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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR, 1960



"High Trees",
Chepstow, Mon.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman:- Mrs. G. I. Heath

Vice-Chairman:- Mr. L. H. Gardner

Councillors

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

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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.
Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor	-	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, MON.

16th October, 1961.

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, 1960.

The health of your district continues to be satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Whittingham 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 - 1960

Statistics

The estimated mid-year population for 1960 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 64. The natural increase in 1959 was 74.

Births

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	79	91	170
Illegitimate	4	5	9

In 1959 the total live births were 208 and in 1953 there were 158. The live birth rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 17.29.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3

In 1958 there were 7 still births.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants

<u>Under one year of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	5	6

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

(i) Female	3 days	Ia. Atelectasis B. Pulmonary Stenosis c. Premature Mongol.
(ii) Female	4 months	Ia. Bronchopneumonia with febrile convulsions.
(iii) Male	1 year	Ia. Pneumonia.
(iv) Female	2 days	Ia. Atelectasis. b. Eclampsia in mother.
(v) Male	2 hours	Ia. Prematurity.
(vi) Female	1 month	Ia. Bronchopneumonia.

The infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births for Monmouthshire was 25.5.

Deaths

Deaths	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	68	47	115

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

No deaths occurred during the year at the County Welfare Home which is situated in your Area.

In 1959 there were 134 deaths registered

The death rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 11.59.

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

Ctd.....

DEATHS - 1960

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	5	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes.	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	11
Coronary disease, angina.	17	6
Other heart disease.	9	7
Other circulatory disease.	1	4
Pneumonia.	3	3
Bronchitis.	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea.	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1
Congenital malformations.	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	6	3
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	1
All other accidents.	3	1
Suicide.	1	-
	-----	-----
TOTAL:	68	47
	=====	=====

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diphtheria

For the eighth consecutive year no case has been notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Of the 208 children born in 1959 only 92 were immunised by the end of the year. 10 children born in 1960 were immunised.

On the 28. 11. 60. a Monmouthshire County Council Circular gave notice that the County Council had given approval to the use of Triple Antigen (combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus) in its immunisation arrangements. This means that only three injections are required to immunise against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. It is hoped that this reduction from five to three injections will help to increase the number of children protected against both diseases.

As in 1958 and 1959 there were no cases of Poliomyelitis notified and so it was not necessary to suspend Diphtheria Immunisations.

Vaccinations (Smallpox).

During the year 118 primary vaccinations were carried out against smallpox. Of this number 36 were babies born in 1960 and 62 were those born in 1959.

Whooping Cough

As in 1959 the notifications of Whooping Cough were nil. This contrasts with 1956 when there were 20 notifications.

During the year 159 children were immunised against whooping cough. Of this number 153 were children in the age group 0 - 4 years.

Scarlet Fever

This year 14 notifications were received. Of this number 10 cases occurred on your estate at Tintern during January. All cases were mild and hospitalisation was not necessary.

In 1956 five notifications were received.

Measles

No cases were notified. During 1959 there were 33.

Indications are that in the Chepstow Area there is a biennial peak of notifications.

Poliomyelitis

As in 1953, 1954, 1956 and 1958, there were no notifications. Four notifications were received in 1957 and three in 1955. In 1959 a notification was received that a girl aged 9 years had died in a hospital in Cardiff and that the cause of death was Poliomyelitis. She had been admitted to this hospital some months previously as an observation case of Tuberculosis.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation facilities in your Area are available to everyone. Besides the local doctors, children from the Rural District were immunised at the clinics which were held at Caldicot, Caerwent, and Chepstow. At Caerwent 48 children received a third injection. The Mobile Clinic Van continued its visits to all parts of your District and 192 children were given a third injection.

In my report for 1959 reference was made that the Poliomyelitis Scheme had been extended to include all persons under 26 years. At that time report was made that 999 persons of this group had received two injections. I am now able to report that of this number 930 received a third injection.

Dysentery

As in 1958 and 1959, no cases were notified.

Food Poisoning

As in 1958 and 1959, no cases were notified.

