

**[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow U.D.C.**

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*Whitehall*

**CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
AND  
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY**

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**Annual Report**

OF THE

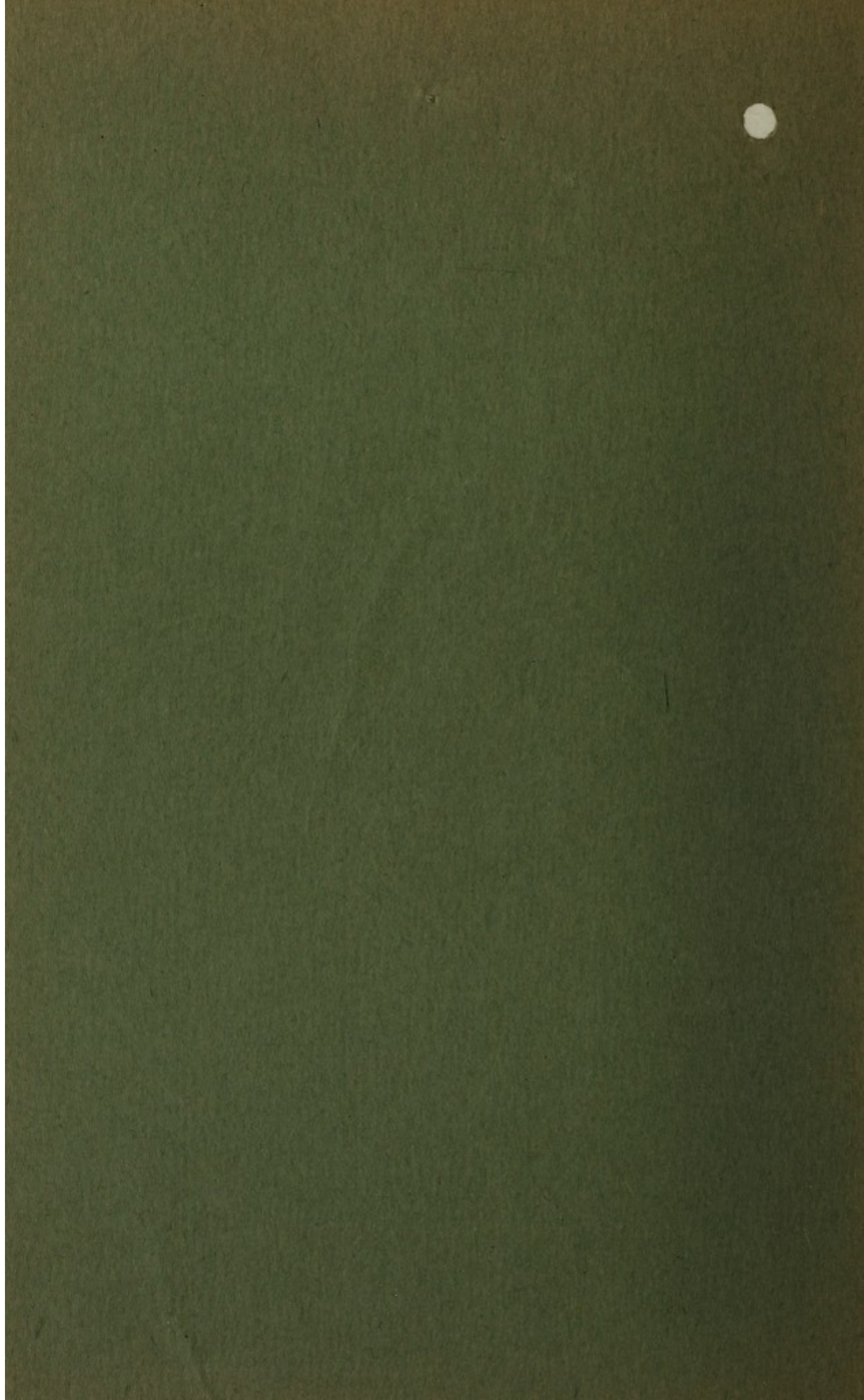
**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR 1937

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CHEPSTOW:  
CHEPSTOW PRESS, PRINTERS, BANK STREET.





**CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AND**

**PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY**



# **Annual Report**

**OF THE**

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR 1937**



**CHEPSTOW:**

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**CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND  
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.**

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*Chairman :* Mr. D. H. DAVIES, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :* Mr. N. F. JAMES.

