

[Report 1969] / Medical Officer of Health, Llandeilo R.D.C.

Contributors

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HEALTH
A. 11 JAN 1971

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER

1969



Vlandeilo Rural District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER

1969

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1969**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I submit my report on the environmental health of the Llandeilo Rural District for the year 1969.

After many years service, Dr. Herbert retired in July, and is very much missed in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Public Health Staff and to the Chief Officers of this Council and their staff, for their assistance and advice when I took up my appointment, and for their continued interest and support in the work of the Public Health Department.

I am, your obedient servant,

MARGARET STEANE

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH, DRAINAGE AND WATER COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor D. D. THOMAS, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor T. W. Pearce, M.A. (*Chairman of Council*)

Councillor

Elvet Davies
 Ieuan J. Davies
 Cyril L. Lloyd
 John I. Williams
 Llewelyn Lewis
 Llewellyn Morgan
 Harry Gourmil
 T. J. Jones
 D. Alun Richards
 William R. Price
 Philip George Jenkins
 Samuel C. Price
 Aldred S. Adams
 John R. Evans
 D. Howard Evans
 J. Gwilym Evans
 W. Ewart Jones
 Elwyn Rees Thomas
 Watkin Thomas

Councillor

Evan B. Davies
 Wm. Arthur Jones
 Gwendoline Edwards
 David Charles Hallett
 L.T. Harries
 John Jones
 R. P. Morgan
 W. D. R. Davies
 William Griffiths
 D. E. Pugh
 Rev. Hugh Thomas
 James Barr
 D. T. Thomas
 Albert C. Bryer, J.P.
 Rhys Dafys Williams
 David William Davies
 Talbot Eynon Davies
 D. R. Edwards, J.P.
 John Thomas

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. GLADYS M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Retired July 15th, 1969

Dr. MARGARET STEANE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Commenced September 1st, 1969

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

GWYN THOMAS, B.A., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

D. BRINLEY EVANS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

ERIC JONES, M.A.P.H.I.

RODENT OPERATOR

IDRIS MORRIS

SHORTHAND TYPIST

LYNDA OXENHAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area of Llandeilo Rural District	..	..	236,588 acres
Estimated mid-year population of			
Llandeilo R.D.C.	..	..	23,350 persons
Carmarthenshire	..	..	163,600 persons
England and Wales	..	..	48,826,800 persons
Number of persons per acre	..	..	.17
Number of Council Houses	..	..	1411
Number of Private Dwellings	..	..	6676
Number of Dwellings for the Elderly	..		160
Number of Dwellings Completed During 1969			
(a) By the Council	..	..	23
(b) By Private Builders	..		32
Rateable Value	..	..	£440,892
Net. Product of a penny rate	..	..	£1,711/8/6

POPULATION

The population of Llandeilo Rural District continues to decline

Year	Number of Persons	Deaths	Births
1961	24,494 Census	—	—
1962	24,300 Estimated	337	384
1963	24,150 „	301	345
1964	24,080 „	279	329
1965	23,970 „	313	317
1966	23,830 „	333	343
1967	23,680 „	321	282
1968	23,530 „	300	203
1969	23,350 „	348	293

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered in 1969 was 293 compared with 203 in 1968

		Male	Female	Total	Carmarthenshire	England & Wales
Live births	Legitimate	143	139	282	2029	730500
	Illegitimate	7	4	11	104	67042
	Total	150	143	293	2133	797542
Still births	Legitimate	0	3	3	29	9555
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1107
	Total	0	3	3	31	10662
Total Live and Still Births	Legitimate	143	142	285	2058	740055
	Illegitimate	7	4	11	106	68149
	Total	150	146	296	2164	808204

3.7% of the births were illegitimate in the Llandeilo Rural District compared with 4.81% in Carmarthenshire and 8.4% in England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, ETC.

	Llandeilo Rural	Carmarthen shire	England & Wales
Live births per 1000, home population (crude rate) ..	12.50	13.00	16.30
Area comparability factor ..	1.13	1.09	1.00
Local adjusted rate	14.10	14.20	16.30
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	0.87	0.87	1.00
Illegitimate live births as a percentage of all live births ..	4	5	8

STILL BIRTH RATE

	Llandeilo Rural District	Carmarthen- shire	England & Wales
Still births per 1,000 total live and still births	10	14	13

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

There were no deaths resulting from childbirth or pregnancy during 1969.

