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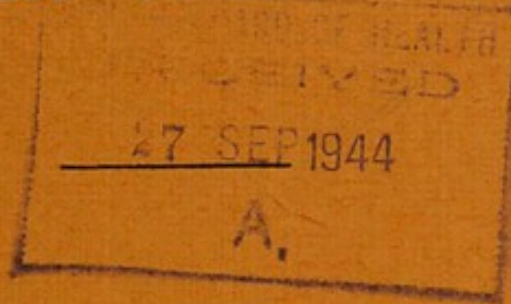
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BOROUGH OF LLANELLY.



# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

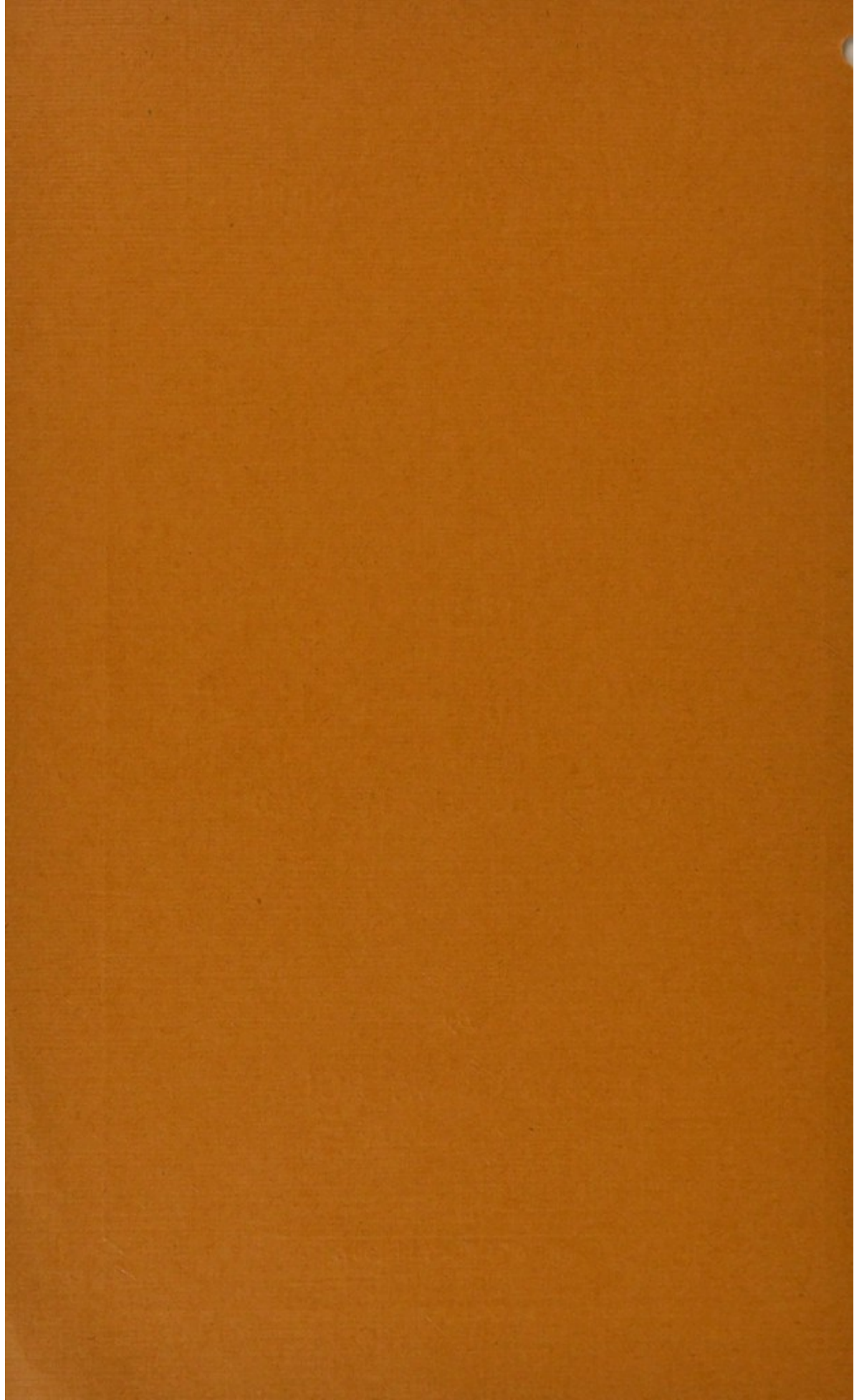
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

*By*

LAURENCE W. POLE,

M.B., Ch.B., (Edm.), D.P.H.

"Guardian" Offices, Llanelli.



BOROUGH OF LLANELLY.

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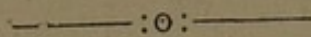
M.B., Ch.B., (Edn.), D.P.H.

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"Guardian" Offices, Llanelly.



# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF



*Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :*

L. W. POLE, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :*

MARGARETHE NEUGROESCHL, M.D. (Vienna).

*Eye Specialist (Part-time):*

J. J. HEALY, M.B., Ch.B.

*Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist (Part-time):*

T. I. WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S.E.

*Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon ;*

A. O. PARKER, M.D.

*Dental Surgeon :*

T. E. MATHIAS, L.R.C.P. & S., L.D.S., R.C.S.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods :*

R. EVANS, M.R.S.I.

*Sanitary Inspectors :*

I. R. REES, C.R.S.I.

J. E. MARKS, C.R.S.I. (Inspector of Meat and Other Foods).

J. J. NENER, C.R.S.I. (Inspector of Meat and Other Foods).  
(Temporary).

*Health Visitors and School Nurses :*

M. C. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.                      M. HOPKINS, S.R.N.

G. GREENE, S.R.N., S.C.M. (H.V. Cert.)

G. M. ROBERTS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (H.V. Cert.)

S. THOMAS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (H.V. Cert.)

*Orthopaedic Sister :*

A. E. NICHOLAS, S.R.N., C.S.M.M.G. (Resigned May, 1943)  
 J. L. HARRIES, C.S.M.M.G. (Appointed July, 1943).

*Borough Maternity Home ;*

Matron: K. M. PHILLIPS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned  
 November, 1943).

Sister: C. A. MARKS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned, September,  
 1943).

Midwife: M. WALTERS, S.C.M. (Resigned, October, 1943).

