

**[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Chepstow (Wales). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1951

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a3fpjpme>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

---



GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, MON.

September 1952.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman.

Mr. Councillor J.F. Price.J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Councillor S.B. Rees.

COUNCILLORS :

Mr. A.J. James.

Mr. D.H. Davies.

Mr. S.J. Ryan.

Mr. W.G. James.

Mr. T.F.H. Lang.

Mr. G.E.A. Morgan.

Mr. S.J. Richards.

Mr. W. Powell-Tuck.

Mr. L. Price.

Mr. P. Powell-Tuck.

Mrs. M. Collins.

Mr. A.J. Proctor.

Mr. H.I. Waters.

---

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. A. Gill.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. E. McC. Taylor.

Rating Officer and Collector.

Mr. G.J. Vincent.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E.N. Dowell.

---

---

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gate House,

Chepstow, Mon.

September 1952.

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  
December, 1951.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.



VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)		1,350
Population.	1931 Census	4,303
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1950.	5,020
	Registrar General's estimate Mid 1951.	5,317

Number of Inhabited premises:-

Houses, cottages etc.,	1,232
Temporary units (Converted concrete hutments, Nissen huts etc.,)	100
Business Premises with housing accommodation.	76
Licenced Premises.	25
Private Hotels,	--
Hostels.	1
Hospitals.	4
	-----
Total:	1,438
	-----

Ratable Value @ 31st December, 1951. £30,514

Product of ld. Rate Actual 1950/51. £109. 5. 6.224  
Actual 1951/52. £116.18. 6.15

Rates levied for the financial year ending 31st March, 1952:-

	s. d.
Chepstow Urban District Council.	6. 2.
Monmouthshire County Council.	<u>10. 6.</u>
Total:	<u>16. 8.</u>

BIRTHS.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate.	39	45	84
Illegitimate.	—	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	39	46	85
	—	—	—

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	1	-	1

In 1950 there was one still birth.

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
--------------------------	--------------	----------------	---------------

Deaths of Infants under  
1 year of age.

Legitimate.		1	1
Illegitimate.		1	1

Deaths of Infants under  
4 weeks of age.

Legitimate.		1	1
Illegitimate.		1	1

The number of infants dying under the age of 1 year in 1950 was 7, and two of these were due to Whooping Cough.

The following gives a list of infant deaths under 1 year of age giving age at and cause of death:-

(1)	22 hours.	Prematurity.
(11)	1 hour.	Prematurity.

#### DEATHS.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	34	25	59

The total deaths for 1950 was 59.

There were no deaths as a result of Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion.  
There were no deaths from this cause in 1950.

Table I gives a classification of the causes of death and the number of deaths attributed to each cause.

## GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

### DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

### IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of primary inoculations was 69 and re-inoculations 131.

### SCARLET FEVER.

One case of scarlet fever was notified as against 12 in 1950.

### MEASLES.

32 notifications were received and these were notified in the first quarter of the year. In 1950, 78 notifications were received.

### WHOOPING COUGH.

6 notifications were received.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year:-

- |       |        |               |             |
|-------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| (i)   | Male   | Age 56 years. | Lungs       |
| (ii)  | Female | Age 3 years.  | Meningitis. |
| (iii) | Male   | Age 22 years. | Lungs.      |
| (iv)  | Female | Age 21 years. | Lungs.      |
| (v)   | Female | Age 24 years. | Lungs.      |
| (vi)  | Female | Age 73 years. | Lungs.      |

(vi) was admitted to Regent House from Six Bells and was discovered to be suffering from Tuberculosis on admission. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

### ACUTE INFECTIVE ENCEPHALITIS.

This occurred in a man age 60 years, who was employed at the Beachley Army Apprentice School. He had been in contact with what was reported to be Poliomyelitis.