DEATHS OF INFANTS

Age		Male	Female	Total	Carmarthenshire	England & Wales
Under 1 year	Legitimate	2	1	3	37	12694
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1703
	Total	2	1	3	39	14397
Under 4 weeks	Legitimate	2	1	3	26	8494
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1109
	Total	2	1	3	28	9603
Under 1 week	Legitimate	2	1	3	25	7266
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	966
	Total	2	1	3	27	8232

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Llandeilo Rural District	Carmarthen- shire	England & Wales
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	10	18	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	11	18	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	0	* 19	25
Neonatal Mortality Rate Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	10	13	12
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	10	13	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate Still births and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births ..	20	27	23

DEATHS IN LLANDEILO RURAL DISTRICT IN 1969

	Male	Female	Total	Carmarthen- shire	England & Wales
All ages	203	145	348	2450	579463

DEATH RATES, ETC., ALL AGES

	Llandeilo Rural District	Carmarthen- shire	England & Wales
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	14.90	15.00	11.900
Area comparability factor	1.01	0.99	1.00
Local adjusted rate	15.00	14.90	11.90
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.26	1.25	1.00

348 deaths occurred in the Llandeilo Rural District during 1969. Of the 348, 122 occurred between the ages of 65 and 74 years, and 146 at, or over the age of 75 years.

206 of the deaths, that is 59.1%, were caused by diseases of the cardio-vascular system.

There were 102 deaths from ischaemic heart disease, i.e. 49.5% of the cardio-vascular deaths, or 29.3% of all deaths were due to this cause. Below is a table to show the number of deaths from this cause over the years 1952 to 1969. The figures show that more men than women die from this complaint, but the proportion varies from year to year and shows no particular pattern.

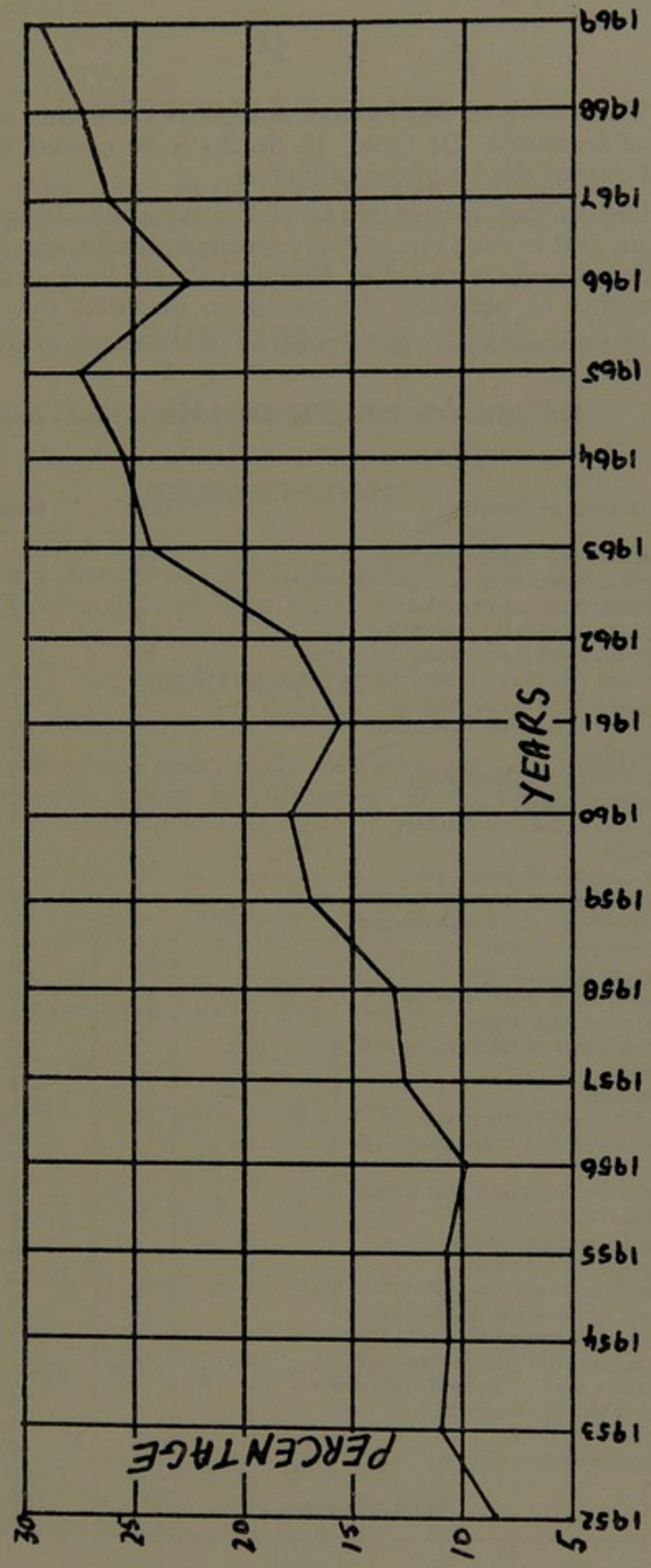
**TABLE TO SHOW NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM
ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE OVER 20 YEARS**

