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Contributors

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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR, 1959.



"High Trees",
Chepstow, Mon.



CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman:- Mr. W. J. Parker

Vice-Chairman:- Mrs. G. I. Heath

Councillors

Mr. R. J. Anstey	Mr. A. H. Morgan
Mr. B. Beale	Mr. R. A. Newall
Mr. L. Budden	Mr. N. B. R. Norton
Mr. D. T. Coleman	Mr. D. H. Parry
Mr. E. M. Davis	Mr. D. F. E. Price
Mr. F. S. Dibden	Mr. C. R. Read
Mr. W. H. Gale	Mr. A. V. Reece
Mr. L. H. Gardner	Mr. J. Roberts
Mr. D. P. George	Mr. E. G. Saunders
Mr. E. Griffiths	Mr. R. Skinner
Col. E. R. Hill	Mr. S. J. C. Snook
Mr. S. M. Hill	Col. D. R. Stanley
Mr. W. E. G. Hodges	Mr. W. J. Sterry
Mr. L. Hughes	Brig. G. B. Vaughan-Hughes
Mr. L. A. Jones	Mr. R. R. Thomas
Mr. S. G. Jones	Mr. W. J. Titley
Mr. W. Little	Mr. F. Vicarage
Mrs. C. L. Morgan	Mr. F. C. Walker

Officers of the Council:

Clerk - Mr. T. T. Birbeck, F.A.I., F.R.V.A.

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

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

Additional Public Health 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 and Other Foods.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

T. T. BIRBECK,
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

TELEPHONE NO. 2367

"High Trees,"

Chepstow.

19th September, 1960.

The Chairman and Members,
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, 1959.

The health of your district was satisfactory.

During the year 208 live births were registered. The live birth rate per 1,000 of population for Monmouthshire was 16.85 and that of the Rural District was 19.1.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Hittingham and Mr. Powell for their help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant

E. N. Dowell

Medical Officer of Health

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population for 1959 was 10,890. In 1950 it was 10,090.

The natural increase which is the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 74. The natural increase in 1958 was 83.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	117	86	203
Illegitimate	3	2	5

In 1956 the total live births was 200 and in 1953 there were 158. The live birth rate per 1,000 of population for Monmouthshire was 16.85.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2

In 1958 there were 7 still births.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants

<u>Under one year of age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate		1	1

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| (1) Male - 3 hours | 1A. Atelectasis.
B. Extreme prematurity. |
| (2) Female - 3 months | 1A. Acute generalised peritonitis.
B. Operation for intussusception.
C. Intestinal obstruction. |
| (3) Female - 5 days | 1A. Atelectasis.
B. Congenital Spina Bifida. |
| (4) Female - 1 day | 1A. Prematurity. 1 lb. 8 ozs. |
| (5) Male - 9 hours | 1A. Prematurity. |
| (6) Male - 19 hours | 1A. Pulmonary Haemorrhage. |

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

In 1952, 1954 and 1956, there were 5 deaths of infants under one year of age.

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births for Monmouthshire was 27.23.

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	77	57	134

In 1956 there were 7 deaths due to neoplasm of the lung.

4 deaths occurred during the year at the County Welfare Home which is situated in your Area.

In 1956 there were 114 deaths registered.

The death rate per 1,000 of population for Monmouthshire was 11.75.

The following table gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<u>Deaths in 1959</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	1
Leukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	7
Coronary disease, angina	21	7
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Other heart disease	10	9
Other circulatory disease	4	2
Influenza	2	-
Pneumonia	1	3
Bronchitis	5	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	2	-
ALL CAUSES	<u>77</u>	<u>57</u>

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diphtheria.

For the seventh consecutive year no cases were notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 105 children were immunised against Diphtheria. Of this number 76 were born in 1958 and 7 born in 1959. Of the 186 children born in 1958, 88 had been immunised against diphtheria by the end of the year.

Immunisation against diphtheria was still limited to the use of the formol toxoid vaccine.

As in 1958 there were no cases of poliomyelitis notified so it was not necessary to suspend diphtheria immunisations.

Vaccinations (Smallpox)

During the year 126 primary vaccinations were carried out against smallpox. Of this number 69 were babies born in 1959.

Scarlet Fever

Three cases of scarlet fever were notified. There were five notifications in 1956.

