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HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1947.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G. Evans, A.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.



1.

HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1947.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District during the year 1947.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 170/47 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year 1947.

Area.....39,153 acres.
Population (Census 1931).....4028;
Population (Estimated at midsummer 1947).....3327.
Number of inhabited houses.....869.

Live Births-	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop
Legitimate.	24.	27.	51.	15.3
Illegitimate	2.	1.	3.	0.9
	26.	28.	54.	16.2

Still Births.	1.	0.	1.	0.3
Deaths from all causes	20.	8.	28.	8.4

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under one year-
All infants.....2. Rate per 1000 live births.....36.
Legitimate infants...2.

Deaths from special causes-
Infectious disease.....2.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....1.
Other tuberculosis disease.....0.
Cancer.....4.

AREA.

The Rural District of Hay, which has an area of 39,153 acres, forms part of the County of Breconshire. The district is situated in the northern part of the County and is agricultural in nature with farming as the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

POPULATION. Census 1931.....4028.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
3486.	4167.	4398.	4019.	3832.	3535.	3390.	3269.	3327.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population reached a maximum in 1941, and has been declining ever since until 1947 when there was an increase over the previous year.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 869 giving an average number of 3.8 persons per house.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			40.....	11.4.
1939.....			64.....	18.2.
1940.....	17.....	34.....	51.....	12.2.
1941.....	25.....	38.....	63.....	14.3.
1942.....	23.....	20.....	43.....	10.7.
1943.....	28.....	27.....	55.....	14.6.
1944.....	29.....	33.....	62.....	17.4.
1945.....	32.....	34.....	66.....	18.8.
1946.....	17.....	24.....	41.....	12.5.
1947.....	26.....	28.....	54.....	16.2.
England and Wales, 1947.....				20.5.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was considerably lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents of the district is shown below;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			32.....	9.1.
1939.....			37.....	10.2.
1940.....	27.....	33.....	60.....	14.4.
1941.....	24.....	25.....	49.....	11.1.
1942.....	19.....	18.....	37.....	9.2.
1943.....	22.....	14.....	36.....	9.4.
1944.....	24.....	11.....	35.....	9.8.
1945.....	23.....	14.....	37.....	10.9.
1946.....	31.....	15.....	46.....	14.0.
1947.....	20.....	8.....	28.....	8.4.
England and Wales, 1947.....				12.0.

The deathrate for 1947 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was the lowest recorded for many years.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	0.5.
1939.....			3.....	0.8.
1940.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1941.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.4.
1942.....	4.....	1.....	5.....	1.2.
1943.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5.
1944.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.6.
1945.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	0.3.
1946.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.6.
1947.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3.
England and Wales, 1947.....				0.5.

The still birth rate was therefore a little lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			3.....	75.
1939.....			1.....	15.6.
1940.....	0.....	4.....	4.....	78.
1941.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	47.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	46.
1943.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	36.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	36.
1946.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	48.
1947.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	36.
England and Wales 1947.....				41.

The infantile mortality rate was therefore a little lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...20. Females....8.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory system.....	1.....	0.
Influenza.....	2.....	0.
Cancer Uterus.....	0.....	1.
Cancer all other sites.....	3.....	0.
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	0.....	3.
Heart Disease.....	1.....	3.
Respiratory diseases.....	2.....	0.
Ulcer stomach.....	1.....	0.
Congenital malformations, birth injuries..	2.....	0.
Suicide.....	1.....	0.
Road traffic accidents.....	1.....	0.
Other violent causes.....	1.....	0.
All other causes.....	5.....	1.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes.

ILLEGITIMACY.

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1947 amounted to 3.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers during the year. Mr.G.G. Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County of Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme laboratory at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. There was no change in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. Persons suffering from infectious disease are conveyed to hospital in private cars, which system is far from satisfactory. The St. John's Ambulance Association meet the need of other patients requiring removal to Hospital.

Home Nursing. The arrangements made by the local district nursing association render the services of a trained nurse available for any family in the district on payment of a small contribution. Such provision deserves every encouragement and support.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Hay and Talgarth. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

In addition clinics are held by me at the Council Offices, Hay, on the morning of the second Thursday in each month and at the Town Hall, Talgarth, on the afternoon of the fourth Tuesday in each month, for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of cases are also admitted into Hereford Hospital.

The arrangement for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Such patients are removed, when necessary, into the isolation hospital at Hay.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Redw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. A modern steam disinfecter with the necessary vehicle for the removal of infected clothing and bedding would be of great use in the district generally.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the provision of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I am indebted to your sanitary inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and workings of the factories acts which are included in this section of the report.

Water Supplies.

