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Contributors

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CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1949

GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, MON.,

31st JULY, 1950.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman.

Mr.Councillor A.J.James J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Mr.Councillor J.F.Price.

COUNCILLORS :

Mrs.M.Collins J.P.

Mr.D.H.Davies.

Mr.C.Hollins.

Mr.W.G.James.

Mr.T.F.H.Lang.

Mr.C.E.A.Morgan.

Mr.A.T.B.O'Neill.

Mr.W.Powell-Tuck.

Mr.L.Price.

Mr.A.J.Proctor.

Mrs.S.B.Rees.

Mr.S.J.Richards.

Mr.H.I.Waters.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr.A.Gill.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Mr.H.Hewetson.

Rating Officer and Collector.

Mr.G.J.Vincent.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr.E.N.Dowell.

Chepstow Urban District Council

TELEPHONE No. 857.

Gate House,

Chepstow, Mon.

31st July, 1950.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Chepstow Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E.N.DOWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres)		1,350
Population.	1931 Census.	4,303
	Registrar General's estimate mid 1948.	5,040
	Registrar General's estimate mid 1949.	5,020

Number of Inhabited premises :-

Houses, cottages etc.,	1,111
Temporary units (Converted concrete hutments, Nissen Huts etc.,)	46
Business Premises with housing accommodation.	76
Licensed Premises.	25
Private Hotels.	1
Hostels.	2
Hospitals.	4
<u>Total.</u>	<u>1,265</u>

Rateable Value @ 31st December, 1949. £29,179

Product of a ld. Rate.	Actual 1948/49.	£111. 8. 6.07d.
	Estimated 1949/50.	£113. 2. 6.

Rates levied for the financial year ending 31st March, 1950:-

	s. d.
Chepstow Urban District Council.	5. 5.
Monmouthshire County Council.	10. 0.
South Monmouth Assessment Committee.	1.
<u>Total.</u>	<u>15. 6.</u>

BIRTHS.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate.	36	47	83
Illegitimate.	1	2	3
	<u>37</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>86</u>
	<u>Year 1949</u>	<u>Year 1948.</u>	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	17.3	18.2	
Corresponding rate England and Wales.	16.7	17.9	
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.	18.2	19.2	

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate.	1	2	3
		<u>Year 1949</u>	<u>Year 1948.</u>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population.		0.598	0.6
Corresponding rate England and Wales.		0.39	0.42
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.		0.58	0.51

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths in first year of life. (legitimate.)	-	1	1
		<u>Year 1949</u>	<u>Year 1948.</u>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births.		11.63	54.3
Corresponding rate England and Wales.		32	34
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.		42.7	43.7

DEATHS.

Total Deaths.		⁴⁸ <u>Year 1949</u>	<u>Year 1948.</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 population.		9.56	7.7
Corresponding rate England and Wales.		11.7	10.8
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.		12.1	11.1
Maternal Mortality.		-	
Deaths from Tuberculosis			
Respiratory system.		1	
" Influenza.		2	
" Cancer.		5	
" Heart Diseases.		16	
" Intra-vascular lesions.		6	
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		-	

<u>Ages at death of children under one year of age.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
7 months - Congenital Pulmonary Stenosis,)	
Acute Bronchitis.)	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total number of cases notified during the year. (All over one year.)	5
Number of cases removed to hospital during the year.	2

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Number admitted to Hospital	DEATHS.		
	AGE GROUPS														AGE GROUPS		
	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	Total		45	65 & Over	Total.
Diphtheria.													-				
Scarlet Fever.		1	2	3	1	1							8	4			
Enteric Fever.																	
Pneumonia.															2	2	
Puerperal Fever.																	
Cerebro Spinal Fever.																	
Acute Poliomyelitis.																	
Encephalitis.																	
Dysentery.																	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1												1				
Puerperal Pyrexia.																	
Measles & German Measles.	1			1									2				
Whooping Cough.																	
Infective Hepatitis.									1	1			1	1		1	
Influenza.																	
TOTALS.	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	5	1	2	3

HOUSING.

Pre-War.

To house the 295 persons displaced from the 11 Clearance Areas dealt with by the Council under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930 74 houses (3 bedroom non-parlour type) were erected by the local authority in the years 1935 - 1937.

Post-War.

It is pleasing to report that progress made during the past twelve months is infinitely more satisfactory than during any similar period since the Council embarked upon their post-war housing programme. Not only were there visible signs of a larger number of houses in course of erection but negotiations had been concluded for the erection of 80 Cornish Unit Dwellings and it was anticipated that work would commence early in 1950 and the contract completed within twelve months. This attractive type of prefabricated permanent house can be speedily erected and a contract of this size will go far to alleviate the dire need of approximately one quarter of the "live" applications on the waiting list for housing accommodation. The roads and sewers on the site upon which the 80 Cornish Units are to be erected have already been laid.