Tuberculosis

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

(1) Female.	55 years.	Lungs.
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76 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 Yr.	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10- 14	15 - 24	25 & Over	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	4	7	2	-	-	14
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio- myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	-	1	4	7	2	-	-	14

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Annual Report for the
Year 1960

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	16
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	172
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	10
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	362
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	110
Drain Testing	..	..	..	..	..	52
Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	261
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	482
Housing (Complaints)	..	..	..	..	..	126
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	17
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	72
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	5
Shops Acts	..	..	..	..	..	286
Council House Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	1326
Refuse Collection & Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	326
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	168
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	461
Petrol Licences	..	..	..	..	..	58
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	721

Work Done

By Owners after Informal Notices:-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	62
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	10
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	7

By Owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	-
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	2
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	3

Notices Served

Informal under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	38
Informal under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	41
Statutory under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	-
Statutory under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	5

WATER SUPPLY

During January a communication was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stating that the Minister had, on the 31st December 1959, made the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board Order and although there was a period in which objections could be lodged, the Council then undertook a policy which would ensure that all schemes for which they had previously been planning would be well under way by the time their duties were transferred to the Board. In particular these consisted of the following:-

- 1). The village of Llangwm incorporating the hamlet of Gaer Vawr had no public supply at all, and the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a scheme based upon utilising the springs at Gaer Vawr for that area and employ the services of a water diviner with a view to sinking a borehole to supply Llangwm village. At the time of the take over by the Board, details had been prepared and these were handed over to the Board.
- 2). The Northern Area comprising Llansoy, Devauden, The Glyn, Kilgwrrwg and Wolvesnewton either had no supply at all or the existing supply was inadequate and during the year an Informal Inquiry was held by a Ministry Inspector on the need for the scheme. In order to augment the present supply a further 28,500 gallons per day were required and permission to abstract this from the Fedw Brook at Devauden was granted by the Forestry Commission. Following the Inspector's visit, the Council were advised that a part of this scheme between Devauden and Wolvesnewton was too expensive to be acceptable for grant and loan purposes, having regard to the small number of properties which were expected to benefit, but the remainder of the scheme, based on an estimated net cost of £33,600 to serve 30 properties was being considered at the end of the year. No decision was notified by December.
- 3). Samples taken from a small water supply scheme serving 8 properties at St. Arvans near Hill Farm showed that the source was being polluted, and it was decided to install a chlorinating plant. This was done during the year at a cost of £388.
- 4). A scheme to extend the mains supply from Undy to serve 11 dwellings at Common-y-coed was prepared and handed over to the Board.
- 5). Delay was experienced in the commencement of the Earlswood Water Supply Scheme due to the bankruptcy of the firm who had submitted the lowest tender, but eventually work commenced and the scheme would provide for 58 properties at a cost of £24,447 or £422 per house. Supervision of this scheme was taken over by the Board although they retained the Council's Consulting Engineers.
- 6). Work was at last commenced on the scheme to supply 5 properties at The Banton by pumping water from Tintern at a Contract Price of £1350.

Generally speaking the water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year for those areas receiving a public supply, with the exception of Mathern, where discolouration occurred during times of heavy rainfall, and St. Arvans, where the yield in the springs diminished during the dry periods.

The district as a whole is supplied as follows:-

Village	Source of Supply	Size & Type of Mains	Age in Years	Type of Supply
Mathern	Rogerstone Grange	4" asbestos	24	Filtered & Chlorinated
Portskewett	Whitemill	2 - 6" "	24	-do-
Caldicot	-do-	-do-	24	-do-
Rogiet	Wentwood Reservoir	3 - 6" "	24	-do-
Undy	-do-	1½ - 4" "	24	-do-
Caerwent	-do-	1¼ - 3" "	24	-do-
Shirenewton	Whitemill	3 - 4" Cast Iron	7	-do-
Kilgwrwg	Cwm Vagor Springs	1 - 2" Galv Iron	51	Untreated
Devauden	Fedw Springs	3" asbestos	Pt 8 Pt 31	-do-
St. Arvans	Gorse Wood & Hill Farm Springs	3" Cast Iron	Pt 31 Pt 7	Chlorinated
Tintern	Fairoak Springs	2 - 4" Cast Iron	2	Untreated
Itton	Chepstow Park Wood Springs	1 - 4" Galv Iron	51	-do-

The improvement in the supply at Caerwent was continued following the Council's purchase of this scheme from the Monmouthshire County Council and the installation of new sections of main.

