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Contributors

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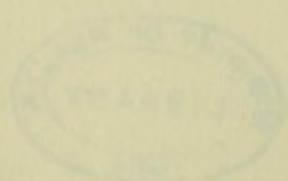
CHEPSTOW URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS.

ANNUAL REPORT
— of the —
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1945



CONFIDENTIAL - EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE RECORD
SUBJECT: [illegible]
DATE: [illegible]



CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for 1945.

CHAIRMAN: MR.J.F.PRICE, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: MR.D.H. DAVIES

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

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

List of Rural District Councillors

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. G.I. Heath, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. J.E. Liddiard

Councillors:

Mr. F. Arnold	...	Mr. W.W. Jones
Mr. R.G. Benjamin	...	Mr. E. Johnson
Mr. A.E. Boye	...	Mr. W.T. Lines
Mr. H.J. Cane	...	Mr. W.H. Margretts
Revd. I. Davies	...	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. R.R. Thomas
Mr. A. Jones	...	Mr. A.W. Wainwright
Mr. R. Jones	...	Mr. F.C. Walker
Mr. W.C. Jones	...	Mr. W. Watkins

Officers of the Council

Clerk: Mr. G. D. Spearing

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J.J.O'Reilly, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

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

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. K. Jolley, A.R.S.I., A.S.I.A.,
(in H.M. Forces pending release)

Water Inspector: Mr. W.J. Hodge

Rate Collectors

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

St. Anns,
Chepstow.

10th October 1946

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I respectfully submit my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your Districts for the year ending Dec.31st 1945.

Generally the health of the community has been satisfactory - there were no serious epidemics or other special factors endangering the public health.

The year will figure with many to follow as a period of very great and rapid change in the pattern of our institutions.

The housing need is our very special and urgent problem. People want from their Local Authorities above all things good houses with modern lighting and sanitation, and having seen the immense achievements of scientists and technicians in the war they are not disposed to be patient with delay and disappointment. It seems impossible to bring the desperate urgency of war to bear on the problems of peace without retaining the conscription and discipline of war time and few would advocate such a programme.

The housing problem at the time of writing (10th October 1946) is summarised elsewhere.

The efforts made here to get a Maternity Home from the County Council failed to achieve anything though there have recently been hopes of a maternity annex at Chepstow and District Hospital. This if it materialises would be a fine gesture even if it be the final gesture of a voluntary institution to which so much devoted work has been freely given by our citizens.

In connection with this hospital problem a disquieting tendency in recent years is the recent threatened breakdown of these essential services from shortage of nursing and domestic staff. There is a social problem here worthy of thought from more than one angle - when this island with its teeming population and increasing unemployment would appear to be incapable of nursing its own sick. No doubt there is an answer and a

22 April
1945

To the President and the members of the
Executive Council

Dear Sirs:

I am very pleased to report on the progress of the work of the

Committee for the year ending 1944-1945.

During the year the work of the Committee has been carried out in
accordance with the plan of work approved by the Council in 1944.
The work has been carried out in accordance with the plan of work
approved by the Council in 1944.

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approved by the Council in 1944.

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approved by the Council in 1944.

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary of the Council

(Signature)

The Secretary of the Council

(Signature)

The Secretary of the Council

(Signature)

The Secretary of the Council

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The Secretary of the Council

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The Secretary of the Council

(Signature)

The Secretary of the Council

solution but meanwhile those responsible are even here feeling the difficulty.

There is no evidence of malnutrition in the Districts. There is a good deal of hardship, usually due to wretched housing conditions - these conditions have gone back perhaps thirty years since the outbreak of war. Fatigue and overwork are all too common especially among mothers of small children; and in keeping with the problem in the hospitals those having sick people on their hands are usually left alone with their sick - there would appear to be almost no female unskilled labour available.

Social Conditions and Vital Statistics

Area. ...	Urban 1,550 acres	Rural 42,459 acres
Population	Urban 4,920	Rural 9,233

Births.

URBAN: There were 93 births, 42 of them in Regent House. There were 22 illegitimate births of which 19 occurred in Regent House.

RURAL: Total births numbered 135 including 11 illegitimate.

It will be readily understood that some of these babies do not properly belong to these districts; for instance most of the Regent House babies are not local, and again a number of babies born in other areas will be reared and domiciled here. So transferring all infants to their proper districts we get the following table :

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>
URBAN	95	49	46	9
RURAL	186	95	91	14

with birth rates (that is the number of live births per 1,000 population) -

<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Monmouthshire</u>
19	20	18.5

Deaths

Urban. 161 persons died here. Most of them were not Chepstow people and these mostly make up the Hospital deaths :-

Regent House	64
Military Hospital	40
Chepstow & District Hospital	12
Pensions Hospital	4
Tuberculosis Hospital	4

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Of the 64 deaths in Regent House 47 (that is about 73%) were persons over 70 years old.

