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CHEPSTOW URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS.

ANNUAL REPORT  
— of the —  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1944.

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REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICE OF THE  
NAVY  
FOR THE YEAR 1904

CHEPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1944.

CHAIRMAN: A.J.Proctor, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: J.F.Price

Councillors:

Mr.C.E.Morgan	...	Mr.B.O'Neill
Mr.J.F.Price	...	Mr.D.H.Davies
Mr.E.J.King	...	Mr.W.P.Tuck
Mr.J.Keenan	...	Mr.W.C.Hall
Mr.C.H.Clark, J.P.	...	Mr.A.J.Proctor
Mr.A.J.James	...	Mr.C.Hollins
Mr.W.Wyatt	...	Mr.J.Wadley
Mr.A.W.Andrews.		

Officers of the Council

Clerk: Mr. A. Gill

Surveyor & Inspector: Mr.E.T.Williams, M.R.S.I., Cert.S.I.B.  
Meat & Foods Inspector.

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

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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

List of Rural District Councillors

CHAIRMAN: Mr. W. C. Jones, J. P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs. G. I. Heath

Councillors.

Mr. F. Arnold	...	Mr. J. E. Liddiard
Mr. R. G. Benjamin	...	Mr. T. W. Lines
Mr. A. E. Boye	...	Mr. W. H. Margretts
Mr. H. J. Cane	...	Mrs. M. E. Paget
Mr. J. Edwards	...	Mr. D. H. Parry
Mr. J. C. Ford	...	Mr. H. L. Price
Mr. W. H. Gale	...	Mr. J. W. Price
Mrs. M. D. Harris	...	Mr. N. W. Price
Mr. A. Hale	...	Mr. C. R. Read
Mr. J. E. Hancock	...	Mr. A. Reece
Mr. S. M. Hill	...	Mr. A. J. Thomas
Mr. H. Hughes	...	Mr. A. W. Wainwright
Mr. A. Jones	...	Mr. F. C. Walker
Mr. R. Jones	...	Mr. W. Watkins
Mr. W. W. Jones	...	Mr. W. T. Wheeler
Mr. E. Johnson	...	

Officers of the Council

Clerk: Mr. G. D. Spearing

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

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

Sanitary Inspector

Mr. R. Langmaid, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Inspector of  
Meat & Other Foods.

Medical Officer of Health.

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

Water Inspector: Mr. W. J. Hodge

Deputy Clerk & Valuation Officer: Mr. T. T. Birbeck, F.A.I.

Rate Collectors

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

# REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

## LIST OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

CHIEF COMMISSIONER: Mr. W. S. Jones, D. C.  
VICE-CHIEF COMMISSIONER: Mrs. C. E. Jones

### Commissioners

Mr. F. Arnold	...	Mr. W. S. Liddell
Mr. E. S. Benjamin	...	Mr. T. W. Linn
Mr. A. J. Boye	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. E. J. Cane	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. J. E. Cane	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. J. C. Ford	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. W. E. Gale	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. E. D. Harris	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. A. Gale	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. J. E. Hancock	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. E. W. Hill	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. E. Hughes	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. J. Jones	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. E. Jones	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. W. W. Jones	...	Mr. W. E. Mays
Mr. E. Johnson	...	Mr. W. E. Mays

### Officers of the District

Chief: Mr. W. S. Jones

### Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

Mr. L. W. Heston, M. S. L., D. C., S. I. S., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

### Sanitary Inspector

Mr. E. W. Hill, M. S. L., D. C., S. I. S., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

### National Officer of Health

Dr. J. I. O'Leary, M. S., D. C., S. I. S.

### Water Inspector

Mr. J. E. Cane, M. S., D. C., S. I. S.

### Food Collection

Mr. E. W. Hill	...	Mr. E. W. Hill
Mr. E. W. Hill	...	Mr. E. W. Hill
Mr. E. W. Hill	...	Mr. E. W. Hill



St. Anns,  
Chepstow,

4th August, 1945.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Chepstow  
Urban & Rural District Councils.

Mr. Chairmen, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I respectfully submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary  
Conditions of your Districts for the year ending December 1944.

Towards the end of this long war there is no real local evidence that  
the public health has deteriorated. Fatigue and hardship have been the  
lot of many even in this comparatively fortunate area but there were many  
compensating factors; thus if food lacked variety and palatability what  
there was of it was allocated on expert advice and there was much less  
malnutrition than before. Nation wide surveys of height and weight of  
children in the various age groups illustrate this strikingly. Then  
employment and a sense of being wanted within the community probably has  
high health value.

The diphtheria epidemic continued into the early months of the year,  
but as it was very fully reported in the previous Report and in special  
Reports there is no need to deal with it now, except to emphasize once  
again that it afforded us confirmation of the benefit of immunization, as  
the deaths and severe cases were confined to non-immunized persons and  
the incidence of the disease fell especially on adults. Whereas,  
previously, one found many child cases to one adult case in our epidemic  
there were several adult cases for every child case. Something was  
protecting the children and that something undoubtedly was immunization.

Housing conditions continued to deteriorate while all the time the  
people's ideas of what is attainable and desirable continue to advance.  
By current standards much of the old Chepstow housing is unfit for human  
habitation and Rural conditions are considerably worse. If as seems to  
be the position now, more and more new houses at St. Teola and similar  
sites - cheap whatever the price and stereotyped - if a multiplication  
of such houses is the only remedy the final picture can hardly be one to  
satisfy the town planner. Whether the question of reconditioning solid



Dr. J. H. H. H.  
Chicago

4th August, 1944

To the Chairman and Members of the Chicago  
Urban & Rural District Councils

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I respectfully submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary

Conditions of your District for the year ending December 1944.

