

**[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, Dolgellau / Dolgelley U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Dolgellau (Wales). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1946

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bbc6zkty>

**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>

DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*for the*

YEAR 1946





## TO THE DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report upon the Sanitary conditions of your area for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

The resident population of the area for the year 1946 is estimated by the Registrar General to be 2,382.

The number of inhabited houses as at the end of 1946 according to the Rate Books was 679.

The rateable value at the end of the year was £10,107, and the sum represented by a penny product was £39. 9. 4.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### Live Births:

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ... ..	27	11	16
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1

#### Still Births:

Legitimate ... ..	0	0	0
Illegitimate ... ..	1	1	0

#### Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Legitimate ... ..	2	1	1
Illegitimate ... ..	0	0	0

#### Rates per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

General Death Rate ... ..	20.56
Total Tuberculosis death rate ... ..	0.41
"Anthisis" death rate ... ..	0.41
Cancer death rate ... ..	5.03
Birth rate ... ..	12.16
Still Death rate ... ..	0.41
Scarlet Fever death rate ... ..	0.00
Diphtheria death rate ... ..	0.00

#### Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still Deaths).

Still Births rate ... ..	34.48
Maternal Mortality Total ... ..	0.00
Sepsis... ..	0.00
Other forms ... ..	0.00



### **Rates per 1,000 Live Births.**

Infant Mortality Total ... ..	71.71
Legitimate Infants ... ..	71.71
Illegitimate Infants ... ..	0.10
Diarrhoea under two years ... ..	0.00

### **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.**

1 M.O.H. (part-time); 1 Sanitary Inspector (Certified Sanitary Inspector and meat Inspector). Full-time in conjunction with Dolgelley Rural District.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE.**

The Ambulance Service is controlled by a joint committee of the Dolgelley Urban and Rural District Council and the Barmouth Urban District Council. An ambulance to serve the three areas is stationed at Dolgelley. Under the new Health Service Acts the control of the ambulance may be in the hands of the County Council.

### **WATER.**

Water is at present supplied by a private company. I again emphasise the importance that such an essential commodity as water should be vested in the hands of Local Authority.

The Council is negotiating with the water company for the purchase of the water-works, but as yet no agreement has been reached.

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The conditions of the sewers during the year has been maintained satisfactorily. During the greater part of the year an enormous volume of water from the surrounding mountains is turned into them, so that they are effectively flushed. A scheme for the extension of the outfall to the salt-water in the Estuary has been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health: a Public enquiry held and the matter is now subject to the decision of the Board.

### **RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

There was no pollution of rivers and streams during the year in this area beyond that produced by a few careless inhabitants who throw quantities of waste material or rubbish into them at times. There is no excuse for this as the District is systematically scaveng-



ed twice every week. There are no large industries in the district to produce any material pollution.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The great majority of the houses have separate water closets with proper flushing apparatus.

Water Closets ... ..	515
Conservancy system ... ..	10

The dry closets are on the outskirts of the town, and their contents are disposed of in the gardens.

### PUBLIC CLENSING.

Scavenging is done by contract, and the house refuse collected twice a week by a motor lorry during the morning.

I have repeatedly called the attention of the Council to the need of a covered lorry to be used.

The receptacles used by some of the inhabitants are altogether unsatisfactory. The old boxes, hampers, pails, etc., at present seen in use, are most objectionable. These receptacles should be made of galvanised iron with well-fitting metallic covers to insure protection from the sun and air. A satisfactory solution will not be reached until the Local Authority provides and maintains standard ash-bins in place of boxes, pails, etc., in common use.

The refuse is taken to a tip provided by the Council about a mile outside the town along the Talyllyn Road. A constant endeavour is being made by the Council's staff to effect controlled tipping, but an open tip used by contractors, shop-keepers, etc., is objectionable, unsightly, and a bad advertisement to the town.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of notices issued ... ..	4
number complied with ... ..	4
Total number of informal notices issued ... ..	4
complied with ... ..	4
Total number of new houses completed ... ..	0
Number of plans—new houses, buildings ... ..	0
Visits to bakehouses... ..	4
Number of notices re defects ... ..	0
Number of visits to milk shops ... ..	0
Number of notices re defects... ..	0



Visits to dairies ... ..	6
Number of visits re defects... ..	~
Notice re removal of ashes ... ..	4
Notice re defective drains ... ..	11
Number of visits to cases of infectious disease ... ..	0
Number of houses disinfected ... ..	6
Number of defective water fittings ... ..	14
Number of pail closets converted to W.C. ... ..	0
Number of new water closets erected ... ..	0
Total number of water closets... ..	515
Pail closets... ..	0
Privies or other closets ... ..	11
Number of closets serving more than one house... ..	9

### SHOPS.

There was no action necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and the sanitary conveniences.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There is no nuisance from smoke in the district, and no action was needed.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action was necessary during the year.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

### CAMPING SITES.

No licenses have been issued in respect of camping sites.

### SCHOOLS.

The co-operation of the School Medical Officer is always secured in dealing with any matters pertaining to the Schools, and the scholars.

### HOUSING.

There is a desperate need of new houses in the area. Many of the older houses are totally unfit for human occupation. Plans have



been accepted for the erection of 70 new houses on the Arran Road site, but the number reduced to 19 pending the completion of the extension of the out fall sewer to the estuary.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

1. (a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..	34
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes ...	41
2.	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... ..	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human occupation ... ..	Nil
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive) of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for occupation—	Nil
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices:—Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	Nil
(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936:—	
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
(1)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice ... ..	4
(a)	By Owners ... ..	4
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil



- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—
- (a) By Owners ... .. Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... .. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil
- (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 under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... .. Nil

Housing Act 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

No action possible during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

Very little milk is produced within the area, the bulk of it is imported from the immediate neighbourhood. The Cowsheds and Dairies are periodically inspected. There is need for structural alterations in some of the cowsheds. The dairies and cowsheds are kept clean and periodically lime-washed.