Sister-in-charge: L. V. DODD, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed  
 December, 1943).

Staff Midwife: H. DYER, S.C.M. (Appointed, December, 1943).

*Chief Clerk :*

W. J. SYMMONS.

*Clerks :*

J. DAVIES (on War Service). A. G. BEYNON (temporary).

T. J. JONES do. M. JOYCE JONES, (temporary).

T. C. DAVIES do. (left, November, 1943).

ELIZABETH DAVIES (temporary).  
 (left October, 1943).

MARY THOMAS (temporary).

IRIS M. ROBERTS (temporary).  
 (appointed, October, 1943).

*Dental Attendant :*

VALMAI JONES (National Service, C.N.R., November, 1943).

NESTA MORGAN (temporary, appointed July, 1943).

# STATISTICS

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Birth rate*	....	15.05 per 1,000 estimated population.
Still birth rate*	....	51.23 per 1,000 total live and still births.
Death rate*	....	13.33 per 1,000 estimated population.

The rates for 1942 were:—

Birth-rate	....	14.59 per 1,000 estimated population.
Still birth rate	....	45.88 per 1,000 total live and still births
Death rate	....	11.87 per 1,000 estimated population.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29—Puerperal sepsis	.... 1	.... 1.89
No. 30—Other maternal causes....	.... 1	.... 1.89
	—	
	.... 2	.... 3.79

Death rate of infants under one year:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	48.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	47.91
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....	....	50.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	70
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	3
Inquests numbered	....	....	20
Uncertified deaths numbered	....	....	5
Deaths in Public Institutions	....	....	83

\* For comparison the birth and death rates for England and Wales were respectively 16.5 and 12.1 per 1,000 estimated population. The still birth rate for England and Wales was 0.51 per 1,000 population. That for Llanelly was 0.81 per 1,000 population.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—The Public Health Department Laboratory has been used principally for the examination of swabs for the presence of the diphtheria bacillus while the bacteriological examination of certain specimens and of milk samples is carried



out at the Emergency Public Health Service Laboratories at Carmarthen and Swansea. Following an arrangement made with the Medical Research Council in February, 1944, the medical practitioners in the town were notified that as from 3rd March, 1944, all throat swabs would be sent to the Carmarthen Emergency Public Health Service Laboratory, as the latest technique for their examination gives more accurate information. The Medical Research Council agreed to undertake this additional work without extra cost to the Town Council for a trial period of one year.

Since the scheme for the immunisation of children to protect them against diphtheria was begun in December, 1940, there has been a marked reduction in the number of swabs received from medical practitioners. This is shown by the following table for the past few years:—

1940	....	1,135 swabs;	1942	....	178 swabs;
1941	....	380 swabs;	1943	....	73 swabs;

**Water Analysis.**—This work was done by Mr. J. H. Sugden, M.Sc., of the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—The agreement with the Priory of St. John continues in operation for the transport of patients residing in the Borough to the General Hospital, etc.

**Nursing in the Home.**—This is undertaken by the Llanelly and District Nursing Association in the case of subscribers.

**Treatment Centres.**—The following Clinics are housed in the Public Health Department, Old Town Hall:—Maternity and Child Welfare, School Clinic, Dental Clinic and Eye Clinic. Three rooms at the Hall Street Wesleyan Chapel Vestry are used for the purposes of the Orthopaedic Clinic, and a Gynaecological Clinic is held at the Nurses' Institute by arrangement with the Llanelly and District Nursing Association. The Welsh National Memorial Association have premises in Greenfield Villas for the use of the Tuberculosis Officer. The Association obtained new and more suitable premises and more up-to-date equipment and the work of the Tuberculosis Officer has been carried on at Bay View, Capel Road, since 1st June, 1944.

## HOSPITALS.

**Borough Isolation Hospital.**—This Hospital has been closed since September, 1940. Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the County Isolation Hospital.

**Prince of Wales Orthopaedic Hospital, Cardiff.**—One child was admitted into this Hospital for treatment under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, in addition to seven children for whose cost the Education Committee is responsible. Further information will be found on page 32 of the School Medical Officer's Report.

**Maternity Hospital Accommodation.**—See page 8.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**Midwives.**—Seven midwives employed by the County Council, and twelve midwives practising independently (including four Health Visitors who did temporary duty at the Corporation Maternity Home), notified their intention of practising in the Borough during the year.

The total number of births notified under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was 493, of which 22 were still births.

### Infant Mortality.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths of infants within 12 months of birth	11	13	24
Illegitimate infant deaths (included in above)	1	—	1
Ages at death:—			
On first day	1	2	3
Under 7 days	6	3	9
Under 4 weeks	7	7	14

The infant mortality rate was 48.00 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 49.00.

**Maternal Mortality.**—There was one death due to puerperal sepsis and one due to causes other than sepsis. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 3.79 per 1,000 total live and still births. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 2.29.

**Health Visiting.**—Number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors:—

1. To expectant mothers	99
2. To children under one year of age	1,548
3. To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	2,506

The following table shows the work undertaken by the Health Visitors in addition to their ordinary work:—

Visits to cases of infectious diseases	....	....	23
Visits of enquiry—still births	....	....	17
Visits of enquiry—infant deaths	....	....	11
Visits to cases of tuberculosis	....	....	167
Follow-up visits to school children	....	....	60
Visits re diphtheria immunisation	....	....	33
Visits to applicants desiring admission into Maternity Home	....	....	9
Miscellaneous	....	....	3

### Infant Welfare Centre.

(a) Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were:—

1. Under one year of age	....	....	....	361
2. Over one year of age	....	....	....	18

(b) Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were

1. Under one year of age	....	....	....	325
2. Over one year of age	....	....	....	334

### Antenatal and Postnatal Services.

Total number of women who attended at the antenatal and postnatal clinics during the year, 90.

### Supply of Milk and Food.

Proprietary brands of dried milk are sold at cost price at the Clinic. Virol and Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract are also sold at cost price and given free in necessitous cases.

### Supplementary Grant of Clothing Coupons to Expectant Mothers.

The Board of Trade transferred the issue of supplementary clothing coupons from Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities to local Ministry of Food Offices, as from the 24th July, 1943. During the period 1st January to 24th July, 1943, 332 applicants were dealt with.