Measles

There were 40 notifications in 1957 and 6 cases in 1958. This year there were 33 notifications which follows the usual pattern of a large number being notified one year and a small number the next.

Whooping Cough

The notifications of whooping cough for this year were nil. This contrasts with 1956 when there were 20 notifications.

During this year 129 children were immunised against whooping cough and of this number 128 were children in the age group 0 - 4 years.

Poliomyelitis

As in 1953, 1954, 1956 and 1958, there were no notifications. Four notifications were received in 1957 and three in 1955.

On 17th December 1959 a notification was received that a girl age 9 years, had died in Glan Ely Hospital, Cardiff on the 6th December 1959 and that the cause of death was Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis (Ctd.)

She had been admitted to this hospital as an observation case of Tuberculosis on the 7th August 1959.

Children from the Rural District were vaccinated at the clinics which were held at Caldicot and Chepstow.

The Mobile Clinic Van which during the year visited Mathern, Itton, Devauden, Sudbrook, Portskewett, St. Arvans, and Tintern, was the means by which further Poliomyelitis vaccinations were carried out. 317 third vaccinations were completed by use of the mobile clinic. Vaccinations were also carried out at the clinic at Caerwent. At this clinic 140 third vaccinations were completed.

During the year the Poliomyelitis Scheme was extended to include all persons under 26 years. Previous to this the scheme made eligible for vaccination only those children born between 1/1/43 and 30/6/57. In order to accommodate this new group, clinics were held at Chepstow at weekly intervals during April. Further weekly evening clinics were necessary in May, so that all persons under 26 years could complete two vaccinations. 999 took advantage of the facilities made available.

Dysentery

As in 1958, no cases were notified.

Food Poisoning

As in 1958, no cases were notified.

Tuberculosis

The following were the notifications of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year:-

- | | | | |
|-----|------|-------------------|-------|
| 1). | Male | 78 years. | Lungs |
| 2). | Male | 52 years. | Lungs |
| 3). | Male | 2 years 10 months | Lungs |

61 children of the Rural District whose ages were 13/14 years were vaccinated against Tuberculosis.

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

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED - AGE GROUPS							Total all Ages
	Under 1 year	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Measles	1	3	10	19	-	-	-	33
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL:	1	3	10	22	-	-	1	37

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Annual Report for the
Year 1959

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	14
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	194
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	12
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	405
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	122
Drain Testing	..	..	..	..	..	41
Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	193
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	612
Housing (Complaints)	..	..	..	..	..	71
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	12
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	63
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	2
Shops Acts	..	..	..	..	..	221
Council House Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	1105
Refuse Collection & Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	241
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	159
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	422
Petrol Licences	..	..	..	..	..	41
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	659

Work Done

By Owners after Informal Notices:-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	78
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	6
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	3

By Owners after Statutory Notices

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	-
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	1

Notices Served

Informal under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	26
Informal under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	61
Statutory under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	-
Statutory under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	2

WATER SUPPLY

There are three main sources of water supply to the District viz. Chepstow Water Company, Newport Corporation and Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council, all of whom supply water in bulk and there are individual village schemes at St. Arvans, Kilgwrrwg, Devauden and Tintern constructed and maintained by the Council.

The villages of Portskewett and Caldicot are supplied through a 6" asbestos cement main reducing to 4" at Caldicot taking a supply from the Chepstow Water Company at Moun-ton and this main is continued to the Western boundary of the district where it links with Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council main. Various branches are taken to Sudbrook, Crick and Highmoor Hill and the state of the main at Sudbrook is somewhat questionable as it was laid originally by the Great Western Railway many years prior to the installation of the Council's mains in 1937.

The village of Mathern is supplied directly by the Chepstow Water Company and although the quality is satisfactory, shortage was experienced in the area of Pwllmeyric and discolouration due to lack of storage facilities has been experienced in times of heavy rainfall.

Caerwent was supplied by Monmouthshire County Council in their own mains from the Chepstow Water Company's source, but considerable shortage had been experienced during previous years to such an extent that the Council acquired the entire scheme during the year for the sum of £50. They connected to the Newport Corporation supply and this has resulted in a considerable improvement. The state of this main was also somewhat questionable and the increased pressure of the Newport supply showed many defects which had to be remedied during the year. The improvement has considerably helped agricultural users in the district who previously experienced considerable shortage at milking periods.

