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Contributors

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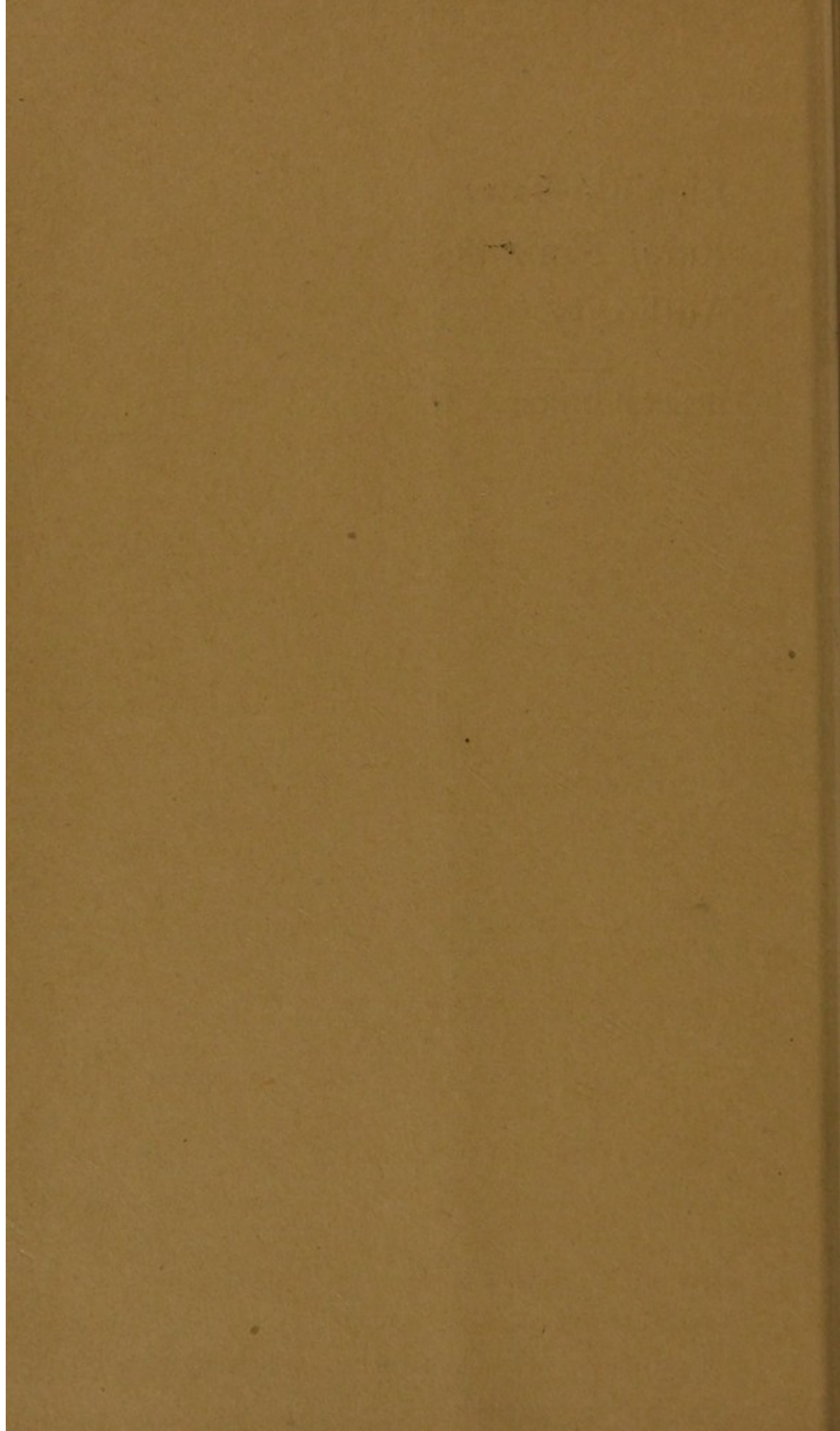
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**Llandilo-fawr
Rural Sanitary
Authority.**

Medical Officer's Report.