### Maternity Home.

The Maternity Home was opened in November, 1942, and 62 patients were admitted up to the end of 1943, 54 of them in 1943. It has filled a much needed want although the premises are not

ideal for use as a Maternity Home. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have been anxious to obtain more satisfactory premises and there is every likelihood that they will be obtained.

Following the resignation of the staff between September and October much difficulty was experienced in carrying on the work of the Maternity Home in spite of the assistance given by the Health Visitors, and the woman Housing Inspector employed in the Borough Treasurer's Department. In the end the Home had to be closed in November, 1943, and was not re-opened until the 7th February, 1944, after a Sister-in-charge and a Staff midwife had been appointed. The Health Visitors again assisted in the work until a complete staff—Sister-in-charge and three Staff midwives—had been appointed. This was not possible until the end of May.

The Home was closed for three weeks in July and was re-opened on the 22nd July. Closure became necessary as a patient developed puerperal pyrexia and had to be transferred to the County Isolation Hospital. One of the maids was suspended from duty for two weeks as she was found to be a carrier (throat) of the haemolytic streptococcus. Subsequent bacteriological examinations revealed that the cause of the patient's death, which took place in the Isolation Hospital, was probably due to the bacillus coli in conjunction with advanced kidney disease.

During the periods of closure of the Maternity Home patients in whose case abnormality or difficult labour were suspected, were sent to the Gorseinon or Carmarthen Maternity Blocks.

#### **Statistics for the year 1943.—Llanelly Corporation Maternity Home.**

Number of maternity beds in the Institution ....	....	5
Number of maternity cases admitted during 1943	....	54
Average duration of stay	....	18 days
Number of cases delivered by—(a) Midwives, 45 ; (b) Doctors, 8.		
Number of cases admitted after delivery	....	1
Number of cases notified as puerperal pyrexia	....	1
Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum	....	Nil.
Number of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complementary feed while in the Institution		11
Number of infants wholly breast-fed on leaving the Institution		39
Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum	....	1

Result of treatment—Died of broncho-pneumonia after removal to County Isolation Hospital and the Llanelly General Hospital.

Number of maternal deaths	....	....	.... Nil.
Number of still births	....	....	.... 2

Cause in each case—

- (1) Difficulty in delivering the after-coming head.
- (2) Foetal heart not heard on admission due to obstructed labour.

Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth	....	1
---	------	---

Cause of death—

Inanition due to hare lip and cleft palate. 7 days old.

The net number of patients dealt with during the year 1943 was 74. Besides the 54 patients which were treated in the Corporation Maternity Home, the remainder—20—were admitted into the Gorseinon Maternity Block, the Carmarthen Infirmary Maternity Block and the Amman Valley Hospital.

Eight patients were sent to the Gorseinon Maternity Block for examination and report before being admitted to the Corporation Maternity Home.

The following is a statement of the conditions for which patients were admitted into maternity Institutions:—

Home conditions	....	....	.... 26
Malpresentation, difficult labour	....	....	.... 16
Complications of labour	....	....	.... 8
Toxaemia of pregnancy	....	....	.... 2
Uterine conditions	....	....	.... 3
Multiple pregnancy	....	....	.... 1
Emergency cases	....	....	.... 12
Other conditions	....	....	.... 6

The emergency cases were admitted for the following reasons:

In labour	....	....	....	4
Difficult labour	....	....	....	5
Second twin	....	....	....	1
Accidental haemorrhage	....	....	....	1
Toxaemia	....	....	....	1
			12	

**Home Helps.**—Enquiries were made during the year as to the availability of women to act as Home Helps, but this kind of work did not attract any applicants when registering at the Labour Exchange, although it is recognised by the Ministry of Labour that this kind of employment is a form of national service. When registering at the Labour Exchange women are informed that they can take up this work, but no volunteers came forward, as they preferred to take up munition or other work. In general there is very little need for Home Helps in the town, as relatives or friends are usually available and ready to give what assistance is required.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—Three cases were notified during the year. They were visited by the Health Visitors, and one case was removed to the County Isolation Hospital, where the child died of broncho-pneumonia. Vision was unimpaired in the other two cases.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—Seven cases were notified in 1943 and three cases were removed to the County Isolation Hospital.

**Child Life Protection.** (Sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

(a) Number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year	....	....	2
(b) Number of children at the end of the year	....	....	2
(c) Number of Child Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were Health Visitors	....	....	4

**Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.**

(a) Number of persons who gave notice under Section 7 (3) during the year	....	....	3
(b) Total number of children "adopted" under the Section during the year	....	....	2

(c) Number of such children under supervision at the  
end of the year                   ....                   ....                   ....                   2

**Dental Treatment.**—The work done by the Dental Surgeon is included in the Report of the School Medical Officer.

**Orthopaedic Clinic.**—The Report of the Orthopaedic Sister on after-care treatment will be found in the Report of the School Medical Officer.

**Gynaecological Clinic.**—By arrangement with the Llanelly and District Nursing Association, the Clinic is held at the Nurses' Institute on the second and last Thursdays of every month. One of the Health Visitors attends at the Clinic to assist the Medical Officer, Dr. Gwendoline Madel.

Dr. Madel reports that during the year 1943 the work of the Clinic showed a substantial increase over that of 1942. The attendances during 1943 numbered 92, as compared with 66 in the year 1942.

Dr. Madel states "it is hoped that the day is not far distant when I shall be able to record examples of the types of cases seen which would convey more fully the need for the Clinic than a mere statement of this number of attendances. Despite the increase in attendances I still feel that much greater use could be made of the Clinic facilities than at present. Once more I should like to express my keen appreciation of the services of Nurse Greene, and the continued kindness shown to the staff by Miss Marpole, Matron of the Llanelly and District Nursing Association."

The following table shows the number of women who attended at the Clinic during the year and the number of attendances made:—

Number of new cases	....	....	9
Number of old cases	....	....	22
Total number	....	....	31
Total number of attendances made	....	....	92

**Lectures on Food Values.**—Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, a lecturer on the Speakers' Panel of the Ministry of Food, addressed the various women's organisations and the senior girls' schools in the town in July, 1943, on the food values of the priority foods available to mothers and babies. The lectures were much appreciated by all those who took the opportunity of attending them.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BOROUGH.

**Water Supply—Sources of Supply.**—(See Annual Report for 1939).

There is an abundant constant supply of water for the whole of the Borough, and the premises within the Corporation's Extended limits of supply.

20 houses on the border of the town are supplied by three standpipes. The approximate population so supplied is 90.