Towards the end of this long war there is no real local evidence that

the public health has deteriorated. Fatigue and hardship have been the

lot of many men in this comparatively fortunate area but there were many

compensating factors; thus if food lacked variety and palatability what

there was of it was allocated on expert advice and there was much less

malnutrition than before. Nation wide surveys of height and weight of

children in the various age groups illustrate this strikingly. Then

employment and a sense of being wanted within the community probably has

high health value.

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but as it was very fully reported in the previous Report and in special

Reports there is no need to deal with it now, except to emphasize once

again that it effected no continuation of the benefit of immunisation, as

the deaths and severe cases were confined to non-immunised persons and

the incidence of the disease fell especially on adults. However,

previously, one found many child cases so one child case in our epidemic

there were several adult cases for every child case. Something was

protecting the children and that something undoubtedly was immunisation.

Working conditions continued to deteriorate with all the time the

people's sense of what is attainable and desirable continues to advance.

By current standards much of the old Chicago housing is unfit for human

habitation and rural conditions are considerably worse. It is seen to

be the position now, more and more now known as the Food and similar

issues - cheap whatever the price and photographed - it is multiplication

of such issues is the only remedy the final picture can hardly be one to

entirely the town planner. Whether the question of reconditioning solid

old obsolete houses in the old town or building new cottages with individuality on its empty spaces has ever been considered I do not know, but it is safe to surmise from the similarity of council estates created in pre-war years that local Authorities have not been encouraged to stamp their individuality on new additions to their towns and villages.

The dispersal of old slum dwellers would have made for a more balanced community; many of them would have taken their place with credit in any community and at the other end of the scale it is doubtful wisdom to put the socially inadequate within such easy reach of kindred spirits.

#### Social Conditions & Vital Statistics

		<u>URBAN</u>	<u>RURAL</u>	
Area	...	1,550	42,459	Acres
Population	...	4,731	9,573	"

#### Deaths

Urban:- 157 persons died in Chepstow. Of these the majority were not Chepstow Residents and their deaths occurred chiefly in Hospitals as follows :-

Regent House	...	64
Chepstow & District Hospital		18
Military Hospital	...	30
Ministry of Pensions Hospital		4

Some persons normally resident in Chepstow died elsewhere, and including them and excluding non-residents we find the Urban deaths total 63. This gives a death rate of 13.3 per 1,000.  
Rural:- Similarly corrected Rural deaths number 81 with a death rate of 8.46 per 1,000.

#### Deaths of Infants under one year

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
	14	1	13
Illegitimate	3	-	3
Stillbirths	8	2	6 all legitimate

#### Births

Total live births	84	211
Illegitimate	5	15
Infant Mortality rate	11.9	61.6 per 1,000
Maternal Deaths	Nil	Nil

Diarrhoea under two years caused one Rural death.

Infectious disease caused six deaths; four from Diphtheria, two in each District including a German prisoner, and two from Whooping Cough in the Rural - neither of which were notified before death. No Diphtheria death occurred in an immunized person.





Provision for Maternity Cases.

Generally speaking the expectant mothers constitute the most important group in the community and their difficulties are very rightly regarded as constituting a very serious community problem. That however does not mean that in these Districts a woman expecting a baby has her way made easy. Far from it. The homes are unsuitable in most cases, overcrowding is particularly embarrassing, and fortunate indeed is she who finds a competent woman to manage the household for the month of incapacity. In these respects conditions have been steadily worsening, and more and more expectant mothers are seeking institutional refuge. The limited accommodation available and the grim quality of that provided led to spontaneous popular discontent culminating in the creation of a Joint Committee of both Councils to explore the whole position.

The following were the members of the Committee.

Mr.Councillor A.W.Andrews, Mr.Councillor D.H.Davies,  
Mr.Councillor B.O'Neill, Mr.Councillor A.J.Proctor  
Mr.P.W.O.Linnell, County Councillor.

The history of these efforts is best set out in the following memoranda:-

From the Medical Officer to The Joint Committee appointed to go into the matter of Maternity facilities in the Chepstow Districts.

This was an acute problem a little time ago when there were many evacuees from the London area unable to make any private or institutional arrangements for confinement, and great distress was averted only by the fall of the flying bomb sites. As far as I know whatever maternity provision we had in the County was crowded to capacity and no serious attempt was made to augment it. Your committee really originated in these abnormal circumstances. There persists a feeling, however, which I share, that the maternity provision made by the County is unsatisfactory (apart altogether from this abnormal demand) both as regards the number of beds provided and the general attractiveness of the provision made.

This last point needs stressing, for representations made by you if pressed,might lead to the County Council allotting for instance a ward in Regent House to midwifery and so meet the demand for a greater number of beds. As you know such provision would not appeal to a number of women

# Provision for Maternity Cases.

Generally speaking the important matters connected with the most important group in the community and their difficulties are very largely regarded as constituting a very serious community problem. That however does not mean that in these instances a woman expecting a baby has not any more easy. Far from it. The home are unsuitable in most cases, overcrowding is particularly embarrassing, and furthermore indeed in the time a competent woman to manage the household for the month of pregnancy. In these respects conditions have been steadily worsening, and more and more important matters are seeking institutional relief. The limited accommodation available and the high quality of that provided for spontaneous popular demand subsisting in the creation of a large committee of both Councils to explore the whole position.

The following were the members of the Committee.