1925



To the Llandilo-fawr Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to place before you my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

It has been requested by the Ministry of Health (Welsh Board of Health) that the annual reports of Medical Officers of Health for the year 1925 should be survey reports.

The Llandilo-fawr Rural District is made up of all the parishes of the Llandilo-fawr Union, with the exception of those portions which are taken away by the urban areas of Llandilo, Ammanford and Cwmamman.

The sub-registration districts of the area are :—

Llandilo.—Consists of part of the parish of Llandilo-fawr and the whole of the parish of Llandyfeisant.

Llandebie.—Includes the whole of the parishes of Llandebie and Llanfihangel-Aberbythich.

Quarterbach.—Is made up of part of the parish of Llandilo-fawr and the whole of Quarterbach.

Llangathen.—Includes the parishes of Llangathen, Llanegwad and Brechfa.

Talley.—Consists of the parishes of Talley and Llansawel

Llanfynydd.—Consists of Llanfynydd and Llanfihangel Cilfargen.

The area (in acres) is 96,524.

Population (Census 1921) is 21,775.

Population (estimated to the middle of 1925), is 22,770.

Physical Features and Characters of the District.

The most striking part of the physical features of the countryside in this district is the extreme beauty of the landscape that is everywhere to be found, even where industry has destroyed the contour of the land. The character of the country when one leaves the valleys of the chief rivers is very hilly, but alongside the rivers the land is more undulating, and in the Towy valley there are wide stretches of open country.

The main rivers are the Towy, Amman, Cothi, Loughor, Cennen, Dulais, Twrch. The river Towy practically bisects the district. Its chief tributaries are the Dulais, Cennen, Myddfi, Dulais (near Dryslwyn), and Cothi. The Towy finds its way to the sea in Carmarthen Bay.

The Amman runs through the Amman Valley, and joins the Loughor below Pantyffynnon, and then, known as the Loughor, it joins the sea in the Burry outlet on the western side of the Gower peninsula.

The Twrch flows down into the Swansea Valley, and unites with the Tawe, whose outlet to the sea is in the Swansea Bay, on the eastern side of the Gower peninsula.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) is 4,604.

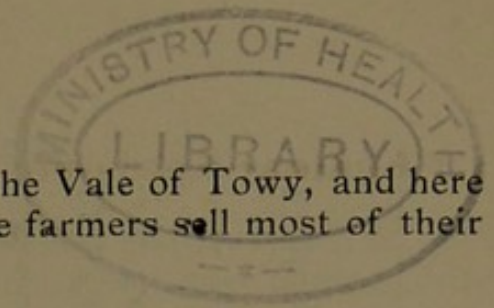
The number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) is 4,766.

The rateable value is £107,419. The reduced assessable value is £70,522. Sum represented by a penny rate, £293 16s 10d.

Social Conditions.

The district is mainly agricultural, in which coal mining is the chief industry.

The parishes which are purely agricultural are Llandilo, Llan-gathen, Talley and Llanfynydd. The land here is mostly grazing land. The climate and the shortage of agricultural labour (owing to a large extent to the proximity of the industrial area) has prevented the sowing of corn, &c., to any great extent for many years.



The best pasture land is found in the Vale of Towy, and here where the railway is convenient all the farmers sell most of their milk.

The parishes of Llandebie and Quarterbach are mainly industrial. The industries are coalmining, tinplate working, lime stone and silica stone quarrying and brickmaking.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS		Total.	Male.	Female	Birth Rate. 21'3 per 1000 of estimated population.
	Legitimate	461	223	238	
	Illegitimate	24	15	9	
Total ...		485	238	247	

DEATHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Death Rate. 11'7 per 1000 of esti- mated popu- lation.
	268	140	128	

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population.											Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage of Total Deaths.			
	Birth Rate per 1000 total population.	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total deaths under one year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by registered medi- cal practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
Llandilo-fawr Rural District ..	21'3	11'7	0'00	0'00	0'04	0'00	0'04	0'13	0'30	0'65	8'24	70'1	93'2	6'43	0'37
England and Wales	18'3	12'2	0'01	0'00	0'13	0'03	0'15	0'07	0'32	0'47	8'4	75	92'1	6'9	1'0

Poor Law.