**Water Analysis.**—The water for domestic supply is subjected to slow sand filtration and chloramine treatment and monthly chemical and bacteriological analysis of the water show that the treatment is satisfactory. It has been found that the water, obtained from upland districts, has a plumbo-solvent action, but the reports of the Analyst on samples of water examined by him show that there is no lead in the samples as received.

**Rainfall.**—The rainfall for the year 1942 was 54.14 inches; rain fell on 218 days. One inch, or over, of rain fell in 24 hours on eight occasions. The highest fall occurred on the 17th October when 1.20 inches were recorded.

**Closet Accommodation.**

Number of houses provided with pails collected by the Corporation	....	....	....	91
Number of houses with pails, contents disposed of by householders	....	....	....	22
Number of houses with private cesspools	....	....	....	47

**Public Cleansing.**

Highway refuse (including street gullies) (Estimated)	....	....	....	Tons. 1,040
Market refuse	....	....	....	200
House and Trade refuse	....	....	....	14,344
Total	....	....	....	15,584

**Smoke Abatement.**—Various complaints of nuisances caused by smoke and grit received the attention of the Department during the year. The Chief Sanitary Inspector assisted in the investigation and frequent reports were made by him to the Health Committee regarding measures for their abatement.



## HOUSING.

The inspection of houses for the existence of defects or overcrowding has continued as in past years.

A woman housing inspector, Mrs. O. Morris, S.R.N., was appointed for a trial period of one year as from 5th April, 1943. The duties performed by her comprised visits to all houses under the control of the Corporation. Where conditions are not satisfactory further visits are made. She is required to make investigations into the circumstances of applicants for Corporation houses.

The need for the provision of houses continues to be very acute. No new construction has been possible since the outbreak of war. Houses which at that time were being considered with a view to their demolition still house families and because essential repairs cannot be carried out, further deterioration has resulted. Overcrowding and sub-letting are responsible for much discomfort and the conditions of life are generally very unsuitable for young children and adolescents for whom there is no decent accommodation.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**—The number of registered milk retailers in the Borough was 97, of whom 10 were licensed for the sale of designated milk.

Regular inspections of all the cowsheds and dairies in the Borough were made by the Sanitary Inspectors and a high standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

**Milk Sampling and Bacteriological Examinations.**

This has been carried out as in previous years and the results are set out below:—

**(1) Taken from Retailers:****(a) Ordinary Milk:**

Number of samples examined	....	49
Number that complied with Accredited standard	....	27 (55 per cent.)
Number that did not comply with Accredited Standard	....	22 (45 per cent.)

26 samples were examined for the presence of the tubercle bacillus; all were negative.

**(b) Pasteurised Milk.**

Number of samples examined	....	2
Both complied with the prescribed standard.		

**(2) Taken from School supplies :**

Number of samples of pasteurised milk examined	....	....	12
Number that complied with the standard	....	10	
Number that did not comply with the standard	....	2	

**Phosphatase Test for Heat Treated Milk.**

This test is of great value in so far as it indicates that milk:

- (1) is sufficiently heat treated;
- (2) is insufficiently heat treated; or
- (3) is grossly undertreated, or contains an appreciable quantity of raw milk.

Seven samples of pasteurised milk were examined by this test; five samples were found to be satisfactorily pasteurised and two results indicated imperfect pasteurisation.

The results of all samples of milk taken are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health and the Veterinary Inspector, Mr. J. Campbell Hill. The results are also given to the Medical Officer of Health of the Llanelly Rural District of samples taken from producers in his district.

**National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.**

Following an experimental milk testing scheme in 1942, when Local Authorities in Carmarthenshire co-operated with the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the National Scheme came into operation in January, 1943. A Circular was issued by the Welsh Board of Health requesting the co-operation of Authorities in the successful working of the scheme. This has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and the results of the examinations are sent to me from the Area Laboratory, Carmarthen.

The milk is graded as regards its economic quality, i.e., keeping properties:—

Category A—"Market" Milk.

B—"Salvage" Milk.

C—"Rejected" Milk

and the following is a summary of the 69 samples taken during the year from four producer-retailers in the Borough:—

Producer-retailer.	No. of Samples examined	Category A.	Category B.	Category C.
1.	17	12	4	1
2.	17	5	3	9
3.	18	18	—	—
4.	17	16	—	1
	69	51	7	11

50 per cent. of the samples taken from No. 2 were graded under Category C, i.e., "rejected" milk.

**Meat and Other Foods.**—Shops, stalls, vehicles, etc., are visited regularly, and particulars of condemnations are contained in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. J. Campbell Hill, M.R.C.V.S., is the Veterinary Inspector of the Borough, and is responsible for the inspections and condemnations of animals and carcasses in the public slaughterhouse.

Fourteen licences were granted by the Town Council during the year, under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

### Condemnations in 1943.

#### 1. All diseases except tuberculosis.

##### (a) Whole carcasses condemned:

11 cows; 2 calves; 23 sheep and lambs; 5 pigs.

##### (b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:

98 cattle, excluding cows; 133 cows; 654 sheep and lambs; 4 pigs.

##### (c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis:

Cattle, excluding cows, 5.64; cows, 17.51; calves, 0.037; sheep and lambs, 3.50; pigs, 1.46.

## 2 Tuberculosis only.

- (a) Whole carcase condemned:  
1 (Cattle), excluding cows; 23 cows.
- (b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:  
64 cattle, excluding cows; 113 cows.
- (c) Percentage of the number of inspected affected with tuberculosis:  
Cattle, excluding cows, 3.74; cows, 16.54.

Condemnations still continue to be considerably greater than in the years immediately preceding the war. This was referred to in my Annual Report for 1942 when the percentages of condemnations were set out for the years 1938 to 1942.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

**Diphtheria.**—Ten cases were notified in 1943, but after admission into the County Isolation Hospital, seven patients were re-diagnosed as tonsillitis, pharyngitis or glandular fever. One of the diphtheria cases died in hospital. Of the three cases finally diagnosed as diphtheria, two were children under the age of 15 years, neither of whom had been immunised, the third patient being an adult.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**—The immunisation of children under the age of 15 years has been systematically carried out during the year. A special session for this purpose is held on Friday afternoons at the Infant Welfare Centre and separate records are kept of children under the age of 5 years and those from 5 to 15 years. A few sessions have been held at the Morfa First Aid Post for the convenience of parents living in that district. Assistance was then given by members of the personnel of the Post.

