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CHEPSTOW URBAN AND RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCILS
AND
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

CHEPSTOW :
DAVIES & ROBERTS, LTD., PRINTERS, 26a, HIGH STREET.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1960

LIST OF URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Mr. A. W. ANDREWS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. J. JAMES.

Councillors

Mr. C. H. CLARKE.
Mr. W. C. HALL.
Mr. J. KEENAN.
Mr. J. F. PRICE.
Mr. J. WADLEY.
Mr. W. WYATT.

Mr. D. H. DAVIES.
Mr. C. HOLLINS.
Mr. E. J. KING.
Mr. A. J. PROCTOR.
Mr. E. WOODS.
Mr. C. E. MORGAN.
Mr. R. J. QUINTON.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk: Mr. ARTHUR GILL.

Surveyor and Inspector:

Mr. J. N. JEFFERIES, M.I.M.C.E., M.R.S.Inst.
(From 16th September, 1940,
Mr. E. T. WILLIAMS, Cert. S.I.B., A.F.A.S.
Meat and Foods Cert.).

Rating Officer: Mr. G. J. VINCENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. J. J. O'REILLY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Mr. F. C. WALKER.

Vice-Chairman: Rev. IVOR DAVIES.

Councillors :

Mr. R. G. BENJAMIN.	Mr. W. C. JONES.
Mr. A. E. BOYE.	Mr. J. E. LIDDIARD.
Mr. H. J. CANE.	Mr. T. W. LINES.
Mr. H. HASTINGS CLAY.	Mrs. M. E. PAGET.
Mr. J. EDWARDS.	Mr. D. H. PARRY.
Mr. W. H. GALE.	Mr. H. L. PRICE.
Mr. A. HALE.	Mr. J. W. PRICE.
Mrs. G. I. HEATH.	Mr. N. W. PRICE.
Mr. J. E. HANCOCK.	Mr. C. R. READ.
Mr. F. H. HEWINGS.	Mr. A. REECE.
Mr. S. M. HILL.	Mr. E. S. SPARKES.
Mr. T. HILLIER.	Mr. S. J. THORNE.
Mr. H. HUGHES.	Mr. A. W. WAINWRIGHT.
Mr. A. JONES.	Mr. W. WATKINS.
Mr. J. JONES.	Mr. W. T. WHEELER.
Mr. R. JONES.	Canon W. H. WILLIAMS.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk: Mr. G. D. SPEARING.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

Mr. HUGH J. WARD, A.M.I.S.E., Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. L. WHITTINGHAM, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Water Inspector: Mr. W. J. HODGE.

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. J. J. O'REILLY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

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

Rating Clerk: Mr. G. E. DOWLE.

Rate Collectors:

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

"ST. ANNS,"

CHEPSTOW,

24th July, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chepstow Urban and Rural District Councils.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your respective Districts for the year ending 31st December, 1940. Until last year separate reports were prepared for each Authority, but as a war-time economy a combined Report appeared to be indicated.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREAS.

	Urban.	Rural.
Area (in acres)	1,550	42,459
Registrar General's estimate of—		
(a) Resident Population, Mid. 1940	X 4,879	9,562 X
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	4,440	9,370
No. of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books (end of 1940)	X 1,150	2,839 X
Rateable Value	£23,955	£31,436
Product of Penny Rate	£93/11/9	£127/9/2

Social Conditions have been transformed by the war. The Armed Forces and War Industries have left very few unemployed. The Admiralty Factory at Dinham will obviously dwarf every other industry in the area, and on any view cannot fail to influence permanently the whole character of much of the Rural District. There has been a marked increase in population. In 1938 the Urban population was 4,078, and the Rural 8,564; contrast this with the official estimate for Mid. 1940, given above, and which presumably is exclusive of regular Armed Forces. This increase continues, and very recent figures from the Maintenance Registers indicated a population of 5,616 in the Urban and 10,688 in the Rural; increases of approximately 37% and 25% respectively on the 1938 figures. Probably the fact that Chepstow is a "safe" area accounts for most of this increase. Inevitably there must