*Councillors :*

Mr. A. W. ANDREWS

Mr. T. F. H. LANG

Mr. C. H. CLARKE

Mr. R. C. MAXFIELD

Mr. M. FIELD

Mr. J. F. PRICE

Mr. C. HOLLINS

Mr. A. J. PROCTOR

Mr. A. J. JAMES

Mr. R. J. QUINTON

Mr. J. KEENAN

Mr. W. C. THOMAS

Mr. J. WADLEY

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**OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

*Clerk :* Mr. G. A. EVILL.

*Surveyor :* Mr. J. N. JEFFERIES.

*Rating Officer :* Mr. G. J. VINCENT.

*Medical Officer of Health :* Dr. J. J. O'REILLY.

*Annual Report to the Chepstow Port Sanitary Authority.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully submit my report for the Year 1937 regarding the Port of Chepstow.

By virtue of an order of the Local Government Board dated 22nd September, 1887, the Urban District Council of Chepstow constitute the Port Health Authority for that part of the port of Gloucester which is described in the order of 1887.

Owing to certain enactments of the 1887 order, which applied to the Port of Chepstow being repealed by the Public Health Act 1936, application will be made during the ensuing year by the Chepstow Port Health Authority to the Minister of Health under Section 314 of the 1936 Act regarding the constitution of the Port Health Authority. Such order as is made I will include in my next Annual Report.

The Chepstow Port is served by a slip-way. This slip-way is kept in a clean condition, being regularly cleansed during the months April to September.

No coastal or ocean going vessels called at the port during the year and neither has it been used by barges or pleasure steamers throughout this period.

The river bank adjoining the slip-way, which in previous years has been irregularly used as a dump for house refuse, has been kept under the strict inspection of Mr. J. N. Jeffries, with the consequence that no such procedure and no nuisance resulting therefrom has arisen or been reported to me.

There is no effluvia, prejudicial to the health, or a nuisance caused by any trade, business manufacture or process, being discharged into the waters under the jurisdiction of the Authority.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the area under the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. O'REILLY.



ST. ANNS,

CHEPSTOW,

August, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chepstow Urban  
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1937. I thank you for the many recommendations adopted during the year, the expediency with which proposals have been dealt with, and your courtesy, co-operation, and kindness in every matter set before you for your consideration.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAS. J. O'REILLY.

#### **STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

The area of the Urban District, exclusive of water, is 1550 acres. The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1937, was 4130, which is a decrease of 173 on the census figures of 1931, and of 16 on the estimated population of mid 1935. The vital statistics of this report are based on the estimated population for mid 1937.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 according to the Rate Books was 1140.

The rateable value of the district is £23,292, and a penny rate produces £87 7s. 9½d.

Social conditions of the Urban Area are largely influenced by the position of the town which is located in one of the most



beautiful, and fertile valleys of Monmouthshire. It is thus a tourist centre of importance. Being surrounded by such fertile land it is, in consequence, a large marketing town for farm produce and live stock, which market is held every alternate Tuesday. The market is a properly enclosed one and up to date in every respect, being provided with pens, cowstalls, sanitary conveniences, auctioneers offices, weighbridge, and a licensed refreshment room.

Situate within the Urban area are four industries:—The Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, The Beaufort (Dolomitic Limestone) Quarries, The Red and White Bus Company, and the Cambrian Asphalt Co.—all well established and progressive companies employing in all approximately 500 men. The Army Training Camp at Beachley gives employment to approximately another 120 civilians. The number of unemployed persons, though still high, shows a definite decrease on the figures of the previous year. This is no doubt due to the general all round upward tendency of trade and to certain local works in hand such as road re-construction, and the building of a new Cinematograph House. The constructors of this last mentioned have provided for a seating capacity of 810 persons, and are including every modern convenience and equipment for the individual comfort, lighting, heating, ventilation, and, most important, for cleanliness. The building of a fire-station to replace that occupied by the present site of the new cinema is being considered by the Council.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### Births 74.

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Live Birth	Legitimate	70	39	31
	Illegitimate	4	3	1
Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident population 17.91.				
Still Births		2	—	2

Comparing these figures to previous years an increase is seen on the figures of 1935 and 1936. *i.e.*,—

	1935	1936	1937
Figures .. ..	51	68	74
Rates per 1000 .. ..	12.5	16.4	17.91

The number of illegitimate births compared to last year remains unaltered.



**Deaths 76.**

<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
76	48	28

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 18.421.

Compared to 1935 and 1936 this figure shows an increase—

			1935	1936	1937
Figures	..	..	54	48	76
Rate	..	..	13.3	11.6	18.421

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes during the year.

**Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age.**

(a) All infants per 1000 live births	81.08
(b) Legitimate infants per 1000 live births	85.71
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1000 live births	0.0

The distribution of these deaths is shown in the following lists :—

0— 3 months	..	6
3—12 months	..	0

Of these six deaths

1	occurred in	0—24 hours	after birth
1	„	24—48 hours	„
0	„	2—14 days	„
1	„	14—21 days	„
3	„	21—28 days	„

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	6
Deaths from measles (all ages)	..	..	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	0

No unusual or excessive mortality has occurred during the year deserving of special comment.

There has been no epidemic, illnesses or any other sickness or cause of invalidity worthy of mention. The conditions of employment are satisfactory and no instance has arisen wherein occupation or environment has a prejudicial effect on health. There is no evidence that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

### Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, (Part time)	..	Dr. J. J. O'Reilly.
Medical Officer for Ante-natal Clinic	..	Dr. M. Scott.
Nursing Staff.		
Maternity and Child Welfare	.. ..	Sister Webb
		Sister Spencer.
Health Visitors.	.. ..	Sister Webb.
		Sister Spencer.
Housing Inspector re Cleanliness etc.	..	Nurse Miller.
General Nursing (District Nursing Assoc.)		Nurse Evans
Midwifery (Domiciliary Services)	..	Nurse Weston
Fever Services	.. ..	Miss Turney,
		Matron
		Nurse Warren.
Town Surveyor and Inspector	.. ..	J. N. Jefferies, Esq.,
		M.I.M.C.E., M.R.S. INST.

The Laboratory facilities are unchanged and still continue to render their satisfactory and prompt services to the district.

Ambulance facilities are dependent on the provision of an ambulance for hire by a private owner, the fee incurred by such hire being borne by the patient.

Nursing in the home is conducted by the District Nursing Association which is mainly dependant on voluntary subscription. This Association retains a trained nurse—whole time—whose services and untiring attention are well-known to all.

There are no Public Health Treatment Centres in the area. Any case that would in the normal course attend such a centre are referred to the appropriate department in Newport. An ante-natal Clinic, under the direct control of the County Authorities, is conducted by Dr. Mary Scott, whose services in the area are highly appreciated by the mothers of the district. Reference to the Child Welfare Centre is made hereunder.

Regent House Institution is the only Public Hospital in the area. It is maintained by the County Council. The facilities rendered by this Institution are gradually tending in the direction of those of a general hospital. There is accommodation for 57 patients and midwifery to the extent of six or seven confinements annually is conducted in a special ward.



Chepstow and District Hospital is maintained by Voluntary Contribution, and provides a total of 18 beds for medical and surgical cases. This is not at all adequate for the district, with the consequence that many patients obtain treatment—specialised medical and surgical—in Bristol or Newport.

The Fever Hospital which contains 34 beds and four cots is situated in the suburbs of the Urban area and is maintained jointly by Chepstow Urban and Rural Councils. It continues to give satisfactory service under the very able management of Matron Turney and Nurse Warren.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

The duties in connection with this Service are conducted from the Annexe of the Bridge Street School, which serves as the Centre. A weekly clinic is held in these buildings every Thursday between 2-30 p.m. and 5-0 p.m. The centre continues to receive the support of the district and its popularity has increased during this year in which the average attendance per session has appreciably increased. Treatment is conducted on a very minor scale, and its function is mainly advisory and corrective. To the very efficient help of Sisters Webb and Spencer especial mention must be made.

Maternity Services for the District are confined to:—(1) an ante-natal clinic held once a month by Dr. M. Scott, (2) a State midwife for the purpose of the Domiciliary Services of Midwives—Nurse Weston, and (3) Nurse Radcliffe, also a midwife, who practises privately. Dr. Scott is assisted in her work by Sister Webb. The Local Supervising Authority for the area is the County Medical Officer of Health.

Any cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum:—"a purulent discharge from the eyes commencing within twenty-one days from the date of birth" are notified by the doctor in attendance to the Medical Officer of Health who notifies the Infant Welfare nurse of the district. This Nurse visits the case regularly, and effects the early and thorough nursing attention ordered by the practitioner. By this procedure the problem of blindness, in infants and children from this cause is diminishing.

There is no Institutional provision for mothers or children within the area with the exception of the temporary accommodation of Regent House. In such cases when the point arises they are referred to the County Medical Officer of Health for Monmouth, by whom attention and Service is afforded.



Sisters Webb and Spencer are the Health Visitors for the area and in the matter of Child Life Protection they ably assist Mr. Jones, N.S.P.C.C. Inspector for the District. On him falls the main responsibilities for this branch of the work which he continues to fulfil, as in the past, very ably and thoroughly.

Orthopædic cases are referred to the Central Authority in Newport.

There are no registered Maternity or other Nursing Homes in the district.