Mr. Councillor A. W. Andrews, Mr. Councillor B. H. Jones,  
Mr. Councillor H. O. Hall, Mr. Councillor A. J. Thomas,  
Mr. B. W. J. James, County Councillor.

The history of these efforts is best set out in the following

Memorandum:-

From the Medical Officer to the Joint Committee appointed to en-  
quire into the matter of Maternity Facilities in the Liverpool Hospitals.

This was an acute problem a little time ago when there were only two from the London area women to make any delivery or institutional arrangements for confinement, and Great Britain was served only by the fall of the flying boat ship. As far as I know whatever maternity provision we had in the County was crowded to capacity and no further attempt was made to augment it. Your Committee really originated in these special circumstances. There existed a feeling, however, which I state that the maternity provision made by the County is inadequate (and I imagine from this general demand) both as regards the number beds provided and the general arrangement of the provision made. This last point needs stressing, for recommendations made by you in 1925, right down to the County Council's attention for instance a visit to Regent House in Liverpool and so near the County for a greater number of beds. As yet this such provision would not appear to a number of women



not completely desperate or destitute, and the poor "bookings" might be used later to prove how unsound your claims were.

To be quite fair to the County Council it is as well to look at this proposal from their point of view. They might reasonably take the view that if satisfactory provision could be made (as regards staffing equipment and so on) in such a place as Regent House that would be a lot cheaper than the same provision in a new building, and it might be regarded as unreasonable if you turned down their arrangements simply because it was Regent House. So I put you the question would any provision made at Regent House be accepted? My own view is that it would not. In this the County Council are unfortunate. They are heirs to the old Guardians, who administered certain crude health services - their hospitals were the workhouses where, under hard discipline, a wretched assortment of mental defectives, children, old bed-ridden people and acute and chronic diseases of all kinds were huddled together - nursing and everything else was of a primitive kind - they were in short in last refuge of the unfortunate. Naturally they came to stand for all that was worst in the British way of life and they were hated and dreaded in consequence. There have been vast changes but the old associations linger. The buildings are the same and I still hear many refer to Regent House as the "grubber" or the "spike". Perhaps enough time has not passed or perhaps the changes have not been sufficiently radical. Anyway there it is, these buildings would to my mind prejudice any scheme connected with them.

There may be more in it than buildings. It may be that with the workhouses the County Council inherited some of the workhouse tradition. They have had to provide for the poorest and most hopeless of the community - the mentally defective of all grades and very poor standards meet their requirements, but I think what your Committee have in mind is a maternity home where any reasonable woman in the Community could find conditions in keeping with her general standards - where Mrs X. for instance could pay more and have a room of her own and where a good standard could be assured to everyone - something in other words like the standard represented by the Chepstow General Hospital. Is there much hope that



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read later to prove how unimportant your claims were.  
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proposal from their point of view. They might reasonably take the view  
that if satisfactory provision could be made (as regards staffing  
equipment and so on) in such a place as Baginbun House that would be a lot  
cheaper than the same provision in a new building, and it might be  
regarded as unnecessary if you turned down their arrangements simply  
because it was Baginbun House. So I put you the question would any  
provision made at Baginbun House be acceptable? My own view is that it would  
not. In this the County Council are unfortunate. They are heirs to the  
old Curragh, who administered certain crude health services - their  
hospitals were the workhouses where, under hard discipline, a twisted  
assortment of mental defectives, epileptics, old bed-ridden people and  
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more and have a room of her own and where a good standard would be  
attained in everything - something in other words like the standard  
represented by the Curragh General Hospital. In these words have what

the County Council would make such provision?

I think their one place solely devoted to maternity cases is Llanfrecha Grange (which incidently seems to be in a chronic state of being booked up) - I do not know whether this was purchased and equipped by the Council; it would be interesting to know, as if it were, it would argue progressive tendencies - their other maternity at the Coldra is for abnormal cases only (and it seems to be in the same condition of bed shortage) - this house was a gift and I seem to remember there was delay running into years before the Council got it going although Dr. Rocyn Jones frequently urged the need for it.

What other maternity provision there is I am not sure. It consists of odd beds in institutions - two in Regent House, and as far as this part of the County is concerned an application to the County Hall on behalf of a case bring almost inevitably the suggestion to get into touch with Regent House.

In the most advanced Counties a very high percentage of births are hospital births; in backward areas a very low percentage are. If decent facilities are provided they are appreciated - we saw that before the Shirenewton had been long in existence. I would say that every case would be better in a home than in a private house.

I do not know how the financial argument would go. I would not like to say that a maternity home would be self supporting, it might be and certainly it need involve no great loss. In this connection private enterprise has been discouraged until it is no longer to be reckoned with. The Local Authorities do not like private nursing homes. There is only one I think in all Monmouthshire including Newport and that is small.

The County Council administers the law relating to such Homes and is likely to be administered in such a way as to lead to closure. For instance all admissions could be suspended by the County Medical Officer if a patient chanced to run a temperature - a less serious view would be likely to be taken of such a temperature in their own institutions. I am not criticizing this particular aspect - so many of these homes had nothing to recommend them that on balance their dying out was a good thing.



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likely to be taken of such a temperature in their own institutions. I

am not criticizing this particular aspect - so many of these houses had

nothing to recommend them that on balance their dying out was a good

thing.



But nevertheless this fact lays the greater responsibility on the Council to make adequate provision.

No maternity cases are admitted to the local Hospital. I think other hospitals take a certain number. But that is out of the question here because of accommodation.