be overcrowding, but legal standards for the time being must be allowed to lapse. As regards general health and well-being, there is no reason to think there has been deterioration, and in regard to the most important single factor underlying this—nutrition—it is easy to agree with Lord Horder that the people of this country under the compulsions of war, are being better fed—given an intelligent use of what is provided—than before.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Urban.		Rural.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Live Births	72		142	
Illegitimate	3	3	4	4
Legitimate	36	36	74	68
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16		15.7	
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1940	14.6			
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Still Births	4		5	
	0	4	2	3
	All Legitimate.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Deaths	65		119	
	30	35	63	56
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	14.6		12.7	
Death Rate England & Wales, 1940	14.3			
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0		0	
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	2		0	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	7		10	
Legitimate	0	3	8	2
Illegitimate	2	2	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) ...	89.4		66.6	
Rate for England and Wales	55			
Monmouthshire	67.7			
Total Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11		18	
Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0		0	
Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents	1		5	
Deaths from other Violent Causes	1		4	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms)	4		6	

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth and Deaths Rates are within the "expected" range and need no further commentary. At first glance, the Infant Mortality figures appear unsatisfactory, but here arises the question of chance degrees of variation, and the smaller the figures involved, the more "chancy" becomes one's conclusions. Although the Infant Mortality figures are 89.4 per 1,000 live births for the Urban and 66.6 for the Rural, and 55 for England and Wales, to conclude that influences unfavourable to infant survival operated in one district as compared with the other, or in both as compared with the country in general, would not be justified. But if the same conclusions were suggested year after year when thousands of infants instead of hundreds had been at risk, then conclusions would become increasingly valid. To illustrate the point, two previous Annual Reports were consulted at random. That for the Rural District of 1935 gave an Infant Mortality rate of 53.3; that for the Urban of 1938 a rate of only 30.7, both substantially below the England and Wales figures for the respective years.

A further sub-division of Infant Deaths into legitimate and illegitimate deaths is made above, and the Ministry suggest that these be expressed as rates per 1,000 legitimate and illegitimate births respectively. To do so with our few figures gives the following results:—

	Urban.	Rural.
Legitimate Death Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	42.8	73.
Illegitimate Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	666.6	0

—figures which are obviously useless.

The statistical approach has been a fruitful source of progress in health and social welfare, and those who say "figures can be made to prove anything," have still to learn that, even given complete and accurate figures, there is quite an art in making deductions from them.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREAS

(Only Changes are indicated below).

Public Health Officers, with qualifications, are given on the first pages,

Laboratory Facilities.

Special War Emergency: The Parade, Cardiff (Government).

For General Purposes: County Hall, Newport (County Council).

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases the Isolation Hospital Joint Committee have an agreement with a private garage.

(b) For general and accident cases, Chepstow Cottage Hospital, which itself obtains contributions from both Councils, has established an Ambulance Service which promises to be adequate for the whole area; this service is further supported by contributions from both Councils.

Hospitals.

The County Council in November opened two Hospitals:

(a) Llanfoist Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital, near Abergavenny, for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurring amongst evacuee children, and

(b) Llanfrechfa Grange War Emergency Maternity Hospital for the reception of evacuee expectant mothers.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREAS.

Water Supply—Urban.

Several samples were tested chemically and bacteriologically during the year with satisfactory results.

The extensions, now proceeding, to the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, and the new Ministry of Health Hospital, now building, are imposing a strain on the Water Company's mains in the upper portion of the town. As a consequence, complaints as to inadequate or intermittent supply have increased. The Company is, however, aware of the trouble, and steps are being taken to lay down enlarged mains and new tanks and filters. Difficulties of supply due to the war are holding up the work.

Water Supply—Rural.

Fifteen new hydrants have been fixed during the year.

The six-inch trunk water main has been diverted in connection with a railway extension at Portskewett, and relaid over the new bridge.

In case of damage to the Council's mains, arrangements have been made, by which an alternative supply for fire fighting purposes, etc., can be put into use in three positions in the most populous part of the District.

