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Contributors

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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
REC'D. V. 2
1/15/56
A.

HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1955.



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.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF _____

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this _____ day of _____, 20____

Notary Public

My commission expires on _____, 20____.

Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1955.

Mr Chairman, Lady 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 1955.

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 17/55 (Wales)

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistical summary for the year 1955.

Area.....39,153 acres.
Population (Census 1951)..... 3,869.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1955)..... 3,680.
Number of inhabited houses..... 980.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	22	20	42	
Illegitimate	0	1	1	
	22	21	43	11.7

Still births 0 0 0 0

Deaths from all causes 37 35 72 19.6.

Maternal deaths..... 0

Deaths under one year

All infants..... 1 Rate per 1000 live births.....23.2.

Deaths from special causes

Infectious disease.....0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....0
Other tuberculous disease.....0
Cancer.....5

Area The Rural District of Hay, which has an area of 39,153 acres forms part of the County of Breconshire. This 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 area, 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

<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>	<u>1953</u>
3535.	3390.	3269.	3327.	3654.	3655.	3745.	3657.	3647.	3711
<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>								
3680.	3680.								

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

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 980 giving an average number of 3.7 persons per house.

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
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
1953	18	28	46	11.8
1954	34	33	67	18.2
1955	22	21	43	11.7
England and Wales, 1955				15.0

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>
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
1953	24	24	48	12.8
1954	41	46	87	23.6
1955	37	35	72	19.6
England and Wales, 1955				11.7

The death rate for 1955 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales and was also higher than the birth rate.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
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
1953	2	0	2	0.54
1954	0	0	0	0.
1955	0	0	0	0.
England and Wales, 1955				23.1

The still-birth rate was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was per 1,000 live and still births.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1,000 live births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
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

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1953	0	1	1	21.8
1954	0	1	1	12.8
1955	1	0	1	23.2
England and Wales, 1955				24.9

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

This one death occurred in a child of under 4 weeks old.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males ... 37. Females 35.
Males Females

Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0 .
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1 .
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1 .
Other malignant neoplasms	2	0 .
Vascular lesions, nervous system	6	10 .
Coronary Disease	6	4 .
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2 .
Other heart disease	10	9 .
Other circulatory disease	2	2 .
Pneumonia	0	1 .
Ulcer stomach	1	0 .
Gastritis	1	0 .
Other defined causes	2	3 .
Accidents, not motor vehicular	1	1 .
Suicide	3	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 1955 amounted to one.

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.

Nursing and other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtained for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

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

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 receive 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.

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. The dry season aggravated the water supply position and it was most unsatisfactory for the majority of dwellings above the contour 500 feet.

The scheme previously submitted by your 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 to the dwellings or to standpipes, and of these supplies 8 are owned by the Council. There are 178 supplies serving five dwellings or less and 77 of these are piped supplies; the remaining 101 being either pumps or springs.

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

Aberllynfi. The quantity of water in this parish has been fairly satisfactory during the year. The Council own the supply serving this village and all houses have the supply laid on.

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 is drawn from springs near Minfield; the water is not treated. This supply is augmented from Talgarth supply during periods of drought and 101 dwellings are served from this supply. There are 13 other supplies in the district, all are privately owned. No samples were submitted during the year.

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.

Hay Rural. 14 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 8 are piped. One dwelling has to obtain water from a source 200 yards away. No samples were submitted.

Llanelieu. 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 for analysis during the year.

Llanigon. This village is served by a public supply owned by the Council. Springs are collected to a service reservoir but the water is not treated. These sources serve 32 dwellings with water laid on and 10 dwellings from a standpipe. There are 8 other supplies in the parish and 6 of these are piped. 11 are supplied from a considerable distance and 2 take water from an open stream.

One sample was taken from a private supply during the year and was unsatisfactory and the owner was instructed to carry out certain works.

Llyswen. Of the 64 dwellings in the parish, 46 have water laid on, 14 are served by standpipes and 4 are served by pumps. The Council supplies 37 dwellings but the water is not treated. No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Pipton. There are 11 private supplies in this parish and of these 7 are piped supplies serving some 12 dwellings and the other dwellings are served by individual pumps. One pump serving two cottages is without water for two or three months during the year and the tenants then have to carry water some 350 yards.

One sample from a private source was submitted for analysis and proved suspicious and the owner was recommended to improve the works.

Talgarth (Wye Valley Section). There are three public supplies in this section of the parish; two are owned by the Council and one is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board. The larger of the Council supplies serves some 357 dwellings with water laid on and 30 from standpipes. For several months of the year the Talgarth supply augments the Bronllys supply. One portion of this supply is received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital and is sand filtered and chlorinated and the second portion of this supply is received from springs in Llanellieu parish and these are collected to a common service reservoir which, in times of drought, may be connected to the brook and on such occasions this source is chlorinated.

During 1955 supplies had to be restricted during a period in the third quarter of the year. The Hospital authorities are getting concerned about the supply of water and have notified your officials that they may have to restrict further, and in view of these conditions it is sincerely hoped that quicker progress will be made in the very near future with the Llanbwchllyn Lake Scheme.

The Trefecca supply was satisfactory in quantity during the year.

There are 38 other private supplies in the parish, of which 24 are piped and most of these are subject to some pollution.

Tregoyd and Velindre. Of the 118 dwellings in this parish, 100 have water laid on and 6 are served from standpipes. One supply serving 32 dwellings and another serving 30 dwellings were purchased by the Council on the 28th November, 1955. There is one private supply serving a number of properties with piped water.