Year	Total No. of Deaths	Deaths from Coronary Disease in Llandeilo Rural District			Coronaries as a % of all deaths
		M	F	Total	
1950	318	—	—	*	*
1951	318	—	—	*	*
1952	362	21	11	32	8.83
1953	318	23	12	35	11.00
1954	353	29	9	38	10.76
1955	334	24	12	36	10.77
1956	333	21	12	33	9.90
1957	334	28	14	42	12.57
1958	321	31	11	42	13.08
1959	294	37	13	50	17.00
1960	290	40	12	52	17.93
1961	306	37	11	48	15.60
1962	337	43	17	60	17.80
1963	301	54	19	73	24.20
1964	279	40	31	71	25.40
1965	313	50	36	86	27.47
1966	333	53	22	75	22.50
1967	321	52	32	84	26.19
1968	300	52	30	82	27.33
1969	348	74	28	102	29.30

*not mentioned in Registrar General's returns

Deaths from ischaemic heart disease are increasing in England and Wales, and the graph shown below indicates that the Rural District of Llandeilo is not excluded from this trend, the year 1969 showing the highest number yet recorded.

GRAPH TO SHOW THE INCREASE IN DEATHS DUE TO ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL DEATHS FROM 1952 TO 1969 INCLUSIVE



There were 49 deaths from malignant neoplasms including one case of leukamia. Of these, 11 deaths were caused by malignant neoplasms of the lung and bronchus.

Deaths due to carcinoma of the lung are rising annually in Britain, and in nine out of every ten such deaths, cigarette smoking is believed to be responsible. No effort should be spared therefore in attempting to persuade the public to abandon this lethal habit.

Pneumoconiosis was implicated in ten of the deaths.

CAUSE OF DEATH IN 1969 - ALL AGES

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Buccal Cavity	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm—stomach	5	5	10
Malignant Neoplasm—intestine	7	1	8
Malignant Neoplasm—lung, bronchus	10	1	11
Malignant Neoplasm—breast	0	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm—uterus	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm—prostate	4	0	4
Leukaemia	1	0	1
Other malignant neoplasms	5	5	10
Diabetes mellitus	1	2	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	3	0	3
Anaemias	1	0	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	0	1	1
Other diseases of nervous systems, etc.	1	0	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	5	6
Hypertensive disease	1	7	8
Ischaemic heart disease	74	28	102
Other forms of heart disease	10	12	22
Cerebrovascular disease	17	35	52
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	10	16
Influenza	2	0	2
Pneumonia	11	4	15
Bronchitis and emphysema	13	2	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	11	0	11
Peptic Ulcer	3	1	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	0	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2
Other diseases genito-urinary system	0	4	4
Diseases of musculo skeletal system	2	0	2
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	4	6
All other accidents	3	5	8
All other external causes	2	0	2
Total all causes	203	145	348

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

During 1969 only seven cases of infectious diseases were reported. These were Measles two cases, Infective Hepatitis four cases, and one case of Scarlet Fever.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were reported during 1969.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were three new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis, and one case of Tuberculosis of both lungs and kidneys was notified.

IMMUNISATION

The following table refers to the whole County of Carmarthenshire. The separate figures for Llandeilo Rural District are not available.

	Primary					Others —16 years	Boosters
	Born 1969	Born 1968	Born 1967	Born 1966	Born 1962-5		
Triple antigen	910	673	155	48	90	21	824
Diphtheria/ Tetanus	1	3	6	3	43	15	434
Tetanus	0	2	2	9	48	267	135
Poliomyelitis (sabin)	828	631	204	73	156	45	454
Measles	4	64	45	48	13	15	0

Although diphtheria and poliomyelitis are now comparatively rare diseases, cases still occur, and every parent should make sure their children are immunised at the appropriate times. It should be realised that these illnesses could be contracted whilst on holiday abroad.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION (WHOLE COUNTY)

Age at date of Vaccination	Number Vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
Under 1 year	110	0
1 year	995	0
2—4 years	204	7
5—15 years	43	96

In view of the great popularity of International Travel, much of it by air, and the consequent risk of contact with cases of smallpox, the general public would be well advised to keep up their immunity to this disease by periodic vaccination.

B.G.G. VACCINATION (WHOLE COUNTY)

	Contact Scheme	School Children
Number skin tested	186	1501
Number found negative	150	1242
Number vaccinated	119	1204

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Llandeilo in December, 1969. The table below shows the age groups of those attending from the Llandeilo Urban and surrounding Llandeilo Rural Districts.

	Grand Total	Under 15		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-59		60 and over		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total Number examined	239	0	0	18	28	20	18	20	18	34	38	24	21	116	123

No new cases of Tuberculosis were found. There was one case of healed post-primary Tuberculosis. No cases of malignant disease were discovered.

Pneumoconiosis was noted in two cases.

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE CLINIC CRESCENT ROAD, LLANDEILO

	DAY	TIME
Orthopaedic Clinic (children)	1st Tuesday in the month	10—1 p.m. 2—4 p.m.
Child Health Clinic	Alternate Wednesdays	2—4 p.m.
Mothercraft and Relaxation Class	Thursday	2—4 p.m.
Speech Therapy	Wednesday	1.30—5 p.m.
Hearing Assessments (children)	By Appointment	
Dental Clinic (Children and Expectant mothers)	By Appointment	

WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods are sold at the Clinic, Crescent Road, Llandeilo on Wednesdays from 2 - 4 p.m.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47

This section enables persons in need of care and attention to be removed to suitable premises.

