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HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1949.

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,M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health1949.

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 1949.

In the 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 2/50 (Wales).

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.Statistical Summary for the year 1949.

Area.....39,153 acres.
 Population (Census 1931).....4028.
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1949).....3655.
 Number of inhabited houses.....897.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate	26	33	59	
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
	27	34	61	16.7

Still Births.	1	1	2	0.54
Deaths from all causes	29	21	50	13.6

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under one year.

All infants.....2. Rate per 1000 live births.....32.

Deaths from special causes;

Infectious disease.....Nil.
 Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....Nil.
 Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
 Cancer.....9.

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.

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
4167.	4398.	4019.	3832.	3535.	3390.	3269.	3327.	3654.	3655

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, since when there has been an increase.

Hay Rural District Council

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 897 giving an average number of 4.0 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.
1948.....	32.....	27.....	59.....	17.6.
1949.....	27.....	34.....	61.....	16.7.
England and Wales, 1949.....				16.7.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was the same as 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.
1948.....	14.....	14.....	28.....	7.6.
1949.....	29.....	21.....	50.....	13.6.
England and Wales, 1949.....				11.7.

The deathrate for 1949 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<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.
1948.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.6.
1949.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.54.
England and Wales, 1949.....				0.39.

The still birth rate was therefore a little higher 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.
1948.....	2.....	2.....	4.....	67.
1949.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	32.
England and Wales, 1949.....				32.

The infantile mortality rate was therefore the same as the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....29. Females.....21.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Influenza.....	1.....	0.
Cancer Breast.....	0.....	2.
Cancer Other Sites.....	4.....	3.
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	3.....	2.
Heart Disease.....	8.....	3.
Other diseases of Circulatory system.....	1.....	3.
Bronchitis.....	0.....	2.
Other respiratory diseases.....	1.....	0.
Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	1.....	0.
Other digestive diseases.....	0.....	1.
Premature Birth.....	1.....	1.
Congenital Malformations.....	0.....	1.
Suicide.....	2.....	1.
Other violent causes.....	1.....	1.
All other causes.....	6.....	1.

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

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1949 amounted to two.

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 at 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. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

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, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

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

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

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for 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.

In the district there are 18 water supplies serving six dwellings or more by pipes either into the dwellings or to stanpipes. 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 quantity of the water in this parish has been satisfactory during the year. The Council own the supply known as the Lodge serving the hamlet of Three Cocks. All the houses in this parish have water pipes inside the house.

One sample of water was sent for bacteriological examination and this was 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. One sample of water was sent for analysis during the year this was reported as being unsatisfactory.

3. Glynfach 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 of water 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.

No samples were sent for analysis.

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.

One unsatisfactory report was received 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. 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.

Two samples were examined during the year, one was satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

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. It has been decided to increase the storage capacity of the village supply, but this was not done in 1949.

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.

Two samples were submitted for analysis during the year, both were unsatisfactory.

This district experienced a shortage during the year, a contributory cause being the hostel.

8. Pipton. There are 11 private supplies in this parish and of these 7 are piped supplies serving some 12 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.

Two samples were submitted for analysis, both were unsatisfactory.

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 serve 289 dwellings with water laid on and 32 from standpipes. The supply received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital is sand filtered and chlorinated. This augmented from springs collected in the Llanellieu parish.

During the year eight samples were taken for analysis. None of these proved satisfactory and it appears that close supervision of the filters and chlorination is necessary.

The smaller supply serves the hamlets of Trevecca and Tredustan. Twelve dwellings have water laid on and three are served by 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.

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. No samples were taken during the year.

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. Negotiations to purchase continued during the year.

No samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

In conclusion it is obvious from the above description that all the water supplies should have urgent and serious consideration. They are subject to pollution and the very number of different sources make it impossible to give them 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.

The Trefecca settling tanks could with advantage be enlarged.

In Bronllys there is no treatment plant, the sewage running over fields. This should be improved.

There is also considerable work to be done at the Talgarth sewage disposal works as the present effluent is far from satisfactory.

Number of visits in connection with drainage.....37.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected twice weekly in Talgarth, and once a week in Bronllys, Llyswen, Pipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Velindre, Hay Rural parish and Llanigon parish. The only parishes not included are Glynfach and Llanellieu. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping. The refuse, which was previously collected by contract labour was during the year collected by the Councils' lorry and staff under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

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.....	30.
Number of complaints investigated.....	30.
Number of premises visited.....	42.
Number of premises revisited.....	41.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	7.
Number of abatement notices served.....	0.

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 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.....34.

Shops.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....21.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	20.
Number of inspections made.....	30.
Number of defects found	
a. Want of cleanliness.....	3.
b. Insufficient sanitary conveniences.....	2.
c. Other offences.....	3.

All these defects were remedied.

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.....	256.
Number of premises found infested.....	131.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....	90.
Number treated by occupier.....	41.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....	2028.
Number of dead rats actually recovered.....	688.

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 completed the construction of 20 houses at Talgarth. 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.

Two houses were completed by private enterprise.

Number of house to house inspections by sanitary inspector...124.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. On 1st. October the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, came into operation. Under this Act the licensing of producers, and the supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council is now left only with the licensing and control of distributors.

Up to 1st. October sampling, the results of which are shown below, was carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. From 1st. October to end of year no samples were taken.

Number of samples taken.....	147.
Number graded into Category A.....	94.
Number graded into Category B.....	9.
Number graded into Category C.....	44.
Number of cowsheds and dairy visits.....	63.

Meat. There is no slaughter house in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's Slaughtering Point at Brecon. 61½ lbs of meat were condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Number of tins of foodstuffs condemned.....	28.
Number of pounds of foodstuffs condemned.....	19.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms. (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....26.

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.....23.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....12.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

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

Influenzal Pneumonia.....1 case.
 Abortus Fever.....1 case.
 Scarlet Fever.....4 cases.

One of the cases of scarlet fever was removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital and the remaining cases were isolated at home. The fees paid by the Council for the notifications of infectious disease are now, under the new Health Act, refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority.

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 1949 and recent years;

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....19.
 Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....4.
 Number of cases removed due to recovery.....1.
 Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....2.
 Number of cases left on register at end of year.....20.

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

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
7.	6.	5.	6.	5.	8.	4.	5.	6.	4.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

There was no case of diphtheria in the district during the year,

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

