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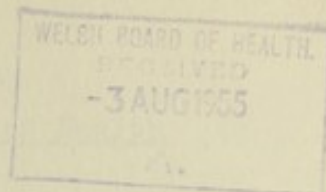
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HAY URBAN DISTRICT
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1954.

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.



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Report of the Medical Officer of Health1954

Mr. Chairman, Lady 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 1954.

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 28/54 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1954.

Area.....370 acres.
 Population (Census 1951).....1452.
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1954).....1450.
 Number of inhabited houses.....503.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop</u>
Legitimate	3	8	11	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	7.6

Still Births.....One.

Deaths from all causes 16 10 26 17.2

Maternal deaths.....0.

Deaths under 1 year.....Nil. Rate per 1000 live births.....0.

Deaths from special causes.

Infectious Disease.....0.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....0.

Other tuberculous disease.....0.

Cancer.....6.

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 residents.

Population. Census 1931.....1509.
 Census 1951.....1452.

1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954.

1420. 1344. 1345. 1361. 1398. 1407. 1455. 1433. 1439. 1448. 1450.

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

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 503 giving an average number of 2.8 persons per house.

Hay Urban District

| <u>Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 1949..... | 15..... | 7..... | 22..... | 15.6 |
| 1950..... | 9..... | 10..... | 19..... | 13.0 |
| 1951..... | 14..... | 13..... | 27..... | 18.8 |
| 1952..... | 8..... | 9..... | 17..... | 11.8 |
| 1953..... | 17..... | 14..... | 31..... | 21.4 |
| 1954..... | 3..... | 8..... | 11..... | 7.6 |
| England and Wales, 1954..... | | | | 15.2 |

The birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales and was also lower than the deathrate

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> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 1949..... | 13..... | 15..... | 28..... | 19.9 |
| 1950..... | 8..... | 16..... | 24..... | 16.5 |
| 1951..... | 9..... | 15..... | 24..... | 16.7 |
| 1952..... | 11..... | 10..... | 21..... | 14.6 |
| 1953..... | 12..... | 9..... | 21..... | 14.5 |
| 1954..... | 16..... | 10..... | 26..... | 17.2 |
| England and Wales, 1954..... | | | | 11.3 |

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1954, was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was also higher than the birth rate for the district.

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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. |
| 1949..... | 0..... | 2..... | 2..... | 1.4 |
| 1950..... | 2..... | 0..... | 2..... | 1.3 |
| 1951..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1952..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1953..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1954..... | 1..... | 0..... | 1..... | 83.3 |
| England and Wales, 1954..... | | | | 24.0 |

The still birthrate was higher than that of the average of the whole of England and Wales. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births 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 1000 live births.

| | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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. |
| 1949..... | 1..... | 1..... | 2..... | 90.0 |
| 1950..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| 1951..... | 1..... | 0..... | 1..... | 37.0 |
| 1952..... | 1..... | 0..... | 1..... | 58.8 |
| 1953..... | 0..... | 1..... | 1..... | 32.2 |
| 1954..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0..... | 0. |
| England and Wales, 1954..... | | | | 25.5 |

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....16. Females.....10.

| <u>Cause.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Other malignant neoplasms..... | 5..... | 1. |
| Diabetes..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system..... | 1..... | 1. |
| Coronary disease..... | 2..... | 0. |
| Hypertension with heart disease..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Other heart disease..... | 5..... | 1. |
| Pneumonia..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Bronchitis..... | 1..... | 0. |
| Congenital malformations..... | 0..... | 1. |
| Other causes..... | 1..... | 3. |
| Accidents, non motor vehicular..... | 1..... | 0. |

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 of the district was 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 previous years. Mr. 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 Health Laboratory at Hereford 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 Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were 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 were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of 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. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received 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.

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.

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, childlife protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are taken from lowland springs.

During the year the water supply could not be regarded as adequate in quantity or quality.

The supply was cut off from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily from the 15th. May to 20th. October inclusive.

Number of samples taken.....3.
Number of samples unsatisfactory.....3.

Progress on the Llanbwhllyn Lake scheme is still proceeding very slowly.

Number of visits of inspection by Sanitary Inspector.....13.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but it is discharged direct into the river Wye. During the year the Surveyor made progress with a scheme for a sewage disposal works, and the report was submitted to the Wye River Board who now await further particulars.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with drainage work.....3.