Llanfair Discoed adjoining Caerwent is supplied from 1½" and 2" mains laid originally by the Welsh Land Settlement Society from the main to the Royal Naval Propellant Factory and the source of this supply is Newport Corporation. Several dwellings in the village have no piped supply but derive their water from a standpipe served from a small scheme owned by Monmouthshire County Council installed originally for the purpose of supplying a farm owned by that Authority.

Rogiet and Undy are supplied from the Western end of the district in mains connected to Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council taking water from Newport Corporation. Quality and quantity throughout the year were satisfactory under the circumstances, but, of course, 1959 was an exceptionally dry period and restrictions upon use were imposed after consultations

with the adjoining authorities.

At St. Arvans the main scheme supplying the village consists of springs gravitating to a 10,000 gallon underground storage tank at which a chlorinating plant was installed in 1958. During the year considerable shortage was experienced and it became necessary to haul water from other sources and pump into the storage tank. The springs at the source diminished to such an extent that this haulage was necessary for many weeks. A small supply at Hill Farm served 8 properties situated at a higher level than the underground storage tank and samples showed this supply to be grossly polluted. As a result the Council decided to chlorinate this supply although they have no actual control over the source of the water and are merely entitled to take an overflow from the spring chamber. A scheme was submitted to the Ministry but the chlorinating plant was not installed before the end of the year.

It is regretted that the Banton Scheme to supply 5 dwellings in that area was not commenced during the year but considerable difficulty was experienced in acquiring land for the provision of a storage tank although fortunately a tender of £1350 was accepted before the end of the year and submitted to the Ministry.

The extension of the Shirenewton Scheme to supply water in the Earlswood and Newchurch West area made some progress and a tender of £24,447 to supply some 58 premises was forwarded for Ministry consideration, but work had not commenced by the end of the year. When this scheme is completed the only area in the district which does not receive a mains piped supply is the Northern area consisting of Llangwm, Kilgwrrwg and parts of Llansoy.

Tintern is supplied by a scheme installed during 1956 by the Council and this consists of springs which gravitate to a 10,000 gallon storage reservoir and thence to the village where it supplies 120 premises. No shortage was experienced throughout the year and quality was also satisfactory.

Kilgwrrwg is supplied by a scheme similar to Tintern except that the springs are pumped by hydraulic ram to a storage tank before gravitation and this arrangement also obtains at Devauden where storage takes place in two 10,000 gallon tanks before distribution is carried out in 3" asbestos mains reducing to 1". Restrictions were imposed during the year although these did not cause great inconvenience to agricultural or other users.

The following table shows the distribution system throughout the district:-

Village	Supplier	Source of Supply	Size & Type of Mains	Age in Years	Type of Supply
Mathern	A	Rogerstone Grange	4" asbestos	21	Filtered & Chlorinated
Portskewett	B	Whitemill	2" - 6" asbestos	21	-do-
Caldicot	B	Whitemill	2" - 6" asbestos	21	-do-
Rogiet	D	Wentwood Reservoir	3" - 6" asbestos	21	-do-
Undy	D	Wentwood Reservoir	1½" - 4" asbestos	21	-do-
Caerwent	C	Whitemill	1¼" - 3" asbestos	21	-do-
Shirenewton	B	Whitemill	3" - 4" Cast Iron	4	-do-
Kilgwrwg	A	Cwm Vagor Springs	1" - 2" Galv. Iron	48	Untreated
Devauden	A	Fedw Springs	3" asbestos	Pt. 28	-do-
St. Arvans	A	Gorse Wood & Hill Farm Springs	3" Cast Iron	Pt. 5 Pt. 28	-do-
Tintern	A	Fairoak Springs	2" - 4" Cast Iron	Pt. 4 1	-do-
Itton	E	Chepstow Park Wood Springs	1" - 4" Galv. Iron	48	-do-

Suppliers:-

- A - Chepstow Water Company through their own Mains.
- B - Chepstow Water Company through the mains of Chepstow Rural District Council.
- C - Chepstow Water Company through the mains of Monmouthshire County Council.
- D - Newport Corporation supply through the mains of Chepstow Rural District Council.
- E - Private Estate Schemes.