At the 31st December, 1949 post-war schemes had reached the following stages:-

	<u>Number of Houses.</u>
Completed and occupied.	43
Roofed and plastered.	7
Roofed but not plastered.	12
At eaves level.	<u>6</u>
<u>TOTAL</u> completed or under construction.	<u>68</u>

Having regard to the arrangements in hand for other schemes and the efforts being made to plan well in advance of housing allocations made by the Ministry I am confident that I will be able to present even more gratifying figures in my Report for 1950.

Negotiations have been commenced by the Council for the purchase of 22 acres of land at Bulwark and tentative proposals for development include, in addition to the provision of houses, shops with accommodation over, open spaces, community centre and the reservation of land for places of worship to meet the needs of the rapidly developing self contained residential unit of Bulwark.

Although the Council have, and rightly so, decided that their first duty in the matter of the provision of housing accommodation must be to meet the requirements of the applicants with the greatest need, i.e. those with children living in overcrowded conditions, applicants or members of their family suffering from tuberculosis etc., the peculiar need of the aged has

not been forgotten. It is the Council's intention eventually to rebuild in some of the derelict areas of the old part of the town. Small dwellings near to the business centre of the town will be erected thus utilising land of which full use is not being made and at the same time meet the requirements of the old people, but it is inevitable that some considerable time must elapse before the schemes can be undertaken.

Temporary Housing Accommodation.

No temporary prefabricated dwellings have been erected by the Council but, with the approval of the Welsh Board of Health, the undermentioned temporary dwelling units have been provided:-

St. Maur College - converted into five flats.	5
St. Maur - Nissen Huts converted.	12
Bulwark Camp - converted concrete hutments.	<u>34</u>
<u>Total.</u>	<u>51</u>

In addition a contract has been let for converting more hutments at Bulwark Camp into 18 dwelling units and it is anticipated that a contract for a further similar number will be arranged within the course of the next few months, bringing the total to 87.

Housing Associations.

Under the powers contained in Sections 93 and 94 of the Housing Act, 1936 the Council entered into an agreement with the Red & White Housing Association in respect of six houses erected in Cromwell Road, Bulwark as a result of which the Association receive the Exchequer Grant of £16. 10. 0. per annum in respect of each house.

The Council have made a loan of £7,020 to the Association.

The six houses were completed and occupied during the twelve months covered by this Report.

The Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 - 1923.

During the year the Council agreed to make four advances under the Acts totalling £7,108. The Acts were adopted on the 28th January, 1946.

Post-War Housing by Private Enterprise.

At the 31st December, 1949 seven houses had been completed and occupied by private enterprise and three more were in course of erection.

Allocation of Council Houses.

It is both interesting and gratifying to note that from the outset the Council's "points scheme" used for selecting tenants both for temporary

and permanent accommodation contained the main features of the recommendations made in the 3rd Report of the Housing Management sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee. It has been their constant endeavour to ensure that those applicants with the greatest need receive priority. A card index system is maintained to keep an accurate and up-to-date record of the needs of each applicant and immediate effect is given to changes of circumstances which are reported. All applicants are furnished with a copy of the "points scheme" together with details of the points for which they qualify. This very fair method enables each applicant to check the accuracy of the treatment of his application and keeps him informed of the system which his local authority has adopted in the invidious task of selecting tenants from a long list containing so many deserving cases.

Demand for Permanent Accommodation.

At the 31st December, 1949 there were 251 "live" applications for accommodation.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Water Supply.

This has proved very satisfactory, and was maintained in sufficient quantity through the period of severe drought. 8 samples were taken and submitted for analysis, all proving satisfactory.

Sewerage.

All outfalls and main sewers have received careful inspection and are working in a satisfactory manner.

Meat and Other Foods.

Although most of the food premises are working under hygienic conditions, meat deliveries to this area give rise to some anxiety. The quality is, in the majority of instances, good, but it very frequently arrives in a filthy condition, and it is to be hoped that, following the representations made by various bodies to the Ministry of Food, this matter will be remedied in the near future.

The undermentioned goods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Butter	...	...	...	$4\frac{3}{4}$	lbs
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	12	lbs
Brawn	...	...	...	3	lbs
Bacon	...	...	...	$23\frac{1}{2}$	lbs
Fish - Mackerel	...	...	...	31	stones
Whiting	...	...	...	5	stones

Tinned goods surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

Evaporated Milk	...	...	19 tins
Pea Soup	...	...	1 "
Tomato Juice	...	...	1 "
Peas	...	...	1 "
Beans	...	...	5 "
Beetroot	...	...	4 "
Carrots	...	...	1 "
Tomatoes	...	...	4 "
Salmon Grade II	...	...	1 "
Sardines.	...	...	3 "
Grapes	...	...	12 "
Pears	...	...	2 "
Peaches	...	...	4 "
Marmalade	...	...	2 "
Jam	...	...	1 "
Coffee	...	...	1 "
Salad Cream	...	...	1 "
Gravy Browning	...	...	2 packets

General Inspections.