It is never a good arrangement to have midwifery cases in small hospitals unless a separate staff and block can be provided - the danger was illustrated here when a patient died of septic infection some years ago and Dr Rhoyn Jones forbade further admissions. I might say in passing that odd beds in Regent House are open to just the same risks but that illustrates what I said previously on the administration of the law.

The position at Lydney is interesting. There the Gloucestershire County Council have added a block to the local hospital and I presume are financially responsible. The good fortune of the people living on the other side of the Wye in this respect should be stressed.

In conclusion - I doubt if the proposed representation to the County Council will prove very helpful.....

From the Joint Committee to the County Council to The  
Monmouthshire County Council.

Dated 5th February 1945

Provision of Maternity Home. Public Health Act, 1936.

The Councils of the Chepstow Urban & Rural Districts desire to bring to the notice of the Monmouthshire County Council the considerable hardship which is being occasioned in this part of the County owing to the lack of suitable accommodation for expectant mothers, and urge them to take appropriate action under the Public Health Act, 1936, by providing a Maternity Home in this part of the County.

It is appreciated that a ward at Regent House has been allotted to midwifery, but apart from the fact that the accommodation is totally inadequate it is felt that a majority of expectant mothers would not avail themselves of this service for the obvious reason that they feel that there is some stigma attached to children born in what was previously known as "The Work House". The members appreciate that considerable facts have been taken to eliminate the feeling of

The Government has taken the greater responsibility of the

Council to make adequate provision.

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hospitals unless a separate staff and block can be provided - the danger  
was illustrated here when a patient died of cardiac infection some years  
ago and Dr. Hargreaves took further examinations. I might say in passing  
that the beds in Regent House are open to just the same risk but that  
illustrates what I said previously on the administration of the law.  
The position of inquiry is interesting. There the Government  
County Council have added a block to the local hospital and I presume  
are financially responsible. The good fortune of the people living on  
the other side of the river in this respect should be stressed.

In conclusion - I doubt if the proposed representation to the County  
Council will prove very helpful.....

From the Joint Committee to the County Council in the  
Hampshire County Council.

Dated 10th February 1955

Provision of Maternity Homes (Public Health Act, 1936).

The Council of the Hampshire County Council has been asked to bring  
to the notice of the Hampshire County Council the considerable  
relationship which is being developed in this part of the County with the  
fact of suitable accommodation for expectant mothers, and urge them  
to take appropriate action under the Public Health Act, 1936, by  
providing a Maternity Home in this part of the County.  
It is appreciated that a ward at Regent House has been allotted to  
midwifery, but apart from the fact that the accommodation is totally  
inadequate it is felt that a majority of expectant mothers would not  
well themselves of this service for the obvious reason that they feel  
that there is some stigma attached to children born in what was  
previously known as "The Work House". The members appreciate that  
considerable funds have been taken to eliminate the feeling of



resentment towards these institutions, but, nevertheless, the old association lingers and expectant mothers feel that an entirely separate building should be devoted to maternity cases.

The members feel that if a suitable maternity home is provided in this area more and more expectant mothers will avail themselves of the facilities, and there is no doubt that the cases would do much better in such places than if confined in their own homes.

At the present time such cases from these districts have to rely on hospital accommodation at Lydney and Llanfrecha Grange and invariably no beds are available.

In September 1941 a private Maternity Home was opened at "Caepwcella" Shirenewton, and remained open until December 1943. During the time it was available 157 cases were dealt with, and it is understood that many had to be refused admission owing to the limited number of beds.

The following table shows the overwhelming percentage of cases of confinements at home, owing to lack of proper facilities.

<u>Year</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Caepwcella</u> <u>Nursing Home</u>	<u>Regent House</u>	<u>Lydney</u> <u>Nursing Home</u>
1941	206	6	21	1
1942	218	71	23	1
1943	174	86	17	6
1944	227	1	21	16

Another important aspect of this application is the fact that most of the dwellings occupied by members of the working classes are unsuitable to confinements at home. There is no need to enlarge on this aspect.

It is felt that there are several large houses in this part of the County which would be available for this purpose, and the District Councils will be only too pleased to assist the County Council by furnishing details.

County Council's Reply dated 27th March 1945.

Maternity Hospital Accommodation.

A special meeting of the County Council's Maternity & Child Welfare Committee was held last week to consider the joint letter submitted by the Chepstow U.D.C. and the Chepstow R.D.C. in regard to the provision of Maternity Hospital accommodation in the Chepstow Area.



management towards these institutions, but, nevertheless, the old association leaders and supporters must feel that an entirely separate building should be devoted to maternity cases.

The members feel that if a suitable maternity home is provided in this area and with experienced staffs will still themselves of the facilities, and there is no doubt that the cases would be much better in each place than if confined in their own homes.

As the present plan with cases from these districts have to rely on hospital accommodation at Lydney and Llantrisant Districts and inevitably no beds are available.

In September 1941 a private Maternity Home was opened at "Cae-y-walia", Whitton, and remained open until December 1941. During the time it was available 157 cases were dealt with, and it is understood that many had to be refused admission owing to the limited number of beds.

The following table shows the overwhelming percentage of cases of confinements at home, owing to lack of proper facilities.

Year	At Home	Cae-y-walia	Whitton House	Lydney
1941	108	8	21	1
1942	212	71	28	1
1943	176	88	17	8
1944	227	1	21	18

Another important aspect of this application is the fact that most of the facilities assigned by members of the working classes are unsuitable for confinements at home. There is no need to enlarge on this aspect. It is felt that there are several large houses in this part of the County which would be available for this purpose, and the District Council will be only too pleased to assist the County Council by furnishing details.