Samples were taken throughout the year and the results are tabulated below:-

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	RESULTS	
				Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Severn Tunnel Area	8	-	8	8	-
Tintern	5	5	-	5	-
St. Arvans	39	29	10	10	29
Shirenewton	4	-	4	4	-
Mathern	5	-	5	5	-
Devauden	6	6	-	-	6
Itton	7	7	-	2	5
St. Brides	3	-	3	3	-
	77	47	30	37	40

The following areas still need to be supplied with a mains system and the approximate cost is indicated:-

PARISH	SOURCE	NO. OF PREMISES	LAST ESTIMATE OF COST
Llangwn	Springs at Gaer Vawr	25	£14,750
Llansoy	Extension of Devauden main	17	£10,000
Trellech Grange	Extension of Monmouth Rural District Council main	10	£ 5,000
Newchurch	Extension of Kilgwrrwg main	8	£ 3,750
The Glyn, Devauden	Extension of Kilgwrrwg main	6	£ 2,700

HOUSING

There was no building of Council houses during the year, and this was the third year that such a situation obtained. The question of providing houses for the steel workers from the proposed new works at Llanwern was considered and several conferences with the Monmouthshire County Council and neighbouring authorities took place without reaching any definite conclusion. At the end of the year there were 286 applicants on the Council's Housing List and it seems that this number will gradually increase over the years without any hope of reduction. The question of charging an economic rent for any houses which the Council might build was considered and found to be prohibitive. Consequently many parishes who thought that the provision of mains water would allow them to build within their boundaries now find that such houses will still not be forthcoming.

The Council continued their policy of allocating the first available vacant house to persons who were to be evicted as a result of a Court Order and this has meant that bona fide applicants are passed over for considerable periods because the number of evicted persons tends to snowball. Before one house is allocated another person is evicted thus maintaining a continuous flow of such applicants.

The improvement work to four houses at St. Arvans which had been acquired during the previous year was commenced and would have been completed but for the default of one builder who had originally secured the Contract. Consequently, further tenders had to be received and eventually a price of £2,061 was accepted. As these dwellings had been acquired for £750 it can be seen that they will provide a reasonably cheap proposition for the Council in these days of costly building.

Preliminary plans were received for aged persons' bungalows at Portskewett, St. Arvans and Rogiet but no real progress was made regarding their construction. It is hoped that when these are completed, many three bedroomed houses will be vacated by widows and aged persons to allow applicants with families who have been waiting some considerable time to be rehoused.

During the year 18 improvement grants were made to the value of £4,089 and this brings the total to date to 82 costing £20,958. The Council pursued a policy of encouraging the grant system and only one application was rejected where additional bedroom accommodation was being provided and was not warranted by the size of the family.

Only 3 unfit houses were dealt with under the Housing Acts and in each case they were improved by the owners. There now remains a total of 37 such houses in the district and of these 9 are farms or holdings which present a special problem. The occupants do not wish to be rehoused away from the land which they work and have been prevented in many instances

from improving their dwellings by the lack of a mains water supply. It is hoped that in the near future many such dwellings will be improved and it seems a more satisfactory solution to preserve the rural character of the district by retaining these dwellings after improvement rather than demolish. The majority are lived in by owner occupiers.

No certificates of Repair were issued throughout the year under the Rent Act, 1957.

No cases of overcrowding were noted during the year and it may be appropriate to state that the Council enforce their own standard of overcrowding in relation to houses owned by themselves, and this is applied when tenants make application to take in lodgers. The standard is based upon bedroom areas only and gives a more realistic picture.

The general standard of cleanliness in Council houses was maintained with the exception of a very small minority amounting to approximately 2% of the total and the existence of defects which gave rise to nuisance were noted and dealt with. No cases of verminous dwellings came to the notice of the Department and this position contrasts sharply with many larger urban areas in the country.

There were 12 caravans licenced under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 and the majority of these were occupied either by individual male occupants or childless couples. In each case the Council has worked in harmony with the County Planning Authority and planning approval was obtained before consideration for a licence was made. Conditions at these sites were satisfactory and all the vans were on individual plots. No unauthorised occupation of land took place during the year, and, contrary to the experience of many authorities, these caravans presented no problem at all.

SEWERAGE

The scheme to provide 45 premises with a public sewer at Devauden was completed at a cost of £9,943, although all the house connections had not been made at the end of the year.