The Llandilo-fawr Union Accounts show that £12,054 was expended upon outdoor relief during the year ending March 31st, 1925.

There is no hospital other than the Poor Law Institution in this district where gratuitous medical relief can be obtained.

General Provisions of Health Services in the District.

1.—**Tuberculosis Hospital and Sanatorium Treatment** are provided by the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial, to which the County Council pays.

2.—**Maternity.**—There is no provision in this district except the Poor Law Institution for expectant mothers.

3.—**Children.**—The nearest hospital for the treatment of diseases of children is the Swansea Hospital, which is 24 miles distant.

4.—**Fever.**—There is no fever hospital available for this district.

5.—**Small Pox.**—There is no place in this district where a case of small pox could be effectively isolated.

6.—**Other.**—There are no others.

The hospitals outside this area which are available for treatment of medical and surgical cases are the Carmarthen Infirmary, which is situated 15 miles away, and can accommodate 29 adults and 6 children, and the Swansea Hospital, which is a distance of about 24 miles from the centre of the district, and has accommodation for 156 men, 66 women and 44 children. There is also accommodation for 4 in the isolation ward and 12 beds for venereal disease.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children but the Poor Law Institution which has two beds for the purpose.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases there are no facilities for transport by ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases there are Red Cross Motor Ambulance Cars at Llandovery and Ammanford.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Brynamman. There are no day nurseries or school clinics or tuberculosis dispensaries in the area. The Tuberculosis Officer for the county visits Ffairfach every Monday at 4.30 p.m. to examine cases or visits cases by appointment at their homes. The nearest treatment centre for venereal disease is the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Public Health Officers employed by this Authority are the Medical Officer of Health (part time), and two sanitary inspectors (whole time).

The Medical Officer is paid a salary of £95 per annum, which includes travelling expenses. Half of this amount is paid by a grant from the Exchequer.

The Sanitary Inspector for the North District has a salary of £300 per annum, half of which comes from the Exchequer. He also has £20 paid him yearly for work done in building inspection. A salary of £200 is to the Sanitary Inspector of the South District and £50 for building inspection.

Both the Sanitary Inspectors hold the A.R. San.I. Certificate.

The Medical Officer of Health is also medical officer to the Guardians for the Llandilo-fawr Central District and to the Poor Law Institution. He also holds the post of temporary medical officer to the Pantglas Hall Institution for Mental Defectives.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—The following districts are each supplied by a district nurse :—Llansawel, Talley, Llanfynydd, Brechfa, Llandilo (North Ward), Penygroes, Llanegwad, Llanfihangel-Aberbythich, Llangathen, Llandilo (Urban and Rural), Ammanford (one for Bettws, one for Parcyrhun, and one for Tycroes).

The nurses for the above places act as school nurses and health visitors, except at Ammanford, where there is a whole time school nurse and health visitor paid by the County Council. There is also a whole time school nurse and health visitor for Brynamman, Glanamman, Garnant, Cefnbrynbrain, and Ystradowen, who is paid by the County Council.

Each District Nursing Association receives £60 per annum from the County Council for the work done in the schools. The Guardians also subscribe £10 per annum for each nurse. The remaining amount of money required to maintain the nurses is provided by their respective nursing committees, by voluntary subscriptions, fees, &c.

Midwives.—The County Council undertake to train four midwives yearly on the understanding that they remain in the county for two years.

Below is the list of midwives and the area to which they belong :—

Districts.	By Examination.	Bona Fidé.
Bettws...	1	—
Tycroes ...	1	3
Llansawel ...	1	—
Talley ...	1	—
Llanfynydd ...	1	1
Llandebie ...	2	1
Cefnbrynbrain ...	1	—
Llangathen ...	1	—
Llanfihangel- Aberbythich...	1	—
Llanegwad ...	1	1
Brynamman ...	2	2
Saron ...	1	2
Manordeilo ..	1	—
Penygroes ...	1	—
Penybank, Ammanf'rd	1	—
Total ...	17	10

Chemical Work.—All chemical examinations are done by the Public Analyst at Swansea, and any bacteriological examination by Dr Stadden, of the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, by arrangement with the County Council.