#### County Council's Reply dated 27th March 1945.

##### Maternity Hospital Accommodation.

A special meeting of the County Council, Maternity & Child Welfare Committee was held last week to consider the joint letter submitted by the Gloucester H.D.C. and the Gloucester E.D.C. in regard to the provision of Maternity Hospital accommodation in the Gloucester Area.

Your respective Councils will appreciate that the demand for Hospital accommodation for midwifery purposes is common to all districts of the County, and to meet somewhat the demand in the Chepstow area the County Council are endeavouring to increase the maternity bed accommodation at Regent House.

In this connection the County Council are anxious to destroy the antipathy of some people against entering a 'local authority' hospital, as in these days such views are entirely misplaced. The Council feel that the attitude of the public in this respect is changing rapidly.

Your respective Councils may rest assured that the County Council are doing all that they can be reasonably expected to do to provide additional hospital accommodation for maternity cases.

Resolution of Joint Committee passed May 3rd and sent to County Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- That the County Council be urged to take appropriate steps forthwith to acquire premises, in this area or immediate vicinity suitable for adaptation (when labour and materials are available) as a maternity home for the following reasons :-

- (A) That the need for maternity accommodation in this area is most pressing.
- (B) That a separate building amidst pleasant surroundings and fitted with modern equipment should be provided.
- (C) That Regent House is not a suitable building for maternity cases and it is understood that accommodation there is insufficient for the number of cases of the type for which it was originally intended.
- (D) That in the opinion of this Committee, additional maternity accommodation at Regent House will not appeal to the general public as it is felt that expectant mothers desire to be segregated from the type of patient normally admitted to Regent House.
- (E) That it is appreciated that expectant mothers will not be reluctant to enter a 'Local Authority Hospital' provided it is a building set aside for maternity cases only.
- (F) That premises suitable for the purpose are available or likely to become available in the near future and that there would be no difficulty if effecting an immediate purchase or at least securing an option to purchase immediately such premises are relinquished by the Military or other Government Departments.

That the Committee understand that the under-mentioned premises are available and urge that they be inspected as to their suitability:



Your respective Councils will appreciate that the demand for hospital accommodation for military purposes is common to all districts of the County, and to meet somewhat the demand in the Upper and Lower Counties Council are endeavoring to increase the maternity bed accommodation at Lagan House.

In this connection the County Council are anxious to satisfy the anxiety of many people against entering a 'local authority' hospital, as in these days such views are entirely misplaced. The Council feel that the attitude of the public in this respect is changing rapidly. Your respective Councils may rest assured that the County Council are doing all that they can to reasonably expected to do to provide additional hospital accommodation for maternity cases.

Resolution of Joint Committee passed May 1941 and sent to County Council

- IT WAS RESOLVED:-- That the County Council be urged to take appropriate steps forthwith to expedite provision, in this area of immediate necessity suitable for adaptation (when labor and materials are available) as a maternity home for the following reasons:--
- (A) That the need for maternity accommodation in this area is most pressing.
  - (B) That a separate building might present advantages and fitted with modern equipment should be provided.
  - (C) That Lagan House is not a suitable building for maternity cases and it is suggested that accommodation there is unsuitable for the number of cases of the type for which it was originally intended.
  - (D) That in the opinion of this Committee, additional maternity accommodation at Lagan House will not appeal to the general public as it is felt that pregnant women desire to be segregated from the type of patients normally admitted to Lagan House.
  - (E) That it is appreciated that pregnant women will not be reluctant to enter a 'local authority' hospital, provided it is a building and suits for maternity cases only.
  - (F) That provision suitable for the purpose are available or likely to become available in the near future and that there would be no difficulty in effecting an immediate purchase or at least securing an option to purchase immediately such premises are relinquished by the Military or other Government Departments.
- That the Committee understand that the under-mentioned premises are available and urge that they be inspected as to their suitability:



Mount Ballan, Portskewett  
St. Lawrence House, Chepstow  
The Mount Welsh Street, Chepstow  
St. Maur, Welsh Street, Chepstow  
Hardwick Court, Chepstow.

County Council's Reply dated 30th May 1945.

I duly received the further joint letter dated May 7th 1945 signed by yourself and the Clerk to the Rural District Council, which was placed before the recent meeting of the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee.

Their renewed consideration of the case put forward by your respective district councils have led them to reiterate the views expressed in the County Council's letter of March 27th last.

Whilst the County Council are prepared to examine any proposals put before them and to inspect any premises which may be reported available and suitable, the list of properties submitted by you are either not available or could not economically be adopted for the purpose.

At this stage there was published a survey of the Hospitals of South Wales and Monmouthshire by eminent medical authorities at the behest of the Welsh Board of Health, from which the following extracts have been taken:

Maternity beds attached to Public Assistance Institutions.

"Widely different standards of accommodation and equipment are to be found in hospitals administered by public assistance and social welfare committees and in the maternity wards attached to them. In some a reasonably high standard obtains whilst in others little progress beyond the old workhouse standard has been made. In the least progressive institutions, which cover about 48 maternity beds, the facilities and equipment in the maternity departments are of the barest and, as might be expected there is little pressure on the beds because they are rarely used except for unmarried mothers and for confinements of women of the mentally deficient type. As already mentioned, public assistance and social welfare committees are under a statutory obligation to admit such cases and the character of the accommodation provided is probably conditioned more by the type of patient treated than by any desire to attain a higher and therefore a more expensive standard. Consequently, ordinary patients will not willingly enter such institutions."

"The accommodation for the chronic sick at the Regent House P.A.I. Chepstow, is such as may be found in the worst type of old fashioned Poor Law Institution".