### SECTION C.

As in previous years the Chepstow Water Co., a private Company, supplies the Urban area with water. This is derived from two sources, viz.,—The White Mill and Rogerstone Grange areas, and is Spring well water. During the year no new sources of supply have been incorporated, as the existing one has been found adequate throughout the long drought of past years. Extension of the system to Portskewett has been agreed on and it is proposed to start the work thereon early in 1938. Chemical and bacteriological examination has not so far been conducted by the Urban Council, but has been affected by the Water Company at six monthly intervals. Examination at three monthly intervals by the Urban Council is contemplated in the forthcoming year.

A copy of the water analyses has been forwarded by the Water Company, and it shows that the supply furnished to Chepstow is highly satisfactory from both a chemical and bacteriological standpoint. Both reports are here given:—

Messrs. The Chepstow Water Co.  
Chepstow.

Dear Sirs,

We hereby certify that we have analysed the three samples of water received from you on December 22nd and find same to give results as follows, expressed in parts per hundred thousand:—

(N.B.—Only two of these samples concern Chepstow  
which are alone quoted).



**"A" White Mill. Chlorinated Water.**

Total solids	..	..	..	15.00
Suspended matter	..	..	..	minute trace
Chlorine	..	..	..	1.20
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			..	0.039
Nitrites	..	..	..	absent
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	..	0.25
Phosphates	..	..	..	absent
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia		..	..	0.007
Hardness	..	..	..	7.04° Clark
Heavy metals	..	..	..	absent

The sample, when received, contained a trace of free chlorine.

Total organisms per cubic centimetre—nil.

Organisms grown on agar at 37° C.—nil.

Organisms of the B coli group—absent in 50 cubic centimetres

B. Enteritidis sporogenes—absent in 50 cubic centimetres.

**B." Rogerstone Grange. Spring Water.**

Total solids	..	..	..	8.00
Suspended matter	..	..	..	minute trace
Chlorine	..	..	..	1.15
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	..	..	..	0.011
Nitrites	..	..	..	absent
Nitrogen as nitrates		..	..	0.08
Phosphates	..	..	..	absent
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia		..	..	0.004
Hardness	..	..	..	2.3° Clark
Heavy Metals	..	..	..	absent

When received the sample was clear and colourless.

Total organisms per cubic centimetre—175.

Organisms grown on agar at 37° C.—25.

Organisms of the B. coli group absent in 50 cubic centimetres.

B. Enteritidis sporogenes—absent in 50 cubic centimetres

**White Mill.**

The chemical and bacteriological analyses show that this water is of a high degree of organic purity and constitutes a first class drinking supply.



### Rogerstone Grange.

The results of the chemical analyses are very satisfactory, whilst the bacteriological examination shows that the colonies developed from one cubic centimetre at 21° C. and 37° C. respectively are comparatively few in number, and that organisms of the bacillus coli group are absent from fifty cubic centimetres of the sample. The water may therefore be regarded as perfectly safe for drinking purposes.

George R. Thompson, F.I.C., F.C.S., *Public Analyst.*

#### Bacteriological Report of Samples on May 4th, :—

	A	B
	White Mill	Rogerstone Grange
Total organisms per cubic c.m.	30	120
Organisms grown on agar at 37° C.	2	5
Organisms of the B. coli group	Absent in 50 c.c.	Absent in 50 c.c.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes	Absent in 50 c.c.	Absent in 50 c.c.

The bacteriological examination shows that each of these samples is of a satisfactory degree of organic purity and constitutes a safe drinking supply.

*Signed, George R. Thompson.*

### Drainage and Sewage.

There has been no extension of sewerage during the year, that extension necessary for the new Housing Scheme being laid in 1936. This is now joined up with the twenty-four houses completed on the St. Tecla Housing site, which completes the Urban Council Clearance Area Schemes 1 and 2.

Sewerage and sewage disposal, for the greater part of the town, is by water carriage system into the River Wye—a tidal river. There are three separate outlets widely separated. Each outlet empties into a large sedimentation tank which is provided with two outflow pipes for high and low water. The high level outlet pipe is equipped with a self closing valve which in the event of very high tide levels as produced by the wind, or Severn Bore would otherwise cause flooding, back pressure, or return of gases along the sewer. The system is entirely satisfactory.