To cater for any emergency repairs to water mains, sewers, etc., the stock of pipes and fittings has been increased, and is available for immediate use.

Sewers and Sewerage—Urban.

Extensions to system comprising about 1,300 yards of 12-inch and 370 yards of 9-inch stoneware pipe were carried out during the year by contract at a cost of £2,769.

Petrol and oil from a large bus garage was found to be entering the sewer system. Steps are now being taken to provide petrol and oil traps and chambers.

Closet Accommodation

Four old water closets left after demolition of property have been removed and drains sealed. One extra convenience was provided at Caretaker's House, Church Schools.

House Refuse—Urban.

At the beginning of the year this was being collected by horses and carts. For the latter half of the year a hire lorry has been used, and one horse and cart retained for general purposes and special salvage collections. Towards the end of the year it was agreed to apply for license to purchase a properly constructed lorry, but the war has prevented permission being granted. Whatever the merits or demerits of horses versus motors may be, the Council realises that the present system is not satisfactory for a number of reasons, among which the following may be cited:—

1. Hire system is costly.
2. Lorry not properly covered. This can only be demanded with any reason, if there is a long term contract.
3. Ancillary services not properly served or organised, e.g., cleaning of gullies.

Owing to the change over of officials during the year under review, it is not possible to give figures as to aggregate weight

of collections, cost per ton, etc. It is proposed to commence this costing on 1st April, 1941. Meanwhile some figures as to Collection, Disposal and Salvage are analysed below, as far as is practicable, on figures extracted from the ledger:—

Refuse Costs—Collections and Disposal.

Refuse Disposal costs are appended. It is not possible to include for this year the cost of Disposal only, but in future reports this will be done:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal to 31-3-41:

	£
Nett cost from ledger	772/16/7
Cost per Head (4,879 population)	3/2
Cost per 1,000 Population	158/4/0
Cost per House (1,150 houses)	13/5
Weight Totals not known	
No. of Loads not known	

N.B.—Owing to evacuation the figure of 4,879 cannot be taken as a satisfactory population estimate for Refuse Collection. Accordingly, the value of the above analysis is problematic, but it gives some indication of the costs. From National Registration and other sources it is known that the population is over 5,000.

Schools—Urban.

Five visits and re-visits have been paid by the present Surveyor during the latter half of the year. Some defects have been found at the Boys' School conveniences, and the matter is in hand.

SANITARY OFFICERS' REPORTS ON INSPECTION DISTRICTS.—Urban.

Visits and Re-visits:

Factories and Workshops	6
Shops	7
Bakehouses	7
Farms	3
Infectious Diseases	13
Houses	56
Common Lodging Houses	4
Sampling Water	4
Schools	5
Overcrowding	1
Offices	1
Dangerous Structures	1

Extract
made for
use of Ed.

Work Done :

By Owners after Statutory Notice P.H. Acts—				
Sanitary Conveniences or Drainage matters				
repaired or made good	...	...	...	3
By Owners after Informal Notices P.H. Acts—				
Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences repaired				
or made good	...	...	...	28
Roofs and Gutters repaired	...	...	...	1

No. of Notices Served :

Informal P.H. Acts	...	...	...	...	40
Statutory P.H. Acts	...	...	...	...	3
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil

House-to-house inspections have not been carried out during the year owing to pressure of A.R.P. duties. All that can be done, and is being done, under present conditions is dealing with elementary but vital complaints or defects—roofs, drainage, water supply, food. All detailed and extensive notices under Housing Acts have to be deferred.

Shops.

A small number of inspections were made as will be seen from the Statistical portion of this Report. Detailed inspection under Shops Act 1934 appears very necessary for sanitary accommodation and washing accommodation. In spite of the War a few of these problems have been tackled, but details will appear in next year's Report.

Eradication of Bugs.