Legislation in Force.

There are no adoptive acts in force.

There are two sets of building bye-laws, one which was made in January, 1892, and refers to the parishes of Bettws, Llandebie, Llandilo-fawr, and Quarterbach.

The other set of building bye-laws was made in November, 1910, and applies to Brechfa, Talley, Llandyfeisant, Llanegwad, Llanfynydd, Llangathen, Llansawel, Llanfihangel-Aberbythich, and Llanfihangel Cilfargen.

Bye-laws with respect to slaughter-houses were made in July, 1893.

There are regulations in respect of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, made and adopted in February, 1907.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—

The area is supplied with water from reservoirs and wells.

The Reservoirs are—

The Loughor Reservoir situate near the farm of Llwyn-dewi, Trapp, and close to the source of the Loughor and Cennen, it has a capacity of 960,000 gallons. It supplies practically the whole of the parish of Llandebie and the Ammanford Urban District. This gives a constant supply but owing to the absence of filters the water which is hard is frequently discoloured, more especially after rain.

The Cwmllynfell Reservoir. —This has been built on the mountain near Cefnbrynbrain to hold 750,000 gallons. It supplies Cefnbrynbrain, Cwmllynfell and Cwmtwrch. Altogether 150 houses and a population of 800 in the district, together with 32 houses outside the area.

The Brynamman Reservoir.—This storage tank has a capacity of 22,000 gallons but is inadequate for the supply of the 3,500 residents. The plans of a 150,000 gallons water tank has been prepared and approved by the Council, the cost of the work being £2,000. It is intended to extend the mains from this new reservoir to supply twenty-six houses at Rhosamman which have no reliable water supply at present.

Llanfynydd.—The water tank here has a capacity of 12,000 gallons and supplies the village very satisfactorily.

Dryslwyn.—This reservoir has a storage capacity of 1,200 gallons and the system is working well.

Llansawel.—This tank was originally built by the County Council to supply the school. It has a capacity of 500 gallons ; the water is not fit for human consumption, being surface water and therefore liable to pollution, the village as well as Talley are sorely in need of an adequate and reliable supply of water.

Bettws —A supply situate on Llettylan-fawr farm serves a hundred houses having a population of 550. This water is of good quality and soft but the supply is insufficient in dry weather for the needs of the district. This system is to be connected with a spring at Mountain Road, Bettws, the addition of which will more than meet the needs of the district.

Public standpipes in the Industrial Area are being done away with as a great quantity is being wasted owing to the damage and neglect by the users.

Rivers and Streams.

POLLUTION.

Towy—This river is polluted by the untreated sewerage from the town of Llandilo.

Amman—This river is polluted by drainage from the tinplate and steel works and by collieries. The drainage also of the Amman valley adds to the pollution.

Cotli, Loughor, Twrch, Dulais—These rivers are unpolluted in this District.

Cennen —This stream is polluted by un-treated Sewage from the Poor Law Institution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Amman Valley Sewerage Board scheme for the drainage of the Amman Valley is being carried out. The Brynamman, Llandebie, Bonllwyn and Penybanc (Ammanford) districts are to be sewered and connected to the main trunk sewer which has its disposal works below Pantyffynon. The more populated districts have already been sewered.

Closet Accommodation.—There are approximately about 2,490 privies and earth closets in the district, the remainder about 2,100 are on the water carriage system. With the advent of the Amman Valley drainage a large number of privies will be connected to the water carriage system in the near future.

Scavenging.—Brynamman, Llandebie, Bonllwyn and Ffairfach have a weekly collection of house refuse. It is necessary for Penybanc, Ammanford and Penygroes to have a system of refuse removal.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The number of inspections made for nuisances during the year were	...	...	...	324
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	35
Number of Statutory	...	...	...	6
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	24
Number of legal proceedings taken	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses fumigated and disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	85

Factories and Workshops.