The Board was eventually formed in October and as stated took over the Council's rights and liabilities, which were then limited to the maintenance of public wells and the power to take samples to ascertain the purity of supplies within their district. The following table shows the number of samples taken during the year:-

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	<u>RESULTS</u>	
				Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Severn Tunnel Area	20	-	20	20	-
Tintern	5	5	-	5	-
St. Arvans	19	-	19	14	5
Shirenewton	2	-	2	2	-
Mathern	5	-	5	5	-
Devauden	5	5	-	5	-
	56	10	46	51	5

The Council were confident that the formation of the Water Board would ensure a considerable improvement in the water supply position in this district both to existing supplies and the installation of new schemes, and the initial progress made by the Board in the few months at the end of the year seemed to confirm their opinion.

HOUSING

Once again the Council did not build any houses during the year for persons on their general list, and the number of applicants rose from 286 in the previous year to 327 at the end of 1960. This trend will undoubtedly continue and means that only persons in urgent need will be rehoused regardless of how long they may have been on the Council's List. Whilst acknowledging that many names could be removed through lack of need, it can be easily seen that the hopes for a large proportion of the remainder are practically nil. As the matter of purchasing a house is out of the question for many people owing to the amount of deposit required a serious problem will arise in the course of a few years, which is not confined to this District alone.

Some years ago a survey of all houses within the district was undertaken with a view to scheduling those which were unfit for human habitation and thus for demolition. The figure reached at that time was 57 and of these 25 had either been renovated, closed or pulled down by December, 1960. It is anticipated that a further 5 will be improved in the near future as these constitute farms and smallholdings, mainly in the Earlswood area, where hitherto improvements have been restricted by the lack of a piped water supply.

Many tenanted houses have deteriorated since the original survey was made and it is hoped to review the position relating to unfit houses in the near future. The Housing Act 1957 puts the accent upon repair, stability and freedom from damp in assessing an unfit house, and despite the amendment in the law relating to rents whereby landlords were empowered to levy an increase, the additional income so derived does not appear to have been utilised for repair work, with the consequence that the declining standard of many houses has not been arrested.

Included among the dwellings scheduled for demolition are 5 houses at Brookside, Tintern, which were the subject of a Clearance Order made in 1937. Although houses have been built in this village since the war the occupants of these dwellings have not yet been rehoused, and although all of them except one only have one elderly occupant, they are nevertheless entitled to a proper standard of accommodation, and therefore these houses should be cleared at the earliest opportunity. One of these dwellings, which was semi detached, became vacant as a result of the death of its occupant in 1960, and an undertaking was given by the owner not to relet the premises for human habitation.

The four dwellings at St. Arvans which had been acquired during the previous year, were improved and repaired at a total cost of £2143, making the cost per house of £723 including purchase. A further house at Llanvair Discoed was purchased from the Monmouthshire County Council for £400 and improved at a cost of £808.

In view of the new Steel Works at Llanwern, the Council decided to build 150 houses at Caldicot for Steelworkers, and gave an undertaking to complete

these by October 1961. This was dependent upon the provision of a new sewerage system in Caldicot, and the development was planned to coincide with the completion of the installation of the sewer.

Bungalows for aged people were being built at St. Arvans, Portskewett and Rogiet, and the object of this was to rehouse widows and elderly people from the Council's own houses, and thereby release these for larger families. 35 such bungalows were contracted for.

No systematic inspection of Council Houses is carried out to ascertain the conditions therein, but individual cases are inspected and reported upon when they are brought to the notice of the Department by the Rent Collector. In one such case a house was vacated by a tenant owing £25 in rent, and an inspection revealed that the house was in a filthy condition, although not damaged, and in various rooms a total of 215 milk bottles were found. The house was re-decorated at a cost of £61, and the tenant sued for same. The number of bad tenants is extremely small, and does not consist of more than 1% of the total number of houses.

During the year 22 Discretionary Grants, totalling £6901, and 24 Standard Grants valued £3135, were made. Since the inception of the Grant Scheme the Council have made a total of 126 at a cost of £29,838. The Grant system entails a great deal of work for the Department, as many informal enquiries are received and investigated but not pursued by the enquirer. The system calls for an initial detailed inspection of the property, checking of plans and specifications, and pricing of the work to be carried out before a recommendation of the Grant payable can be made. It has become more prevalent in recent years for persons to do this preliminary work themselves rather than employ professional services, and this invariably means that it is not done correctly at the outset. Plans are brought in by applicants in the sketch stage for examination and alteration to comply with the Byelaws, specifications are altered and general advice given which would not be necessary if qualified persons were making the application.