"The following institutions for the treatment of the sick should be discontinued:- The Regent House, P.A.I. Chepstow."

And so the position remains. The Hospital Survey encourages hope of better things. It embodies the plans of acknowledged experts and it is

Mount Nelson, Fort St. Vrain  
St. James Hotel, Denver  
The Mount Nelson Hotel, Denver  
St. James Hotel, Denver  
Harrison Hotel, Denver

County Council's Reply dated 10th May 1948.

I duly received the further letter dated May 7th 1948 signed  
by yourself and the Clerk to the Rural District Council, which was  
placed before the recent meeting of the Maternity & Child Welfare  
Committee.

Their recent consideration of the case put forward by you  
respective district councils have led them to reiterate the views  
expressed in the County Council's letter of March 27th last.  
Whilst the County Council are prepared to examine any proposals put  
before them and to discuss any proposals which may be reported available  
and suitable, the fact of proportion submitted by you are either not  
available or could not economically be adopted for the purpose.

At this stage there was published a survey of the Hospitals of  
North Wales and Northumberland by eminent medical authorities at the  
request of the Welsh Board of Health, from which the following extracts  
have been taken:

"Maternity beds referred to Public Assistance Institutions  
widely different standards of accommodation and equipment are  
to be found in hospitals administered by public authorities and  
social welfare committees and in the maternity units attached to  
them. In some a reasonably high standard obtain while in others  
little progress beyond the old workhouse standard has been made. In  
the least progressive institutions, which cover about 40 maternity  
beds, the facilities and equipment in the maternity department are  
of the poorest and, as might be expected there is little provision on  
the beds because they are rarely used except for married mothers  
and for confinements of women of the manual or agricultural type. As  
already mentioned, public authorities and social welfare committees  
are under a statutory obligation to admit such cases and the  
standard of the accommodation provided is properly conditioned more  
by the type of patients treated than by any desire to obtain a  
higher and therefore a more expensive standard. Consequently  
ordinary patients will not willingly enter such institutions."

"The accommodation for the female risk at the Baginbun House  
F.A.I. Hospital, is such as may be found in the worst type of old  
fashioned Poor Law Institution."

"The following institutions for the treatment of the risk  
should be distinguished:- The Baginbun House, F.A.I. Hospital."

And as the position remains, the Hospital survey encourages hope of  
better things. It embodies the plans of anticipated reports and is in



all to the good that their idea of what is good and bad and what is possible and practical corresponds much more closely to the hopes of the man and woman in the street than does the outlook of the County Council as expressed in their letters to the Joint Committee, and it is reasonable to expect they stand closer to the level at which the financial problems conditioning all such projects must be solved.



all to the good that there is no end to it  
possible and practical arrangements must be made to the  
men and women in the street than does the method of the  
as reported in their letters to the Joint Committee, and it is  
reasonable to expect they should object to the fact as which the  
National Conference Committee all with great care be advised.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SURVEYOR and SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the YEAR 1944.

Water Supply. Three samples for bacteriological and one sample for chemical analysis were taken during the year. All Analyst's reports were satisfactory. The town is supplied by a private company and there is practically 100% piped supply.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal. The system was extended during the year from Welsh Street to Crossway Green and it is hoped that after the War advantage will be taken of the fact by the adjoining Owners to connect up to the sewer.

Closet Accommodation. No conversion work was effected during the year.

Refuse Collection. The Refuse Lorry should be provided with a cover. Salvage sales were as follows :-

Waste Paper. 57 tons 4 cwt. 3 qrs.	...	£351.11. 7
Rags & Sacks 3 " 14 " 1 "	...	35. 6. 0
Iron 3 " 13 " 1 "	...	9. 7. 2
Tins 3 " 9 " 3 "	...	2. 2. 5
Bones 19 " 3 "	...	2. 9. 4
Brass 3 "	...	9. 0
Cartons returned to Industrial use	...	10.15. 0
TOTAL	...	<u>£412. 0. 6</u>

Schools. Satisfactory conditions generally throughout the year.

Inspections made during the year.

To complaints or defects	...	30
Revisits re complaints or defects	...	29
Re Infectious Diseases or Disinfections	...	30
To Shops and food-stores	...	37
To Refuse Dumps	...	15
Re Rodent Control	...	5
Re water sampling	...	3
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	9
To Cattle Market	...	4
To verminous or dirty premises	...	12
To Houses let in Lodgings	...	1
		<u>175</u>

Work Done.

Drainage defects repaired	...	3
Cesspits emptied and repaired	...	1

Notices Served.

Informal under Public Health Acts	...	13
Statutory under Public Health Acts	...	4
Power of Entry notices under Housing Acts	...	2

Shops. No addition to sanitary and washing facilities were effected during the year.

Eradication of Bed bugs. No great difficulties were met with during the year. Two Council houses were dealt with by liquid vermicide spraying.





Rodent Control. The Council's Refuse Dumps were dealt with by personnel from Usk Agricultural College under Contract. The part time appointment of a Rodent Operative was effected in the last quarter of the year. Comment on the results belongs to next year's report. Free issue of bait was tried also. The effective approach to this problem is handicapped by the shortage of labour.

#### Housing.

Dwelling houses inspected under P.H. Acts or Housing Acts	Nil
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	Nil
Number of inspections for the purpose ...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses injurious or dangerous to health	1
Number of dwelling houses not in all respects fit for human habitation ...	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by informal action ...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit by statutory action	Nil

Overcrowding. No action taken during the year.