No details are available to me after such a short tenure of office as to the general position. I am, however, satisfied that a problem exists at the Council houses which will cause some trouble. It was a mistake when re-housing the Clearance Area population not to have fumigated their effects with H.C.N. or some other efficacious means. As a result the matter is now commencing to show itself in the Council Estate.

Rural.

Dairies and Cowsheds—visited	...	...	...	22
„ „ „ repaired	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ new sheds	...	...	...	1
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	4
New Urinals provided	...	...	...	1
Visits re Drainage Work	...	...	...	136
Visits re Water Meters	...	...	...	172

Visits re Water Supply ...	...	...	...	182
Visits re Housing ...	...	...	...	68
Houses repaired ...	...	...	...	14
New Houses built ...	...	...	...	2
House Plans—approved ...	...	...	...	2
Repairs to Water Supplies ...	...	...	...	129
New Water Meters fixed ...	...	...	...	6
New Water Connections ...	...	...	...	23
Visits to Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	...	31
Visits to Factories ...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices ...	...	...	...	3
Informal Notices ...	...	...	...	16
Inspections for Vermin ...	...	...	...	35
Disinfections ...	...	...	...	14
Disinfestations ...	...	...	...	1
Visits re Disinfestation ...	...	...	...	5
Visits to Caldicot Moors re Burying of Carcases washed up by the tide ...	...	...	...	9
Drains tested ...	...	...	...	12
Visits re Nuisances ...	...	...	...	5
Schools (visits) ...	...	...	...	3
Shops (visits) ...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances Abated by Informal Action ...	...	...	...	5
Quantity of Meat Condemned ...	...	...	...	150 lbs.
Visits re Refuge Rooms ...	...	...	...	217
Visits re War Damage ...	...	...	...	56
Visits re Fire Brigade ...	...	...	...	164
Miscellaneous Visits ...	...	...	...	51

Factories with and without Power

1.—Inspection of Factories, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with power ...	4	nil	nil
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	3	nil	nil
Total ...	7	nil	nil

One nuisance under the Public Health Acts was found and remedied in a factory.

SECTION D.

HOUSING—Urban.

Council Houses Repairs Account to 31/3/41.

Year	Balance brought forward	Income	Total	Expenditure	Balance	No. of Houses	Cost per House
1940	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
-1941	1322 7 3	427 17 0	1750 4 3	62 4 4	1687 19 11	74	16/9

Housing Statistics—Rural.

1. *Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—*
 - (1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts ... 43
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 68
 - (2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... 5
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 7
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil
 - (4) Number of dwelling house (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 16
2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:*
 Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 12
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*
 - A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... 2
 - (a) By owners ... 2
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 1 |
| (a) By owners | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

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

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

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

Owing to Evacuation and the construction of the Royal Naval Propellant Factory at Dinham, new cases of overcrowding have occurred. The precise figures are not available.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD—Urban.

Milk.

No sampling of milk appears to have been done this last year. Co-ordination with the County Sanitary Officer is a desirability here to avoid overlapping and to ascertain the extent of sampling necessary under war conditions.

Meat and Other Foods.

All meat is now transported from Newport under the Ministry of Food Scheme. Transport conditions—both as regards lorries and men—are not what they should be. Since a Government Department is in charge, improvement should be the case, not deterioration. The men have no head coverings as required by the Meat Regulations 1924, and the lorries are not as clean as they might be, and are not adapted for the purpose.

During the year the following have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed:—

- 96 tins Unsweetened Milk.
- 12 lbs. Cockles.

Rural.

Now that centralised slaughtering is in operation, the meat for this district is killed and inspected at Newport abattoir. The Distribution Centre for the district is in Caldicot.

Frequent visits have been made to the Distribution Centre and most of the carcasses have been inspected. The chief cause for complaint (as will be seen from the following list of meat which was found unfit and destroyed) has been the condition of offals which on more than one occasion have arrived at Caldicot in such a stage of decomposition as to be totally unfit for food.

This rapid decomposition was most probably the result of inefficient cooling after slaughter and unsatisfactory methods of transport. The matter was taken up with the Regional Office of the Ministry of Food.

