CHEPSTOW URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the YEAR 1942.

LIST of URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Keenan, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Wadley

COUNCILLORS:

Mr. C.E. Morgan

Mr. J.F. Price

Mr. E.J. King

Mr. J. Keenan

Mr. C.H. Clarke, J.P.

Mr. A.J. James

Mr. W. Wyatt

Mr. E. Woods

Mr. D.H. Davies

Mr. W.P. Tuck

Mr. W.C. Hall

Mr. A.J. Proctor

Mr. C. Hollins

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL:

CLERK: Mr. A. Gill

Town Surveyor & Inspector.

Mr. E.T. Williams, M.R.S.I.

Rating Officer

Mr. G. J. Vincent

Medical Officer of Health.

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

Billeting Officer

Mr. V.G.A. Waters.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

List of Rural District Councillors

CHAIRMAN: Mr.D.H.Parry, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. A. E. Boye

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. H.L.Price
Mr.W.H.Gale	Mr.J.W.Price
Mr.A.Hale	Mr.N.W.Price
Mrs.G.I.Heath	Mr.C.R.Read
Mr.J.E.Hancock	Mr.A.Reece
Mr.W.W.Jones	Mr.J.C.Ford
Mr.S.M.Hill	Mr.S.J.Thorne
Mr.A.J.Thomas	Mr.A.W.Wainwright
Mr.H.Hughes	Mr.F.C.Walker
Mr.A.Jones	Mr.W.Watkins
Mr.E.Johnson	Mr.W.T.Wheeler
Mr.R.Jones	Mr.F.Arnold

Officers of the Council

CLERK: Mr.G.D. Spearing

Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor

Mr.Hugh Ward, A.M.I.S.E., Cert.R.S.I. Cert.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Sanitary Inspector

Mr.L.Whittingham, M.R.S.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.J.W.T.Smith (on Military Service)

Rate Collectors

Caldicot Collection District	...	Mr. E.Squibbs
Mathern Collection District	...	Mr. M.E.Smith
Shirenewton Collection District	...	Mr.F.C.Price

OBITUARY

Since the publication of the last Report the Rural Council has sustained six notable bereavements :-

Mr.E.S.Sparkes, Councillor Roggiett.

Canon W.H.Williams, Councillor Mathern.

Mr.H.Hastings Clay, Councillor St.Arvans.

Dr.T.L.Drapes, Medical Officer to both Councils until his illness eight years ago.

Mr.Gordon Smith, Finance Clerk.

Mr.Hugh Jennings Ward, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

These were men long and honourably associated with the Council, and indeed were among its leading personalities. Each in his own contrasting way had gifts and qualities not easily replaced - the ready and polished eloquence of Canon Williams; the reasoned and practical contributions of Councillor Sparkes, with his wide grasp of Council procedure and a style that was at once firm and fatherly; the kindly efficiency of Hugh Jennings Ward, self possessed in all circumstances and whose calmness and courage did not fail him when death first threatened and soon struck; the fine promise of Gordon Smith - the saddest case of all this, because of his youth and the high hopes that died with him.

Of Councillor H. Hastings Clay and Dr. T.L.Drapes the closing years were clouded and the end long heralded -

"the stage was darkened ere the curtain fell"

but each retained to the full and to the end the high measure of regard given him in his prime.

St. Anns,

CHEPSTOW.

August, 1943.

To The Chairman and Members of
Chepstow Urban and Rural District Councils:-

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the people and the Public Health activities of your Councils during the year 1942.

The year was marked by no striking happening in these respects. The national effort to stamp out diphtheria continues and with us it goes well. There appears to be a marked decline in scabies and its associated diseases, though for many a year this legacy of war will persist in the homes of the socially helpless. The expected increase in tuberculosis seems to be materialising, but it is well to remember that these Districts had in recent years come to be looked on by the tuberculosis officer as exceptionally good.

