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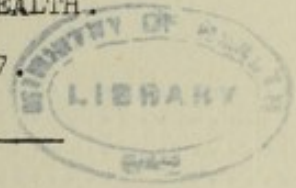
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HAY URBAN DISTRICT
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1947.



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,A.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1947.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Williams and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District for the year 1947.

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 170/47 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICSStatistical Summary for the year 1947.

Area.....370 acres.
 Population (Census 1931).....1509.
 Population (Estimated at midsummer 1947).....1361.
 Number of inhabited houses.....418.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000.Pop.</u>
Legitimate	13.	17.	30.	22.0
Illegitimate.	1.	0.	1.	0.7.
	<u>14.</u>	<u>17.</u>	<u>31.</u>	<u>22.7.</u>

Still Births. Nil.

Deaths from all causes. 10. 12, 22. 16.

Maternal Deaths. Nil.Deaths under 1 year.

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

Legitimate infants..Nil.

Deaths from special causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....1.

Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.

Cancer.....2.

Area.

The district of Hay is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

The surrounding district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the surrounding residents.

POPULATION. Census 1931....1509.

<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>
1329.	1386.	1556.	1409.	1450.	1420.	1344.	1345.	1361.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population had dropped a little by 1939 from the last census figure.

Hay Urban District.

It then increased to a maximum in 1941 and now is a little higher than the 1939 figure.

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 418 giving an average number of 3.2 persons per house.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			26.....	19.
1939.....			15.....	11.2.
1940.....	19.....	20.....	39.....	28.
1941.....	12.....	12.....	24.....	15.3.
1942.....	19.....	9.....	28.....	19.3.
1943.....	7.....	17.....	24.....	16.5.
1944.....	16.....	13.....	29.....	20.4.
1945.....	16.....	8.....	24.....	17.8.
1946.....	10.....	14.....	24.....	17.7.
1947.....	14.....	17.....	31.....	22.7.
England and Wales, 1947.....				20.5.

The birthrate for the year under review was higher 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 in the following table;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			25.....	18.3.
1939.....			23.....	17.3.
1940.....	15.....	16.....	31.....	22.
1941.....	11.....	13.....	24.....	15.4
1942.....	8.....	16.....	24.....	16.1.
1943.....	14.....	12.....	26.....	17.8.
1944.....	13.....	11.....	24.....	16.8.
1945.....	21.....	10.....	31.....	23.
1946.....	12.....	8.....	20.....	14.7.
1947.....	10.....	12.....	22.....	16.0.
England & Wales, 1947.....				12.

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1947, was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1938.....			1.....	0.7.
1939.....			1.....	0.7.
1940.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.6.
1942.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1943.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.7.
1945.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1946.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England & Wales, 1947.....				0.50.

It will be observed that very few still births occur in the district.

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>
1938.....			2.....	76.8.
1939.....			1.....	66.6.
1940.....	2.....	2.....	4.....	102.
1941.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1942.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	36.
1943.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	41.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	41.
1946.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	41.
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England & Wales, 1947.....				41.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....10. Females.....12.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis Respiratory System.....	0.....	1.
Cancer.....	1.....	1.
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	0.....	4.
Heart Disease.....	2.....	3.
Other circulatory diseases.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	1.
Digestive diseases.....	1.....	0.
All other causes.....	5.....	2.

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

ILLEGITIMACY. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district in 1947 amounted to 1.

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. The same arrangements existed during the year as in the latter part of the previous year. Mr. G. C. Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Paincastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease could be performed at the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff and at Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the National Health Testing and Advisory Laboratory at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. There was no change in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. Patients suffering from infectious disease were conveyed to hospital by private cars, a system not without disadvantages. The St. John's Ambulance Association met the needs of the other patients requiring removal to hospital.

Home Nursing. The arrangements made by the local district nursing association render the services of a trained nurse available for any family in the district on payment of a small contribution. Such provisions deserve every encouragement and support.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council are held regularly at Wesley Hall, Oxford Road. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available. These are also administered by the County Council.

In addition clinics are held regularly by me at the Council Offices, in the morning of the 2nd. Thursday in each month, for the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Cases are treated in your isolation hospital which has accommodation for eight patients.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. A modern steam disinfectant and the vehicle for the removal of infected clothing and bedding would be of great use in the district.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare; dental, orthopaedic and visual defects, and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply 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.