Meat Condemned During Year 1940.

Description	Condition or Disease	Weight lbs.	Disposal
9 Sheeps' Livers	Decomposition	11¾	Buried
3 Sheeps' Plucks and	Decomposition	16	Buried
1 Sheeps' Liver	Decomposition	1½	Buried
1 Carcase of Mutton	Caseous Lym- phadenitis	120	Returned to Newport on instructions of Ministry of Food.
Total		<u>149¼ lbs.</u>	

Chepstow Market Statistics.

No. of Markets held, 28.

No. of Animals, etc., brought in :—

Sheep	14,425
Pigs	4,324
Calves	852
Cattle	1,334
Carts	1,092
Total	<u>22,027</u>

SECTION F.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.****No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.**

	Urban.	Rural.
Enteric Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	11
Whooping Cough	3	—
Diphtheria	3	13
Erysipelas	—	—
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	40	85
Pneumonia	1	2
Puerperal Pyrenia	0	1

There were also several cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis in both Districts.

Comments.

Many of these figures are quite misleading; probably those for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever are approximately correct. Many cases, probably the great majority, of Measles and Whooping Cough are not attended by a doctor; especially is this true of Whooping Cough, which at the time of writing is widely prevalent in both Districts, with just an occasional notification coming in. In passing, it may be said, that with a higher standard of home care and nursing based on an understanding of the commoner more distant ill-effects of these illnesses, medical attention is not necessary apart from complicated cases. It is certain, however, that many cases of Whooping Cough are being treated far too casually.

Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia are notifiable, and there appear three only in the above list. Yet six persons are certified as having died of pneumonia and five of influenza, with, it is probably safe to assume, pneumonia as a complication. This illustrates another great cause of error in these returns—failure of the doctors to notify. This is a widespread problem which will no doubt be dealt with by the Ministry one day; the position locally is probably neither better nor worse than elsewhere.

Other Communicable Diseases.

There has been great increase in communicable skin diseases, especially scabies ("itch") and septic conditions such

as impetigo. In respect of these, there doesn't seem any grounds for treating evacuated children as a race apart. The home is the unit of treatment, and cases, contacts and the everyday things that may convey infection, such as bed and other clothing, should all be attended to in the same process. This is mentioned, because County Districts were empowered, if not encouraged, to provide special isolation for the treatment of such conditions in evacuees. Apart from expense, that would be difficult to do, with suitable accommodation and skilled help both hard to find, and, as indicated above, it doesn't appeal on medical grounds. These things were formerly much commoner than they had become in pre-war years, and treatment in isolation hospitals must have been very infrequent. Indeed, it could not have brought about the decline. Instruction in home treatment, perhaps in printed form; the free provision of remedies, and even a specially engaged nurse to visit the homes, would prove much more effective.

Control of Infectious and Other Diseases.

Much of the development of Local Government has sprung from efforts to control these diseases. Indeed, recurring outbreaks of cholera in London a little over one hundred years ago, may be said to have initiated the whole process. Early activities were directed mainly to dealing with gross nuisances. For instance, the prevention of the pollution of certain London wells by excreta, including the excreta of cases and carriers, put an end to the cholera outbreaks. A disease similarly spread, enteric or typhoid fever, was influenced in the same favourable way, and its annual death rate fell from an average of 7,842 during the decade 1870-80 to 159 in 1934. It has since been realised that many other foods besides water could be contaminated by disease producing germs, and so supervision and control over many of them—notably milk and meat—has been more or less effectively established. This aspect of disease prevention is reflected in such different provisions as the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations (1925), which prohibits a person with tuberculosis of the respiratory tract from employment in the milk trade; the Public Health Act (1925) which lays down general sanitary standards for any room used for the sale or preparation of food; or the Model Bye-law (1930) which forbids the admission of dogs to slaughter-houses; this last is chiefly directed against spread to man of a dangerous worm disease of which the dog is the host. Such provisions naturally have little effect on diseases spread by direct person