There is a small area of the town viz. :—the Newport Road and St. Lawrence Road area, which is not served by the town sewerage scheme. In its stead each house is served with a cess-pit



process, which is quite unsatisfactory and concerning which many complaints have been received from residents therein during the year. In past years, owing to the many expensive schemes on hand, rectification of this could not be proceeded with. The Council has now however adopted a scheme for extending the Town Sewer so as to drain the above.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The outflow from the Chepstow Sewerage system empties into the River Wye via the sedimentation tanks as described, and the dilution of the effluent is so great that the question of "River Pollution" does not arise. A chemical examination of the effluent has not been made.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

There are no earth closets, trough closets, middens or privy middens in the area. This has been the case for some years past so that no conversions have been affected during the immediate past year. There are a number of closets attached to the remaining Individual Unfit Houses which have no flushing cistern as yet.

The houses in the Newport Road and the St. Lawrence Road district which are served by cesspits, as already described, will shortly be linked up with the main sewer. These cesspits are more than fifty feet from the dwelling house, and there are no wells in this vicinity.

### **Public Cleansing.**

Improvement in Public Cleansing during the year has been effected by the introduction of enclosed scavenging carts of larger capacity than the existing carts, and of a new team of horses. The result of this is that the whole of the town is now cleaned twice weekly with the exception of its outlying suburbs:—Hardwick and Bulwark, which are still cleaned only once weekly. The effect of the "wind problem" on the old type of cart has been removed by the enclosed type of new cart. The refuse is taken to a control tip at Hardwick where a man is employed full time for the separation of the lighter and obnoxious material which is burned in a modern type of incinerator at the tip. House refuse in the town area is removed twice weekly and the streets are cleaned daily.



The adoption by all house-holders of the standard covered type of refuse bin is worthy of mention. The roads and paths are in a well kept condition and free from dust nuisance, 28,694 yards of road being tar sprayed during the year. It is proposed to complete in the forthcoming year the rebuilding of the Bulwark footpaths which work was begun in 1936.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Mr. Jefferies, Sanitary Inspector for the Area, has conducted this work and during the year made twenty-one inspections of insanitary premises, nuisances etc., as follows :—

		Nature	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Result of action taken
Gullies	..	1 Broken, 6 Choked, 1 To be Laid	7	1	Defects remedied
Drain, Inspection					
Covers	.. ..	2 Broken	2	—	Covers renewed
Drains	.. ..	2 choked, 2 defective	3	1	Defects remedied
Unhealthy Pond	..	Stagnant	1	—	Legal difficulties re rectification
Flooding of Houses			1	—	Defect remedied
Defective Roof	..	Slating	3	3	Repairs carried out
Dirty Council House		Rank uncleanness	2	—	Improvement obtained
Bakehouse	..	Uncleanliness	1	—	Limewashed
Slaughterhouse	..		1	—	Amelioration effected
Totals	..		21	5	

### Shops.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, as the ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences have been reported satisfactory.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act 1901, the following table shows the work done :—



**I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances.**

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories .. .. . (including Factory laundries)	6	1	nil
Workshops .. .. . (including Workshop laundries)	nil	nil	nil
Workplaces .. .. . (other than outworkers premises)	nil	nil	nil
Total	6	1	nil

**II.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts. Want of Cleanliness ..	1	1	nil	nil
Want of Ventilation .. ..				
Overcrowding .. ..				
Want of drainage of floors ..				
Other Nuisances .. ..				
Sanitary Accommodation : ..				
Insufficient .. ..	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unsuitable or defective ..				
Not separate for sexes ..				
Total	1	1	nil	nil



### **Smoke Abatement.**

There is not and has not been any nuisance arising from smoke in the area.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no swimming baths or pools in the Urban area but there is a privately owned Swimming Pool (Sea Water) in the adjoining district of Beachley (Gloucestershire). The analyses of the water has always proved satisfactory.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No houses in the area have been found to be infested by bed bugs. Examination of the belongings of tenants of houses in a Clearance area has been effected by the Sanitary Inspector before their removal to Council Houses. As such belongings have been vouched free from vermin and bed-bugs no action has been taken. Disinfestation, if necessary, is carried out by the Local Authority. It is proposed in the coming year to conduct a more exacting inquiry into the question of bed bugs and vermin as the verbal complaints given to me are such as to cause doubt about their accuracy.

### **Schools.**

There are 4 elementary schools and one Secondary school in the district. The sanitary conditions of these are satisfactory. In one instance only may mild objection be raised to the fact that closet and urinal accommodation for girls and boys are enclosed by the same wall. This school, however, caters only for boys up to the age of 7 years and girls to 14 years of age.

Steps taken in relation to the health of the scholar are many :

1. Medical Inspection of the school children is undertaken by the School Medical Officer attached to the County Medical Officer's immediate staff, and the school Nurses visit the Schools approximately every six weeks. The Maternity and Child Welfare centre attends to many of the minor ailments of the Scholar, but as a general rule a form is made out by the County School Nurse referring the child concerned to the School Clinic (Minor Ailments), Newport.