The number of children in 1943 who received inoculations for the prevention of diphtheria and whose treatment had been completed were:—

under 5 years of age	....	....	466
5 and under 15 years	....	....	355
over 15 years	....	....	5
			<hr/>
Total	....	....	826

The number of children whose treatment had not been completed at the end of the year were:—

under 5 years of age	....	....	15
5 and under 15 years	....	....	3
			—
Total	....	....	18

The total numbers of children who were dealt with since diphtheria immunisation was begun in December, 1940, were:—

under 5 years of age	....	....	1870
5 and under 15 years	....	....	3715
over 15 years	....	....	149
			—
Total	....	....	5734

Children under the age of eight years receive two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.), 0.2 c.c., followed by 0.5 c.c., after an interval of four weeks. Older children are given three inoculations of Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules (T.A.F.) 1 c.c. each time with an interval of two weeks between inoculations. No ill-effects have been noticed or complained of by the children.

Pamphlets have been extensively distributed to parents setting out the dangers that may follow an attack of diphtheria and advising them to have their children protected. When infants are approaching their first birthday, a special effort is made for parents to have them immunised. A franked reply-postcard supplied by the Ministry of Health, on which is shown the picture of a baby, is sent to parents for return by them stating that they are willing for the necessary treatment to be carried out.

Advertisements have appeared in the local press, incorporating stereos supplied by the Ministry of Health, giving a short account of diphtheria and how it can be prevented by the immunisation of children. At various times short films have been shown in the cinemas of the town.

Since December, 1940, 85.7 per cent. of children under the age of 5 years have received the full course of inoculations, and 71.4 per cent. of children between the age of 5 and 15 years.

Since protection by inoculation of children has been given the number of notifications of diphtheria has greatly decreased. The incidence of diphtheria in the four years 1940-43 for children under the age of 15 years is shown in the following table:

	Notifications.	No. immunised.	No. not immunised.
1940	146	—	146
1941—1st half	87	2†	85
2nd half	25	—	25
1942	15	4*	11
1943	8	2‡	6
1944—to 31/7/44	—	—	—

2†—were re-diagnosed tonsillitis.

2\*—were re-diagnosed tonsillitis; 1 was discharged “nil abnormal detected”; 1 lapse of over three months between injections.

1‡—re-diagnosed tonsillitis and 1 glandular fever.

From the above summary it will be seen that in the first six months of 1941, 87 children were notified as cases of diphtheria, 85 of whom had not been immunised. The remaining two had had the full course of treatment and were re-diagnosed after admission into the County Isolation Hospital as suffering from tonsillitis. During the second half of that year no case of diphtheria was notified among immunised children out of the total notified for this period of 25. Ten deaths occurred from diphtheria in 1941, all non-immunised children, eight in the first and two in the second half of the year.

In 1942, fifteen notifications of diphtheria in children were received, four of whom had been inoculated against diphtheria. Three of these were re-diagnosed as not diphtheria, and in the case of the fourth an interval of three months had elapsed between the first and second inoculations so that only partial protection was given.

During 1943, eight children were notified as having diphtheria and two of them had received the full course of inoculations and on admission were found not to have diphtheria. The diagnosis

was changed to tonsillitis and glandular fever. Of the remainder none had been protected against diphtheria.

Up to the end of July, 1944, there had not been a single case of diphtheria notified. The last case notified was on 29th Nov., 1943, so that for eight months there has been a total absence of diphtheria.

**Scarlet Fever.**—51 cases were notified during the year and 14 cases were removed to the County Isolation Hospital. One case was re-diagnosed as chicken-pox. The number of cases notified in 1942 was 78.

**Whooping Cough and Measles.**—The number of notifications of these diseases were respectively 15 and 575. One case of whooping cough and four of measles were removed to the County Isolation Hospital.

**Cerebrospinal Fever.**—Three cases were notified in 1943, and were removed to the County Isolation Hospital. One case proved fatal and two cases were re-diagnosed as influenza. The number of cases notified in 1942 was seven.

#### Notifiable Diseases during the Calendar Year 1943 in the various Wards (Local Statistics).

Disease	Cases notified			Total Cases notified	Total Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3			
Diphtheria	2	4	4	10	10	1
Scarlet fever	16	17	18	51	14	—
Pneumonia	30	47	29	106	1	37
Measles	177	225	173	575	4	—
Whooping cough	3	11	1	15	1	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2	1	4	7	3*	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	1	3	1	—
Erysipelas	4	5	2	11	1	—
Cerebrospinal fever	—	—	3	3	3	1
Paratyphoid fever	1	—	—	1	1	—

\* Includes one case removed to Poor Law Institution.

Analysis of the Notifications of Infectious Diseases under the following Age-Groups:—

Disease.	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
Diphtheria .....	1	—	1	—	1	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	10
Scarlet fever .....	—	3	1	2	4	20	12	6	2	1	—	—	51
Pneumonia .....	5	2	2	2	5	9	6	1	11	14	34	15	106
Measles .....	16	43	60	79	117	240	12	8	—	—	—	—	575
Whooping cough .....	2	3	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Puerperal pyrexia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	7
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	2	11
Cerebrospinal fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Paratyphoid fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1



The following cases were removed to the County Isolation Hospital for observation, treatment and final diagnosis:—

1 case of mumps;

2 cases of chicken-pox;

2 cases of ? meningitis; final diagnosis—

1, pneumococcal peritonitis;

1, influenza.

1 case of ? encephalitis lethargica; final diagnosis—

meningococcal meningitis  
(fatal).

1 case of septic rash and tonsillitis;

1 case of Vincent's Angina;

2 cases of (?) diphtheria: final diagnosis—

1 glandular infection;

1 lymphocytic choriomeningitis.

1 case of ? paratyphoid fever: final diagnosis—

acute pyelitis.

**Antitoxin Treatment.**—During the year, 432,000 units of diphtheria antitoxin and 45,000 units of scarlet fever antitoxin were issued to medical practitioners.

**Heart Disease.**—The death rate from heart disease was 1.83 per 1,000 population.

**Cancer.**—The cancer death rate was 2.10 per 1,000 population.

**Influenza.**—Towards the end of 1943 and in the beginning of 1944 there was an epidemic of influenza, but in the great majority of cases the type of the disease was moderate in its severity.