to person spread; as where the causal agent is present in the mouth and nose secretions and is conveyed in the minute droplets caused by coughing, sneezing or even talking; whooping cough or scarlet fever, for example. Fortunately, however, there are other methods, applicable to individual diseases or to groups of disease. Segregation of cases into colonies has stamped out leprosy, wherever it has been employed, and there is very little doubt it would in a generation or so stamp out consumption were it effectively adopted. Vaccination, which was the development of Jenner's observation that milk-maids who contracted cow pox escaped in subsequent outbreaks of smallpox, has cleared Britain of smallpox. In this last case a change has been brought about in the vaccinated individual which prevents the smallpox germ making any headway in his system—in other words he has become "immune" to smallpox. Such immunity to infectious diseases may be acquired in several ways—by having contracted the disease once, as in the case of measles or whooping cough, by having had early contact with it before the transmitted immunity has quite worn off—a baby a few months old, for instance, will escape measles even though in the closest contact with it, and will have his resistance permanently raised by the dose which was powerless to infect him; or immunity to certain diseases may be artificially brought about by introduction into the body of the causative germ or certain of its products, after killing by heat and otherwise deprived of power to harm. Whooping cough and diphtheria are preventable by this method of "active immunization," and in your Districts, as throughout the country in 1940-41, a campaign was carried out to immunize children of between 9 months and 15 years of age against diphtheria—under 9 months the transmitted immunity referred to above still protects them.

Diphtheria Immunization (1940-41).

	Urban.	Rural.
No. of Children Protected ...	564	1,284
Including Evacuees	87	310
And Children under 5 years	130	161

It may be taken that diphtheria will gradually die out in any community in which 70%—80% of the children are immunized. It is important then to know our percentage, and in this connection it may be recalled that 3—4 years ago inoculation was offered to the school-children and largely accepted.

With the help of the head teachers, the position in the schools is set out in the following table:—

Scho	Total on Register	Immunized in 1940-41 or in another year, or place.	Not done—Refusal of parents to return form or absence, etc.	Percentage immunized
Urban.				
Chepstow Boys	216	164	52	76%
Bridge St. (Senior)...	128	112	16	85.5%
Bridge St. (Infants)	42	38	4	90%
Bulwark	160	127	23	79%
Church School	115	109	6	96%
Larkfield S.S.	*153	138	15	90%

*Under 15 years of age.

Rural.				
Llansoy	42	39	4	93%
Itton	31	27	4	87%
Sudbrook	158	129	29	82%
Llanfair Discoed ...	45	32	13	71%
Mynyddbach	45	41	4	91%
Caldicot	205	160	45	78%
Llanishen	85	46	39	54%
Devauden	78	69	9	88%
Newchurch W.	19	16	3	84%
Llangwm	44	38	6	86%
Portskewett	124	105	19	85%
Mathern	134	86	48	64%
Roggiett	195	178	17	91%
Tintern	124	93	31	75%
Earlswood	67	48	19	71%
St. Arvans	88	77	11	87%
Caerwent	94	59	35	63%
Undy	*	90	18	

*To give the total on the Register at Uundy would be misleading, as many Undy children attend the Church School which is outside Chepstow Rural District, but came to the Council School for inoculation; Undy has therefore been omitted when calculating the percentage of immunized children in the Rural District.

	Urban.	Rural.
Proportion of School Children Inoculated	86%	88.5%

Immunization of Children under School Age.

This important age group—9 months to 5 years—presents special difficulties. The only places at which they are brought

together in any numbers are the Infant Welfare Clinics in Chepstow and Caldicot, but for reasons not easily understood the Welfare Authority (County Council) was unwilling to co-operate. Despite this, every effort was made to contact these children, and, as stated above, 130 were immunized in the Urban and 161 in the Rural District. From figures supplied by the Food Executive Officers, the total number of children in this age group was estimated at—

Urban 332 and Rural 672, and the percentages immunized at 39% and 24% respectively.