Treatment of veneral disease, which is so much in the public mind at the moment, is a County Council concern, though any assistance we can give in the matter of tracing sources of infection are at its disposal. That there should be an unpleasant trend in this type of disease here as elsewhere is no surprise, considering the latitude given a small but active group of public sinners; this aspect of precautionary treatment however is still the affair of government.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS and VITAL STATISTICS

		Urban	Rural
Population figures omitted during the War.			
BIRTHS.			
Total Live Births ...		90 (80)	226 (168)
	Male	41	119
	Female	49	107
Illegitimate Births ...		6 (6)	16 (8)
Stillbirths (all legitimate) ...		2 (2)	6 (11)
DEATHS.			
Total Deaths ...		54 (57)	111 (113)
	Male	30	60
	Female	24	51
Infants under one year ...		2 (4)	5 (17)
one in each district illegitimate			
Maternal Mortality ...		1	
(Previous year's figures in brackets)			

SOME REGISTERED CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Urban	Rural
Cancer (all forms) ...	8 (4)	22 (13)
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	2 (2)	5 (0)
Influenza ...	0	2 (0)
Bronchitis ...	4 (4)	6 (5)
Pneumonia ...	2 (0)	5 (3)
"Strokes" (Intercranial vascular lesions)	9 (5)	8 (3)
Heart Disease ...	13 (5)	34 (17)
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	0	2 (0)
Road Traffic Accidents ...	0	3 (3)
Other Violent Causes ...	2 (1)	1 (1)
Appendicitis ...	0	2 (1)

(here figures in brackets represent MALES)
the other figures represent TOTALS

Of the infectious diseases, only pneumonia and influenza are represented, and indeed they fit with some difficulty into the infectious disease group.

The increase in births will be noted; in this both Districts share the national experience, a trend of the first importance. The other figures call for no comment.

SANITARY OFFICER'S REPORT

on the Inspection of the Urban District

WATER SAMPLING.

Three samples for Bacteriological Analysis were taken during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No major repair works occurred during the year but some anxiety is felt as to the effect of modern heavy traffic on sewers known to be laid at a shallow depth and in an indifferent manner. The Council is likely to experience trouble and expense in this matter in the future.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No conversions to water carriage system were effected during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

The Council's Lorry should be provided with a cover a point previously referred to in these reports. Costs, as indicated before, are omitted owing to Wartime difficulties. Salvage sales are appended:-

79 tons 9 cwts. 1 qr.	Paper	...	£421. 2. 1
9 tons 5 cwts. 1 qr.	Iron	...	£ 20. 5. 7
9 tons 13 cwts.	Tins	...	£ 13. 2.10
4 tons 1 cwt. 2 qrs.	Rags and Sacking	...	£ 36.12. 5
1 ton 6 cwts. 3 qrs.	Bones	...	£ 3.15. 3
2 tons 8 cwts. 2 qrs.	Rubber	...	£ 2. 8. 6
3 cwts.	Lead	...	10. 6
20 lbs.	Aluminium	...	10. 0
30 lbs.	Copper	...	10. 0
34 No.	Jars and Bottles	...	2.10
		Total	£499. 0. 0

SCHOOLS

Satisfactory sanitary conditions generally. Nothing calling for especial mention except as to last year's notes.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

To complaints or defects	...	...	51
Revisits to properties under notice	...	...	102
Interview with Owners or Agents	...	...	22
Shops and Foodstores	...	...	34
To Factories and Workshops	...	...	3
Lodging Houses	...	...	8
To Refuse Dumps and public Conveniences		...	10
Markets	...	...	4
Water sampling	...	...	3
Milk sampling	...	...	8
Rats and Mice Destruction Acts	...	...	21
Infectious Diseases and disinfection		...	4
Dirty or Verminous premises	...	...	4
Dangerous buildings	...	...	8
Schools	...	...	3
Farms and Dairies	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	1
		Total	289

WORK DONE.

By Owners after Informal Notice:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	1
Overhanging hedges lopped	...	...	4
Drainage defects made good	...	...	14
Stop-tap boxes repaired	...	...	1
Dangerous structures made safe or demolished		...	6
Offensive accumulations removed		...	1
Washing facilities provided or repaired		...	2
Sanitary conveniences repaired ...		...	8
Eavesgutters repaired	...	...	2
Cellar covers made secure	...	...	1
Factory conveniences repaired	...	...	1

By Owners after Statutory Notice:-

Dangerous stacks repaired	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	1

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Informal under the Public Health Acts	...	35
Statutory under the Public Health Acts	...	4
Certificates under Factories Act, 1937, Sect.34	...	1

SHOPS.