Outline plans to provide a sewerage system at Tintern were approved during the year by the Council and detailed plans were awaited from the Engineers. As stated in previous years, this is a particularly urgent matter as many dwellings discharge crude sewage into the River Wye and are unable to make alternative arrangements owing to the physical features of the village.

The question of sewerage at St. Arvans was also considered and plans were being prepared at the end of the year. In order to make the scheme less costly, representations had been made to the Ministry to allow the discharge of the effluent from the proposed disposal works into a fault in the rock strata which had been functioning for at least 50 years without any adverse effect. After receiving geologists' and engineers' reports, the Ministry agreed and the scheme was proceeding on that basis.

No progress can be reported on the Undy sewerage system to be carried out jointly with the parish of Magor in Magor and St. Mellons Rural District and the matter was left in abeyance pending decisions being reached in regard to housing requirements as a result of the siting of the new Steel Works at Llanwern some 3 or 4 miles due west of Magor.

Overtures were made by the Council to the Admiralty for approval to dispose of sewage from Caerwent village through the Admiralty Sewage Plant, and although agreement was reached on all major points, one item of doubt remained at the end of the year, viz. the provision regarding termination of the agreement by the Admiralty. The provision of a sewerage system in Caerwent is long overdue and if the agreement with the Admiralty can be satisfactorily concluded, will be a reasonably economic scheme.

The scheme at Caldicot, Portskewett and Rogiet which had been temporarily shelved as a result of advice from the Ministry, has now become a matter of considerable urgency owing to the fact that houses for steel workers were to be built at Caldicot. The present system is inadequate and defective due to periods of surcharge at times of high tide. At the end of the year, the scheme had been explained to the Ministry, together with ultimate population estimates, and their views awaited.

Once again the cesspool emptying service fulfilled a great need and 672 cesspools were emptied at a total cost of £1588 or £2. 7. 3d. per pit. Applications are repeatedly received from persons in adjoining districts for assistance in emptying their cesspools, but these requests are refused. The Council give two free emptyings per dwelling each year, after which a nominal charge of 10/- is made.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table shows the number of inspections which were carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year. The Council employ a full time operative and as has been stated previously, no major infestations of either rats or mice were discovered during the year. This shows the value of prevention being better than cure, and contrasts sharply with the position of some years ago.

	<u>TYPES OF PROPERTY</u>			
	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>All other Premises</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
<u>Total Inspections</u>	33	1821	72	493
<u>No. of Properties Infested</u>	Rats Mice	2 143 29		42
<u>No. of Infested Properties Treated</u>		172		13

In addition to the above table the sewers were treated twice during the year and on the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture's Divisional Rodent Officer the method of baiting was varied from the traditional Arsenic, Red Squill or Zinc Phosphide to a speival bait for sewers incorporating Warfarin, and in addition to having satisfactory results, it also obviated a considerable amount of extra work as it was not necessary to prebait for several days prior to poisoning. The sewers generally showed negative results but certain sections at Caldicot were infested, and owing to defects in the sewer itself, rats forced their way through the ground in which the sewers are laid into tenants' gardens, and thence to the surface. All these infestations were adequately dealt with.

Rick Surveys were carried out as usual in conjunction with threshing Contractors, and the efforts proved worthwhile although the infestations were mainly of mice.

Constant inspection of agricultural premises and land was continued and of the 629 farms in the district 493 were visited and this amounted to 74%.

Refuse tips and banks of rivers and streams were inspected and treated and the position generally could be considered quite satisfactory.

Thanks are once again expressed to the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture who showed much interest and gave considerable encouragement and advice.

FACTORIES ACT

The supervision of factories is partly in the hands of the Factory Inspectors of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and partly in the hands of the Council, who are concerned only with the matters shown in the second table reproduced below.

There were 159 inspections made of the 42 factories in the district as shown, and 4 Certificates as to means of escape in case of fire were issued after joint inspections with Officers of the Monmouthshire County Fire Service.

Premises	Number of Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	68	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	91	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	159	-	-

Ctd.....

