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A.

HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

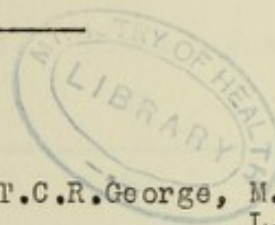
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1952.

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.



Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1952.

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 1952.

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 2/53 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical summary for the year 1952.

Area.....	39,153 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....	3869.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1952).....	3647.
Number of inhabited houses.....	925.

<u>Live Births.</u>	Males.	Females.	Total	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	22	21	43	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	22	21	43	11.7
Still Births.	1	0	1	0.27
Deaths from all causes	22	12	34	9.3

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under one year.

All infants.....0. Rate per 1000 live births.....0.

Deaths from special causes :

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

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.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931	4028
	Census 1951	3869

<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>
4019.	3832.	3535.	3390.	3269.	3327.	3654.	3655.	3745.	3657.	3647.

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

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 925 giving an average number of 3.9 persons per house.

Hay Rural District Council.

<u>Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
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
1952	22	21	43	11.7
England and Wales, 1952				15.3

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>
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
1952	22	12	34	9.3
England and Wales, 1952				11.3

The death-rate for 1952 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>
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
1952	1	0	1	0.27
England and Wales, 1952				0.35

The still birth rate was therefore 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>
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
1952.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0
England and Wales, 1952.....				27.6

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

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.....</u>	<u>Females.....</u>
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.....	0.....
Malignant neoplasm, heart.....	0.....	1.....
Other malignant neoplasms.....	4.....	0.....
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	3.....	2.....
Coronary disease.....	3.....	1.....
Other heart disease.....	7.....	7.....
Ulcer stomach.....	1.....	0.....
Hyperplasia, prostate.....	1.....	0.....
Other defined causes.....	0.....	1.....
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1.....	0.....
Suicide.....	1.....	0.....

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new abridged lists of Causes of deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1952 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 Brocon. 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.

Hay Rural District Council.

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 considered 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. No samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination.

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 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. Ninety nine dwellings are served from this supply. There are thirteen other supplies in this parish, all privately owned. Three samples of water were sent for analysis during the year and all were reported as being satisfactory.

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. Improvements as approved by the Welsh Board of Health were carried out during the year.

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

5. Llanelieu. There are 15 dwellings in this parish, 10 in the Wyo 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 for analysis 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 stand-pipe. 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.

Four samples were examined during the year, three were satisfactory and one 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.

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.

Four samples were submitted for analysis during the year, three were satisfactory and one suspicious.

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 295 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 two samples were taken for analysis, both 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.

The water main was extended to cover new Council houses in Talgarth.

Six samples from private supplies were examined from this district, five proving satisfactory and one doubtful.

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.

Fourteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, 4 proving highly satisfactory, 4 were suspicious and 6 were unsatisfactory. No private supply samples were taken.

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 - 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 only two farmers took advantage of the Ministry of Agriculture grant to install private supplies.

Number of inspections of water supplies 64.

DRAINAGE & 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.....22.

Extension of sewer was made at Talgarth to cover new Council houses and to two private properties in Talgarth.

Public Cleansing. Refuse is collected twice weekly in Talgarth, and once a week in Bronllys, Llyswen, Pipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Volindre. 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 is still 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.....	41.
Number of complaints investigated.....	41.
Number of premises visited.....	56.
Number of premises revisited.....	22.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	0.
Number of abatement notices served.....	0.

There has been some improvement experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to improved supply of building materials.

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.....42.

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.....37.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	17.
Number of inspections made.....	35.
Number of defects found;	
(a) want of cleanliness.....	4.
(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.

Hay Rural District CouncilEradication 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.....	410.
Number of premises found infested.....	92.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....	58.
Number treated by occupier.....	34.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....	1346.
Number of dead rats actually recovered.....	556.
Number of agricultural properties inspected.....	152.
Number of agricultural properties infested.....	28.
Number of agricultural properties treated.....	20.

The sewers in Talgarth were baited in April. 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. Sixteen houses were built by the 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 the war, 36 Council houses and 21 private houses have been built, 5 of the latter during the year under review.

No applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year.

Number of applicants for houses in each Parish

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rooms</u>	<u>Houses</u>
Aberllynfi (Glasbury part of Tregoyd & Velindre)	14	3	11
Bronllys	18	9	9
Llanigon	12	5	7
Llyswen	5	1	4
Talgarth	49	12 and 3 single men	34
Tregoyd & Velindre (Velindre district)	5	0	5

Number of house to house inspections by Sanitary Inspector.....251.

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 supervisions 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.....26.
 Number of samples satisfactory.....25.
 Number of samples unsatisfactory.....1.

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. 21 lbs. of meat were condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Number of tins of foodstuffs condemned.....14.
 Number of pounds of foodstuffs condemned.....158 $\frac{3}{4}$.

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.....36.

No manufacture of icecream is carried out in the district, there being 10 retailers. No samples of icecream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....21.
 There is one fried fish premises in the district.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

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

Typhoid.....1 case.
 Para Typhoid.....2 cases.

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 such 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.....	27.
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,.....	0.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	37.

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

<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>
5.	6.	5.	8.	4.	5.	6.	4.	4.	10.	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.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same, to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1952, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health