2 caravans were licenced for temporary living accommodation bringing the total of such dwellings to 15. They are all located on individual sites and give no trouble from the point of view of supervision. Out of the total of 15 only 2 are occupied by persons having children, the remainder being mostly elderly or single persons. No problem has been experienced from gypsy van dwellers during the year, and although one such family occasionally journey into the district, they have been interviewed, fully understand their rights and obligations, and pass on without causing any nuisance.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council purchased a new Refuse trailer during the year at a cost of £455, and operated two vehicles to give a weekly collection to all parts of the district. The annual cost of the Refuse Collection service was £5512. Disposal costs are not separated as no special staff are employed for this purpose. The three tips operated by the Council are partly controlled, i.e. there is no permanent staff employed there, but each day the refuse loaders rake down and cover with ashes. In addition to this, they are employed each Saturday morning upon the tips and a large measure of control is ensured this way. One person, who is employed as a Charge Hand, is responsible for the day to day discharge of refuse and the raking down and covering of same. Large quantities of covering material, such as ashes, are obtained locally, and it is indeed difficult to detect the existence of the Council's tips until one gets almost to the face of them. They are sprayed regularly during the summer months with tip dressing to eliminate fly nuisance, and are inspected monthly by the Rodent Operative.

Once again litter bins and baskets were placed at salient points within the district and regularly emptied, and 46 dilapidated dustbins were replaced during the year as a result of Informal Notice, and the standard of bins generally was quite good.

FACTORIES ACT

The supervision of factories is partly in the hands of the Factory Inspector of the Ministry of Labour, and partly in the hands of the Council who are responsible for the matters shown in the second table reproduced below.

There were 168 inspections made of the 42 factories in the district, and 4 Certificates as to means of escape in the case of fire were issued after joint inspections with Officers of the Monmouthshire County Fire Service. An Order was made under the Factories Act 1959 and came into force on 1st December transferring this function entirely to the 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	73	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	95	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	168	-	-

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	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	3	3	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL:	12	12	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The following table shows the inspections carried out during the year:-

	Local Authority	<u>TYPES OF PROPERTY</u>		
		Dwelling Houses	All other Premises	Agricultural
No. of properties inspected as a result of				
a). Notification		316	4	
b). Survey under the Act	3	452	42	432
Total Inspections and Reinspection	36	1607	69	432

In addition to surface treatment, the baiting of sewers was carried out twice during the year, with the following results:-

Number of manholes baited	162
No. of poison baited manholes showing complete take	Nil
No. of poison baited manholes showing partial take	24
No. of poison baited manholes showing no take	138

Once again no major infestations were discovered and sewer outfalls, refuse tips and banks of streams were treated. Control over Ricks was exercised during the threshing season, and 432 agricultural premises inspected for evidence of rats and mice.

FOOD

The following table shows the number and type of dwellings - the district and the number of inspections made during the year:-

Premises	Number	Inspections
Dairies	4	16
Bakehouses	3	10
Butchers	6	28
Fish & Fruit Premises	4	11
Food Vehicles	7	13
Ice Cream Premises	22	36
Provision Shops	35	142
Restaurants & Kitchens	29	106

The following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit for human consumption, and therefore disposed of on the Refuse Tip at Portskewett:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Amount in Lbs</u>
Tinned Goods	Decomposed and blown	14
Dried fruit	Decomposition	6

This contrasts sharply with the position of 6 or 7 years ago when a large quantity of tinned goods were being condemned as unfit, the majority of which were being imported.

Of the premises shown in the previous table 29 are registered for the storage and sale of icecream, and there were no persons registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, pickled or preserved foods. Inspections were made and in each case proved satisfactory. The 4 dairies were registered under the Milk Regulations and these too were satisfactory. In each case milk is purchased in bulk from suppliers situated in adjoining areas and is merely transferred already bottled at the dairies in question. In addition to the premises referred to for the storage and sale of icecream there were 6 hotels which are exempt from the registration provisions as they cater only for their own residents. Nevertheless they were inspected and found satisfactory. There were no manufacturers of icecream in the district, and in each case a prepacked product is sold. 7 new premises were registered.

