

[Report 1948] / Medical Officer of Health, Hay U.D.C.

Contributors

Hay (Wales). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1948

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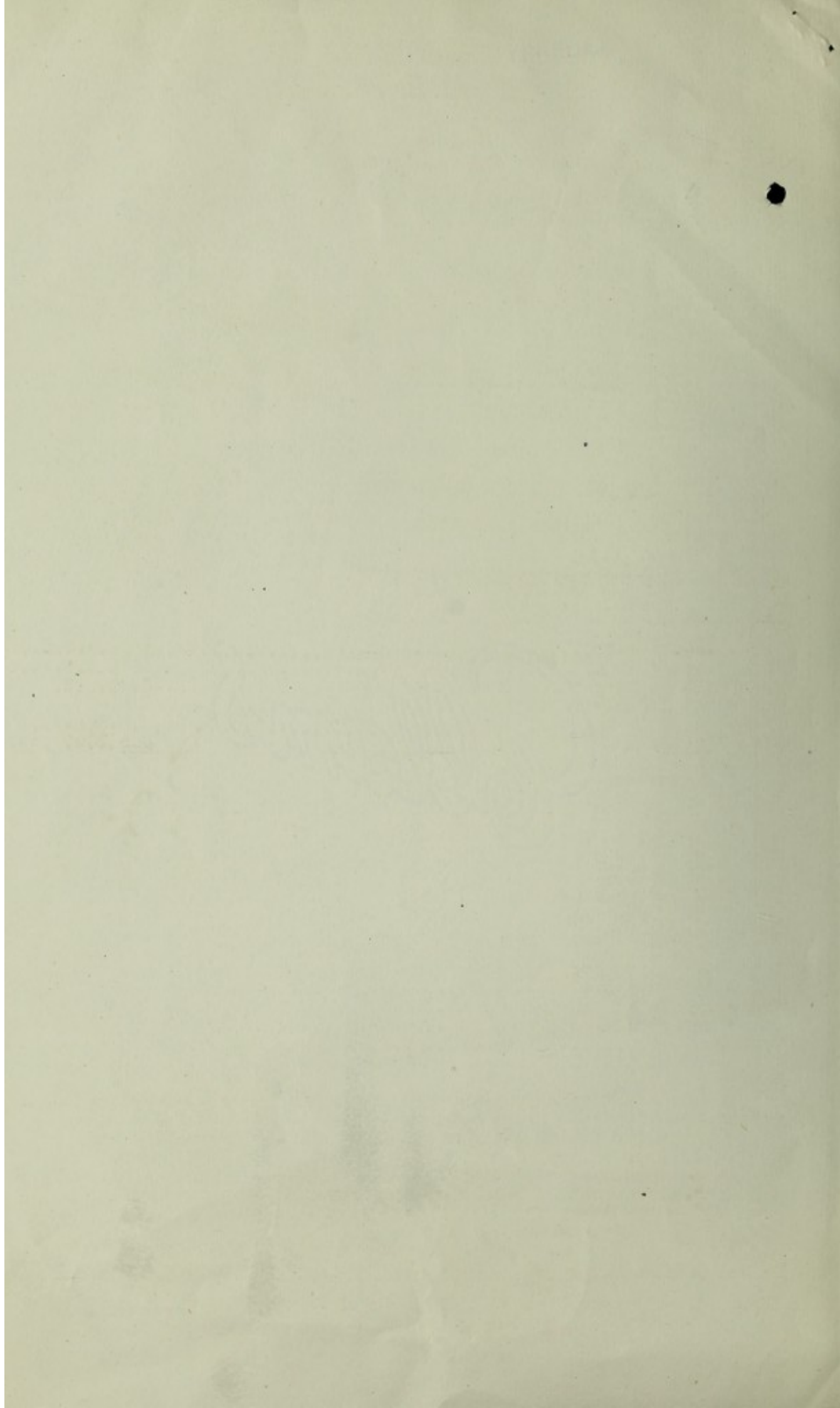


HAY URBAN DISTRICT
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1948

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.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health1948

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 1948.

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 3/49 (Wales).

The year under review witnessed the coming into operation of various extremely important Acts, such as the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

These Acts have produced great changes in the work of public health administration and have revolutionised the Medical and hospital services throughout the country. The Local Health Authority under these Acts, is, in Breconshire, the County Council.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICSStatistical Summary for the year 1948.

Area.....370 acres.
 Population (Census 1931).....1509.
 Population (Estimated at midsummer 1948).....1398.
 Number of inhabited houses.....442.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	6.	10.	16.	
Illegitimate	0.	0.	0.	
	6.	10.	16.	11.4

Still Births.	Nil			
Deaths from all causes.	11.	12.	23.	16.4

Maternal Deaths.. Nil

Deaths under 1 year...Nil Rate per 1000 live births.....Nil.