An official leaflet pointing out to the public the precautions which should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease was distributed to the homes of the people through the Civil Defence Warden's Service, and arrangements were made with the Women's Voluntary Services for assistance in the homes if this became necessary.

**Tuberculosis.**—42 cases (1.20 per 1,000 population) of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1943—20 males and 22 females; 20 deaths (0.60 per 1,000 population)—12 males and 8 females were recorded. (Local statistics.)

13 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis (0.39 per 1,000 population) were notified—6 males and 7 females; 3 deaths (0.09 per 1,000 population)—1 male and 2 females, were recorded. (Local statistics).

During the 10-year period 1934 to 1943 the notification rate for respiratory tuberculosis decreased regularly from 1.42 per 1,000 in 1934 to 0.51 per 1,000 in 1939. Thereafter the rate rose gradually in the war years from 0.91 per 1,000 in 1940 to 1.20 in 1943 (excepting the year 1941 when the rate was 0.84 per 1,000.)

Since the introduction of mass radiography a considerable number of persons, mostly members of the Forces, who were apparently in good health, have been discovered to be infected with tuberculosis in an early stage. In these cases no signs had been detected by the ordinary methods of medical examinations. As tuberculosis is a progressive disease its detection by the use of mass radiography affords the best chance for complete cure.

The Medical Officer of Health of every district is required to inform the Ministry of Labour and National Service of all cases of tuberculosis on his register, as and when required, and a special form is provided for this purpose. This information is important at the time of each medical examination before the question of drafting into one or other of the services is considered.

Form M235/1 (Welsh National Memorial Association) giving particulars of every case notified—home conditions, contacts, financial circumstances, etc., is sent to the Tuberculosis Officer, who is also supplied with subsequent reports following the visits of the Health Visitors as to the condition of the patient, etc., at the time of visiting the house, and of any changes in the family circumstances.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, quarterly statements are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health. The following is a statement giving the same particulars for the year 1943.

(a) Number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year:

Males: Respiratory	....	....	83
Non-respiratory		....	34
Females: Respiratory	....	....	49
Non-respiratory		....	36
Total	....	....	<u>202</u>

(b) Number of cases notified under the Regulations of 1930 for the first time during the year:—

Males: Respiratory	....	....	20
Non-respiratory		....	6
Females: Respiratory	....	....	22
Non-respiratory		....	7
Total	....	....	<u>55</u>

(c) Number of cases restored to the register

Male: Respiratory	....	....	1
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(d) Number of cases added to register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification:

Males: Respiratory	....	....	2
Females: Respiratory		....	2
Non-respiratory		....	1
Total	....	....	<u>5</u>

(e) Number of cases removed from the register during the year:

Males: Respiratory	....	....	26
Non-respiratory		....	3
Females: Respiratory		....	25
Non-respiratory		....	6
Total	....	....	<u>60</u>

(f) Number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year:

Males: Respiratory	....	....	80
Non-respiratory		....	37
Females: Respiratory	....	....	48
Non-respiratory		....	38
Total	....	....	<u>203</u>

**Number of Cases of Tuberculosis, Respiratory and Non-respiratory,  
notified during 1943 and the Number of Deaths. (Local Statistics).**

Age periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non.-resp.		Respiratory.		Non-resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1— .....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5— .....	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—
15— .....	8	8	2	2	2	4	—	—
25— .....	3	5	—	1	3	2	—	—
35— .....	7	4	—	—	2	—	—	1
45— .....	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	1
55— .....	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
65— .....	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
<b>All ages .....</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)  
REGULATIONS, 1925.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 172.

No action was taken during the year.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1943.**

Number of preliminary notices served .....	366
Number of preliminary notices complied with .....	388
Number of statutory notices served .....	47
Number of statutory notices complied with .....	45
Number of letters sent .....	70
Number of complaints received .....	184
Number of owners and other persons interviewed .....	1,250

## DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected for nuisances	....	....	832
Houses inspected for infectious diseases	....	....	119
Houses re-inspected	....	....	1,170
Factories with mechanical power	....	....	204
Factories without mechanical power	....	....	37
Workplaces or other premises	....	....	3
Laundries	....	....	26
Dairies	....	....	261
Cowsheds	....	....	148
Milkshops	....	....	13
Milk purveyors' vehicles	....	....	524
Bakehouses	....	....	117
Food preparing premises	....	....	99
Slaughterhouse	....	....	54
Butchers' shops, stalls and vehicles	....	....	2,461
Provision stores	....	....	1,707
Fishmongers	....	....	368
Greengrocers' shops	....	....	1,578
Restaurants and kitchens	....	....	12
Chip shops	....	....	10
Schools	....	....	45
Inns and clubs	....	....	63
Tents, vans, sheds	....	....	31
Common lodging houses	....	....	41
Houses let in Lodgings	....	....	19
Amusement places	....	....	11
Offensive Trades:—			
Marine store dealers	....	....	57
Marine store hawkers	....	....	45
Gutscrapers	....	....	38
Fish Friers	....	....	120

Shops	....	....	....	....	6
Rat infestations	....	....	....	....	217
Drains	....	....	....	....	476
Sewers	....	....	....	....	73
Cesspools	....	....	....	....	53
Watercourses	....	....	....	....	39
Back lanes	....	....	....	....	221
Stables	....	....	....	....	22
Swine and other animals	....	....	....	....	15
Smoke and Grit	....	....	....	....	85
Accumulations	....	....	....	....	86
Water supply	....	....	....	....	20
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	124
Tips	....	....	....	....	17
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	610

### NUISANCES ABATED.

#### Houses—External Work.

		Preliminary.	Statutory.
Roofs renewed or repaired	....	72	15
Chimney stacks repaired	....	20	—
Gutters renewed or repaired	....	54	6
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	....	45	6
Walls renewed or repaired	....	22	5
Sub-floor ventilation provided	....	3	—
Through or permanent ventilation provided	....	5	1
Yard paving relaid or repaired	....	31	—
Water closets renewed or repaired	....	80	3
Drainage renewed or repaired	....	86	32

#### Houses—Internal Work.

Walls and ceilings repaired	....	69	7
Windows renewed or repaired	....	41	4
Doors renewed or repaired	....	9	—
Floors renewed or repaired	....	33	3
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	....	21	1
Sinks and water supply renewed or repaired....	....	18	2
Miscellaneous items dealt with....	....	124	9