<u>DEATHS 1951.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	1	
Malignant Neoplasm.		2
Stomach.		
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung. Bronchus.	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	5	7
Coronary disease, angina.	3	2
Other heart disease.	6	7
Other circulatory disease.	3	1
Influenza.	3	2
Pneumonia.	1	-
Bronchitis.	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	2
All other accidents.	-	1
Suicide.	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
All causes.	34	25

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

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													Total all ages.	DEATHS													Total all ages.	No. admitted to Hosp'tl.
	AGE GROUPS.														AGE GROUPS.														
	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over				
Diphtheria.																													
Scarlet Fever.						1																						1	
Enteric Fever.																													
Pneumonia.																												1	
Puerperal Fever.																													
Cerebro Spinal Fever.																													
Acute Poliomyelitis.																													
Enceph. Lethargica.																													
Dysentery.																													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.																													
Puerperal Pyrexia.																													
Measles & German Measles.	1	4	1	9	5	6	2	1	3					32															
Whooping Cough.		2	1	1	2									6															
Acute Encephalitis.														1															
TOTALS:	1	6	2	9	6	9	2	1	3					41												1	1	1	

## HOUSING.

### PRE-WAR.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930 the Council took the following action:-

- 11 Clearance Orders were made and confirmed involving 94 dwelling and outhouses and displacing 295 persons.
- 2 Demolition orders were made and 5 persons were displaced in consequence.
- 58 Dwellings were made fit for human habitation as a result of formal action under Sections 9 to 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 and by reason of the conversion of dwellings into a lesser number 14 persons were displaced.

To accommodate the total of 314 persons displaced as a result of the Slum Clearance Programme 74 (3 - bedroom non-parlour type) houses were erected by the Council at St. Tecla, Bulwark.

### POST-WAR.

Although the two Contracts in hand were finished during the year there was substantial delay in completing one of them. 86 houses were completed and let during the twelve months 80 were of the permanent prefabricated type and the remaining 8 were built by traditional methods.

At the 31st December, 1951, 156 houses had been completed and occupied as follows:-

<u>Type.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
2 Bedroom (Maisonettes)	32
3 Bedroom.	116
4 Bedroom.	8
	-----
	156
	-----

22 acres of land at St. Tecla, Bulwark were in hand and technical work in progress with a view to housing development proceeding as rapidly as possible. It was anticipated that 144 houses would be accommodated on the site together with lock-up garages. A large open space will be reserved in the centre of the lay-out and a site for a place of worship will be retained.

#### TEMPORARY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

No temporary prefabricated dwellings have been erected by the Council but, with the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, 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.	88
	<u>105</u>

#### HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

As mentioned in my 1949 report the Council entered into an agreement under the powers contained in Section 93 and 94 of the Housing Act, 1936 with the Red & White Housing Association, as a result of which the Association receive the Exchequer Grant of £16. 10s. 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 1949.

#### THE SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899 - 1923.

The Acts were adopted on the 28th January, 1946.

During the year the Council agreed to make five advances under the Acts bringing the total advances made or to be made to 11 and involving a total amount of £18,388.

#### POST-WAR HOUSING BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

At the 31st December 1951, fifteen houses had been completed and occupied by private enterprise and ten more were in the course of erection.

#### ALLOCATION OF TENANCIES OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council still operate a "points Scheme" for selecting tenants of both permanent and temporary accommodation and it has worked remarkably well.

### DEMAND FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION.

At the 31st December 1951, there were 394 applications for accommodation outstanding, including 113 from persons who had never at any time resided within the Chepstow Urban District. There is no doubt that because of the general shortage of housing accommodation people are registering with more than one local authority. It may be safely assumed, therefore, that the figure of 394 does not represent the true demand for houses. Before further houses become available for letting a further survey will be made to ascertain the 'live' applications remaining to be dealt with.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

#### HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Regular inspections of private dwelling houses in the Urban District was carried out during the year, and nuisances and defects found were remedied. There is no doubt that a serious problem has arisen throughout the country with premises let at a controlled rental, as a large number of owners cannot possibly afford to carry out necessary repairs, let alone attempt to carry out improvements. It might well be that this problem will have to be tackled by the Central Government in the form of grants to owners, together with adjustments to the Rents Restrictions Acts.