There are seventy-two factories and workshops in the district. These have been duly visited and inspected and no defects found.

Lodging Houses.—There are no registered Lodging Houses in the area.

Housing.

Llandebie Parish.—The Councils scheme under the 1923 Housing Act whereby subsidies are granted to owners of houses on completion of building has been taken advantage of in this parish. Since the inception of the scheme in October, 1924 one hundred and twenty-four houses had been completed by December 1925 and building operations are still going on at a satisfactory rate.

Several old houses have been repaired.

A notable feature of the dwelling houses in this parish is that the majority of them are of the detached or semi-detached type affording them plenty of free circulation of air.

A few old houses have been vacated owing to unfitness. There are many apartment holders residing in the parish but on the whole there is really very little overcrowding.

A gradual increase in buildings and population is reasonably to be expected.

Bettws Parish—Twelve houses have been erected to date. There is no immediate demand by the present population for houses.

Brynamman and District—Seven houses have been erected to date. Progress in building has not been rapid enough to satisfy the demands of thickly populated district. Several families have come into this district and tested the capacity of the rooms to their utmost.

The stretch of common land alongside the main road between Brynamman and Cwmillynfell is an ideal site for building, as well as being convenient and central for workmen employed locally or outside the district. This authority has so far been unsuccessful in acquiring the land for building purposes. As this is the only land available in this part of the area little real progress can be expected in the building of houses until this can be procured.

Although overcrowding is not very pronounced yet many families are in apartments under disadvantageous conditions.

Cwmillynfell—This district had erected three houses at the end of the year.

Housing conditions are very satisfactory. Until the local collieries develop (as it is anticipated) there is not any likelihood of a demand for new houses in this part of the district.

General Remarks on Housing throughout the District—The majority of the houses are in a reasonable state of repair. The chief defect being dampness on account of the very heavy rainfall experienced in this district, defective thatching or tiles make destruction of an old house by dampness an easy matter.

The heavy cost of all labour in connection with repairs to buildings and the very small rentals received for old houses and cottages (1/9 to 6/- per week) does not justify a landlord going into any considerable expense in repairing property.

As soon as Industrial and Housing conditions improve it will be necessary to close several old cottages.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	125
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924 :					
	(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	nil
	(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	122

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	272
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	28

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	15
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	...	...	...	nil
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to be closed	...	...	...	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	20
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 15

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders nil

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

(A)—MILK SUPPLY.

In the southern part of this area which is the Industrial District practically all the milk is sold retail and produced in the district. The number of retail sellers is 30, and of the wholesale sellers is 12. In the agricultural part most of the farmers sell their milk wholesale and there are very few retailers. The number of wholesale sellers is 54, and of retail sellers is 7.

The milk sold is wholesome, good in quality, and now that the public have become alive to the fact that dirty milk is dangerous the producers are steadily improving, and dirty milk instead of being a common occurrence is now very rarely seen. The wholesale milk sellers send their milk away to the large towns—Cardiff and Swansea.

The older cowsheds are gradually being repaired and improved throughout the district. The chief defects are with regard to flooring lighting, and and air space.

Thirty-five notices were served during the year and the majority have complied in full with the requirements.

The Sanitary Inspectors and the Medical Officer of Health have regularly and constantly inspected the production of milk at the various milk selling farms.

- (i) Action taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle—There was no action taken with regards to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle as no case occurred.
- (ii) There is only one producer of Grade "A" milk in this district.
- (iii) No licenses have been either refused or revoked.
- (iv) No samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during 1925.

(B)—MEAT.

1—MEAT INSPECTION. The Slaughter Houses in the district are all privately owned and are scattered in the area, owing to this and the fact that most of the butchers slaughter on the same day it is impossible to inspect all the meat but the majority of the slaughter houses are inspected each week.

Disease of the liver of cattle and sheep is very common.