No formal action was required under this section in 1969.

**DETAILS OF WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969**

WATER SUPPLIES

- (a) **Schemes completed during the year:**
Nil
- (b) **In progress during the year:**
Cynant Water Main Renewal (jointly with Llandoverly Borough)
- (c) **Schemes approved by the Ministry and tenders invited**
Nil
- (d) **Awaiting approval of the Ministry:**
Nil
- (e) **Schemes under consideration 31st December, 1969:**
Storage reservoir, Capacity 250,000 gallons at Brynamman

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- (a) **Schemes completed during the year:**
Diversion of Sewer and construction of Pumping Station—
Rhosamman, Brynamman
Llanwrda and Llansadwrn Sewerage Scheme
Rhandirmwyn Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme
- (b) **In progress during the year:**
as (a) above
- (c) **Schemes approved by the Ministry and tenders invited**
Sewer extension - Lotwen Road, Capel Hendre
- (d) **Awaiting approval of the Ministry:**
Myddfai Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme
Cilycwm Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes
Court Henry Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

(e) **Schemes under consideration 31st December, 1969:**

Caeo	Llanfynydd	Penybanc (Llandeilo)
Derwydd	Manordeilo	Pumpsaint
Farmers	Nantgaredig	Talley

Proposed Sewer Extensions:

Nil

J. N. SIMON

Engineer and Surveyor

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS**FACTORIES ACT 1961****PART OF THE ACT**

	Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspect- ions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1	Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	—	—	—
2	Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	14	—	—	—
3	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
	Total	16	—	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Want of cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

PART V111 of the Act

OUTWORK

Sections 133 and 134

NIL

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1969**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Members,

It gives me great pleasure to present for your information and kind consideration, my Eighteenth Annual Report.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	18
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	29
Ice-Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	20
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	26
Canteens and Clubs	..	..	..	..	..	8
Food Factories	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	9
Grocers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	67
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	2
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	41
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	756
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	16
Offices and Shops	..	..	..	..	..	21
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	147
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	415
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	1271
Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	33
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	9
Filthy and/or Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	20
Dwelling Houses (P.H. Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	45
Dwelling Houses (H. Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	1196
Dwelling Houses (Miscellaneous)	..	..	..	..	..	220
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	223
Nuisances (Miscellaneous)	..	..	..	..	..	89
						4685
					Total	4685

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	31
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	..	..	27
Number of Preliminary Notices served	..	..	21
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	..	..	21
Works undertaken by Council in default	..	..	1

WATER SUPPLY

A further 27 private dwelling houses were provided with a mains water supply for the first time during the year under review. This figure may not stand out as descriptive of a major breakthrough in this field. Nevertheless, when one considers, (i) that this process and this figure is fairly constant year by year; and(ii) that already eighty per. cent of all the properties within your area were enjoying such a supply twelve months ago; then it indicates a steady advance towards a goal that every member and every officer would wish to aim for — a hundred per. cent mains supply throughout this vast and scattered area within your jurisdiction.

Nor has it been found necessary as yet to make use of our powers of compulsion in this direction - except very occasionally and with the most stubborn of landlords.

You are fully aware of the shortage difficulties which have been experienced from time to time in the Brynamman area. Generally, however, the water supply of the area throughout the year has been satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity.

TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FOR THE YEAR

(a) Public Supplies:

Bacteriological Examinations:

Number of samples collected	.. 11
Number of samples satisfactory	.. 11
Number of samples unsatisfactory	.. Nil

(b) Private Supplies:

Bacteriological Examinations:

Number of samples collected	.. 35
Number of samples satisfactory	.. 25
Number of samples unsatisfactory	.. 10

HOUSE CONNECTIONS

Parish	Main Supplies				Private Supplies	
	Direct to House		By Standpipe		No. of Houses	Popul- ation
	No. of Houses	Popul- ation	No. of Houses	Popul- ation		
Llandingat Without	22	62	—	—	65	200
Llandeilo Rural ..	1004	3345	7	28	247	726
Llanegwad ..	239	767	1	3	133	467
Llangadog	311	1054	—	—	114	404
Llanddeusant ..	39	126	—	—	59	144
Llandyfeisant ..	8	27	—	—	11	38
Llanfairarybryn ..	87	292	1	4	139	321
Llanfihangel Aber.	289	803	3	13	74	265
Llanfynydd ..	65	205	2	9	101	260
Llangathen ..	72	230	—	—	83	288
Llansadwrn ..	91	259	—	—	77	176
Llansawel	91	277	—	—	71	166
Llanwrda	73	243	—	—	47	142
Talley	69	234	—	—	51	166
Cynwil Gaeo ..	131	411	—	—	202	515
Cilycwm	76	223	—	—	97	230
Myddfai	62	194	—	—	72	216
Betws	310	994	—	—	18	73
Llandybie	2428	7624	3	11	45	152
Quarter Bach ..	838	2596	—	—	9	29

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The temperature of sanitation within a community may be fairly accurately measured by the ratio of earth closets to water closets, and the rate at which the former are being converted to a water-carriage system. At the close of the current year within your own area, these figures read - 1,437 earth to 6,754 water closets.