2. Arrangements with hospitals regarding certain ailments, *i.e.*, tonsils and adenoids, orthopaedic cases, etc., are effected by the County Medical Officer of Health from the County Hall, Newport.



3. Cases of blind and deaf children are likewise referred to the County Medical Officer who makes arrangement for their admittance to Special Schools.

4. Children with defective sight are referred by the School M.O. to the Newport School clinic, where glasses or rectification of the eye condition is effected. In certain cases where parents cannot afford a contribution to their cost, spectacles are given gratuitously and even in some very necessitous cases their train expenses to and from Newport are borne by the County Authorities.

5. Defective and carious teeth are also treated at the School Clinic, Newport, to which the child is referred. A considerable amount of valuable work however is done in this respect by the Mobile Dental Clinic which visits the schools in our area several times during the year. Herein fillings and extractions are attended to, as also general dental treatment.

6. For some time past physical training has been taught in the school by the teachers, and special remedial exercises have been conducted if so requested by the School M.O.

7. Follow up of all cases coming under the supervision or treatment of the School M.O. or the County School Clinic is very thoroughly attended to by the County School Nurse.

8. Heating and lighting of all the Schools is not subject to complaint nor are the playgrounds which in a few instances are of smaller area than is desirable.

9. Drinking water is provided in all schools as also water for washing purposes and clean towels. In no school in the urban area however is there a hot water supply.

10. Where a school abuts on a main road suitable protecting railing has been erected at the exits.

11. There have been no outbreaks of infectious diseases in the schools during the year.

### HOUSING.

During the year the erection of twenty four new houses has been completed on St. Tecla Housing site, thus finishing the Clearance Area Schemes I. and II. undertaken by the Council. This leaves a few individual unfit houses yet for complete rectification, and a scheme is on foot for dealing with these.

Five houses have been erected during the year by private enterprise and certificates of occupation were granted. Four of



these new houses are served with cesspits owing to the absence of sewers in the vicinity. As previously stated the Council has adopted a Scheme whereby these houses will be linked up with the Main Sewer at the earliest possible date.

A brief reference is here made to the Clearance Area Schemes I. and II. to show the work accomplished, and this is followed by a similar reference to Individual Unfit Houses.

#### **Scheme No. I.**

Clearance Area	No. of Houses.	No. of persons displaced	No. of new houses provided
Thomas Street No. 1.	44	122	50
Thomas Street No. 2	10	31	
Thomas Street No. 3	2	6	
Welby Place	8	38	
Upper Nelson Street	4	8	

This scheme has been completed, and the tenants rehoused in modern three bed-roomed houses, at an inclusive rental of 5s. 7d. per week.

#### **Scheme No. II.**

Clearance Area	No. of Houses.	No. of persons displaced	No. of new houses provided
Clarence Place	6	16	24
Station Road No. I.	5	16	
Station Road No. II.	4	18	
Davis Court	6	6	
Mostyn Place	5	18	
The Priory	2	16	

The twenty-four houses are now completed and occupied as proposed by the No. II. Scheme.

#### **Individual Unfit Houses.**

To be dealt with either by—

(a) Carrying out works of improvement to the Council's satisfaction, or

(b) Demolishing the premises.



## (a) HOUSES TO BE RECONDITIONED.

No.	ADDRESS	POSITION
12	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 Orchard Place.	Improvements done.
	6, 7, 8, and 9, Nelson Street.	
2	1 and 2, Upper Nelson Street	Improvements done.
2	3 and 4, Upper Nelson Street	Improvements not done.
6	1, 2, 3 and 4, Kendall Square 3 and 4, Lower Church Street.	Improvements done.
8	23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, Lower Church Street	Improvements done.
2	1 and 2, Light's Place.	Improvements not done.
3	6, 7, and 8, Church Road.	Improvements done.
4	2, 3, 4 and 5, Orchard Place	Improvements not completed.
4	14, 15, 16 and 17, Nelson Street	Improvements done.
6	19, 20 and 21, Nelson Street and 12, 13 and 14, Upper Church Street.	Improvements done.
2	Two Cottages at Burnt Barn	Improvements done.
1	Hazel Cottage.	Improvements done.
3	2, 3 and 3a, Steep Street.	Improvements done.
6	1—6, Belle Vue.	Improvements done.
4	8—11, Moun-ton Road.	Improvements cannot be effected until alternative accommodation is provided for families to be displaced.