No progress in improved sanitary facilities effected during the year.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

No complaints during the year

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Destroyed at Council's Dumps during the year	...	118

With the large proponderance of old buildings in the town the rodent problem is bad and likely to remain so for some time. Owners and occupiers are not shewing the co-operation which might be expected in this matter. It appears to be thought that the Council will do all that is necessary while the persons most interested sit back and do nothing.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

1.(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under P.H. or Housing Acts	...	35
1.(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	93
2.(a)	No. of dwellinghouses (included under above subhead) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	... ...	Nil
2.(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	Nil
3.	No. of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		Nil
4.	No. of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	35

2. Remedy of Defects during Year without service of Formal Notice.

No. of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action by the L.A. or their Officers	...	26

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR ... Nil

4. OVERCROWDING. See last year's remarks

LODGING HOUSES.

Some investigation was made during the year into two cases of premises of the above mentioned type. They were found to be extremely unsuitable for the purpose and not too well conducted from the sanitary point of view. Total absence of bye-laws herein renders control somewhat difficult and this problem should receive early consideration after the War.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Similar remarks apply to this class of property in some instances as has already been recorded above for Lodging Houses.

FOODS.

Milk.

As will be seen from the statistical portion of the report some samples were taken during the year (in conjunction with the Mon.C.C.). Re-registration should be taken in hand at a convenient opportunity since a number of transfers are believed to have taken place owing to the War.

Meat and Other Foods.

Condemned and surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

Sugar	...	28 lbs.	Potatoes	...	2 cwts.
Tomatoes	...	14 tins	Cereals	...	2 cwts. 61 lbs.
Fruit	...	41 tins	Rice	...	1 cwt. 32 lbs.
Meat	...	33 tins	Frozen Beef	...	96 lbs.
Beans	...	15 tins	Raw Ham	...	70 lbs.
Milk	...	40 tins	Butter	...	12 lbs.
Beet	...	2 tins	Pepermint Sweets	...	56 lbs.
Peas	...	44 tins	Flour	...	56 lbs.
Soup	...	1 tin	Waterglass	...	4 tins
Carrots	...	1 tin	Spaghetti	...	12 lbs.
Fish	...	10 tins	Cocoa	...	128 pkts.
Split Peas	...	103 lbs.	Mussels	...	84 lbs.

Wherever possible the condemned foodstuffs were used for industrial purposes.

Market

Annual Statistics:-

Sheep	...	11,316	Carts	...	1,203
Pigs	...	1,913			
Calves	...	1,437			
Cattle	...	1,653			
Horses	...	12			
Goats	...	2			
Geese and Ducks	..	11			
Chickens	...	53			
Ferrets	...	2			
	Total	16,399			

E. Williams
15/6/43

SANITARY OFFICER'S REPORT

on the Inspection of The Rural District

Dairies and Cowsheds - visited	...	...	45
ditto - repaired	...	...	6
Visits re Drainage Work	...	...	238
Visits re Water Meters	...	...	280
Visits re Water Supply	...	...	200
Visits re Housing	...	...	160
Houses repaired	...	...	11
New Buildings erected	...	...	2
Plans approved	...	...	52
Visits to Factories	...	...	9
Statutory Notices	...	...	7
Informal Notices	...	...	22
Inspections for vermin	...	...	5
Disinfections	...	...	10
Visits to Caldicot Moors re burying of carcases washed up by the tide	...	...	2
Drains repaired	...	...	12
Schools (visits)	...	...	7
Shops (visits)	...	...	19
Nuisances abated by Informal Action	...	...	17
Nuisances abated by Formal Action	...	...	2
Quantity of Meat condemned	...	...	248¼ lbs.
Visits re Air Raid Shelters	...	...	1,900
Visits re War Damage	...	...	47
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	500

FACTORIES WITH AND WITHOUT POWER

Under the Factories Act, 1937, the following table shows the work done :-

1. Inspection of Factories, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors

	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Power ...	4	Nil	Nil
Factories without Mechanical Power	5	Nil	Nil
Total	9	Nil	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspections of Dwellinghouses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	...	33
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	52
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		1
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	14

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	11

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

A. - Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices			
(a) By owners	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		...	Nil

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	2
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	... ...	2

C. - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses 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.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Detailed List of Meat Condemned during the Year 1942.

Centralised slaughtering continues, the meat for the district being killed and inspected at Newport abattoir.

The distribution centre for this district is in Caldicot where frequent visits have been made and most of the carcases have been inspected.

