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Hay Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1969.



Officials.

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Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1959.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District for the year 1959.

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 comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/60 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. 39,153 acres.

The Rural District of Hay 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, 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.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 986 giving an average of 3.6 persons per house.

Population.

Census 1931.....4028.
Census 1951.....3869.
Estimated Midsummer 1959.....3640.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years is shown below:-

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.

3740. 3657. 3647. 3711. 3680. 3680. 3680. 3640. 3640. 3640.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	26	26	52	
Illegitimate	0	1	1	
	26	27	53	14.5

The Corrected birthrate was 18.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.5.

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also, very much higher than the deathrate.

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births during the year was one.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	27	39	66	18.1

The corrected deathrate was 10.3.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6.

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also, lower than the birthrate.

Still Births. There was one still birth registered during the year, giving a rate of 18.5. The national still birth rate was 20.7 per 1000 live and still births.

Total live and still births.....~~3741~~ 3742.

Infant Deaths. There was one death registered during the year in a child of under one year of age.

Total mortality rate.....	18.8
Legitimate mortality rate.....	19.2
Illegitimate mortality rate.....	0.
Neo-Natal mortality rate.....	19.2
Early neo-natal mortality rate.....	19.2
Perinatal mortality rate.....	37.0

Illegitimate Births per cent of total live births.....1.8%

Maternal Deaths. No deaths during the year could be attributed to childbirth which was very satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from special causes.

Infectious disease.....	0.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	1.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	0.
Cancer.....	6.

Causes of Deaths. Males..27 Females..39

Males. Females.

Tuberculosis respiratory.....	1.	0.
Other infective diseases.....	0.	1.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	2.	1.
Diabetes.....	1.	0.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	3.	8.
Coronary disease.....	5.	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	0.	1.
Other heart disease.....	7.	13.
Other circulatory diseases.....	1.	4.
Pneumonia.....	1.	0.
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.	0.
Other defined causes.....	3.	5.
Accidents, not motor vehicular.....	0.	1.
Suicide.....	0.	1.

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

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 Public Health 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 was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Nursing and other facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, eye, dental 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 diseases are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of cases are also admitted to Hereford Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital receive cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment 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.

Water Supplies.

The Council own 10 water supplies serving the villages of the district. There are 8 private supplies which serve six properties or more, and there are 181 supplies serving five properties or less and 83 of these are piped supplies; the remainder being either pumps or springs.

The very dry summer affected the yields of all the sources and in many cases the quantity of water dropped so low that restrictions on consumption were necessary. Details in respect of each parish are given below:-

Aberllynfi. The southern half of this village, including Gwernnyfed Secondary Modern School, was supplied with water from the Velindre reservoir, whilst the northern half was supplied from the springs at Lodge Farm. There was an unrestricted supply for the whole village during the year.

Number of samples.....3 (Very satisfactory)

Bronllys.

There are two supplies in this parish. One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and served the Sanatorium and houses attached thereto. The other is owned by the Council and serves most of the remaining properties in the village; the water being collected from springs and is untreated. During the summer months the supply dropped to a very low level and was then augmented from the Talgarth supply. The Council's source serves some 99 dwellings, but there are 13 other small private supplies in the parish serving individual farms.

Number of samples.....0.

Talgarth.

There are three public supplies in this parish. One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and serves the Mid-Wales Mental Hospital and houses attached thereto. The other two are owned by the Council.

The larger of the Council's supplies serves some 370 dwellings in Talgarth; a portion of this supply being received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital. There are 17 additional properties which are served from standpipes. This supply is sand filtered and chlorinated.

The other Council supply is from springs in Llanellieu parish and these are connected to a reservoir, which in times of drought, may be connected to a brook, and on such occasions, this supply is chlorinated.

During the summer the level in the storage reservoir dropped slowly.

Number of samples.....1. (Satisfactory)

The Council also own a supply in this parish which serves the hamlet of Trefecca. The springs dropped to a very low yield during the latter part of the summer and turning off at night was necessary from time to time.

Number of samples.....1. (Unsatisfactory)

In addition to the above, there are 39 private supplies in the parish of Talgarth of which 28 are small piped supplies.

