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HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1951.

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 Health1951.

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 1951.

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 42/51 (Wales).

Section 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical summary for the year 1951.

Area 39,153 acres.
 Population (Census 1951) 3869
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1951) 3657
 Number of inhabited houses 904

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	30	22	52	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	30	22	52	14.2
Still Births.	0	2	2	0.54
Deaths from all causes	16	18	34	9.3

Maternal Deaths Nil.

Deaths under one year.

All infants 3 Rate per 1000 live births 57

Deaths from special causes :

Infectious disease One
 Tuberculosis of respiratory system Nil
 Other tuberculous disease One
 Cancer 5

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, but in the district are two large hospitals, the Mental Hospital at Talgarth and the South Wales Sanatorium at Bronllys.

Population. Census 1931 4028
 Census 1951 3869

1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951.
 4398. 4019. 3832. 3535. 3390. 3269. 3327. 3654. 3655. 3745. 3657.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

Hay Rural District Council

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 904 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> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| 1950 | 32 | 20 | 52 | 13.9 |
| 1951 | 30 | 22 | 52 | 14.2 |
| England and Wales, 1951 | | | | 15.5 |

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was 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 in the district is shown below :

| | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 1950 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 10.7 |
| 1951 | 16 | 18 | 34 | 9.3 |
| England and Wales, 1951 | | | | 12.5 |

The deathrate for 1951 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales and was lower than the birthrate.

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 1950 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0. |
| 1951 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0.54 |
| England and Wales, 1951 | | | | 0.36 |

The stillbirth rate was therefore 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> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 1950 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 96.1 |
| 1951 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 57 |
| England and Wales, 1951 | | | | 29.6 |

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

One of these deaths occurred in a child under 4 weeks old.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males 16 Females 18

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculosis, non respiratory | 1 | 0. |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | 0 | 1. |
| Other malignant neoplasms | 2 | 2. |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 6 | 1. |
| Coronary Disease | 1 | 2. |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 0 | 1. |
| Other heart disease | 2 | 3. |
| Other circulatory disease | 1 | 3. |
| Influenza | 0 | 1. |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 0. |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 0 | 1. |
| Nephritis | 0 | 1. |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | 0. |
| Other causes | 1 | 2. |

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 1951 amounted to Nil.

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 Health Laboratory at Hereford, 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 Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, 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 National Health Service Act, 1946, 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.

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. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

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 ft, but most unsatisfactory for the majority of the dwellings above this height. The wet season helped considerably in the maintenance of the supplies.

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 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 pumps or springs.

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

1. Aberllynfi. The quantity of 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.

Three samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination and two were highly satisfactory and one satisfactory.

2. Bronllys. There are two public supplies in this parish. One of these is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board 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 five were reported as being satisfactory.

3. Glymfach 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 to 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. Improvements as approved by the Welsh Board were carried out during the year.

Three samples were sent for analysis, and all were satisfactory.

5. Llanolieu. 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 sent 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. These 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.

Three samples were examined during the year, three were satisfactory.

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.

No complaints have been received since storage capacity was increased in 1950.

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. Another spring was brought into service to augment supply.

Four samples were submitted for analysis during the year, all four were satisfactory.

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 or 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 Regional Hospital Board 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 is augmented from springs collected in the Llanellieu parish.

During the year five samples were taken for analysis, all were satisfactory.

Consideration should be given to the possibility of augmenting this supply owing to the increasing demand due to extension of mains and erection of new houses.

The smaller supply serves the hamlets of Trevecca and Tredustan. Twelve dwellings have water laid on and three are served by standpipes. No sample from this source was 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.

Twelve samples from private supplies were examined from this district, ten proving satisfactory.

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. 6 samples were taken during the year, and all were satisfactory.

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.

Three samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, 3 proving satisfactory. Five private supply samples were also satisfactory.

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 - 170 - 171 - different sources make it impossible to give them individual attention as frequently as public health demands.

The major water scheme received consideration during the year but progress appears slow. In the meantime many farmers are taking advantage of the Ministry of Agriculture grant to install private supplies.

Number of inspections of water supplies.....64.

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, and this work has been agreed by the Council.

In Bronllys there is no treatment plant, the sewage running over fields. This in my opinion 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.....24.

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 Council's lorry and staff under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

Inspections of refuse tips.....13.

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..... | 17. |
| Number of complaints investigated..... | 17. |
| Number of premises visited..... | 52. |
| Number of premises revisited..... | 7. |
| Number of preliminary notices served..... | 1. |
| 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.....59.

There are 13 licensed houses in the district, of which 6 are satisfactory from the sanitary standpoint, no works of improvement were carried out during the year.

Shops.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....45.

Factories.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of factories in the district..... | 17. |
| Number of inspections made..... | 41. |
| Number of defects found.... | |

(a) want of cleanliness.....3.

(b) other offences.....5.

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..... | 335. |
| Number of premises found infested..... | 106. |
| Number of premises treated by rodent operator..... | 85. |
| Number treated by occupier..... | 21. |
| Estimated number of rats killed during the year..... | 1071. |
| Number of dead rats actually recovered..... | 301. |

The sewers in Talgarth were baited in May. No takes were recorded.

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. No houses were built by Council during 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.

Since the end of war, 20 Council houses and 16 private houses have been built, three of the latter during the year under review.

No applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of house to house inspections by sanitary inspector..... | 41. |
|---|-----|

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. On 1st October, 1949, 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.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of samples taken during the year..... | 29. |
| Number of samples satisfactory..... | 22. |
| Number of samples unsatisfactory..... | 7. |

The results of these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture in Brecon.

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..... | 0. |
| Number of pounds of foodstuffs condemned..... | 31½. |

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.....38.

No manufacture of icecream is carried out in the district, there being 7 retailers. No samples of icecream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....18.
There is one fried fish premises in the district.

Wrapping of Food and Sale of Food in the open air. In this connection model byelaws were adopted by the Council during the year.

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. |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 5 cases. |
| Diphtheria..... | 1 case. |
| Measles..... | 8 cases. |
| Cerebrospinal fever..... | 1 case. |
| Erysipelas..... | 1 case. |

The cases of cerebrospinal fever, diphtheria and one of the cases of scarlet fever were removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital the remaining cases being 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. The one case of influenzal pneumonia proved fatal.

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 1950 and recent years;

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of cases on register at commencement of year..... | 18. |
| Number of fresh cases notified during the year..... | 10. |
| Number of cases removed due to "disease arrested"..... | 0. |
| Number of cases removed due to removal from district..... | 1. |
| Number of cases removed due to death..... | 1. |
| Number of cases left on register at end of year..... | 26. |

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

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1941. | 1942. | 1943. | 1944. | 1945. | 1946. | 1947. | 1948. | 1949. | 1950. | 1951. |
| 6. | 5. | 6. | 5. | 8. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 4. | 4. | 10. |

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 one case of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,
Medical Officer of Health.