2—There are no stalls or stores, but the shops and butcher's carts, &c., and are regularly inspected and generally found quite satisfactory.

3--There is no public Slaughter House in this district.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

		1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	...	0	0	0
Licensed	...	10	13	16

C,—OTHER FOODS

There are no cases of Food having been condemned during the year.

There have been no cases of Food poisoning during the year.

The Rural Sanitary Authority is not the local Authority under these Acts.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease

There has been a diminution during the last five years of notifiable infectious diseases. Scarlet Fever seems to have lost its virulence and out of 232 cases notified during the last five years only three cases have proved fatal and these were very young children.

Two hundred and fifty-five cases of diphtheria were notified during the last five years and 17 deaths were recorded; a large number of these deaths were due to Membranous Croup. The rather high figure of notifications is partly accounted for by the fact that there was an epidemic of this disease at Brynamman and Pen-ygroes in the year 1921, when there was a special enquiry held.

Since Pneumonia was made a notifiable disease it has been responsible for many deaths and in the five years under survey 55 cases were notified and 50 deaths registered.

Enteric Fever seems to be rare in this district and only three cases were notified in the five years period, one death having been recorded.

There were two cases of Encephalitis Lethargica in 1925 but none in the previous four years. One of these proved fatal.

Three cases only of Puerperal Septicaemia were notified in 1923 and one in 1925. Two of these cases died.

There were no "return" cases of Scarlet Fever, there being no Isolation Hospital for this area.

There were no cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever notified during this period.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided free of charge to all necessitous cases and an abundant supply is always available on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

Most of the notifiable infectious diseases occur in the South District.

All Bacteriological examination are made at the Beck Laboratory, Swansea. In all diphtheria cases the name and address of the notified person is sent at once to the County Medical Officer who directs the District Nurse for that neighbourhood to swab all contacts. No case is allowed to return to school unless two negative swabs are obtained at an interval of fourteen days.

There is no Isolation Hospital in this district. Cases are treated and isolated in the best way possible at home, and the rooms and bedding disinfected with formalin vapour and spray.

This Authority is not in possession of a Steam Disinfector.

The Schick and Dick tests have not yet been employed in this district, nor have the recently artificial methods of immunisation against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

No vaccinations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health either for (a) primary, or (b) re-vaccination.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases—Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps, and Chicken Pox. Epidemics of these diseases occur at intervals, and in cases assume large proportions and effect the attendance of children. The Head Teacher informs the Medical Officer of Health, and enquiries and consultations with the County Medical Officer take place and the School closed or otherwise.

Influenza—There have been 43 deaths from Influenza in the last five years. The mortality rates for these years are made from the estimated population for each year and are as follows :—

1921, 0'31.	1922, 0'58.	1923, 0'08.	1924, 0'62.
	1925, 0'30		

There has been no epidemic and no special enquiry has been undertaken in regard to it.

No other diseases have received any special attention.

There are no facilities for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings other than which obtains in the Poor Law Institution, but unfortunately this is, not provided with a Steam Disinfector.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.						Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 and under 5	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
5 10	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
10 15	0	5	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
15 20	3	3	6	1	1	2	0	2	0	2
20 25	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
25 35	1	3	4	0	2	2	0	1	0	0
35 45	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
45 55	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
55 65	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	15	27	3	5	8	6	7	1	15

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1925.

Age Periods.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Puerperal Septicamia	Total.	Deaths.
Under 1 year	...	...		1			2	1*
1 and under 2	2	1*					5	
" 3	1	3					5	
" 4	1	2					3	
" 5	3	5					6	1*
" 10		12*	1	1			16	1*
" 15		8*		2			11	
" 20		3		2			5	
" 35	1	2		1	1	1*	5	1*
" 45		1	2	3			6	
" 65		1	1		1*		2	1*
65 and over								
	8	38	4	11	2	1	64	5

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations,
1925—No action has been taken under these regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62—No action has been
taken.

W. A. T. LLOYD, L.M.S.S.A.

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