**Fumigations.**

Number of houses disinfected following infectious diseases	103
Number of articles steam disinfected	1,045
Number of Library books disinfected	88
Public Mortuary cleansed	55

**Food·Condemnations.**

947 tins of milk.	36 bottles gravy browning.
951 tins of meat.	584 lbs. meat.
365 tins of vegetables.	264 lbs. sausages.
235 tins of fish.	128 lbs. bacon and ham.
344 tins of fruit.	100 lbs. tripe.
27 tins of egg substitute.	12 rabbits.
664 tins of custard powder.	25½ stones fish.
358 lbs. cheese.	201 lbs. vegetables.
175 lbs. rice.	195 lbs. rolled oats.
478 lbs. sugar.	27 lbs. biscuits.
60 lbs. jam.	274 lbs. pudding mixture.
43½ lbs. sweets.	100 lbs. dried fruit.
56 lbs. cake.	

**Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919;****The Infestation Order, 1943.**

A comprehensive Survey of the Borough was made towards the end of 1943 and full details were submitted to the Ministry of Food with a view to further action being taken during 1944.

Public Health Department,

Old Town Hall,

Llanelly.

September, 1944.

R. EVANS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

**Medical Inspection Arrangements.**—Children in the same age groups as in former years were medically inspected at the schools. Special examinations of evacuated children, and the children referred to the medical inspection clinic, were also undertaken.

The number of children on the schools' registers at the end of the year was 4,423, with an average attendance of 3,906.

The total number of children inspected at "routine" examinations was 1,999, made up as follows:—

532 entrants	....	....	265 boys	267 girls.
350 second age group	....	182	,,	168 ,,
485 third age group	....	278	,,	207 ,,
632 other ages	....	335	,,	297 ,,

The number of children referred to the weekly medical inspection clinic was 127.

Number of re-inspections was 56.

**Heights and Weights.**—For reasons of space, the tables formerly set out of heights and weights have not been included in this report.

**Clothing.**—"Fair"—159 children—7.9% (1942—3.2%)  
 "Bad"—122 ,, —6.1% (1942—5.4%)

**Footgear.**—"Fair"—222 ,, —11.1% (1942—3.3%)  
 "Bad"—229 ,, —11.4% (1942—8.6%)

**Uncleanliness.**—Body: Boys, 134—12.6% (1942—3.8%)  
 Girls 99—10.5% (1942—2.8%)

Head: Boys 55—5.1% (1942—1.1%)  
 Girls 170—18.1% (1942—6.1%)

Nutrition	1943.	1942.	1941.
Excellent	.... 711—35.55%	.... 437—30.01%	.... 16.12%
Normal	.... 801—40.07%	.... 698—47.93%	.... 71.00%
Slightly subnormal	375—18.75%	.... 221—15.17%	.... 12.78%
Bad	.... 112—5.61%	.... 100—6.88%	.... 0.07%



A comparison between the number and percentages of children classed as "poor" nutrition with those of previous years does not necessarily imply a deterioration of nutrition of the children, but can be ascribed to the differing standards employed by the Assistant Medical Officers making the examinations. There is no ground for thinking that the nutrition of the children has regressed as compared with former years, especially when account is taken of the large number of children receiving milk in schools and that up to the end of the year over 1,135 children have taken advantage of the provision of school dinners.

The number of children receiving milk in the schools, either free or at cost of 1d. per pint, was 3,090, including 24 evacuees. No precise information is available as to the effects on the nutrition of the children of the milk supplied to them, but there can be no doubt as to its beneficial influence on their nutrition, particularly in the case of families that normally purchase very little milk. Milk is also available for consumption at their homes to children absent from school for medical reasons.

**Skin Diseases.**—145 cases.

**Eye Diseases.**—Blepharitis; 12 cases.  
Squint: 26 cases.

**Defective Vision.**—The following table shows the results of the examination of 1,410 children.

	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent.
1. Both eyes normal	659	572	1231	87.3
2. One eye normal; one eye slightly defective	27	16	43	3.0
3. One eye normal; one eye very defective	41	21	62	4.4
4. Both eyes slightly defective	12	6	18	1.3
5. One eye slightly defective	7	13	20	1.4
6. Both eyes very defective	18	18	36	2.6
Totals	764	646	1410	100.00

1 and 2 are classed as "good" vision, 90.3 per cent. ; 3 and 4 as "fair" vision, 5.7 per cent. ; 5 and 6 as "bad" vision, 4.00 per cent.

Children are examined at the Eye Clinic after being referred to the Eye Specialist by the School Medical Officer.

**Defective Hearing.**—Twenty-seven children, 1.35%, had markedly defective hearing, the whispering test being used.

**Nose and Throat.**—Enlarged tonsils of moderate degree, 502 children, 25.1%. (262 boys and 240 girls); enlarged tonsils of marked degree, 27 children, 1.3 per cent. (13 boys and 14 girls); tonsils and adenoids present together, 15 children, 0.7 per cent. (6 boys and 9 girls).

**Defective Speech.**—7 children, 0.3 per cent.

**Heart and Circulation.**—Organic disease of the heart, 3 children, 0.1 per cent.; functional disease of the heart, 17 children; 0.8 per cent.; anaemia, 175 children, 8.5 per cent.

**Rickets.**—191 children showed signs of deformity resulting from this disease.

**Special Examinations.**—The chief conditions discovered were:

Nutrition	....	....	....	....	11
Skin diseases	....	....	....	....	13
Eye diseases	....	....	....	....	4
Defective vision and squint			....	....	5
Anaemia	....	....	....	....	7
Chorea	....	....	....	....	3

## TREATMENT OF DEFECTS FOUND AT MEDICAL INSPECTION.

**School Clinic.**—The average daily attendance was 36. The number ranged between 24 and 48 on the days when the schools were open. During all holidays the clinic is open for treatment.

When the condition of a child is such that general treatment is indicated, remedies such as Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract are provided. A complete record is kept of all children receiving Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract without payment, and this is only issued free after parents have completed a form giving information as to the income per head received every week by the parents.

Arrangements for the treatment of evacuees are the same as for local children. Cases requiring treatment for defective vision are referred to the eye specialist and spectacles are provided if prescribed by him. Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract is issued free of cost to the foster-parents. The table on page 32 shows the number of children who received treatment at the Minor Ailment Clinic. The figure for evacuees are printed in heavy type.