Owing to the serious shortage of houses no attempt could be made under the Housing Acts to deal with properties which were so unfit for human habitation as to require demolition, or closure.

#### GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The undermentioned inspections were carried out during the year:-

Complaints received.	108
Visits made in connection thereof.	214
Re-visits carried out.	72
Nuisances found.	60
Nuisances abated.	54
Nuisances outstanding.	6
Informal Notices served.	28
Formal Notices served.	1
Cattle Market visits.	42
Food premises visits.	31

The undermentioned visits were carried out in connection with the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts:-

Visits.	12
Defects found.	2
Reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.	Nil.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Wholesale Producers within the District.	3
No. of Retail Purveyors within the Area.	4

#### Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	1
No. of Retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	2
No. of Pasteurising establishments.	1
No. of Retailers of Pasteurised milk.	2

A number of samples of milk were taken during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the Urban District is supplied by the Chepstow and District Water Company, a private Company, and is derived from two sources, and in each case it is chlorinated by the "Chloromine" process. The supply is sufficient, and routine samples submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examinations show the water is satisfactory for a Public supply. Extensions to the Water Company's mains have been carried to meet the requirements of the Council's Housing programme. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Extension to the Council's sewerage system has been carried out during the year to serve the Council's Housing schemes. A number of existing sewers in the Urban Area are in an unsatisfactory condition and will have to be renewed in the near future. The effluent from the sewers is discharged into the River Wye by means of gravitation through three main outlets.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the premises within the District are provided with water closets draining into the Council's sewers.

### SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS.

There are no swimming or bathing pools within the Urban District.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary during the year in connection with abatement.

### BED BUGS.

No action was found necessary during the year in the control of verminous premises.

### RODENT CONTROL.

The

Council employ a part-time Rodent Operative, and treatment is carried out on the lines recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture. A free service is given to domestic properties, whilst business premises which require treatment are charged on a cost of works basis. The sewers in the District receive treatment twice yearly.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT ETC.

Under the scheme of the Ministry of Food for the centralised slaughtering of livestock, no slaughtering takes place within the Urban District, and meat is usually supplied from Newport. Inspections of the butchers' shops and food premises is regularly carried out, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is generally maintained.

The undermentioned goods were voluntarily surrendered during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Peaches	3	Tins
Salmon	6	"
Luncheon Meat	103	"
Evaporated Milk	23	"
Soup	19	"
Pilchards	9	"
Plums	24	"
Tomatoes	59	"
Peas	21	"
Baked Beans	32	"
Stewed Steak	19	"
Beef Loaf	7	"
Guaves	4	"
Jellied Veal	9	"

Ham	12	Tins
Apricot Pulp	1	"
Strawberries.	6	"
Raspberries	7	"
Beetroot	4	"
Milo	1	"
Pork	1	"
Pineapple	2	"
Greengages	1	"
Orange Juice	1	"
Carrots	1	"
Grapes	2	"
Cherries	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dozen
Cheese	85	lbs.
Beef	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Butter	28	"
Fruit Salad	1	bottles
Pickle	6	"
Chutney	1	"

#### CATTLE MARKET.

Council

The Market is operated by the Urban District, and on an average approximately 30-35 markets are held annually, and acts as a collecting centre for the Ministry of Food. The under-mentioned number of animals entered the Market during the year:-

Sheep	13616
Pigs	1586
Calves	1186
Cattle	1693
Bulls	39
Horses	3

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected twice weekly from almost all the premises in the District by means of a modern petrol driven refuse collecting vehicle. Owing to the number of houses being built, it will become necessary in the near future for the Council to provide an additional vehicle if a twice weekly collection is to be maintained.

Disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping on low land adjoining the Chepstow racecourse.

The collection and salvage of waste paper is carried out systematically, although the present low price of waste at the mills makes a review of this service necessary.