Twelve Chepstow people died elsewhere - some of them as follows :

Abergavenny Mental Hospital	6
Royal Gwent Hospital	1
Monmouthshire County Hospital Panteg	1
Lydney Hospital	1
Prince of Wales Hospital (Cardiff)	1

With the inward and outward transfers we are left with a total of 60 deaths (29 male, 31 female) and a death rate per 1,000 living of 12.

Deaths of infants under one year 3 of which 2 were illegitimate

Rural: 103 persons died actually in the Rural District. To these there must be added 41 who died elsewhere, most of them in hospitals.

Regent House	9
Chepstow Hospital	4
Abergavenny Mental Hospital	6
Royal Gwent Hospital	9
Ty-bryn	1
Children's Hospital, Bristol	1
Sully Hospital	1
Mon. Co. Hospital Panteg	1
Llanfrechfa Grange	1
Rothbury Private Nursing Hospital Newport	1

The "corrected" deaths in the Rural District number 142, giving a death rate per 1,000 living of 15.4. The County death rate is 12.2. The distribution of Rural deaths in age groups is as follows :-

<u>Years</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Number</u>
0 - 10	11	50 - 60	13
10 - 20	2	60 - 70	29
20 - 30	5	70 - 80	37
30 - 40	5	80 - 90	34
40 - 50	6	90 - 100	2

53% were 70 years or over. The corresponding figure in the Urban District was 50%.

Deaths of infants under one year 12, of which two were illegitimate.

General Comment on Deaths. Most of the deaths were attributed to disease of the heart and blood vessels but as most of these were elderly people it often indicated merely death from old age. Cancer caused 13 Urban and 24 Rural deaths; it appears to be increasing somewhat as a cause of death in the country as a whole but the outlook as regards ultimate control is not without hope. A number of deaths are as usual attributed to influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases but in this form they

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don't constitute data of much significance; persons debilitated generally by advancing years, malnutrition, prolonged fatigue or long exposure are always liable to a terminal pneumonia, as are those whose lungs have suffered from previous disease such as complicated whooping cough or measles - it is difficult to identify it as a pure or specific cause of death. In fact primary pneumonia or influenzal pneumonia should in this age of penicillin and the sulpha drugs, seldom kill any individual previously in tolerable health. Tuberculosis caused 2 Urban and 4 Rural deaths; it is dealt with elsewhere. Of the newer causes of death we had an airman killed in a crash at Cophill and a youth crashed his motor cycle on the Tintern road: it is well that people should be generally aware of the preventable tragedies happening daily on our roads and of the complete futility of any steps taken so far to stop them.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, scarlet fever, cerebrospinal meningitis or measles.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease

<u>NOTIFIED CASES:</u>	<u>URBAN</u>	<u>RURAL</u>
Diphtheria	4	4
Scarlet Fever	20	21
Pneumonia	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Measles	72	50
Whooping Cough	11	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-

Comments. The ages of the diphtheria cases set out below, illustrates the tendency of the disease in recent years to spare the child population.

	<u>0 - 5</u>	<u>5 - 10</u>	<u>10 - 15</u>	<u>15 - 25</u>	<u>25 - 35</u>	<u>35 - 45</u>
Urban	-	1	-	1	1	1
Rural	-	-	-	1	3	-

Immunization is generally taken to explain this; I know of no other explanation. One other point I would make - these diphtheria notifications include 'suspects'. So important is it that early diphtheria should not be overlooked that a conscientious practitioner will without hesitation send a doubtful case to hospital. The 'swab' to which the public remain so attached can waste valuable time and often mislead - it has a place, but it is best left to the Isolation Hospital. If a case looks like diphtheria it

should be isolated and treated with serum without delay - that can do no harm and the unconfirmed case will get an early discharge. 1945 was a quiet year as regards immunization. A large proportion of babies on reaching the age of one year are brought for inoculation to the Chapstow or Caldicot Clinics or to their doctor's surgery - no charge is made in either case. A special campaign is planned for 1946, meanwhile the position is not unsatisfactory.

