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Contributors

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Hay Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1960.



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.S.H.,
M.P.H.I.A.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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The Royal Institute of Medicine

Report

of the

Medical Section of the

For the year 1911.

1912.

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1912.

Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1960.

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 1960.

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 1/61 (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 1020 giving an average number of 3.5 persons per house.

Population.

Census 1931.....	4028.
Census 1951.....	3869.
Estimated Midsummer 1960.....	3630.

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

1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960.

3657. 3647. 3711. 3680. 3680. 3680. 3640. 3640. 3640. 3630.

Live Births. Males. Females. Total. Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.

Legitimate	26.	14.	40.	
Illegitimate	2.	0.	2.	
	28.	14.	42.	11.5

The Corrected Birthrate was 14.9

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.1

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but higher than the district deathrate.

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

Deaths. Males. Females. Total. Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.

34. 37. 71. 19.5

The corrected deathrate was 11.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.5

The district rate was therefore slightly higher than the national average but lower than the birthrate.

Still Births. There was one still birth registered during the year, giving a rate of 23.2. The national still birth rate was 19.7 per 1000 live and still births.

Total live and still births.....43.

Infant Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total mortality rate.....0.

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.....34. Females.....37.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	2.....	0.
Malignant neoplasms, breast.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	2.....	1.
Diabetes.....	0.....	2.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	7.....	9.
Coronary disease.....	6.....	8.
Other heart disease.....	7.....	7.
Other circulatory disease.....	1.....	3.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	1.
Other diseases, respiratory system.....	2.....	1.
Nephritis.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	4.....	3.
Motor Vehicle accidents.....	1.....	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 done 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 disease 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 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 84 of these are piped supplies; the remainder being either pumps or springs. Owing to the comparatively wet summer and autumn the amount of water was adequate to meet all demands throughout the district. The position in each parish is given below:-

Aberllynfi parish.

The southern half of the village, including Gwernnyfed Secondary Modern School, was supplied from the Velindre reservoir, whilst the northern half from springs at Lodge Farm. The quantity of water was adequate throughout the year. No samples were taken in the year.

Bronllys parish.

There are two supplies in the parish. One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and serves 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. When the supply falls to a low level in the summer months it is augmented from the Talgarth supply. The Council's supply serves some 99 dwellings, but there are 13 other small private supplies serving individual farms.

Number of samples.....1. This samples was unsatisfactory and the mains were flushed out and spring source cleaned up.

Talgarth parish.

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 402 dwellings in Talgarth; the supply being received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital. There are 2 additional properties which are served from standpipes. The 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.

No samples were taken during the year.

The Council also own the supply which serves the hamlet of Trefecca and this was adequate throughout the quarter, the water being taken from springs.

No samples were taken during the year.

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 supplies.....2 (satisfactory).

Llanellieu parish. There are only 16 properties in this parish, 11 being in the Wye Valley and 5 in the Usk Valley area and all have private piped supplies from different sources. No samples were taken during the year.

Glynfach and Usk Valley Portion of Tregoyd & Velindre parish.

There are 10 untreated private supplies in the parish, 4 being small private piped supplies and other 6 from open springs. No samples were taken during the year.

Llanigon parish.

The Council own the supply serving the village of Llanigon. The water is collected from springs to a service reservoir is untreated; the supply serving some 32 houses and farms. There are 8 other small private supplies and 6 of these are piped.

There was an adequate supply throughout the year.

No samples were taken during the year.

The Council own the supply which serves the hamlet of Ffordlaes. Water being pumped by Ram from Llwynfilly Farm to a small underground reservoir above the Hamlet and the water is also filtered. No samples were taken during the year.

Hay Rural parish.

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.
No samples were taken during the year.

Llyswen parish.

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 water laid on. The supply was adequate throughout the year.

No samples were taken during the year.

Pipton parish.

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

No samples were taken during the year.

Tregoyd & Velindre parish.

Most of the properties in this parish are served from the Council's sources at Velindre, including Gwernyfed Secondary Modern School. There are 127 dwellings in the parish and 113 have water laid on and 1 is served from a standpipe. The water from Velindre reservoir is sand filtered and chlorinated.

No samples were taken during the year.

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

No samples were taken during the year.

Hay Area Water Supply Scheme.