Diagnostically, this means that your area is still feverish; but there is every indication that the fever is subsiding, inasmuch as the earth closets show a rapid and constant decline each year. There are a number of reasons for this—(i) the figure of 1,437 earth closets quoted exaggerates the true picture inasmuch as very many house-owners have converted from earth to water-carriage system without my knowledge; this error is being constantly corrected as the survey of older houses proceeds; (ii) improvement grants completed average something of the order of sixty or seventy in any one year, and very many of these schemes include conversion arrangements from conservancy system to water-carriage system; and (iii) the completion of new sewerage schemes within your area further increases the rate of change in this direction. During the year under review, the following schemes were completed—Brechfa Sewerage Scheme; Llansadwrn and Llanwrda Sewerage Scheme; and Rhandirmwyn Sewerage Scheme. It was unfortunate that the Ministry, due to the economic temperature prevailing throughout the country, was forced to insist on the deferment of two other schemes which would have further improved the sanitary conditions of your area, viz:- Court Henri Sewerage Scheme and Cilycwm Sewerage Scheme.

A constant and fairly rapid reduction in the number of earth closets does mean, of course, an increase in the number of cesspools and septic tanks, as many of these conversions take place where no public sewer is available. And this puts added pressure on your Engineer and Surveyor, who is already over-burdened in his attempts to make satisfactory arrangements for the emptying of these tanks as and when required.

With the Court Henri and Cilycwm Sewerage Schemes only awaiting Ministry sanction for work to proceed; and with numerous other sewerage schemes either awaiting approval or nearing the stage when approval will be sought; and with the present satisfactory rate at which conversions are taking place, it is fair to state the sanitary conditions prevailing within your area are exceedingly good; and although this does not allow for complacency, it is still encouraging to know that each year that passes reduces the number of health hazards in the form of earth closets, by an appreciable number.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY CONDITIONS

Ward/Parish	Drainage - Closet Accommodation - Baths				Number of Houses
	Number connected to Sewer	Number connected to Cesspool or Septic Tank	Number provided with Earth-Closet	Number provided with Bath	
Llandeilo South ..	184	119	61	284	364
Llandeilo North ..	88	196	113	272	397
Cynwil Gaeo ..	17	164	149	178	330
Llansawel	66	46	45	103	157
Llangadog	199	162	62	328	423
Llanfihangel Aber.	201	98	57	287	356
Llanwrda	47	57	31	97	135
Talley	10	60	51	70	121
Llandingat Without	—	47	37	47	84
Llanfynydd ..	6	79	78	80	163
Llanfairarybryn ..	30	111	78	126	219
Llansadwrn ..	35	63	64	94	162
Myddfai	—	67	65	63	132
Cilycwm	4	82	84	80	170
Llanddeusant ..	12	47	38	56	97
Llanegwad	38	182	148	210	368
Llangathen ..	18	84	56	98	158
Llandyfeisant ..	—	16	2	15	18
Betws Upper ..	56	34	29	87	119
Betws Lower ..	191	35	18	209	244
Quarter Bach No. 1	478	17	4	435	499
Quarter Bach No. 2	353	16	23	324	392
Glynamman ..	404	19	39	354	462
Llandybie	896	54	28	892	978
Heolddu	27	18	26	44	71
Penygroes	742	27	26	710	795
Saron	725	27	25	710	777
Totals ..	4827	1927	1437	6253	8191

RODENT CONTROL

Every effort has continued to be made during the year to provide a first class rodent control service for the ratepayers of your area. All complaints have been dealt with as expeditiously as it is humanly possible and your rodent operator has been fully occupied in his arduous task.

It is often discouraging, therefore, that one has to constantly remind so many complainants, that the presence and annoyance of these rodents in the vicinity of their homes, is so often brought about by their own carelessness and their own neglect. So often, rats are cordially invited to their very doorsteps to enjoy feasts of bread and other foods, presumably thrown on their yards and gardens as bird food. It is good and kind to feed our feathered friends with bread-crumbs; but half a loaf will attract visitors other than birds. And not only does food attract them; good shelter in the form of accumulations of rubbish; garden sheds littered with unwanted household items, etc.—these are paradise to the rat.

But not only are so many householders guilty of these bad practices within the curtilage of their own homes. The country side today - and this applies generally throughout the country - has become the dumping ground for all manner of waste - unfit food-stuffs; old bedding; derelict cars; and a host of other unwanted articles - all of which are ideal for attracting the rats we spend so much time and energy and money, in trying to exterminate.