Lodging Houses. There are now no Common Lodging Houses in the area

Houses let in Lodgings. Remarks as for last year.

Building Bye-laws. Two plans for alterations and additions to existing properties were submitted during the year.

#### Milk.

Number of Retail Purveyors on Register ...	8
Number of Wholesale Producers on Register ...	4

#### Meat and Other Foods.

Condemned during the year and destroyed or used for animal food:-

Nestles Milk	...	5 tins
Evaporated Milk	...	77 "
Sweets	...	24 lbs.
Split peas	...	10 "
Luncheon Meat	...	9 tins
Spam	...	3 "
Prem	...	4 "
Pilchards	...	25 "
Fish Paste	...	11 "
Tongue	...	1 "
Baked Beans	...	21 "
Syrup	...	2 "
Salmon	...	6 "
Ready Meal	...	2 "
Steak	...	2 "
Mackerel	...	100 stone
Megrims	...	40 "
Ray & Whiting	...	5 "
Dried Egg	...	5 packets
Omelette mixture	...	124 packets
Confect. & Sponge cake mixture	...	23 "
Imported Lamb & Sheep returned to Depot	...	121 carcasses
Imported sheep liver	...	149 lbs.
Imported Pig Liver	...	532 lbs.
Seedless Raisins	...	25 lbs.
Loose Macaroni	...	109 lbs.
Rusks	...	20 packets





Ground Nuts	...	...	16 lbs.
Peas	...	...	12 tins
Jam	...	...	3 "
Soup	...	...	5 "
S.R.Flour	...	...	36 lbs.
Bermaline Flour	...	...	560 "
Sausage	...	...	136 "
Cheese	...	...	84 "
Butter	...	...	138 "
Celery Hearts	...	...	1 tin

#### Market.

The statistics for the year are as follows :-

No. of Markets held	...	...	28
Sheep entered	...	...	7,395
Pigs	...	...	1,464
Calves	...	...	1,446
Cattle	...	...	1,190
Carts entering Market	...	...	1,222
Rabbits	...	...	18
Ferrets	...	...	25
Dogs	...	...	8
Fowls	...	...	698
Ducks	...	...	119
Turkeys	...	...	4
Horses	...	...	11
Geese	...	...	29
Goats	...	...	2

#### Conclusion.

It will be seen from the above report that owing to the War real activity in Public Health matters has been absent, which is inevitable in the fifth year of War. Maintenance work has been the main activity during the year.

E. WILLIAMS

4th May, 1945.





CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SURVEYOR and SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
ANNUAL REPORT for the YEAR 1944.

Water Supplies.

Owing to the increased consumption in the Severn Tunnel area, the supply at Knollbury and Vinegar Hill, which are high points at the end of the main became intermittent. To furnish a constant supply to these points, two storage tanks with automatic control valves have been fixed during the Year. As a result a constant supply of water has been restored.

Salvage.

During the Year the amount of salvage material available for collection has shown a steady decline. Appeals to the public have been made at various times through the press, but the shortage of waste paper and textiles in particular is still acute. The position is not confined to this district, but appears to be general. It is realised however, that as these materials are in such short supply in the first instance the falling off cannot be attributed to apathy on the part of the public.

Salvage sales were as follows :-

Flattened Tins	...	23.17. 4
Bottles & Flagons	...	6. 3. 5
Waste paper	...	165.14.11
Jam Jars	...	16. 0
Bones	...	5. 3. 4
Rubber	...	15.12. 6
Metals	...	2. 0. 0
Cast Iron	...	7.19. 0
Sacks & Rags	...	46. 9. 9
Light Iron etc.	...	4. 2. 9
		<hr/>
		£277.19. 0

Closet Accommodation.

6 connections to the water carriage system were effected during the year.

Refuse Collection.

This is carried out by the Council employing direct labour and is confined to the parishes of Portskewett, Rogiet and Caldicot. Other parishes are desirous of obtaining this service, but while the acute shortage of labour persists this is not practicable.





### Schools.

Sanitary conditions have been improved at one school during the year.

### Inspection during the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	78
Re drainage work	...	108
Drains tested	...	23
Re water supply	...	82
Visits re housing	...	150
Re vermin	...	15
Rats and Mice destruction	...	133
Re infectious disease and disinfection	...	54
Schools	...	3
Shops	...	12
Re Air Raid Shelters	...	277
Milk Samples	...	20
Water Samples	...	20
Bakehouses visited	...	11
Visits re Petrol Licences	...	13
Visits re Slaughter Licences	...	3
Re Sewerage	...	35
Building Byelaws	...	38
Re Nuisances	...	30
Post War Housing	...	65
Miscellaneous visits	...	650

### Work done.

#### By Owners after Informal Notices.

Housing Repairs	...	34
Drainage repairs	...	7
Nuisances abated	...	20

#### By Owners after Statutory Notices.

Housing repairs	...	1
Drainage repairs	...	1
Nuisances abated	...	1

### Notices served.

Informal under P.H.Acts	...	28
Statutory under P.H.Acts	...	3

### Shops

No progress in improved sanitary facilities during the year.

### Eradication of Bugs.

Disinfestations have been successfully carried out at 4 premises during the year.

### Rats and Mice.

In August 1944, a Rodent Operative was employed by the Council to deal with infestations brought to light by a survey earlier in the year. Much valuable work was done.