## (b) HOUSES TO BE DEMOLISHED.

2	8 and 9, The Priory	Demolition Orders to be made as soon as alternative accommodation has been rendered available.
1	9, The Back	ditto.
1	Bungalow at Bayfield.	Premises vacated but not demolished



Under the heading of "Individual Unfit Houses" there were 69 premises considered. Of these improvements have been effected in 53, in four improvements, though in hand, are not yet completed. There remains eight houses to be reconditioned, and I respectfully urge expediency in effecting improvement in these in which living conditions are so bad.

This Council may well congratulate themselves on their Housing problem in having brought so big a scheme, relatively, in such a short time within so small a compass.

### Housing Statistics.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :— .. <sup>29</sup>  
 Number of New Houses erected with State Assistance under Housing Acts.

- |                                |    |    |    |    |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| (1) By the Local Authority     | .. | .. | .. | 24 |
| (2) By other bodies or Persons | .. | .. | .. | 0  |

#### I. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

- |  |    |    |    |    |     |
|--|----|----|----|----|-----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 52  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of these referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4   |

#### II. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	..	..	..	48
---	----	----	----	----



### III. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

#### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after Service of formal notices ..   |     |
| (a) By owners .. .. .  | nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  | nil |

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . | 4   |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :                 |     |
| (a) By owners .. .. .  | 4   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  | nil |

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

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

#### D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .  | nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. . | nil |



## HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV.

## Overcrowding.

The last census for overcrowding was taken in 1936, and the findings of that census are herewith shown.

	Bulwark	St. Tecla	Hardwick	Above Town Gate	Below Town Gate	Totals
No. of Houses inspected ..	194	50	195	147	289	875
Voids .. ..	7	nil	6	2	7	22
Overcrowded ..	nil	nil	4	3	14	21
Percentage of Overcrowding	nil	nil	1.99	2.01	4.72	2.34
No. of Persons in occupation ..	597	150½	635½	435	939	2709½
Average No. of Persons per House	3.07	3	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.09

Since this census was taken only an individual examination has been conducted and as a result of this, overcrowding is found to be gradually abating, many cases indeed (especially where more than one family occupied one house) have remedied themselves by removal of some of the occupants from the district. As matters now stand it is considered a further eight houses will clear up the problem. But whether these eight houses should be of the standard type on the Council's estates or of the Bungalow type is a matter that is at present under the consideration of the Council for the following reason :—It has been found that many large houses have but a single occupant, which building could house without overcrowding, a family at present overcrowded. By transferring the overcrowded family to the large house and its single occupant to a bungalow a big saving in a further building programme could be effected and the overcrowding nuisance satisfactorily abated. Thereafter should overcrowding occur, the landlords will be responsible under the Acts as their rent books should indicate the permitted number of occupants, and any violation becomes their responsibility.



- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. . 4  
 (2) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. . 4  
 (3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. . 21  
 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. . 1  
 (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. . 4  
 (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 20½  
 (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding nil  
 (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report:—One house, reported during the year as overcrowded to the extent of ½ person was licensed to be overcrowded for 12 months to the extent of one person. The owner of the premises is understood at present to be seeking possession under The Small Tenements Recovery Act.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

There are four wholesale producers and eight retailers. Accredited milk is supplied by two vendors. Samples of milk examined during the year all proved to be satisfactory. There are four cow-sheds to which twenty four visits of inspection have been made.

### Meat and other Foods.

There are four registered Slaughterhouses, all of which have been frequently inspected during the year and found satisfactory. Action taken with regard to meat and other foods is shewn in the table herewith.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding			Sheep and	
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	—	406	182	2784	546
Number Inspected ..			About 20%		



**All diseases except Tuberculosis**

Whole carcasses condemned	}	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.		

**Tuberculosis Only**

Whole carcasses condemned	}	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. .. .		
Fish .. .. .	}	NIL
Bottled and Tinned foods ..		
Bacon .. .. .		
Offal, etc. .. .. .		
Cooked Meat .. .. .		
Fruit .. .. .		
Miscellaneous .. .. .		

**Adulterations, etc.**

No action has been taken during the year under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, no cases having arisen.

**Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Food is carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. G. Rudd Thompson, F.I.C., and by the Pathologist to the County Council, in the County Council laboratory.

**Nutrition.**

By means of pamphlets, illustrated literature, and advice from the Medical Officers and Sisters attached to the Ante-Natal and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics information on this subject has been given to mothers. There is a Domestic Economy and Cookery Class held in The Annexe of the Bridge Street School where, amongst other subjects, information of Nutrition and the relative nutritive value of foods is given to Senior girls.



### Shell-fish.

There are no shell-fish-beds in the area.

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

There was no undue prevalence of Infectious disease throughout the year. The incidence in fact of scarlet fever and diphtheria was markedly less than that of 1936.