Water has been satisfactory in quantity during the year for those dwellings below the Ordnance contour of 500 feet, but most unsatisfactory for the majority of the dwellings above this height.

The scheme previously submitted by a consulting engineer was advanced during the year but real progress seems very slow. The district experienced a severe drought during the year and the need for an adequate supply was acute.

In the district there are 18 water supplies serving six dwellings or more by pipes either into the dwellings or to standpipes. Of these 18 supplies 6 are owned by the Council. There are 170 supplies serving five dwellings or less and 60 of these are piped supplies, the remaining 110 being either from pumps or springs.

Details of the water supply for each parish is given below.

1. Aberllynfi. The quality and quantity of the water in this parish has been satisfactory during the year, except that portion of the Lodge supply which is laid in the stream has been fractured. The Council now own the supply known as the Lodge serving the hamlet of Throc Cocks. All the houses in this parish have water pipes inside the house.

Six samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination and of these 2 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

2. Bronllys. There are two public supplies in this parish. One of these is owned by the Welsh National Memorial Association and this supplies the sanatorium and all the dwelling houses on the Estate. The other supply is owned by the Council and water is drawn from springs under the Minfield bank and is not treated. This supply is augmented from the Talgarth supply during periods of drought. Eighty nine dwellings are served from this supply. There are thirteen other supplies in this parish, all privately owned.

Six samples of water were sent for analysis during the year and all six were reported as being unsatisfactory.

3. Glyngach and the Usk Valley portion of Tregoyd and Velindre.

There are ten private supplies in this area, three are piped into four dwellings, none are treated and the other seven are simply running springs near the small holdings. It would not be difficult in this area to find sufficient water to give each dwelling a piped supply. The distances to be piped would be considerable but this should not deny the public a wholesome supply of water.

No samples were submitted during the year.

4. Hay Rural.

Fifteen houses in this parish are served with a piped supply from the Council's supply at Llanigon. This water is not treated. There are 21 other supplies in the parish and of these 7 are piped. One dwelling has to obtain water from a source over 200 yards away.

One sample was sent for analysis and this was classified as unsatisfactory.

5. Llanellieu.

There are 15 dwellings in this parish, 10 in the Wye valley and 5 in the Usk valley and all have a piped supply laid on but are served from 9 different sources.

No samples were submitted during the year.

6. Llanigon. The village of Llanigon is served by a public water supply owned by the Council. Springs are collected to a service reservoir but the water is not treated. The hamlet of Ffordlais receives water from the Llwynfellyn dam. These two sources supply 8 dwellings with water laid on and 10 dwellings from a standpipe. There are 7 other supplies in the parish and 5 of these are piped. Eleven are supplied with water from a considerable distance, 7 over 150 yards, 2 over 200 yards and 2 take a supply from open streams.

One sample was submitted from the village supply and this was reported as satisfactory. Seven other samples were taken and of these 1 was satisfactory, 5 unsatisfactory and 1 suspicious. Sixteen dwellings in this parish situated over the 500 feet contour are badly in need of water for domestic use and the attention of the Council is drawn to this.

7. Llyswen.

Of the 56 dwellings in this parish, 38 have water laid on, 14 are served by standpipes and 4 are served by pumps. Thirty three dwellings are supplied by the Council and this water is not treated.

Five samples were submitted for analysis and of these 1 was satisfactory, 2 highly satisfactory and 2 suspicious.

8. Pipton. There are 10 private supplies in this parish and of these, 6 are piped supplies serving some 11 dwellings. No water is treated. The other dwellings are served by individual pumps. One pump serving two cottages is without water for two to three months in a dry year and the tenants then carry water some 350 yards.

No samples were submitted for analysis.

9. Talgarth (Wye Valley Section).

There are 3 public supplies in this section, one owned by the Mental Hospital Committee and two by the Council. The larger of the Council's supplies serves 260 dwellings with water laid on and 32 from standpipes. The supply received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital supply is sand filtered and chlorinated. This augmented from springs collected in the Llanelliou parish.

No raw water samples were sent for analysis but 5 samples of the treated water were submitted and 4 of these were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. Three samples were sent for chemical examination and all three were satisfactory.

The smaller supply serves the hamlets of Trevecca and Tredustan. Twelve dwellings have water laid on and three are served from standpipes. No samples from this source were sent for analysis.

As in other parishes dwellings above the 500 feet contour are badly supplied with water.

There are some 45 other supplies of which 12 are piped and all are subject to pollution. Five samples were sent for analysis and all were unsatisfactory.

10. Talgarth (Usk Valley Section).

There is no public supply in this area. There are 24 dwelling houses in this area of which 3 have private piped supplies whilst the other 21 are supplied by running springs.