No action was taken by the Council during the year in regard to tuberculosis milk or cattle.

There are four producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified Milk) who supply the area.

### MEAT.

All the slaughtering is now carried out at the Abbatoir, situated in the town.

	Beasts.	Cows.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Total No. of Animals slaughtered ... ..	103	180	3,860	444	1
Total No. of animals condemned ... ..	1	13	24	2	1

Offals

Emaciation ... ..	10
Asphrys ... ..	1 rig
	386 lbs.

#### Summary of the meat condemned.

General Tuberculosis... ..	4
„ .....	— 14
„ .....	24 sheep
„ .....	2 calves
Pleurisy, fever & emaciation ... ..	386 lbs. Offal

#### Bake-houses.

These were inspected and found to be clean and periodically lime-washed. One bake-house was reconstructed to meet modern demands during the year.

#### Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

There was no need of this during the year.

#### Shell Fish.

There are no shell-fish or layers in the area.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR.

Small Pox... ..	Nil
Scarlet Fever ... ..	Nil
Measles ... ..	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid ... ..	Nil
Puerperal Fever ... ..	Nil
Erysipelas ... ..	Nil
Whooping Cough ... ..	20

There is no hospital in the County for the isolation of Infectious Diseases. Personally, I would favour a scheme whereby three or more counties joined to have one isolation hospital. Until this matures—there should be a provision within the County to receive infectious cases.



## Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1946 are as follows:—

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Res.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 ... ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 ... ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 ... ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards ... ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ... ..	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0

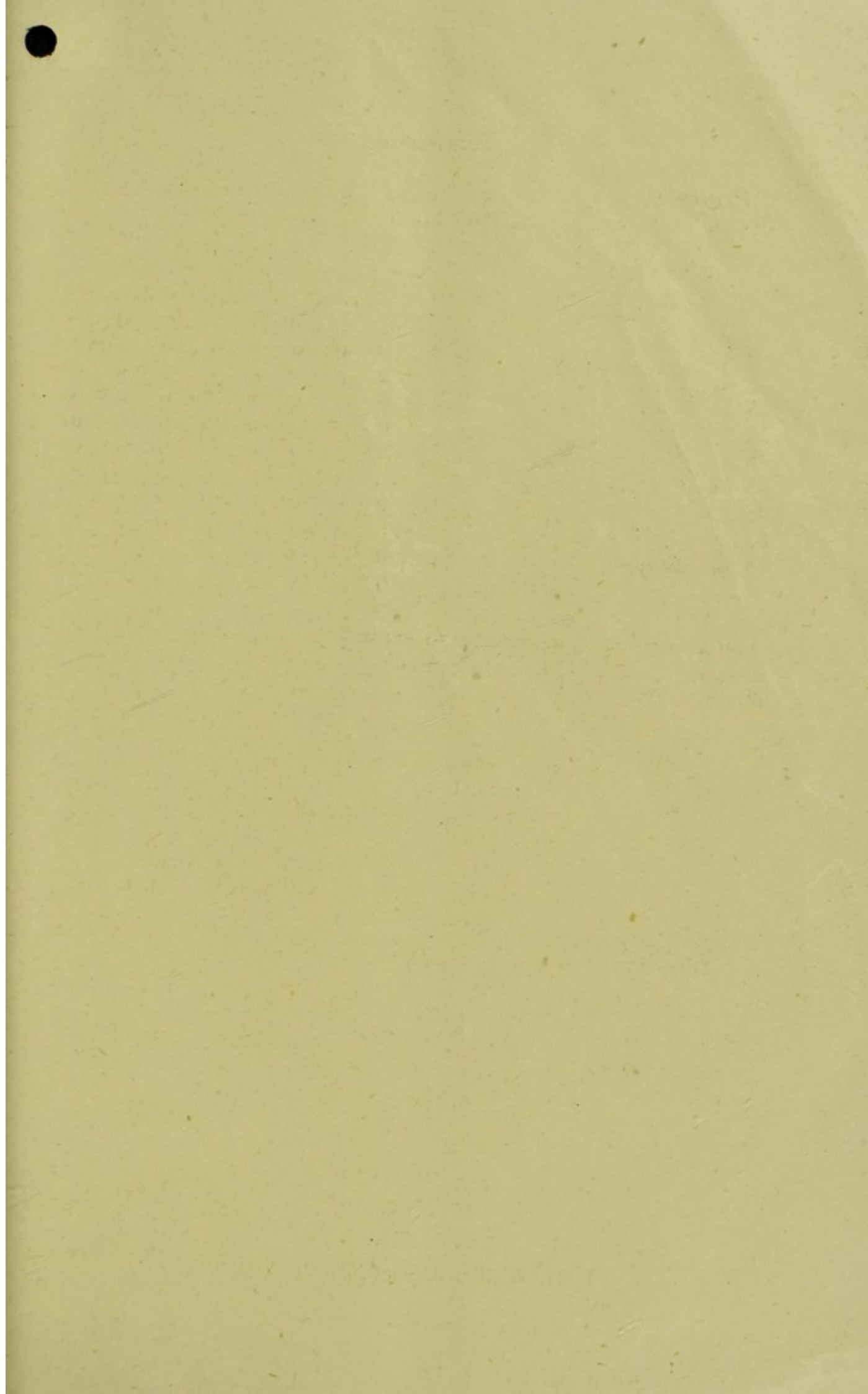
In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me during the year by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Idwal Roberts.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. EDWARDS,  
B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Cae'rffynnon,  
Dolgelley.





113

T