All cases of diphtheria, with one exception, were of the faucial type, and diphtheria anti-toxin was administered within a few hours of detection. This case which was one of the laryngeal type required surgical interference—tracheotomy—but despite all effort died of further complications.

Scarlatina Benigna was the only type of Scarlet Fever seen and all responded satisfactorily to treatment. None were complicated by diphtheria, or any of the many complications associated with this disease. Because of the possibility of diphtheria arising so late in this disease (4th week) as a complication, precaution in this direction has been taken by keeping the patients under supervision for six weeks. No relation has been observed during the year between the various forms of streptococcal infections.

There were two cases of pneumonia—one of which terminated fatally.

During the year the Urban Council considered the Scheme submitted by the Monmouthshire County Council regarding the construction of a new Fever Hospital or of extensions to the existing one. They, however did not adopt the Scheme as they considered the accommodation furnished by the existing Hospital was adequate.

The accommodation furnished by the existing hospital consists of 34 beds and four cots and caters adequately for the Chepstow urban and rural districts.

No action has been taken to shorten the period of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever by nursing and supervision at home. This is so by reason of the parents unwillingness to have children home for further nursing and supervision, the danger of the return case, and also from the fact that a typical diphtheria (non-membranous) is a definite late, though rare, occasional complication of that disease.



Influenza incidence during the year has been sporadic and these of a mild type occasioning no especial Public Health precautions. No new decision regarding the admission of cases to hospital has been made.

Immunisation against diphtheria has been conducted during the year in the various schools of the Urban area and also in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic. Facilities for such work was made by the Welsh Board of Health. No preliminary Schick test was performed as most of the children concerned were under 9 years of age. A course of three injections, each 1 c.c., of Evans Sons, Lescher and Webb, T. A. F. was administered, having first obtained the parents written permission to such a procedure. Every possible assistance was rendered by the Principals and teachers of each school, and for such help I register sincere thanks. In all 338 children were immunised by this method. It is proposed to Schick test these children in the coming year when the findings will be incorporated in my next Annual report.

Measles serum has been used in one case which showed meningitic complications. After such treatment the patient rapidly and completely recovered.

There have been no cases of locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, glandular fever or psittacosis.

DISEASE	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox .. .. .	nil	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	7	7	nil
Diphtheria .. .. .	10	10	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	nil	nil	nil
Pneumonia .. .. .	2	nil	1
Other diseases generally notifiable ..	nil	nil	nil
Other diseases notifiable locally ..	nil	nil	nil



**Analysis of the total Notified cases under age groups.**

SCARLET FEVER			DIPHTHERIA			PNEUMONIA		
Years	Cases	Dths.	Years	Cases	Dths.	Years	Cases	Dths.
Under 1	nil	nil	Under 1	nil	nil			
1—3	nil	nil	1—5	nil	nil			
3—4	1	nil	5—10	3	nil			
5—10	3	nil	10—15	3	nil			
10—15	1	nil	20—35	2	1	1—35	1	nil
15—20	2	nil	35—45	1	nil	35—45	nil	nil
			45—65	1	nil	45—55	1	1
Total	7	nil	Total	10	1	Total	2	1

Fumigation of premises after removal of infectious cases to either Hospital or Sanatorium was effected and numbered 17 premises.

**Prevention of Blindness.**

The methods of Prevention of Blindness in the Infant and School child have been referred to under their appropriate headings. For such in the adult, however, the County Council, which is the Local Authority, are empowered to make such arrangements as they think desirable for assisting in the prevention of blindness and in particular for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within their area who are suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. Where blindness or threatened blindness is due to a specific cause (tuberculosis or lues) any cases that arise are referred to and treated at the appropriate clinics provided by the County.

There are no recipients of old age pensions for the blind at the age of fifty (1920 Act) within the Urban area.

**Tuberculosis.**

Tuberculosis Services for the area are conducted by the East Monmouthshire Branch of the King Edward VII Welsh National



Memorial Association. Dr. A. Carveth Johnson, Tuberculosis Officer for East Monmouth visits the area for the domiciliary supervision of all cases from this area on his lists, and for the investigation and confirmation of all actual or suspected cases reported to him. No instance has arisen necessitating action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade., or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, concerning the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

**New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1937.**

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5 years	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	nil
5—25	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
25—35	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
35—45	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil
45—55	1	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	nil	nil
55—65 yrs. and upwards	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	2	nil	nil	1	1	nil	1	nil

All deaths from tuberculosis have been amongst notified cases, the two deaths herein noted having occurred outside the district.

In conclusion I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and your Clerk for their unfailing courtesy and loyal co-operation on all occasions.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. O'REILLY.