In an age where every facility is offered to ratepayers for the proper disposal of all unwanted refuse and waste - small quantities or bulky items - this present attitude is incomprehensible and irresponsible and unforgiveable. The Council is playing a major part in the extermination of rats; the service is free to all householders. It is surely not too much to ask that the public play their part. And they can best do this by—(i) accepting the fact that the rat is not merely a nuisance; it is an animal that can inflict dreadful diseases upon human beings: (ii) keeping their yards, gardens and sheds clean and free from accumulations of rubbish: (iii) storing their refuse in a suitable covered bin: and (iv) ensuring that waste food is not strewn on yards and gardens. These are a few simple rules, but they can prove most effective in the war we are waging against the rat population.

Summary of Control Measures

Type of Property	No. of Inspections	No. of Treatments	No. Sect. 4 Notices	Block Treatments		
				No.	No. of Premises	No. of Manholes
L.A. Property	18	18	—			
Dwellings	1120	273	—	29	204	14
Business Property	32	32	—			
Agric. Property	101	1	—			
Total	1271	324	—	29	204	14

MEAT

During the year under review, in the four private slaughterhouses now operating within your area, 16,565 animals were slaughtered and inspected:

Bovines	..	..	..	..	1544
Calves	..	..	..	..	295
Sheep	..	..	..	..	11080
Pigs	..	..	..	..	3646
Total	..				16565

The record of charges made for these inspections is shown in the following table:-

Slaughterhouse	Animals Inspected				Charges
	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	
					£ s. d.
Aberlash, Bonllwyn ..	25	—	68	114	7 1 0
Bryn Road, Brynamman ..	815	265	7063	1870	310 19 0
Gate Road, Penygroes ..	654	30	3676	1528	195 15 6
Brynglas, Penygroes ..	50	—	273	134	15 3 0
Totals	1544	295	11080	3646	528 18 6

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

BOVINES

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION	QUANTITY CONDEMNED (LBS)
Fascioliasis	2910
Abscesses	343
Cirrhosis	272
Hydatid Cysts	498
Bruising	1152
Telangiectasis	136
Necrosis	42
Pneumonia	96
Angiomatosis	12
Actinomycosis	18
Nephritis	14
Septicaemia	18
Emaciation	130
Emphysema	59
Total ..	5700

CALVES

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION	QUANTITY CONDEMNED (LBS)
Emaciation	40
Pyrexia	30
Inflammation	6
Immaturity	94
	<hr/>
Total ..	170

SHEEP

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION	QUANTITY CONDEMNED (LBS)
Fascioliasis	1890
Strongylosis	64
Physiological Degeneration	24
Cysticercus Tenuicolis	36
Hydatid Cysts	472
Emaciation	308
Abscesses	12
Bruising	128
Contamination	12
Cirrhosis	13
Necrosis	12
Putrefaction	54
Oedema	8
	<hr/>
Total ..	3033

PIGS

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION	QUANTITY CONDEMNED (LBS)
Pneumonia	182
Pleurisy	6
Bruising	30
Ascaris Lumbricoides	272
Tuberculosis	140
Inflammation	10
Necrosis	12
Abscesses	22
Hydronephrosis	6
Cysticercus Tenuicolis	4
	<hr/>
Total ..	684

GRAND TOTAL OF MEAT CONDEMNED

4 tons 5 cwts 67 lbs.

OTHER FOODS

Routine inspections of food premises within your area continued throughout the year. The general standard of hygiene was found to be exceptionally high, and although certain establishments were found not complying with certain of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, these were mainly minor defaults, all of which were rectified by informal action.

On three occasions during the year, purchasers within your area reported to me foods which were not of the substance demanded (Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2);

(a) a bottle of lemonade was brought to me which revealed on analysis, that it had been contaminated with phenols. I had no hesitation on this occasion, in recommending to you that legal proceedings be instituted against the manufacturers of this product. The case was duly heard, and although a plea of guilty was made, the defendant was given a conditional discharge subject to the payment of £25 towards the cost of the prosecution.

(b) On another occasion, a tin of meat was brought to my office, when I found a spent match imbedded in the surface of the meat. The investigation revealed a long time lapse from the time the tin was opened until it was presented to me for action. I felt that this failure to report the matter immediately was a most vital factor and one which would prevent my satisfying the court beyond reasonable doubt, that an offence had been committed. I had no alternative, therefore, but to recommend to you that no further action be taken.

(c) The third item of food brought to my notice was a loaf of bread with excessive mould. I investigated this case minutely and with the utmost care, and finally arrived at the conclusion that here again there was doubt as to the suggested date of purchase of this particular loaf and again it was necessary to recommend to you that no further action be taken.