11. Tregoyd and Velindre. (Wye Valley Section).

Of the 118 dwellings in this parish 100 have water laid on and 6 are served by standpipes. All the supplies are owned by private individuals. One individual supplies water to 32 dwellings and another supplies 30 dwellings. The small holdings above 500 feet are here again badly supplied and the main supplies in this parish are insufficient in times of drought whilst the quality is not satisfactory.

Fourteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and all were reported as being unsatisfactory.

In conclusion it is obvious from the above description that all the water supplies outside the town of Talgarth and the villages of Bronllys, Llyswen & Three Cocks should have urgent and serious consideration. They are subject to pollution and the very number-170 different sources-make it impossible to give them the individual attention as frequently as public health demands.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New sewers and sewage disposal works are required for the villages of Three Cocks, Bronllys, Llanigon, Llyswen, Velindre and Glasbury.

Public Cleansing.

There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection and disposal of refuse in the district. Refuse is collected twice weekly in Talgarth, once a week in Bronllys and once a month in the district around Talgarth. The refuse is then disposed of by burying. No other collection is made in the remainder of the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the sanitary inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	48.
Number of complaints investigated.....	48.
Number of premises visited.....	59.
Number of premises revisited.....	34.
Number of notices served.....	1 and numerous verbal.

There has been considerable difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building material. At present repair work is mainly of a patching nature and it is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....28.

Shops.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....20.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....23.
 Number of inspections made.....27.
 Number of defects found

a. Want of cleanliness.....4.

b. Insufficient sanitary conveniences....4.

Number of cases reported by Factories Inspector.....2.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district for which a licence is necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations. No premises were found to be so infested during the year.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operator is employed who works under the supervision of the sanitary inspector. This operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban Council and Painscastle Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....195.
 Number of premises found infested.....65.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....65.
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....566.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING. There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing shortage was acute. The Council had under construction 22 houses at Talgarth but none of these were near completion at the end of the year. It is to be hoped that labour conditions and the supply of materials will show some improvement during the coming year so that this pressing need in the district may be alleviated.

One house was completed by private enterprise.

Number of house to house inspections by sanitary inspector...17.

SECTION 6 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk.

Milk sampling in the district is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt is made by the sanitary inspector to test each retailer's milk once a fortnight. The wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The laboratory functioning under this scheme is situated at Brecon.

Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories;

Category A.....Milk of good keeping quality.
 Category B.....Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
 Category C.....Milk of poor keeping quality.

The following figures show the number of results of milk samples taken during the year.

Number of samples taken.....139.
 Number graded into Category A.....109.
 Number graded into Category B.....11.
 Number graded into Category C.....19.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's Slaughtering Point at Brecon. No meat was condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Number of tins of foodstuffs condemned.....6.
 Number of pounds of foodstuffs condemned.....125.

Other Foods.Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....21.

Ice Cream Premises.

Particular attention was paid to these owing to the epidemic of typhoid fever at Aberystwyth. Numerous visits of inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector.....26.
Number of notices served.....2.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....26.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year;

Measles - 6 cases.

A patient was admitted to Merthyr Isolation Hospital as a suspected case of acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). This provisional diagnosis was not confirmed. The district remained remarkably free from notifiable infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in 1947 and recent years;

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year....16.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....5.
Number of cases removed due to death.....1.
Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....3.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....17.

The number of cases notified during recent years is shown below;

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
6.	7.	6.	5.	6.	5.	8.	4.	5.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year the monthly clinics held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria were continued. The place and dates of these clinics were advertised in the local press and also parents were advised that children should have a third injection when they reach school age. Continual efforts are being made by the County Council Health Visitors to get as many children as possible immunised.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st. December 1947.

Age at 31.12.47.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9.	10-15.
Number immunised.	0.	22.	47.	58.	45.	86.	20.
Number immunised during the year.	Under 5.		5-15.		Third Inj.		
	35.		0.		3.		

It must be pointed out that individual record cards for children have only been kept since 1st. July, 1943, and therefore the above figures only show those children actually immunised by me since that date. I have no individual records of children immunised before that date.

The following figures show the extent of immunising in the under five year group at the end of the year.

Number of children born in 1942.....	43.
Number of these children immunised since July 1st. 1943.....	30.
Number of children born in 1943.....	55.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	45.
Number of children born in 1944.....	62.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	58.
Number of children born in 1945.....	66.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	47.
Number of children born in 1946.....	41.
Number of these children immunised at end of year.....	22.
Number of children born in 1947.....	54.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	0.

The above figures show a very satisfactory percentage in themselves and, in addition, one must remember that a certain number of children are also immunised by local general practitioners. I would here like to pay tribute to the work of the local Health Visitors to whose continual efforts the above very satisfactory figures are very largely due. There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.