Routine visits were carried out to all food premises in the district, and informal action was taken in respect of 5. These consisted mainly of removing refuse, providing new receptacles for refuse, providing alternative clean clothing for employees, replacing cracked crockery, and cleansing walls and floors. Although the Regulations apply to all food premises, they can be roughly grouped in two categories, viz. Restaurants, hotels, kitchens on the one hand, and shop premises on the other. In the case of kitchens, etc. there are several persons working together who may thereby corrupt each other with their lax methods, whereas in the majority of shops in the district, there is only one or two persons to contend with, one of whom is usually the owner, who realises the economic value of cleanliness to his business.

Two of the bakehouses in the district were renovated during the year, and consequently present no problem. The transport of bread is also conducted in a hygienic manner, and inspections of bakers' baskets, vehicles, clothing etc. gave no cause for complaint.

There is no public or private slaughterhouse within the district, and there appears to be no need for one. There are 6 butchers who purchase their meat mainly in Newport, and this is transported in a satisfactory manner by private contractors who are supervised by the Public Health Department in Newport County Borough.

Routine inspections were carried out to Schools and Works Canteens, and the transport of school meals was investigated and proved satisfactory.

Generally speaking, a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained at all food premises in the district during the year.

SEWERAGE

During the year an Informal Inquiry was held by the Ministry's Inspector who investigated the engineering details of the Caldicot Sewerage Scheme. This is the most extensive scheme undertaken by the Council, at an estimated cost of £325,000 comprising full treatment at a disposal works and four pumping stations. It is anticipated that the complete scheme will take 3 years to complete, but the first stage, coinciding with the Housing Development at Caldicot, would take 12 months.

This scheme would consist partly of replacing existing sewers at Caldicot, part new sewers at Caldicot and linking up the villages of Rogiet and Portskewett to a common outfall from the disposal works. At the end of the year, application had been made to the Usk River Board for approval to the Scheme, the details of which had been accepted by the Ministry. Difficulty was being experienced with the British Railways through proposals conflicting with another scheme of Messrs. Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd. for a water pipe line leading to Llanwern Steel Works, but it was hoped to resolve this matter in the near future.

It is pleasing to note that progress was being made with this scheme as crude sewage is at present being discharged into the River Severn, and the lower portion of this system becomes surcharged at times of high tide. This causes breakage of joints to the existing sewer, which is either near to the surface of the ground or above ground level, and results in a consequent nuisance on adjoining land. In addition to this the condition of the outfall itself has deteriorated and certain lengths have collapsed. Apart from the fact that the new sewerage system will allow extensive development to take place at Caldicot, and many dwellings at present served by cesspool will be able to connect to a public sewer, this scheme will abate a long standing nuisance which should not be allowed to exist a moment longer than is necessary.

Consultations also took place with the Ministry regarding the combined Undy/Magor Sewerage Scheme, when it was endeavoured to substantiate ultimate population estimates for this area. No progress was made with regard to this scheme by the end of the year.

The Council decided to proceed with the St. Arvans Sewerage Scheme at a total estimated cost of £18,742 for 145 houses, or approximately £130 per house.

All the house connections at Devauden were completed during the year, thus providing 45 premises with a public sewer.

No progress was made at Caerwent with the proposed scheme to drain the village into the Admiralty disposal works, as development is limited in this village by the Ministry of Works owing to the fact that archaeological excavations are taking place to expose the remains of the original Roman town. Consultations took place with the Planning Authority and the Ministry of Works to try to reach agreement upon this question, but no satisfactory decision had been reached by the end of the year. Meanwhile the need for the sewerage system remains.

Conditions at Tintern were as bad as ever, where the need for a sewerage system is urgent owing to the discharge of crude sewage from many dwellings direct into the River Wye. Topographical features prevent any other systems being installed other than a public sewer along the main road, and although plans had been prepared and the scheme ready for submission, difficulty was experienced in acquiring land for pumping stations, and consequently a start was not made.

The Council decided to revise the system of Cesspool Emptying, whereby 2 free emptyings per dwelling per year were given, after which a nominal charge of 10/- was made. The time and effort spent in clerical work to recover this 10/- was not justified by the number of pits requiring more than the 2 emptyings, so the charge was abolished and thus became a totally free service. During the year 693 pits were emptied at a cost of £1658, or £2. 7. 9d. per pit.