At the time of writing this report questions are being raised as to the 1 safety and 2 value of this procedure. Now as regards safety, we have carried out some thousands of these inoculations in our Districts without any serious reaction and the great majority of children have not been inconvenienced at all. I have seen ill effects attributed to immunization, but the people making the allegations have been so bitterly biased and the charges so gross and improbable as to rule them out of court - it would be a mistake to take seriously such allegations as have come to my notice. As far as our Districts are concerned I have never heard a serious complaint. As regards the value of the procedure the evidence in its favour is overwhelming and must convince any thinking mind sufficiently interested to go into it. We, unlike most areas, have had a striking illustration of its capacity to protect in an outbreak of highly virulent diphtheria which occurred here in 1943 - 44. This epidemic was fully reported at the time and the comparative escape of the child population demonstrated. The great majority of the children had been immunized, and yet from the unprotected minority the three deaths came. So did all the serious cases, and there were many, for heavy fatality was prevented only by the use of serum early and in massive doses - the victims we may fairly claim owed no inconsiderable debt to these Councils then. In connection with this question of safety and efficacy of diphtheria immunization I would point out that all the families of doctors here have been fully inoculated, and there is no considerable body of medical opinion known to me in disagreement with it.

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register:-

Urban:	Males	9	Females	9	Total	18
Rural	"	34	"	24	"	58

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Urban 3		Rural 12		Mortality.		Urban -		Rural 2	
Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0 -									
1 -			1						
5 -				1					
15 -									
25 -									
35 -	1								
45 -									
55 -									
65 -									
0 -									
1 -		1	1	1					
5 -		1	2	1					
15 -									
25 -									
35 -	1			1	2				
45 -	1	1							
55 -	1								
65 -									

The Housing Position to date 10th October 1946. Both Districts.

Urban Areas are generally more forward with their housing schemes than Rural because the houses are usually aggregated at one site and roads, water supply and sewers are more readily available. Chepstow Urban District have two schemes, one to follow the other. Both represent an extension of the original Council Estate with an important difference in that care has been taken to introduce variety in the placing of the individual and groups of houses; there has been a pleasing departure from the unimaginative straight lines of the old estate. There are 42 houses in the first scheme and 82 in the second. It is also proposed (subject to approval of the Welsh Board of Health) to convert St. Maur into 4 flats and to recondition and use temporarily 14 Nissen Huts on its grounds. Work is actually in progress on 36 houses and it is hoped to have completed the first houses by Christmas and to have finished the first scheme by September of 1947. A good deal of care too has been taken to devise the fairest method of allocating the new houses as they are completed and there should be nothing to justify any sense of unfairness. It is good to find that the Urban Council is fully alive to the problem created by

the displacement from the historic part of the town of so much of its population. Future development is to have regard to the future of the old sites and buildings capable of redevelopment and reconstruction and the various possibilities are being carefully watched.

The Rural scheme comprises at Caldicot	22 houses
Tintern	10 "
Rogiet	30 "
Mathern	15 "
Caerwent	20 "
Shirenewton	12 "
St. Arvans	12 "
Undy	18 "
Portskewett	18 "
Itton	4 "

a total of ... 160 houses

No building has yet been commenced but at Caldicot building appears to be imminent and Rogiet and Caerwent should not be much behind. The number of sites has been the great difficulty in this area - each piece of land has meant negotiation, often lengthy, and each site has presented special problems of water supply or sanitation or both. In this connection may be mentioned the frequent complaints arising out of the cesspit system - Portskewett especially comes to mind.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspectors Annual Report to
Ministry of Health for year 1945.

WATER SUPPLY.

One sample for bacteriological analysis was taken during the year and the Analyst's report was satisfactory in all respects.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Trouble was experienced during the year with the outfall sewer at Bulwark wharf and a considerable sum expended in tracing a leakage near or under the G.W.R. line and repairing same.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Three properties were connected to the sewer during the year and cesspools abolished. There is room for more work in this direction when costs and conditions become more stabilised, particularly in the Crossway Green area.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The second-hand lorry purchased during the War is still in service but it would appear that during 1946 it will approach the end of its economic usefulness. A new lorry, when purchased, should have a proper refuse collection body fixed.

Salvage Sales for the year are detailed below :-

Paper	23 tons 15½ cwt.	£151.10.11
Cartons	No. 628	14.11.0
Iron	13½ cwt.	1.10.4
Bones	12½ cwt.	1.10.7
Rags & Sacks	1 ton 12 cwt.	21.4.6
TOTAL		<u>£190.7.4</u>

SCHOOLS.

No action re Sanitation during the year but nevertheless improvements are desirable in the older schools particularly the Boys' School.

INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

To complaints or defects	...	62
Revisits to properties under notice	...	57
To Cattle Market	...	9
To Shops and Foodstores	...	23
To Factories	...	1
Rodent Infestation	...	5
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	...	15
Dirty or Verminous Premises	...	3
Dangerous Structures	...	1
Refuse Dumps and Public Conveniences	...	6
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	11
Water Sampling	...	1
Dairies and Milkshops	...	5
Re-building Bye-laws	...	5
TOTAL		<u>204</u>

WORK DONE.