Description	Condition or Disease	Weight Lbs.	Disposal
Pig Carcase	Generalised Tuberculosis	97	Buried
Breast of Lamb	Pleuritis	9	Buried
Pig Carcase	Fever and Cloudy Swelling of Liver	89	Buried
	Total	195 Lbs.	

In addition to butchers' meat 53½ lbs. of tinned meat has been condemned as being unfit for human food and has been destroyed.

Other foodstuffs which upon examination have been found to be unfit for human consumption and have been condemned and destroyed are as follows :-

Apple Rings	...	350 lbs.
Cheese	...	96 lbs.
Sweetened Condensed Milk	...	9 - 1¾ pint Tins

A large proportion of the tinned goods which have been found unfit for food have been damaged in transit and this fact has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Food, as buyers and agents. It is to be hoped that some means will be found to lessen the percentage of loss of valuable foodstuffs from damage which renders perfectly sound goods unfit for food.

M I S C E L L A N E A

TREATMENT OF FOODSTUFFS CONTAMINATED BY GAS.

The Food Treatment Squad is trained and up to strength in personnel, and arrangements for transport, analysis of suspected or contaminated foodstuffs, etc., have long since been completed, so that the squad should be able to deal effectively with any emergency. Protective clothing is still in short supply but the rest of the equipment has now been delivered.

WAR DAMAGE REPAIRS

The party of local builders are still available at any time, and although there have not been many calls on them during this year, they have shown on the few occasions that their services have been required, that they are prepared for action at any time. They have, as previously, been on the spot immediately after "a raid" and have carried out "first aid" repairs as effectively as ever.

SALVAGE

The quantity of salvage being collected shows no signs of lessening and since the Council acquired a lorry of their own their work has proved a source of direct profit as well as being of some assistance to the National war effort.

BRITISH RESTAURANT AT CALDICOT.

The reconstruction and equipment of the Parish Hall for this purpose was completed early in the year and the restaurant was opened in June. It has been run very efficiently and the Cook-Manageress and staff are to be complimented on the way they have carried out their duties. Sincere thanks are also due to the voluntary helpers whose generous assistance has been an invaluable and essential factor in the success of the restaurant.

DISTRIBUTION OF AIR RAID SHELTERS.

During the year some 600 "Morrison" Table Shelters have been distributed throughout the Severn Tunnel Area and adjoining parishes. Labour has been difficult to obtain and some 150 applications have still to be met.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse collection in the Severn Tunnel area, which was formerly done by private contract, is now carried out by the Council, employing direct labour. As a result conditions at the tips have greatly improved and there has been a substantial reduction in the cost of collection.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases have been notified during the year :-

		Urban	Rural
Scarlet Fever	...	1	2
Diphtheria	...	1	1
Erysipelas	...	0	1
Measles	...	15	0
Pneumonia	...	3	0
Puerperal pyrexia	...	2	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Considerable progress has been achieved in the immunisation of children under school age, in both Districts, during the year.

The position on December 31st, given as percentages, follow

	1 - 5	5 - 15
Urban	50.9	73.4
Rural	41.3	63.9

Immunisations continue at an increased rate and substantial improvement on these figures is expected during 1943.

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Total
Urban	15	3	18	1	6	7	25
Rural	27	15	42	3	5	8	50
New Cases							
Urban	4	3	7	0	1	1	8
Rural	9	3	12	0	0	0	12
Deaths							
Urban	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Rural	0	4	4	0	1	1	5

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Age Period	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.
Urban								
0 -								
1 -				1				
5 -								
15 -								
25 -		1						
35 -	3	1						
45 -								
55 -	1							
65		1			2			
Rural								
0 -								
1 -								1
5 -								
15 -	3							
25 -	3	3				2		
35 -	2				1	1		
45 -	1							
55 -								
65 -								

Dr. A. Carveth Johnson is Tuberculosis Officer and Dr.J.T.Jones assistant Tuberculosis Officer to our Districts. They have both, and I may add Miss

Richards their Secretary also, been most helpful to the Councils and painstaking and kind to patients referred to them.

It is gratifying to learn from Dr.Carveth Johnson that he regards our Districts as bright spots in relation to Tuberculosis.

I wish in conclusion to acknowledge my indebtedness to your Clerks, Sanitary Inspectors and A.R.P. Director for much valuable assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.J.O'REILLY