Number of samples from private sources....2 (Satisfactory)

Llanellieu. There are only 15 properties in this parish, 10 being in the

Wye Valley area and 5 in the Usk Valley area and all have private piped supplies from different sources.

Number of samples.....0.

Glynfach and Usk Valley Portion of Tregoyd & Velindre.

There are 10 untreated private supplies in the parish, 4 being small private piped supplies and the other 6 from open springs.
Number of samples (private sources)....1 (Satisfactory)

Llanigon.

The Council own the supply serving the village of Llanigon. The water is collected from springs to a small reservoir and is untreated, the supply serving some 32 houses and farms. There are 8 other small private supplies in the parish and 6 of these are piped. There was an adequate supply of water during the year.
Number of samples....1 (Satisfactory)
Number of samples (Private supplies).....2. (Unsatisfactory)

The Council also own a supply in this parish which serves the hamlet of Ffordlaes. During the year a new Compound Ram with intake weir situated at Llwynfilly Farm was installed and a reservoir of some 2,100 gallons with filter constructed above the hamlet. A water main from the reservoir through the hamlet was laid and each property can now be connected thereto.
Number of samples....1. (Unsatisfactory)

Hay Rural.

14 properties in this parish are served from the Council's supply at Llanigon. There are 21 private supplies in the parish and of these 8 are piped.
Number of samples....0.

Llyswen.

The Council own the supply serving this village, water being collected from springs and these are untreated. Of the 66 dwellings in the parish, 56 have the water laid on.

During the dry summer months the spring sources at Tir-Gwalter failed and it was necessary to turn off the supply at night to conserve the water. Later in the year this source failed completely and a temporary pipe line was laid in order to supply the whole village from the Llandefalle Road source.
Number of samples....2. (Satisfactory)

Pipton.

There are 11 private supplies in this parish of which 8 are piped supplies serving 12 dwellings; the other dwellings are served by pumps.

Tregoyd & Velindre.

Most of the properties in this parish are served from the Council's sources at Velindre, including the Gwernyfed Secondary Modern School. There are 123 dwellings in the parish and 105 have water laid on and 5 are served from standpipes. All constructional work on the new filter and filtered water tank at Velindre was completed during the year and improvements to the existing works were also carried out.
Number of samples....5. (Satisfactory)

Two private supplies serves most of the properties in the Village of Glasbury some of the water being obtained as an overflow from the Council's source at Llwynfilly Farm.

Number of samples....1 (satisfactory)

Number of samples (private sources)....3. (2 satisfactory; 1 unsatisfactory)

Hay Area Water Supply Scheme.

During the year further survey work was carried out by the Consulting Civil Engineers in respect of this scheme which is to serve Hay Rural and Hay Urban and Painscastle Rural Districts.

Approval in principle to the scheme was received from the Breconshire and Radnorshire County Councils, but the observations of the Wye River Board are still waited.

Letters were received from the Builth and District Water Board and New Radnor Rural District Council concerning the likely demands of these authorities for water from the above mentioned scheme.

Preliminary investigations were made by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the Ministry have now suggested that during the first years of operation of the scheme all water required should be abstracted from Llanbwchllyn Lake and the proposal to take water from the River Wye should be held in abeyance. Accordingly it is necessary to raise the level of the Lake to gain additional storage capacity, and the Consulting Engineers have carried out further surveys and levels to allow for this.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Llyswen. During the year work was started on the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for this village, and at the end of the year had progressed satisfactorily.

Three Cocks. Apart from some levelling and design work previously carried out there was no further progress on the proposed scheme during the year.

Glasbury. The scheme for this village has been held in abeyance.

Talgarth. Some reconstruction of the Talgarth Sewage Works is planned and is to receive early attention.

Velindre. The new sewerage scheme for this village is working satisfactorily and several properties were connected to the sewers. Grants to nine householders have been paid under the Public Health Act 1936 Section 47 for the replacement of earth closets etc. by water closets and connection of same to the sewer.

Number of visits to drainage work.....17.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected once weekly in Talgarth, Bronllys, Llyswen, Pipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Velindre, Llanigon and the parish of Hay Rural. The only parishes not included in the scheme are Llanellieu and Glynfach. Refuse is collected by the Council's own lorry and disposed of by tipping, the work and staff being under the control of the Public Health Inspector.