HOUSING

The following are the house construction figures for the year under review compared with those for the year 1968:-

	1968	1969
Number of Council Houses erected	74	31
Number of Council Houses under construction	19	22
Number of Private Houses erected	19	27
Number of Private Houses under construction	36	45

The following table indicates the extent of your housing problem in the various wards and parishes at the close of the year:-

Ward/Parish	Accommodation Required		Total	Additional Applications from other L.A. areas
	2-Bedroom Units	3-Bedroom Units		
Quarter Bach No. 2 ..	11	4	15	1
Quarter Bach No. 1/Glynamman	22	18	40	1
Upper Betws ..	2	2	4	6
Lower Betws ..	3	5	8	3
Heolddu ..	1	1	2	—
Penygroes ..	15	7	22	17
Llandybic ..	37	14	51	36
Saron ..	23	29	52	16
Llangathen ..	1	3	4	2
Llansadwrn ..	3	1	4	1
Llangadog ..	4	3	7	11
Llandeilo North	8	6	14	2
Llansawel ..	2	1	3	2
Cilycwm ..	1	—	1	—
Talley ..	4	2	6	—
Llanwrda ..	2	2	4	3
Llanfihangel-Aberbythich	1	6	7	3
Llanegwad ..	9	3	12	3
Cynwil Gaeo ..	5	2	7	—
Llandeilo South	4	8	12	8
Llanfairarybryn	1	1	2	1
Llanfynydd ..	5	—	5	—
Myddfai ..	—	—	—	—
Llanddeusant ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	164	118	282	116

Management:

A detailed inspection of 223 council houses was made during the year. I reported to you adversely on only thirteen of this number: it is a sad reflection that any adverse reports should be presented. Nevertheless, human nature being what it is, certain families will never fully appreciate the comfort and the opportunity which is offered them when granted the tenancy of one of your council houses. The vast majority of your tenants, however, show great pride in the way in which they use and care for these houses.

PRIVATE HOUSES

Repair and Improvement:

The year under review witnessed the introduction of the Housing Act, 1969, a statute which introduced amongst other things, greater incentives for the improvement of older houses in offering better and more substantial grants—normally up to £1,000—and the inclusion of certain repairs which can also qualify for grant. This was the tonic which many had searched for over a long period of years. And further to providing for the improvement of the individual house, it provides for area improvement, where both houses and environment can be improved in one operation.

Certain criticisms of this new legislation have already been voiced. But such criticisms at this stage are totally unwarranted. Difficulties will always present themselves with the introduction of any new legislation of a complex nature. Workers in this field, however, would be well-advised to accept and welcome this new Housing Act as a new tool, graciously presented to assist in resolving so many of our housing problems. If studied with care and diligence, and implemented with vigour tempered with a generous measure of common sense, it can do much to promote housing standards in this and every other local authority area. This is already very evident within your own area where already the response to these new measures has been extremely encouraging.

During the year under review, 88 improvement grant schemes were completed, and these qualified for grants amounting to £30,290; in addition, 31 standard grants were completed and these qualified for grants totalling £3,568.

The provisions of the Housing Act, 1969, will undoubtedly assist in no small measure, your slum clearance programme. For the saving of houses can play as important a part in such a programme as demolition or closure. This does not mean that every old house can be regarded as fit to qualify for grant. On the contrary, where such houses have reached the end of their usefulness as units of human habitation; and to render them fit entails their almost complete reconstruction and possibly enlargement—or, in statutory terms—where the saving of such a property would be “tantamount to the building of a new house”, then any initial application for grant should not be entertained. This in no way contradicts the usefulness of these provisions in slum clearance exercises: so many of these older houses can undoubtedly be salvaged and grant aided in the process.

Uniformity of administration of the provisions of the Housing Act, 1969, throughout the country is perhaps too much to expect. As experience is gained through practical application of these provisions, however, local authorities should move as rapidly as possible towards such a goal. Conferences of local authorities on a County basis from time to time for the specific purpose of exchanging views and discussing specific problems gained from experience, may well go a long way towards a better understanding of the problems involved and bring local authorities at least a little more in line on many issues as time proceeds.

So many points of interest come to mind where discussions such as these can be of the utmost value:-

(1) The consideration of standard grants where improvement grants in the first instance have been refused by virtue of the fact that the project submitted is tantamount to the building of a new house. This question often arises in connection with houses where action has been taken under the provisions of section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and the dwelling becomes subject to (a) an undertaking that the dwelling will not be used for human habitation until repaired to the satisfaction of the council; or (b) an undertaking that the dwelling will be repaired to the satisfaction of the council within a specified time; or (c) a closing order; or (d) a demolition order. There is a school of thought which suggests that where the project of reconstruction and modernisation of any of the above categories is tantamount to the building of a new house, then the reconstructed dwelling becomes a dwelling built after 1961, and cannot therefore be regarded as eligible for grant. This is a dubious argument, for within the terms of the Housing Act, 1957, an owner or prospective purchaser may submit proposals even for a house on which a demolition order is operative; and such proposals may rightly cater for reconstruction, enlargement and improvement, without regard to cost, and the completed project is accepted as the reconstruction of an existing house; and if this is accepted as correct reasoning, then in all such cases, where application is made, standard grants should be allowed as of right. (This argument was submitted to the Welsh Office for comment, and their reply clearly indicates agreement with this view, subject, of course, to the statutory requirements as set out in section 9, being fulfilled).