The position as regards diphtheria prevention, with over 80% of all children protected, is entirely satisfactory; and for this happy state of affairs we are greatly indebted to the teachers, who were invariably helpful; to the Editor of the Chepstow "Argus" for the wide publicity given to the matter; and to Mr. W. T. Hickman, who voluntarily carried out most of the heavy clerical work involved.

Recommendation to the Councils.

To keep up the ratio of immune children should now be a simple matter. It will be readily understood that the age composition of the child population changes rapidly. It will be seen from Section A that 228 babies were born into these Districts during 1940, and from this present Section that approximately 1,004 children between ages 9 months and 5 years remain undone—making a total of 1,232 children under school age not yet immunized. Unless these young children are systematically immunized, our minimum of 75% "immunes," on which we base our hopes for the eradication of diphtheria, will soon be lost; and to rely on fitful "campaigns" at irregular intervals has little to recommend it. For the next five years children, not already done, should be offered inoculation during their first year in school, and babies on reaching their first birthday—after five years it should not be necessary to do any school children. A decision by the Councils on this matter is invited.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.
Urban

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

Rural

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

MISCELLANEA.

Much of Local Government activity continues to be diverted into emergency Civil Defence channels. Probably all the officers of the Councils have contributed in full measure to the needs of these strange days, and if I select Mr. T. T. Birbeck for special reference it is because, through our mutual association with the Casualty Service, I am in a position to appreciate the quality of his work.

Rural.

CIVIL DEFENCE WORK.

War Damage Repairs.

Following air raids in several parishes, the First Aid Repairs Party, which was organised at the beginning of the war, has repaired windows, roofs, etc., to about 50 houses.

Deterrents of Enemy Landings.

In some parts of the District large fields suitable for aeroplane landings have been rendered unsuitable for that purpose by the "planting" of posts, etc.

Sand Deliveries.

Two bags of sand have been delivered to every house in the District for use in dealing with incendiary bombs.

Domestic Air Raid Shelters.

In the parishes considered to be most vulnerable, houses have been provided with sand bags, and others are being supplied with the materials for constructing brickwork protection from possible blast and splinters.

Fire Services.

In addition to the Regular Fire Brigade, Auxiliary Fire Fighting Units have been organised and equipped in several parishes in the District. This is capable of still further development.

Salvage.

A certain amount of salvage work has been done by the Council direct, and still more by parishes locally organised; but in the absence of a complete District Scheme, this work has not met the requirements of the "powers that be." The organisation of a scheme for the whole District is in hand.

During the year two of the Chief Officers of the Urban District Council resigned :—

Mr. J. N. Jefferies, Surveyor and Inspector, came to Chepstow 23 years ago, and on retirement had completed 50 years in Local Government service. Mr. Jefferies was a popular official, and he takes with him an enviable record of useful work and the good wishes of many friends.

Major G. A. Evill, Clerk to the Council, has been with his unit since the outbreak of war. Member of a well-known Chepstow family, happily Major Evill's association with the town promises to be resumed when the better days come. Quiet, capable and widely popular, members and officials of the Council wish him success and a safe return.

Mr. James Firth, Mr. Edgar Bye and Mr. William Abbott, of the Council's outdoor staff, also retired during the year; all after long service and with the thanks and best wishes of the Council.

From the Rural Staff, Mr. William Plimmer, Assistant Sanitary Officer, resigned to take up a new appointment in Oxfordshire; he had become very popular during his short stay here, and his career will be followed with sympathetic interest in the District.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Sanitary Inspectors and your Clerks for their unfailing assistance throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'REILLY.

1870
The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of Justice of the Peace for the year 1870.

John A. Smith, James B. Jones, William C. Brown, David E. Green, and John F. White.

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on the 10th day of January, 1870, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of \$1000 be appropriated for the purchase of land for the purpose of establishing a public school.

In testimony whereof, the Board of Supervisors have hereunto set their hands and the seal of the County of [] State of [] this 10th day of January, 1870.

Witness my hand and the seal of the County of [] State of [] this 10th day of January, 1870.

JOHN A. SMITH, County Clerk.