	Number of cases in which defects were;				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL:	9	9	-	-	-

REFUSE COLLECTION

The cost of the refuse collection service for the year amounted to £4,778 compared with £4,814 during 1958. This includes the cost of disposal at 3 tips situated at convenient points in the district and one used jointly with the adjoining Urban District. The district is divided mainly into a typically rural part in the Northern area and an urbanised area in the South. Two vehicles are employed on full time collection - a Scammell articulated vehicle dealing with the Southern area, and a more mobile Dennis vehicle operating in the Northern area. Both of these vehicles are 9 cubic yard side loaders and although satisfactory from the Council's viewpoint, are not the easiest of vehicles with which to work as a loader. The loading line is 4' 6" above ground level and as many of the bins weigh 18 lbs empty and $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt loaded, it can soon be seen that it is not an easy matter to collect 250 bins during the course of a days work. Fortunately the Council encountered no labour problems and might be considered fortunate in this respect. The average weight of refuse disposed of during each week amounted to 52 tons or approximately 2,700 tons annually. This figure exceeds the estimate made at the time of the compulsory acquisition of the tip at Portskewett, the life of which will now be limited to a further 10 years. Each of the tips is partly controlled as, owing to lack of labour, the loaders themselves have to keep the tips in order at the end of each day and on each Saturday morning. Ashes are secured from local hospitals and deposited on the tip for use as required.

Litter bins were provided by the Council at salient points in the district and 27 dustbins were replaced as a result of informal action. Difficulty was experienced with several rag and bone dealers operating within the district but emanating from adjoining areas who gave toys, balloons etc. to children under the age of 14 years of age, and this was a contravention of Section 154 of the Public Health Act 1936. Informal discussions with the offenders had the desired effect.

FOOD

The following table shows the number and type of food premises within the district:-

Premises	Number	Inspections
Dairies	4	14
Bakehouses	3	12
Butchers	6	47
Fish & Fruit Premises	4	9
Food Vehicles	7	15
Ice Cream Premises	22	41
Provision Shops	35	146
Restaurants & Kitchens	29	121

In addition to the above there are many itinerant shops based outside the district and each vehicle was inspected as it was encountered.

There are no slaughterhouses within the district and the majority of the butchers purchase their meat "off the hook". Others buy live animals at adjoining markets and avail themselves of the facilities at Newport Public Abattoir for slaughtering. The standard of these butchers premises was satisfactory and their method of delivery was similar. The transport of meat purchased "off the hook" was also good as were the persons engaged in the handling thereof. The provision of a small public slaughterhouse was considered by the Council, but the choice of a suitable site was extremely difficult owing to the limits of the sewerage system in Caldicot, and the project was temporarily shelved. The Council will again consider this problem in the light of the Slaughterhouses Report when the need can be accurately assessed. At the present time, it seems that only two butchers would benefit from such a scheme.

The quantity of foodstuffs examined and found unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

- 14 Tins Imported Ham
- 8 Tins Tomatoes
- 6 Tins Plums
- 5 lb. Bacon

In each case the foodstuffs were condemned and disposed of at the Refuse Tip at Portskewett.

There are 4 dairies within the district purchasing milk in bulk from wholesalers situated outside the district, and this milk is already pasteurised and bottled. Three new premises were registered for the sale of icecream making a total of 22 in addition to 6 hotels which are exempt from the provisions of the Act. Two of the three premises which were licensed were public houses as distinct from hotels and although the premises were satisfactory, it appears that a new trend is to be set in the sale of icecream, and one which could cause trouble to innkeepers whose premises have no outdoor licence. One visualises a child of under 14 years encroaching on the premises to purchase an icecream, and thus committing an offence under the Licensing Acts, whereas the child who remains in the Outdoor Licence section is quite safe. Care has been taken in the siting of the refrigerators to ensure that they are placed adjacent to the off licence department.

It will be seen from the table that 405 inspections of food premises were carried out as routine and generally speaking conditions were satisfactory. Informal action was taken in 4 cases for the following works:-

- 1). Provide additional ventilation.
- 2). Cleanse walls, floors and ceilings.
- 3). Provide clean clothing for employees.

Food Hygiene Posters obtained from the Central Office of Information were displayed at many premises and the occupiers co-operated with the Council's Officers in maintaining a high standard.

Particular attention was paid to the provision of suitable receptacles for the storage of refuse and 9 premises provided such facilities or replaced the existing. In addition, domestic premises adjoining food premises were inspected to ensure that similar facilities were provided and thus the efforts of the food premises' occupants were not nullified.