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 Sanitary Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled 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..... | 18. |
| Number of complaints investigated..... | 18. |
| Number of premises inspected..... | 21. |
| Number of premises revisited..... | 3. |
| Number of preliminary notices served..... | 0. |
| Number of Statutory 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.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector..... | 27. |
|--|-----|

Shops.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of inspections made..... | 25. |
|---------------------------------|-----|

Factories.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of factories on register..... | 17. |
| Number of inspections made..... | 29. |
| Number of defects found..... | 6. |
| Number of defects remedied..... | 5. |

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 are treated with D.D.T. Preparations.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Number of premises inspected..... | 0. |
|-----------------------------------|----|

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

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of premises inspected during the year..... | 246. |
| Number of premises found infested..... | 46. |
| Number of premises treated by rodent operative..... | 26. |
| Number of premises treated by occupier..... | 20. |
| Number of dead rats recovered..... | 48. |
| Estimated number of rats killed during the year..... | 289. |

The sewers and road gullies were treated in May and October.

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

SECTION 5. HOUSING. During the year 14 houses were completed by the Council and occupied. No houses were erected by private enterprise.

There are still 43 applicants on the Council's waiting list for new houses and of these, 32 are living in houses and 11 in rooms. Of the applicants living in houses, 24 are in houses which could be considered for demolition.

Two applicants could be housed in a one bedroom type, 29 applicants in a two bedroom type and 12 applicants in a three bedroom type. Council houses.

No applications for Improvement Grants under 1949 Act were received during the year.

Number of housing inspections made.....62.

No action was taken by the Council under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, Article 31.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. Since 1st. October 1949 local authorities were left with the licensing and control of distributors or dealers.

Number of dealers registered.....1.
There are no dairies registered in your district.

Number of samples taken from dealers (T.T.).....4.
Satisfactory.....1.
Unsatisfactory.....3.

There are 6 producer/retailers delivering milk in your district and one of these holds a licence to sell a designated milk known as "accredited" and the other 5 sell undesignated milk.

Number of samples from producer/retailers.....28.
Satisfactory.....15.
Unsatisfactory.....13.

The result of these samples was sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Brecon and Hereford.

Meat. Three slaughterhouses were registered as from 1st. August 1954 for a period of five years.

The amount of work carried out at No. 27 Castle Street consisted of laying a new floor, some 8 to 9 feet of drain, making good defective walling and rendering walling, and putting a new roof over the slaughterhouse, making good defects to old cattle lairs and disconnecting the old direct entry from the cattle lair to the slaughterhouse.

The amount of work carried out at No. 2 Castle Street consisted of removing old cattle lairs which formed part of the old slaughtering hall, building separate cattle lairs, forming new passage from street entrance through part of old slaughtering hall and removing portion of loft over.

The amount of work carried out at 8 Broad Street consisted of converting a stable into a slaughtering hall and cattle lair, and building a new cooling room to the rear of the slaughtering hall.

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 animals killed and inspected. Cattle. Calves. Sheep. Pigs.

Meat Condemned. Cattle....145 lbs. Other animals....195 lbs.

Other food condemned. Tins.....288.
Pounds weight.....220.

Other Foods. There are 24 shops dealing in foods in your district and may be tabulated as follows:-

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Greengrocer..... | 1. |
| Grocers..... | 11. |
| Grocer/Bakers..... | 2. |
| Grocers/Bakers/Caterers..... | 1. |
| Grocer/Caterers..... | 2. |
| Fishmongers/greengrocers..... | 2. |
| Greengrocers/Confectioners..... | 2. |
| Confectioners/Tobacconists..... | 2. |
| Restaurants..... | 2. |
| Fish and Chip Shops..... | 1. |

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses).

There are 8 such premises in your district.

Number of inspections made.....13.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food has been found necessary and since there is one wholesale grocer in the district, the total quantity of food condemned means that such food is not distributed to the shops in the district or to the contiguous area.

Ice-Cream Premises.

There are 5 retailers of ice-cream in your district, three of these sell pre-packed ice-cream, one is a producer/retailer, and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections made.....16.

Fried Fish Shops.

There is only one such premises in the district, the second having ceased to operate in late 1952.

Number of inspections made.....9.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

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

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Scarlet Fever..... | 1. |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia..... | 1. |

None of these cases were admitted 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.

The district therefore remained reasonably free of infectious disease.

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..... | 12. |
| Number of fresh cases added during the year..... | 5. |
| Number of cases removed due to death..... | 0. |
| Number of cases removed as recovered..... | 1. |
| Number of cases removed as left district..... | 2. |
| Number of cases left on register at end of year..... | 14. |

The number of notifications in 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> |
| 4. | 4. | 3. | 0. | 6. | 0. | 3. | 6. | 0. | 3. | 5. |

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 1954, however, it is disturbing to note that only 30.2% 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