshing contractors who were not anxious to be hindered by the provisions of the Regulations, but after many discussions and eventually a warning notice, the Regulations were fully enforced.

The sewers at Caldicot and Rogiet were treated twice during the year and the degree of infestation was slight. It was noted that the manholes to the sewers on the systems serving the new Housing Estates were constructed without the inclusion of trays for the baiting of rats and this is a matter which will now have to be remedied at greater cost than if they had been built in originally.

It was significant that the infestation of rats even upon the Council's Refuse Tips was very slight and they were visited regularly. In addition to the agricultural land previously referred to, close inspection was maintained at schools and the banks of many streams in the district particularly in the built up areas of Tintern where the rat population is often encouraged by persons disposing of refuse into the stream.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council own two refuse vehicles - one of which operates full-time and the other which is a trailer type on two days per week with three days cesspool emptying. All parishes receive a refuse collection service--the outlying northern district being fortnightly and the remainder being weekly. The Severn Tunnel area collection has increased considerably with the additional development at Caldicot, Portskewett and Rogiet and a problem has been created to maintain the same service to all areas as existed before these houses were built. The additional houses require extra time for collection but this has been counteracted by the introduction of extra loading staff to speed the operation at Caldicot so that the refuse from this village can still be collected in one day. A twice weekly collection in this urbanised area would be desirable, but at the present time it could not be contemplated. A further problem is the collection of trade waste and refuse such as cardboard boxes, cartons etc. from shop premises. This is not heavy but extremely bulky and consequently it reduces the amount of other refuse which can be loaded in the vehicle. Hotels, restaurants, transport cafes too, only receive a weekly collection and unless very careful precautions are taken at these premises, considerable nuisance can arise. It is difficult to enforce a proper standard of hygiene at these premises when refuse bins have been filled for a week awaiting collection, but it is also difficult at present to offer any alternative solution for more frequent collections.

The Council took informal action in 76 cases where inadequate refuse bins were discovered and the standard generally was considerably improved.

The Refuse tip at Portskewett which was compulsorily acquired was used from April and although the Council do not have the staff necessary to operate a fully controlled system of tipping, great care is exercised and the tips are kept in good condition. Ashes and soil are obtained locally in large quantities and the tips are regularly covered. They are also treated against insects and vermin so that no nuisance may arise and indeed no complaints were received during the year.

The Caldicot refuse tip which became filled was properly levelled by bulldozer and covered with a layer of soil. It was anticipated that this tip would be sold to a local farmer for future agricultural use.

In passing, it might be mentioned that one of the refuse vehicles has operated continuously for seven years in the outlying rural areas and this reflects great credit upon the staff using the vehicle for the careful maintenance which they have regularly carried out. One understands that this period is considerably longer than normal.

The total cost of refuse collection throughout the year was £2,968, which gives an approximate figure of £1.2s. 6d. per ton of refuse collected. Disposal costs are not separated as no special staff are employed for this purpose.

During the year difficulty was experienced with several rag and bone dealers who gave toys, balloons etc. to children under 14 years of age, contrary to the provisions of Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Warning notices were given to all persons trading in the district as rag and bone dealers and this had the desired effect.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There were 40 factories within the district and as in the previous year, there were no complaints from the Factories Inspector. The following tables indicate the inspections carried out :-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	41	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	25	63	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority-(excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	104	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were -				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	6	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
TOTAL	11	11	-	-	-

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Shops Act, 1950 is an act designed to cater for the health, welfare and comfort of workers in shops and during the year 186 visits were made for this purpose. Many defects of a minor character were remedied informally and generally speaking the standards maintained in all retail premises throughout the district was quite good.

FOOD

The Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954 (Appointed Day) Order, 1955, came into operation on the 16th December, 1955 and this had the effect of bringing into operation on 1st January, 1956, the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The latter Act is a consolidation measure and repeals the 1954 Act and consolidates it with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and certain other enactments amending and supplementing Part V of the 1938 Act in relation to slaughterhouses and knackers yards.

The much awaited Food Hygiene Regulations made under Sections 13 and 123 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were also laid before Parliament on the 21st December and would come into operation on the 1st January, 1956. The effect of these two important pieces of legislation would be seen during 1956.

The table below gives an indication of the number of inspections made and the number and type of premises connected with the handling, storage and preparation of food :-

Premises	Number	Inspections
Dairies	2	10
Bakehouses	4	18
Butchers Premises	6	38
Fish and Fruit Premises	5	15
Fried Fish Shops	1	8
Food Vehicles & Meat in Transit	5	8
Ice Cream Premises	17	36
Provision Shops	27	67
Restaurants & Kitchens	16	42

The following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit. The tins were voluntarily surrendered by the complainants and the appropriate certificate issued to them. They were disposed of at the Council's refuse tips.

Description	Reason for Condemnation	Amount in lbs.
Tinned goods	Decomposed and blown.	176
Quaker Oats	Mite infestation	14
Cheese	Mould	20
Dried Fruit	Decomposition	12

There is one private slaughterhouse operating in the district and this is used by several of the butchers in the Caldicot area. It adjoins a butchers shop at Caldicot and is used only for the slaughter of sheep, lambs and calves. Cattle are bought in local markets viz., Severn Tunnel and Chepstow, transported to Newport Abattoir for slaughter, the meat then being collected by the butchers concerned.

The slaughterhouse is operated very satisfactorily and a high standard of cleanliness prevails. Slaughtering takes place once a week and the by products are collected by a manufacturer on the following day.

The following shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year :-

	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	-	352	7
Number inspected	-	352	7
Condemned		12 livers due to Cirrhosis	

The Council considered the Government Interdepartmental Committee's Report on Slaughterhouses, which recommended one public slaughterhouse to be sited at Monmouth to serve Monmouth Borough, Chepstow Urban and Chepstow

Monmouth, West Dean, East Dean and Lydney Rural District Councils and decided to take no action with regard to a joint meeting of all authorities to discuss the matter. As the only butchers in this district to be affected are situated at Caldicot, it would appear that a public slaughterhouse at Monmouth would not be of any advantage to this Authority.

During the year 11 licences were issued authorising the use of the following Designations under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949:- 6 Pasteurised, 4 Tuberculin Tested and 1 Accredited.

On 27th October, 1955, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health announced their intention, subject to any representations that might be made, of laying an Order before Parliament known as the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956, and it was anticipated that such an Order would become operative in the early part of 1956. This would have the effect of ensuring that all milk sold by retail in certain areas, of which Chepstow Rural District would form a part, would have to be specially designated i.e., tuberculin tested in the case of untreated milk or pasteurised or sterilised in the case of milk treated by heat.

There were 4 bakehouses on the register and the inspections totalled 18. Verbal notice was given in several cases to remedy minor defects or nuisances and generally speaking, these premises are in good condition.

There were 4 new applications for registration to sell icecream during the year making the total number now registered at 17. There are no manufacturers in the district and all icecream which is sold is prepacked.

Generally speaking, a fair standard of cleanliness was maintained at all food premises in the district, but it is hoped to improve this still further during the forthcoming year. The new legislation already referred to will assist to this end, but it is felt that a keener appreciation of the principles of hygiene by management and employees throughout the food industry and the consequent commercial value would be far more effective than the constant supervision which the Regulations will entail. This appreciation can only be achieved through education and this is a new field which will have to be developed in the near future.