### Housing.

Dwellinghouses inspected under P.H.Acts or Housing Acts	88
Number of inspections made for the purpose	150
Number of dwellinghouses recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
Number of inspections for the purpose	Nil
Number of dwellinghouses injurious or dangerous to health	Nil
Number of dwellinghouses not in all respects fit for human habitation	40
Number of houses rendered fit by Informal action	34

### Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	3
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action (by owners) ...	3

### Proceedings under P.H.Acts.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	1
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action	1

### Proceedings under Sec.11 & 13 of Housing Act 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
Number of houses demolished ...	Nil

### Overcrowding.

Two cases of overcrowding have been investigated during the year.

### Building Byelaws.

During the year 13 plans for buildings and alterations were approved. Certificates of Essentiality were granted in 13 cases where work was required to buildings, the cost of which was in excess of £100.

### Milk & Dairies.

During the year milk samples were taken and examinations carried out regarding the keeping qualities, In the case of failures, these were followed up and advice given regarding the methods to adopt to obtain clean milk.

### Meat & Other Food.

#### Condemned during the year and destroyed :-

Butchers Meat	...	250 lbs.
Tinned Meat	...	15 "
Tinned Goods (meat, soups etc.)	...	47 tins
Tinned Fish	...	24 tins
Cheese	...	14 lbs.
Bacon	...	31 "
Butter	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Jam	...	6 "

### WATER SUPPLY

The parishes of Portskewett, Caldicot, Roggiott, and Undy are supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Chepstow Water Company, distributed through a system of mains owned by the Council. The quality



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and quantity have been satisfactory during the year.

Parts of the parishes of Mathern and St. Arvans are supplied by Chepstow Water Co., through their own mains. The village of St. Arvans is supplied by a small scheme installed by the Council. The quality and quantity have been satisfactory.

The parish of Caerwent and parts of the parish of Mathern are supplied with water obtained from the Chepstow Water Co., and distributed through mains owned by the Monmouthshire County Council. Quality and quantity have been satisfactory.

The parish of Devauden is supplied by a scheme installed by the Council, in which hydraulic rams are employed. The quality has been satisfactory, but during the severe drought of late summer great care had to be exercised to maintain the supply.

The remainder of the district is dependant for water supply on small private schemes and public and private wells and springs. The quality of water obtained from some of these sources has been questionable.

The provision of piped supplies would appear to be the only satisfactory means of ensuring water of a good quality and sufficient in quantity. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to deal with the question of water supplies throughout the district.

Bacteriological and Chemical samples of pipes supplies have been taken during the year and the results were as follows :-

Bacteriological	-	7.	All satisfactory
Chemical	-	5.	All satisfactory

The waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

In one instance where an unsatisfactory sample was obtained the well was cleansed and measures taken to prevent surface pollution.

Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public water main:- 57%

Proportion of population supplied from public water mains:- 49%

Proportion of dwellinghouses supplied by means of stand-pipes:- 3.2%

Proportion of population supplied by means of stand-pipes:- 2.8%

and quantity were found satisfactory during the year.  
Part of the water of the river and the water was supplied by  
the river water, through their own system. The village of the river  
is supplied by a small system installed by the Council. The water was  
found to be satisfactory.

The water of the river and part of the water of the river was  
supplied with water obtained from the river water, and distributed  
through water works by the Municipal Council. Quality and  
quantity were found satisfactory.

The water of the river is supplied by a system installed by the  
Council, in which hydraulic tests are made. The water was found  
satisfactory, and during the recent drought of the river water was  
to be supplied to maintain the supply.

The treatment of the water is described for water supply in detail.  
Various schemes and plans and various wells and springs. The quality  
of water obtained from some of these sources has been found satisfactory.

The provision of water supply would appear to be the only  
satisfactory means of providing water at a good quality and sufficient  
quantity. Various schemes have been proposed to deal with the  
question of water supply throughout the district.

Hydrological and chemical analysis of water supply have been  
taken during the year and the results were as follows:-

Hydrological	1. All satisfactory
Chemical	2. All satisfactory
The water was not found to have increased in quality.	
In one instance where an unsatisfactory supply was obtained the well was abandoned and another source of water was obtained.	
Provision of drinking water supplied from public water works 2.5	
Provision of water supply supplied from public water works 2.5	
Provision of water supply supplied from public water works 2.5	
Provision of water supply supplied from public water works 2.5	



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases have been notified during the year :-

		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	6	18
Diphtheria	...	37	17
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	2	1
Dysentery	...	1	

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register:

Urban:	Males	9	Females	10	Total	19
Rural:	"	33	"	23	"	56

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Urban 6    Rural 11    Mortality    Urban 1    Rural 3

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -								
1 -				1				
5 -								
15 -								
25 -	1	3						
35 -								
45 -	1							
55 -					1			
65 -								

  

0 -								
1 -								
5 -	1			1				
15 -	1	1						
25 -	2	2				1		
35 -				1				
45 -	1				1	1		
55 -	1							
65 -								

Diphtheria Immunization

Immunized during 1944		1 - 5	5 - 15
	Urban	56	49
	Rural	97	37
Percentage of Children			
Immunized	Urban	76.5	82.5
	Rural	84.5	87.3

These figures are considerably above the County average

In conclusion I take the opportunity of thanking your Clerks and Sanitary Inspectors for their assistance, always cheerfully and promptly



given throughout the year. I know the services of all members of the permanent staffs are widely appreciated, but as a part time officer responsible for the only publication of the Councils I may be permitted in the case of Mr. G.D. Spearing to record the members' appreciation of gifts and a standard of duty which do credit to the Local Government service.

I am,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'REILLY



of the Government. I have the pleasure of all kinds of the  
Government and will be glad to see you at any time.  
I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. J. O'Brien

J. J. O'Brien  
J. J. O'Brien  
J. J. O'Brien