The preparation of plans and details proceeded more rapidly during the year and the Consulting Engineers prepared numerous detailed drawings of the proposed reservoirs, pumping stations and routes of mains with the exception of the filtration and treatment plant, the scope of which will depend upon the Ministry's decision concerning the basis of the scheme as a whole. Plans of reservoirs and pumping stations were submitted to the County Planning Authority and also to the District Valuer who would negotiate for the acquisition of the various sites. Apart from one or two changes requested by the landowners there does not appear to be any difficulty in acquiring the sites.

Approval of the Ministry has been sought for inviting tenders to carry out exploratory works.

Number of properties in each parish with piped supplies from Council mains, or from standpipes, and population so served.

Parish	Houses with piped supply	Population served	Number with standpipes	Population served
Aberllynfi	40	140	0	0
Bronllys	99	346	0	0
Talgarth	432	1512	2	7
Trefecca	Included in Talgarth			
Llanellieu	0	0	0	0
Glynfach	0	0	0	0
Llanigon	36	126	3	10
Ffordlais	Included in Llanigon			
Hay Rural	14	49	0	0
Llyswen	56	196	0	0
Pipton	0	0	0	0
Tregoyd & Velindre	113	385	1	4

Drainage and Sewerage.

Llyswen. The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for this village was completed during the year.

Aberllynfi. Various sites for the proposed disposal works for this village were investigated during the year and a site above flood level has been picked which owners are prepared to sell.

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

Talgarth. Some reconstruction of the Talgarth Sewage Works is planned and preliminary investigations have been carried out.

Bronllys. A report was prepared on the provision of a sewage disposal works for this village.

Velindre. The recently constructed works for this village is working satisfactorily.

Number of visits to drainage work.....19.

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 at Bronllys tip., 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.....	27.
Number of complaints investigated.....	27.
Number of premises visited.....	27.
Number of premises revisited.....	3.
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.

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.....25.

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

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....Nil.

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

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspections 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.....547.
 Number of premises found infested.....141.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....91.
 Number treated by occupier.....50.
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....1566.
 Number of dead rats actually recovered.....478.
 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 1960 there were 60 applicants on the Housing List for Council Houses in each parish as follows:-

Parish	Number of applicants	Number living in rooms	1 No.	2	3	4
of bedrooms required						
Aberllynfi and Glasbury	6	-	0	3	3	0
Bronllys	18	-	4	5	8	1
Llanigon	4	-	0	4	0	0
Talgarth	27	-	7	14	6	0
Llyswen	2	-	0	0	2	0
Velindre	3	-	2	1	0	0
Totals	60	-	13	27	19	1

There are 195 Council houses in the district. Thirty houses at Talgarth and 2 at Velindre were constructed by the Council during the year. A further 10 houses were proposed for Bronllys.

Two private houses were constructed during the year, making a total of 41 erected since the war.

Seven discretionary grants were approved in 1960 and seven standard grants were also approved..

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

Number of house to house inspections.....59.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspections were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....66.
2. The number of houses the defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....11.
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.....0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.....13.
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. Two samples were taken from dealers in 1960 and these 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.....72.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known					
Number inspected	105	-	443	95	-
<u>All diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	31	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	5.71	-	5.89	6.31	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Condemned. Cattle.....11 lbs. Other Animals..... 171lbs.

Other Foods Condemned. Tins.....0. Food(weight)..... 561lbs.

Other FoodsFood Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made.....15.

During the year the Council considered the present and possible future slaughtering facilities of the district, as required under the Slaughterhouses Act. The decision was reached that the present slaughterhouse in Talgarth would be adequate bearing in mind the presence of two in Hay Urban District and one in Brecon Borough.

The necessary alterations were agreed with the tenant of the Talgarth Slaughterhouse and the appointed day, after which a slaughterhouse cannot be licensed unless it conforms with a certain standard, is the 1st. January 1963.

The report was accepted by the Minister.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....33.

No manufacture of ice cream is carried out in the district, there being 17 retailers. No samples of ice cream were examined during the year. There was one approved new licensed retailer in 1960 and one left the district.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by public health inspector.....17.

There is one fried fish premises in the district.

Shops. There are 24 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 the 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.....28.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

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

Measles.....1 case.

This case was nursed at home. The district was therefore 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 1960 and recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	50.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	8.
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.....	49.

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

1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
4.	10.	10.	10.	9.	3.	10.	2.	13.	12.	8

It must be pointed out that, of these 8 new cases admitted to the register during the year, 4 were transfers from other districts. This left a total of 4 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 1960 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		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	13	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
iii. Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	17	13	-	-

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.H. Inspector (4)	By H.H. 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