Roofs and gutters repaired	...	15
Drainage Repairs	...	14
Dangerous Buildings made safe	...	1
Cesspools abolished	...	3
Water services repaired	...	1
Plumbing repairs	...	1
Hedges cut back	...	1
TOTAL		<u>36</u>

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal under the Public Health Acts	50
Statutory under the Public Health Acts	2

SHOPS

No additions or improvements to sanitary accommodation or ablutionary facilities were effected during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's dump at Hardwick was dealt with under contract with the Pestology Dept. of the Usk Agricultural Institute. During the last quarter of 1944 a part time operative was employed jointly between the Rural District Council and this Council. Some twelve premises were dealt with but no large scale treatment of sewers was undertaken. The shortage of staff precluded any large scale block treatment of premises and any works carried out were on complaint and can all be classified as minor infestations.

HOUSING.

Dwellingshouses inspected under P.H.Acts or Housing Acts	30
Number of inspections made for the purposes	60
Number of Houses recorded under Housing Consolidated Regs.	Nil
Number of dwellingshouses injurious or dangerous to health	1
Number of dwellingshouses not in all respects fit for human habitation	30
Number of dwellingshouses rendered fit by informal action	28
Number of dwellingshouses rendered fit by Statutory Notice	2

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Private post-war building commenced near the end of the year with the erection (partial) of four houses in Vauxhall Lane.

MILK

Number of retail Purveyors on Register	8
(One transfer during the year)	
Number of Wholesale Purveyors on Register	4

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Condemnations during the year :-

Nestles milk	...	83 tins
U/s Milk	...	52 tins
Evaporated milk	...	76 tins
Tinned fish	...	72 tins
Tinned meat	...	72 tins
fruit	...	5 tins
Soup	...	19 tins
Beans	...	24 tins
Syrup	...	4 tins
Jam	...	2 tins
Peas	...	2 tins
Sugar	...	378 lbs
Kippers	...	20 stone
Flat fish	...	6 stone
Chocolate	...	132 lbs
Sponge Mixture	...	4 pkts
Butter	...	168½ lbs.
Dates	...	227 lbs.
Lard	...	112 lbs.
Oats	...	72 lbs.
Cod	...	4 stone

Market

Entries at the Cattle Market for the year 1945 were as follows :-

Number of Markets held	...	29
Sheep	...	7,094
Pigs	...	1,712
Calves	...	1,457
Cattle	...	1,482
Vehicles and Carts	...	1,159
Ducks	...	91
Geese	...	58
Fowls	...	563
Dogs	...	6
Horses	...	2
Ferrets	...	7
Turkeys	...	6
Goats	...	3

Yours respectfully,

E. T. WILLIAMS

20/7/46

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year 1945.

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	83
Re Drainage work	...	103
Drains tested	...	34
Re water supply	...	106
Visits re housing	...	138
Re vermin	...	20
Rats and Mice destruction	...	21
Re infectious disease and disinfection	...	28
Bakehouses visited	...	6
Visits re Petrol Licences	...	18
Re Sewerage	...	112
Building Byelaws	...	68
Re Nuisances	...	43
Post War Housing	...	84
Council Houses re Repairs etc.	...	100
Post War Housing Sites	...	54
Interim Development	...	43
Miscellaneous Visits	...	505

Work done :-

By Owners after Informal Notices

Housing Repairs	...	16
Drainage Repairs	...	6
Nuisances abated	...	7

By Owners after Statutory Notices

Drainage Repairs	...	1
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Notices served:

Informal under Housing Acts	...	14
Informal under P.H. Acts	...	15
Statutory under P.H. Acts	...	1
Statutory under Housing Acts	...	1

Eradication of Bugs.

Disinfestations have been successfully carried out at 3 premises during the year.

Housing.

Dwellinghouses inspected under P.H. Acts or Housing Acts	79
Number of inspections made for the purpose	138
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	31
Number of houses rendered fit by Informal action	29

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

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	1
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action (by owners)	Nil

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 Sections 11 & 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

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

Overcrowding

No action has been taken during the year.

Building Byelaws.

During the year 25 plans for buildings and alterations were approved, 6 of which were subject to temporary Licence.

Control of Civil Building.

During the year 42 Building Licences in respect of work of a total estimated cost of £3,709 were issued.
In connection with these works 15 Certificates to Purchase Building Materials and 6 Certificates to Purchase Builders' Manufactured Goods were issued.