Deaths from special causes.

Infectious disease.....One
 Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....One
 Other tuberculous disease.....One
 Cancer.....Three

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.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
1329.	1386.	1556.	1409.	1450.	1420.	1344.	1345.	1361.	1398.

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, but is slowly increasing in recent years.

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 442 giving an average number of 3.1 persons per house.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....	19	7	26	19.0
1939.....	15	2	17	11.2
1940.....	19	20	39	28.0
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
1948.....	6	10	16	11.4
England and Wales 1948.....				17.9

The birthrate for the year under review was much lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was also lower than the death rate.

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.....	15	10	25	18.3
1939.....	15	8	23	17.3
1940.....	15	16	31	22.0
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	23.0
1946.....	12	8	20	14.7
1947.....	10	12	22	16.0
1948.....	11	12	23	16.4
England and Wales, 1948.....				10.8

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1948, was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was higher than the birth rate.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....	0	1	1	0.7
1939.....	0	1	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.
1948.....	0	0	0	0.
England and Wales, 1948.....				0.42

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	0	2	76.8
1939.....	1	0	1	66.6
1940.....	2	2	4	102.0
1941.....	0	0	0	0.
1942.....	1	0	1	36.0
1943.....	0	1	1	41.0
1944.....	0	0	0	0.
1945.....	1	0	1	41.0
1946.....	1	0	1	41.0
1947.....	0	0	0	0.
1948.....	0	0	0	0.
England and Wales, 1948.....				34.0

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....11 Females.....12

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis Respiratory System.....	0	1
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	1	0
Cancer Stomach.....	1	0
Cancer other sites.....	2	0
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	1	1
Heart Disease.....	3	7
Pneumonia.....	1	0
Other Respiratory diseases.....	1	0
Digestive Diseases.....	0	2
Violent causes.....	0	1
All other causes.....	1	0

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 1948 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. The same arrangements existed during the year as in the previous year. Mr.G.G.Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Painscastle.

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. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes became operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council became 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 new Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations became whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

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, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available. These are also administered by the County Council.

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. During the year the Council was informed that, under provisions of the new Health Act, the Hay Isolation Hospital was not required and would not be taken over by the state. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital accommodation would in future be treated either at Hereford or Merthyr.

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 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. The water supplies to the district are taken from mountain springs. During the year the water supply could not be regarded as adequate in quantity or satisfactory in quality.

Six bacteriological samples were taken and of these four were unsatisfactory and two were satisfactory.

Some trouble was experienced with the storage reservoir and filter bed at Hay Common and the chlorinating plant occasionally failed to function.

During the year a new scheme of abstracting water from Esgryn brook was prepared by a consulting engineer and details were submitted to the Welsh Board of Health. Progress in the scheme appears slow and the provision of an adequate and wholesome supply of water still therefore remains a pressing need in the district.

Number of visits of inspection by sanitary inspector.....43.

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

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector in connection with drainage work.....29.

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. During the year a new refuse lorry was purchased which also undertakes the refuse collection for Hay Rural and Paincastle.

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.....33.
 Number of complaints investigated.....33.
 Number of premises inspected.....21.
 Number of premises revisited.....16.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....17.
 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.....20.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....18.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....19.
 Number of inspections made.....12.
 Number of defects found.....4.

These defects were want of cleanliness and defective sanitary accommodation, and all 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 P.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected for vermin during the year.....0.

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.....252;
 Number of premises found infested.....54.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....34.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....20.
 Number of dead rats recovered.....135.
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....507.

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 and at the end of the year, 20 of these were completed. Six further houses were to be built and work was also commenced on the conversion of the isolation hospital into 3 flats.

Number of house to house inspections made.....75.

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.....86.
 Number of results in Category A.....82.
 Number of results in Category B.....1.
 Number of results in Category C.....3.

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.....131.
 Number of pounds condemned.....154.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....14.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....19.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....8.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

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

Acute pneumonia.....1 case
Measles.....1 case
Whooping cough.....4 cases

The district therefore was free of any severe epidemic of infectious disease. The pneumonia case proved fatal. None of these cases were removed to hospital.

Under the new Health Act, all fees paid by the Council for the notification of infectious disease are 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 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.....8.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....6.
Number of cases removed due to death.....2.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....2.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....1.
Number of cases left on the register at end of year.....9.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1939. 1940. 1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948.

0. 2. 4. 2. 3. 4. 4. 3. 0. 6.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council became 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.

In December of the year, the County Council took over all these duties from me. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,
Medical Officer of Health.