All properties above the 500 feet contour are badly in need of a piped supply and the main supplies in the parish are insufficient in times of drought, whilst the quality is not satisfactory. Three samples from private supplies were taken; two were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

In conclusion it is obvious from the above description that all water supplies should have urgent and serious consideration. They are subject to pollution and the very large number from different sources makes 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 to be slow.

Number of inspections of water supplies 19.

Drainage and Sewerage.

It seems probable that the new sewers and sewage disposal works for the village of Velindre will mature in the coming year.

Progress has been made in the preparation of schemes for construction of sewers and sewage disposal works for the villages of Aberllynfi and Llyswen of which Llyswen was to receive priority.

Sewage disposal plants have been constructed to serve the majority of the houses in Llanigon village.

In Bronllys there is no treatment plant and the sewage runs over the fields. This in my opinion should be improved.

It is good to know that consideration has been given to the preparation of a scheme to provide sewers and a sewage disposal scheme to serve the village of Glasbury on both sides of the River Wye.

Certain works have been carried out to the Talgarth Sewage Disposal Plant during the year. The circular bed to be used as a sprinkler has been emptied ready for filling. The new sludge pump has been installed on the site with protective shed over. A lagoon space for sludge has been prepared on the site ready for sludge pumping operations. A Specialist Firm of Contractors undertook the cleaning of the Trunk sewer on the Bronllys Road at Talgarth and in High Street. Part of the extension of the sewer at Westfields was carried out during the year to cover the playing fields area.

Number of visits in connection with drainage work 18.

Public Cleansing. Refuse is collected once weekly in Talgarth, 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 is collected by the Council's lorry and staff under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

Inspections of refuse tips 12.

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	22.
Number of complaints investigated	22.
Number of premises visited	22.
Number of premises revisited	13.
Number of preliminary notices served	1.
Number of abatement notices served	0.

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 Sanitary Inspector 18.

There are 14 licensed houses in the district, of which 7 are satisfactory from the sanitary standpoint. Works of improvement were carried out during the year to one licensed house.

Shops. There are 28 shops which deal in food in the district and may be classified as follows :-

Grocers	10
Grocers/Confectioners	2
Grocer/Cafe	1
Grocers/Bakers	1
Bakers	1
Cafes	4
Greengrocers	2
Confectioners/Tobacconists	4
Butchers	2
Fish and Chips	1

The district is also served by such tradesmen from contiguous areas. There are no dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Orders, 1949, but 2 supplementary licences are issued to Milk Dealers who are registered in the Borough of Brecon.

All condemned foods are sprayed with fluorescent powder and buried in the Council's refuse tips, with the exception of the condemned meat from the slaughterhouse which is collected by a Hereford firm which deals in waste food products.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district	14
Number of inspections made	20
Number of defects found :	
(a) Sanitary conveniences defective	1
(b) Want of cleanliness	1
(c) Other offences	1

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	556
Number of premises found infested	97
Number of premises treated by rodent operator	58
Number treated by occupier	39
Estimated number of rats killed during the year	966
Number of dead rats actually recovered	314

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.

During the year 4 Council houses were completed which brings the total number of these houses completed since the end of the War to 92. One new private house was completed making 30 such houses since the War.

Three applications for Improvement Grant were received during the year and all three were approved.

At the 31st. December 1955 the total number of applications on the Council's "waiting list" was 74 and these may be classified as follows:-

Parish	Total Number Applicants	Number living in		Number of applicants requiring		
		Rooms	Houses	2 beds.	3 beds.	4 beds.
Aberllynfi	19	1	18	11	8	-
Bronllys	12	4	8	7	5	-
Llanigon	2	1	1	2	-	-
Llyswen	3	-	3	1	2	-
Velindre	8	1	7	4	4	-
Talgarth	26	4	22	16	9	1

There are also applications from 3 single people waiting to marry.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Article 31).

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation 106
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 5
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders 0
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works 0
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 0
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made 0
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930 0
8. Number of houses demolished 0

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. On the 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	23
Number of samples satisfactory	20
Number of samples unsatisfactory	3

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

Inspection of Meat. One slaughterhouse was registered as from 1st. August, 1954 for a period of 5 years.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)						
Number inspected	133	-	31	815	86	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	2	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	14	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & cysticerci	2.25	-	-	1.96	6.86	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Meat Condemned</u>						
<u>Cattle</u>						
Diseases other than tuberculosis						281 lbs
<u>Other Animals</u>						
Diseases other than tuberculosis						146 lbs
<u>Other Food Condemned.</u>						
Number of tins						Nil
Number of lbs						Nil
<u>Other Foods.</u>						
<u>Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses)</u>						
Number of inspections made						15

Ice-Cream Premises.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector 29.

No manufacture of ice-cream is carried out in the district, there being 11 retailers. No samples of ice-cream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector 11.
There is one fried fish premises in the district.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year :-

Scarlet Fever 2 cases

The district therefore remained remarkably free from notifiable infectious disease. Both these cases were nursed at home.
No death was caused by this infectious disease.

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 1955 and recent years :-

Number of cases on register at commencement of year	41
Number of fresh cases notified during the year	3
Number of cases removed due to recovery	0
Number of cases removed due to removal from district	2
Number of cases removed due to death	0
Number of cases left on register at end of year	42

The number of cases notified during recent years is shown below :-

<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>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
5.	8.	4.	5.	6.	4.	4.	10.	10.	10.	9.	3.

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 1955 however, it is disturbing to note that only 31.4% 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.