Water Supply. During the year the district experienced one of the most severe droughts for many years. The present supply proved quite inadequate and from the 22nd June until the end of the year the supply was restricted, falling as low as a 2 hours supply a day.

Eight samples of water were taken and subjected to a bacteriological test, only one of these samples was reported upon as being satisfactory.

The provision of an adequate and wholesome supply of water still therefore remains a pressing need in the district. During the year the Council considered a scheme for the improvement in the supply but progress seems very slow.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged direct into the river Wye.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector in connection with drainage work.....25.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. This work is done by the Council employees under the supervision of your surveyor. The refuse is then disposed of by tipping.

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.....65.
 Number of complaints investigated.....65.
 Number of premises inspected.....55.
 Number of premises revisited.....29.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....2.
 Number of statutory notices served.....0.

There has been great difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. It is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature 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.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector.....37.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....19.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....19.
 Number of inspections made.....21.
 Number of defects found.....2.

These defects were want of cleanliness and insufficient sanitary accommodation, were referred by the Factories Inspector and were remedied.

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat Infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected for vermin during the year.....5.
Number of premises treated.....1.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operative is engaged by the Council. This same operative is also engaged by the Hay Rural Council. This operative worked under the supervision of the sanitary inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....178.
Number of premises found infested.....24.
Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....24.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....333.

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 situation was acute. The Council had under construction 24 houses during the year but at the end of the year, owing to the grave shortage of building materials and labour, none of these were near completion.

Number of house to house inspections made.....95.
Number of revisits made.....19.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. Milk sampling in the district is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt is made by the sanitary inspector to test each retailer's milk every two weeks. Wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The laboratory functioning under this scheme is situated at Brecon. Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories.

Category A.....Good keeping quality milk.
Category B.....Doubtful keeping quality milk.
Category C.....Poor quality milk.

The results of the milk samples taken during the year is given below;

Number of samples taken during the year.....72.
Number of results in Category A.....49.
Number of results in Category B.....10.
Number of results in Category C.....13.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat to the district is supplied from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point at Brecon.

Other Foods.

Number of tins condemned.....232.
 Number of pounds condemned.....678.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....30.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....23.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made.....1.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....10.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

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

Measles.....10 cases
 Acute anterior Poliomyelitis.....1 case

The anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) occurred in an expectant mother who was admitted to Hereford Hospital where recovery occurred. No deaths were caused by notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Veneral Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....10.
 Number of fresh cases added during the year.....0.
 Number of cases removed due to death.....1.
 Number of cases removed as non tuberculous.....1.
 Number of cases left on register at end of year.....8.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
0.	2.	4.	2.	3.	4.	4.	3.	0.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year the monthly clinics held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria were continued. The place and date of these clinics were advertised in the local press and also parents were advised in the press that children should have a third injection on reaching school age. Continual efforts were made by the County Council Health Visitor to get as many children as possible immunised.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

<u>Age at 31.12.47.</u>	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9.</u>	<u>10-15.</u>
Number immunised.....	0.....	15...	19...	24...	32...	43.....	5...
Number immunised during the year.	<u>Under 5.</u>		<u>5-15.</u>		<u>Third Inj.</u>		
	23.		1.		2.		

It must be pointed out that individual record cards for children have only been kept since July 1st, 1943, and therefore the above figures only show those children actually immunised by me since that date. I have no records individually of children immunised before that date.

The following figures show the extent of immunisation in the under five year group at the end of the year.

Number born in 1942.....	28.
Number of these children immunised since July 1st, 1943.....	23.
Number of children born in 1943.....	24.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	32.
(This figure can only be accounted for by assuming that children actually born outside the district are brought in to me from addresses within the district).	
Number of children born in 1944.....	29.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	24.
Number of children born in 1945.....	24.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	19.
Number of children born in 1946.....	24.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	15.
Number of children born in 1947.....	31.
Number of these children since immunised by me.....	0.

The above figures can be considered extremely satisfactory and here I must pay tribute to the Local Health Visitor, to whose continual efforts the above figures are very largely due. There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.