The general structural condition of the dwellings in that part of the town situate within the perimeter of the Port Walls is not good, and has been aggravated by continued restrictions on supplies. Essential repairs however have been maintained and it is hoped that further improvement can be carried on during the ensuing months.

In this connection it is also hoped that sanitary arrangements in the hotels throughout the town will be improved, providing separate accommodation in all cases for the different sexes. The co-operation of the owners has in all cases been forthcoming, the difficulty lying in the shortage of materials, particularly timber, and the restrictions of capital expenditure controlled by the Licensing Scheme of the Ministry of Works.

Complaints received	...	...	74
Visits made	...	...	74
re-visits made	...	...	290
Nuisances found	...	...	95
Nuisances remedied	...	...	93
Nuisances in hand	...	...	2
Informal Notices served	...	...	74
Formal Notices served	...	...	Nil
Cattle Market - visits	...	...	12
Butchers' Shops visited	...	...	12
Other Shops visited	...	...	27
Food premises visited	...	...	9
Defects found	...	...	6
Defects remedied	...	...	6
Factories visited	...	...	9
Defects found	...	...	7
Defects remedied	...	...	7

Rodent Control visits	...	...	15
Premises disinfected	...	...	7
Public Conveniences	...	...	18
Hotels	...	...	8

Milk and Dairies.

Retailers	...	...	4
Wholesalers	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	9

Rodent Control.

This function has been carried out regularly and has included test baiting and poisoning on the Refuse Tip and Sewers, with beneficial results.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

During the year one Male (Blind - aged 81) and one Female (aged 74) who were living in insanitary conditions and who were unable to devote to themselves, and who were not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention were dealt with by the Council under the powers contained in the abovementioned Act and Section.

After consultation with the Monmouthshire County Council arrangements were made for the two persons concerned to be received into Part III accommodation in the event of the Justices granting the Orders. The appropriate notices having been served the man and woman were interviewed by officials of the Council and of the County Council in an effort to persuade them to enter the Part III accommodation voluntarily and so avoid appearance in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The male responded to these approaches and in his case the application to the Court was withdrawn. In the case of the female, however, it was necessary to make formal application to the Justices for an Order which was granted ordering her removal to and detention in the Part III accommodation for the maximum period of three months. In an effort to save her the ignominy of a forceful removal the order was not executed immediately and further visits were made to her. Eventually she intimated that she would enter the accommodation provided on a voluntary basis and did so. The order was not, therefore, formally executed.

The members of the Council expressed their appreciation of the tactful and sympathetic manner in which the officials dealt with the cases.

Both parties continue to reside in accommodation provided by the Monmouthshire County Council.

12	...	...	Robert Control visits
7	...	...	Prisoners distributed
10	...	...	Prisoners distributed
5	...	...	Prisoners distributed

Milk and Oil

12	...	...	Robert Control visits
7	...	...	Prisoners distributed
10	...	...	Prisoners distributed
5	...	...	Prisoners distributed

Robert Control

This document has been carried out regularly and has included test
 eating and poisoning on the Robert Control, with beneficial results.

EXPERIMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS, 1944

Section IV - Research to establish presence of persons in room of care and protection.

During the year one male (Billie - aged 31) and one female (aged 24) who
 were living in temporary conditions and who were unable to leave the institution,
 and who were receiving from Robert Control, proper care and attention were
 placed with the Control under the power conferred in the experimental and
 test results.

After consultation with the Administrative County Council arrangements
 were made for the two persons concerned to be received into the institution
 immediately on the basis of the institution granting the release. The appropriate
 persons having been named the man and woman were interviewed by officials of
 the Council and the County Council in an effort to persuade them to enter
 the institution voluntarily and to avoid opposition in the County of
 the County Council. This matter was referred to those agencies and in this case
 the application to the County was withdrawn. In the case of the female, however,
 it was necessary to make formal application to the institution for an order which
 was granted ordering her removal to and admission in the institution for the purpose
 for the maximum period of three months. In an effort to save for the agency
 of a formal removal the order was not executed immediately and further visits
 were made to her. Eventually she indicated that she would enter the
 institution provided on a voluntary basis and did so. The order was not,
 therefore, formally executed.

The members of the Council expressed their appreciation of the results
 and expressed a desire to have the officials deal with the case.

Both parties continue to reside in accommodation provided by the
 Administrative County Council.