(2) The consideration of applications for an improvement grant solely for (a) eradication of dry rot; (b) provision of a damp-proof course; (c) rendering of external walls; (d) re-wiring for electricity, etc., where otherwise the twelve points are catered for.

Practice appears to vary from local authority area to local authority area in such matters. As these items will not form part of a

general improvement scheme, but are in isolation, it can be said that any such applications should be refused. Yet these are extremely vital and important factors in the saving of older houses, and it would be helpful if clearer guidance were forthcoming on such issues.

Area improvement has not as yet been introduced within your area, and this can be excused for perhaps two principal reasons:-

(1) The number of individual house improvement schemes is such, that it would be difficult at the present time to cope with any further major project such as a general improvement area; and

(2) Your officers are somewhat shy when contemplating general improvement areas. This is not because they do not know how or where to start on such a venture, but rather because they are confused in that the elaborate preparations necessary, the amount of day-to-day administration and field work involved, and the time factor, which of necessity must be an extended one, may, in the end, achieve nothing.

This, perhaps, can best be illustrated by describing briefly what such a project involves. In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1969, where the local authority is satisfied that the environment should be improved—by the provision of open spaces, parking facilities, planting of trees, etc;—as well as the houses in that particular area, they may declare such an area to be a general improvement area, and the Minister is empowered to make a contribution (pound for pound up to £100 per dwelling in the area) towards the cost of the environmental improvement.

The houses may be improved either by discretionary grants or standard grants.

Where landlords involved within such an area fail to co-operate, then there is only one course open to the local authority if they are determined to see the scheme through—compulsory purchase—and in this context, it has been made quite clear to local authorities that compulsory purchase must only be proceeded with when all else fails. This, I feel, is the weakness of this otherwise useful piece of legislation.

Tenants outside improvement areas, however, may still make application in writing to the local authority to have their houses modernised, and the local authority may require the owner under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, to install the standard amenities. This procedure again, however, can take some time for fulfilment.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The following table indicates the housing conditions within your area at the close of the current year:-

Ward/Parish	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Total
Llandeilo South ..	210	84	55	4	11	364
Llandeilo North ..	200	81	93	8	15	397
Cynwil Gaeo ..	105	78	104	18	25	330
Llansawel ..	61	39	44	3	10	157
Llangadog ..	222	116	72	5	8	423
Llanfihangel Aber	202	85	62	4	3	356
Llanwrda ..	58	33	39	—	5	135
Talley ..	46	30	36	4	5	121
Llandingat Without	22	25	27	8	2	84
Llanfynydd ..	51	42	57	3	10	163
Llanfairarybryn ..	73	59	68	8	11	219
Llansadwrn ..	58	32	53	8	11	162
Myddfai ..	36	33	51	6	6	132
Cilycwm ..	42	41	73	8	6	170
Llanddeusant ..	24	32	36	3	2	97
Llanegwad ..	140	77	133	5	13	368
Llangathen ..	61	39	51	4	3	158
Llandyfeisant ..	14	2	2	—	—	18
Upper Betws ..	65	24	22	4	4	119
Lower Betws ..	146	60	33	1	4	244
Quarter Bach No. 1	307	127	60	1	4	499
Quarter Bach No. 2	256	73	49	3	11	392
Glynamman ..	294	66	83	14	5	462
Llandybie ..	754	178	41	3	2	978
Heolddu ..	36	6	17	8	4	71
Penygroes ..	566	169	50	7	3	795
Saron ..	545	173	53	5	1	777
Totals ..	4594	1804	1464	145	184	8191

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS 1957-1961

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
Number of houses which were rendered fit by owner after service of formal notice (Section 9)	3
Number of houses which were rendered fit by local authority in default of owners	Nil
Number of houses reconstructed as a result of formal notice (Section 16)	5
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders (Section 17	3
Number of unfit houses closed as a result of formal action (Section 16)	17
Number of notices served in respect of houses overcrowded	Nil
Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which closing order was made (Section 18)	Nil
Number of condemned houses reconstructed (Section 24) ..	5
Number of closing orders substituted for demolition orders (Section 26, H.A. 1961)	3

CONCLUSION

This has been another full and interesting year, and I have endeavoured as always to cover all aspects of our work to your satisfaction. I trust I have succeeded in some measure in continuing to present to the public a realistic and pleasing image of the Council in their endeavours in the field of environmental hygiene.

It only remains for me once again to thank my colleagues within the department; my colleagues in other departments who have supported me in my efforts; and you Mr. Chairman and Members for your continued kindness and tolerance.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

G. THOMAS,

Chief Public Health Inspector





