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Contributors

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Hay Urban District
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1956

Officials.

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

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



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Hay Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1956.

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 Urban District during the year 1956.

In 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 19/56 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. 370 acres.

The district 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.

Population. Census 1931.....1509.
Census 1951.....1452.
Estimated midsummer 1956.....1440.

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

1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.
1361. 1398. 1407. 1455. 1433. 1439. 1448. 1450. 1450. 1440.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 501, giving an average number of 2.8 persons per house.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	11	9	20	
Illegitimate	1	2	3	
	12	11	23	15.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.7. The district rate was therefore slightly higher than the national average but, regrettably definitely lower than the district deathrate.

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births was three.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live&still births.</u>
	0.	1.	1.	41.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average. This illustrates perfectly the effect that a small number of still births has when the total number of live births is also small.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	15	10.	25.	17.3

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also, regrettably, higher than the district birthrate.

Maternal Deaths. No death occurred during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

Hay Urban District

Infantile Mortality. This is the deathrate of children of under 1 year of age. No such death occurred in the district during the year whereas the national rate was 23.8.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....One.
Respiratory Tuberculosis.....Nil.
Other forms tuberculosis.....Nil.
Cancer.....Nil.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....15. Females....10.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Measles.....	1.....	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	4.....	2.
Coronary disease.....	1.....	1.
Other heart disease.....	4.....	4.
Other circulatory disease.....	2.....	0.
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1.....	0.
Hyperplasia prostate.....	1.....	0.
Other causes.....	1.....	3.

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

Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities. During the year, through the kind co-operation of the County Welfare Committee, a room at Cockcroft House continued to be used. Post mortem examinations can also be performed in the same building. Hay R.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. also use this building for the same purposes.

Section 2. General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in previous years. Mr. G. Evans acted as your Public Health Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and the Rural District of 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 on infectious disease was performed at the Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff and Hereford.

All the milk testing 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 home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

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.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are taken from lowland springs to storage reservoirs and thence through distribution mains to the properties; the whole being by gravitation.

Owing to the comparatively wet year there was more water available but restrictions on consumption were necessary. Up to the 31st. May there was a free flow of water to the town but on this date it was necessary to restrict the supply by turning off the water at night from 10 pm. to 7 am. On the 10th. July the supply was further restricted to give water only from 7 am. to 10 am. and from 3 pm. to 6 pm. and this continued until the 5th. September, when the amount in storage had increased and restrictions were then imposed only from 10 pm. to 7 am (at night) and this continued to the end of the year.

The two sand filters were cleaned out at the beginning of March and new washed sand added.

One sample of the town supply was taken during the year and this proved to be unsatisfactory - all intakes were then checked for contamination and chlorination increased.

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

Number of visits of inspection by Public Health Inspector.....10.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage of the district is not treated in any way, and discharges direct into the River Wye.

During the year the Council's Engineer made progress with a scheme for a sewage disposal works and a number of suitable sites for the works were investigated and a report on same was submitted to the various Authorities concerned.

Number of visits to drainage work made by Public Health Inspector....2.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. The work is done by the Council employees under the supervision of your Public Health 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 Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	18.
Number of complaints investigated.....	18.
Number of premises inspected.....	18.
Number of premises revisited.....	13.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	2.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	1.

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 Public Health Inspector.....25.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....38.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....17.
 Number of inspections made.....20.
 Number of defects found.....7.
 Number of defects remedied.....7.

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

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....2.

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 operator is engaged by the Council. This same operator is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operator worked under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....357.
 Number of premises found infested.....52.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....23.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....29.
 Number of dead rats recovered.....57.
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....250.

A total of 21 road gullies were treated during the year and 12 showed evidence of infestation; 14 sewer manholes were also treated and of these 11 were infested.

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

Section 4. Housing.

During the year no houses were erected by the Council nor by private enterprise.

There are 41 applicants on the Council's waiting list for new houses and of these 36 are living in houses and 5 in rooms. Of the applicants living in houses, 21 are in houses which should be considered for demolition. Of those living in rooms, such houses are in good condition or in such as could easily be brought up to a good standard.

4 applicants could be housed in one bedroom flats or old peoples bungalows, 19 in two bedroom houses, 17 in three bedroom houses and 1 in a four bedroom house.

One application for a Grant under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was received. Grant was approved and work was put in hand.

Number of housing inspections made.....33.

A report under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was submitted to you in the previous year and it was Resolved that the following information be forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

1. The Council estimate that the number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 is 118.

2. A period of five years is considered to be necessary for securing the demolition of these houses.
3. The number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the Council or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order is 45.
4. The number of such houses to be demolished in the five years is 45.
5. The number of houses to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 is 73.

No other report was submitted under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, Article 31 and no action was taken on the above report during the year.

Section 5. 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 selling T.T., Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.....1.
There is one dairy registered in your district.

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

There are 4 producer/retailers delivering milk in your district and two of these hold licences to sell designated milk known as tuberculin tested and the other 2 sell undesignated milk.

Number of samples from producer/retailers.....8.
Satisfactory.....5.
Unsatisfactory.....3.

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

Meat. Three slaughterhouses are 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.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)						
Number inspected	317	0	114	1954	257	-
All diseases except <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	1	0	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	0	4	40	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	4.41	-	3.5	2.04	2.72	-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	-
Carcasses submitted to treat ment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0	-
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	-

Meat Condemned. Cattle....117 lbs. Other animals.....127 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned. Tins.....329.
Pounds weight.....84.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....159.

Other Foods. There are 33 shops dealing in foods in your district and
may be tabulated as follows;

Greengrocers.....1.
Grocers.....11.
Grocer/Bakers.....1.
Grocers/Bakers/Caterers.....1.
Grocer/Caterers.....1.
Fishmongers/Greengrocers.....2.
Confectioners/Tobacconists.....5.
Restaurants.....4.
Fish and Chip Shops.....2.
Butchers.....4.
Greengrocers/confectioners.....1.
Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

There are 6 such premises in the district as follows:-

4 butchers preparing pressed, pickled or potted meats and sausages.
2 bakers dealing in bread and cakes.

During the year one firm ceased baking operations, bread and cakes
for the retail business being purchased from a wholesale firm.

Number of inspections made.....14.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food has
been 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 areas.

Ice Cream Premises.

There are 8 retailers of ice cream in your district, 6 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.....33.

Fried Fish Shops.

There are two such premises in the district.

Number of inspections made.....20.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

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

Acute Primary Pneumonia.....1 case.

Measles.....1 case.

All the above cases were nursed at home. The case of measles proved fatal. The district remained, therefore, remarkably free from 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.....17.

Number of fresh cases added during the year.....6.

Number of cases removed due to death.....0.

Number of cases removed as recovered.....3.

Number of cases removed as left district.....0.

Number of cases left on register at end of year.....20.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.

3. 0. 6. 0. 3. 6. 0. 3. 5. 4. 6.

Diphtheria. 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 of Health. 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 the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

22