Salvage. Collection of waste paper was undertaken. Some 19 tons of baled mixed waste paper was sent away during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector and the following details give information relating to this work.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	29.
Number of complaints investigated.....	29.
Number of premises visited.....	29.
Number of premises revisited.....	16.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	0.
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 as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

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

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

Licensed Premises. There are 15 licensed houses, 1 licensed club and 3 off-license premises in the district. 13 of the licensed premises are highly satisfactory from the sanitary standpoint.

Number of inspections.....30.

Camping Sites. There was one licensed camping site in the district situated at Llyswen.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....7.

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 operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. This operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban District Council and Painscastle Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....603.
 Number of premises found infested.....149.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....109.
 Number treated by occupier.....40.
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....1663.
 Number of dead rats actually recovered.....552.
 The sewers in Talgarth were baited in June. No takes were recorded.

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

Section 5. Housing. At the end of 1959 there were 48 applicants on the Housing List for Council houses in each parish as follows:-

Parish	Number of applicants	Number living in rooms	1	2	3	4.
No. of bedrooms required						
Aberllynfi and Glasbury	9	1	0	7	2	0
Bronllys	12	5	0	5	7	0
Llanigon	3	0	0	3	0	0
Talgarth	21	7	2	15	4	0
Velindre	3	0	1	0	1	1
Totals	48	13	3	30	14	1

There are 163 Council Houses in the district. One bungalow was constructed by the Council during the year, but a further 30 houses for Talgarth and 2 for Velindre were under construction at the end of the year.

No private houses were constructed during the year, making a total of 39 erected since the war.

Eight discretionary grants were approved in 1959 and five standard grants were applied for but were not approved. During the year 7 improvements were completed, but 3 of these were for schemes approved in 1958.

Four farmhouses were improved during the year with grants under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts.

Number of house to house inspections.....54.

Hay Rural District

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....80.
2. The number of houses the defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....2.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notice 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 notice.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made.....1.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.....6.
8. Number of houses demolished.....0.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. There are two dealers registered in the district who sell T.T. pasteurised and sterilised milk. There are no dairies registered. 7 samples were taken from dealers in 1959 and of these 6 were satisfactory. One dealer is registered in Brecon Borough and one in Hay Urban District.

Meat. There is one slaughterhouse registered in the district. All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deals in waste food products. All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....77.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known					
Number inspected	132	-	890	111	-
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	41	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	5.3	-	4.5	6.3	-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.90	-

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Condemned. Cattle.....26 lbs. Other animals.....31 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned. Tins....25. Food(weight).....81 lbs.

Other FoodsFood Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made.....7.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....28.
No manufacture of ice cream is carried out in the district, there being
17 retailers, 5 of which were new applications approved in 1959.
No samples of ice cream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by public health inspector.....12.
There is one fried fish premises in the district.

Shops. There are 25 shops in the district which deal in food and may be
classified as follows:-

Grocers.....	10.
Grocer/Confectioners.....	2.
Grocer/Cafe.....	1.
Grocer/Bakers.....	1.
Bakers.....	1.
Cafes.....	1.
Greengrocers.....	2.
Confectioners/Tobacconists.....	4.
Butchers.....	1.
Fish and chips.....	1.
Fishmongers.....	0.

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

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

Number of inspections under Shops Acts.....30.

Hay Rural 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.....5 cases.

All of these cases were nursed at home. The district therefore remained remarkably free from infectious disease. No death was caused by infectious disease during the year.

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 1959 and recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	47.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	12.
Number of cases removed due to recovery.....	2.
Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....	6.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	50.

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

1949.	1950.	1951.	1953.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
4.	4.	10.	10.	10.	9.	3.	10.	2.	13.	12.

It must be pointed out that, of these 12 new cases admitted to the register during the year, 4 were transfers from other districts. This left a total of 8 fresh cases occurring in the district during the year.

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. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Appendix

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAY IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	21	-	-
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
111. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	14	21	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were insti- tuted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

There was no out-work done during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health