Milk and Dairies.

During the year arrangements were made for milk samples to be taken, and producers advised, through the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

Meat and Other Food.

Condemned during the year and destroyed :-

Butchers Meat	...	270 lbs
Tinned Meat	...	24 lbs
Tinned Goods (meat, soups etc.)	...	16 tins
Tinned Fish	...	22 tins
Sugar	...	22 lbs
Tinned Milk	...	39 tins
Dried Fruit	...	25 lbs
Butter	...	8½ lbs

Salvage.

During the year the amount of salvage material available for collection has continued to decline. The position is not confined to this district, but appears to be general.

Proceedings under Section 11, 12 & 13 of the Act, 1934.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served
Number of houses returned by the owners
(in cases)

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(in cases)

Proceedings under Section 11, 12 & 13 of the Act, 1934.

Proceedings under Section 11, 12 & 13 of the Act, 1934.

275 100	...	...
24 100	...	...
16 100	...	...
22 100	...	...
20 100	...	...
10 100	...	...
10 100	...	...
10 100	...	...
10 100	...	...

Proceedings under Section 11, 12 & 13 of the Act, 1934.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served
Number of houses returned by the owners
(in cases)

Salvage sales were as follows :-

Bottles and Flagons	...	24.15. 4
Waste Paper	...	64. 2. 0
Jam Jars	...	2. 9. 6
Bones	...	5. 9.11
Sacks and Rags	...	12. 5. 8
Selected Waste	...	11. 0. 6
	TOTAL	<u>£120. 2.11</u>

Water Supply.

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

The quality of the water (a treated supply) has been generally satisfactory, with the exception of one bacteriological sample. Chemical samples were satisfactory.

In quantity, this supply has been satisfactory during the year, but further development in the area would probably require additional works to ensure a constant supply at peak periods. Consulting engineers engaged by the Council have submitted proposals.

Highmoor Hill, in the parish of Caldicot, is supplied with water purchased from Newport Corporation. Quality has been satisfactory, but a portion of privately owned main through which the supply passes before entering the Council's mains is badly corroded resulting in loss of capacity and consequent intermittent supply at high levels. The Council's engineers have framed proposals for improving this supply.

The parish of Caerwent and parts of the Parish of Mathern are supplied with water obtained from the Chepstow Water Company and distributed through mains owned by the Water Company and 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 of this water has varied, two bacteriological samples taken during the year being unsatisfactory; chemically the water has been satisfactory. The collecting chamber, near the spring, has been cleaned out but the spring chamber should be re-constructed and covered in order to effectually prevent pollution. This work has been included in the Council's proposals submitted for approval for grant purposes.

The village of St. Arvans is supplied by a small scheme installed by the Council. One of the bacteriological samples taken during the year proved to be unsatisfactory and protective measures were carried out at one of the sources of supply. Chemically the water has been satisfactory, but plumbo-solvency has been noted. Iron pipes are in use. As to quantity, the supply has been satisfactory throughout the year.

The remainder of the district is dependent 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 pipes supplies would appear to be the only satisfactory means of ensuring water of a good quality and sufficient in quantity.

Proposals which should result in substantially improved supplies have been prepared by the Council's consulting engineers.

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

Bacteriological	...	11 samples	(Satisfactory 7)
			(Unsatisfactory 4)
Chemical	...	6 samples	All satisfactory.

Mains Supplies.

(a) Direct to Houses. Number of dwellings 1627. Population 5694

(b) By Standpipes. Number of dwellings 92. Population 322

Post-War Water Supplies and Sewerage.

During the year, consulting engineers engaged by the Council have prepared and submitted their report on existing conditions. They have also submitted proposals for improving present schemes and for extending the services. The engineers' report has been provisionally approved and forwarded to the Monmouthshire County Council for their approval and submission to the Welsh Board of Health.

Post-War Housing.

The need for the provision of additional housing accommodation is so urgent, and widely appreciated, as to require no stressing, but it has not been possible to commence the actual work of erecting houses during the year. However, much preliminary work has been completed, and the following sites have been approved or submitted for approval :-

<u>Site</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>
Caerwent	20
Caldicot	44 (22 during firstyear)
Itton	4
Mathera	15
Portskewett	18
Rogiet	30
St. Arvans	12
Shirenewton	12
Tintern	10
Undy	18

In conclusion I thank your Clerks and Sanitary Officers for their assistance and regret that of the latter Mr. Williams of the Urban and Mr. Langmaid and Mr. Jolley of the Rural have left us, taking with them I am sure your good opinions and good wishes, which I certainly share, for their future success.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

J. J. O'REILLY