## Treatment of Minor Ailments.

	No. of cases under treatment on 1st January.	Total No. of cases.		Total No. of attendances.		Average attendance per child.		Cured.		Improved.	Not improved	Under treatment at end of year.	
Ringworm: head....		2		42		21.0		2					
body....	1	22	1	190	5	8.6	5.0	22	1				
Scabies ....	26	197	25	1150	91	5.8	3.6	197	20		5		
Impetigo ....	2	178	8	849	38	4.7	4.7	177	8			1	
Minor injuries ....	3	422	19	1234	68	2.9	3.5	421	19		1		
Septic sores ....	3	2	734	39	2776	182	3.7	4.6	734	39			
Vermin: head ....		39	2	352	12	9.0	6.0	39	2				
body ....													
Other skin diseases		93	15	312	61	3.3	4.0	91	12		2	3	
Ear diseases ....		5	1	29	2	5.8	2.0	5			1		
Eye diseases ....		47	3	137	12	2.9	4.0	47	3				
Miscellaneous ....		75	4	294	11	3.9	2.7	75	3		1		
Totals ....	35	2	1814	117	7265	482	4.0	4.1	1810	107	3	10	1

## Orthopaedic Clinic.

Miss A. E. Nicholas resigned her appointment as Orthopaedic Sister at the end of June, 1943. Pending the appointment of her successor an arrangement was made with the Carmarthenshire Education Committee for Miss Buckley, the County Orthopaedic Sister, to supervise the Borough children. On the 1st September, Mrs. Joyce L. Harries, who had been appointed Orthopaedic Sister took up her duties.

In addition to the remedial work that has hitherto been carried on at the Clinic an ultra-violet light apparatus and other electrical equipment have been used, mainly in the case of children showing evidence of rickety deformities and have been of much value in

supplementing remedial exercises. Good results have been obtained in the case of debilitated and anaemic children. A few children with tuberculous glands have also been treated by U.V. light, but the results cannot yet be assessed owing to the short duration of treatment.

The premises belonging to the Wesleyan Chapel now used as the Orthopaedic Clinic are not very commodious but satisfactory work has been possible in spite of this.

Mr. A. O. Parker, the Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon, paid two visits to the Clinic to supervise the treatment of children and give advice as to any further treatment either in the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, or in the Clinic. He has expressed satisfaction with the work carried on.

### Orthopaedic Clinic.

	Educa- tion.	Maternity and Child Welfare.	Evacuees
No. of cases under treatment at beginning of the year	224	116	18
No. of new cases	123	44	4
Cases left area or school	44	6	12
Plasters applied or reinforced	16	67	—
Manipulations	1874	612	95
Massage, remedial exercises for flat feet, knock knees, and postural conditions, spinal curvatures, etc.	1366	467	88
No. of Home Visits	56	40	—
Cases admitted into Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff	7	1	—
No. of attendances for electrical treatment	—	15	—
No. of children attending U.V.R. Clinic	38	26	1
No. of attendances at U.V.R. Clinic	357	189	12
No. of cases under treatment at end of the year	303	154	10

**Treatment of Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Four children, (including two evacuees), whose parents were not subscribers under the Workmen's Medical Scheme, were referred to Dr. T. I. Williams, the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, for operative treatment.

**Medical Examinations of Teachers.**—Eight teachers were medically examined as to their fitness for employment under the Education Authority and were found fit for duty.

**Sick Bays for Evacuated Children.**—The County Council have established two Sick Bays, one at Felinfoel House for contagious skin diseases, with accommodation for 25 children, the other at No. 1, New Road, with accommodation for 12 children during convalescence after illness, and sometimes "difficult" children. The accommodation at Felinfoel House is sometimes fully utilised, the principal diseases treated being scabies and impetigo. A few cases of ringworm and psoriasis have also been admitted for treatment.

**School Camp, Pendine.**—The Camp was only used for a short time in 1940 as the premises were taken over for other purposes and it has not been used since for the reception of children.

#### **Dull and Backward Children.**

Number of children examined in 1943	....	24
Recommended for retention in Special Class	....	12
Recommended for transfer from Ordinary to Special Class	....	4

**Notification of Feeble-Minded and Other Children.**—No cases were notified during the year to the Local Authority, the County Council, under the Mental Deficiency Regulations, 1928.

**Dental Inspection and Treatment.**—Dr. T. E. Mathias, the School Dental Surgeon, submits the following table showing the number of children and the nature of work done in the routine age-groups. 44 "Specials" and 77 evacuees were attended to during the year.

Comparison with similar tables shows that there is a continued decrease in the percentage of children found to require treatment.

## Dental Inspection and Treatment.

Age	No inspected	No. found to require treatment	Number treated	Teeth filled	Teeth extracted	Ratio of teeth filled to teeth extracted
6	302	161—53.3%	109—67.7%	31	339	1 : 10
7	317	170—53.6%	106—62.3%	158	404	1 : 2.5
8	364	283—77.7%	176—62.1%	203	317	1 : 1.5
9	374	279—74.6%	159—56.9%	200	171	1 : 0.85
10	424	280—66.0%	173—61.7%	211	101	1 : 0.47
11	402	265—65.9%	165—61.5%	100	103	1 : 1.03
12	332	230—69.2%	144—62.6%	101	94	1 : 0.93
13	321	212—65.8%	126—59.4%	102	46	1 : 0.45
14	174	138—79.3%	82—59.4%	82	35	1 : 0.42
All ages	3010	2018—63.6%	1240—61.4%	1188	1610	1 : 1.32

**School Dinners.**—School dinners have been provided at the schools since September, 1942. In the initial stages approximately 250 children received dinner at school, but gradually the number was increased until 1,135 children have been catered for. Recently (1943) the Board of Education have pressed for a greater number of children to be fed at school, and arrangements are being made to increase the facilities for the preparation and cooking of school meals. In view of rationing restrictions children are enabled to get a greater amount of essential foodstuffs than is possible in their homes. The cost to the parents of a dinner is 4d., but no charge is made to parents whose incomes fall below a certain figure, taking into account the total number in the family and after deductions for rent, rates, etc.

During the period September 1942, to March 1944, the number of meals served was 333,572.

**Immunisation Against Diphtheria.**—On page 17 particulars are set out regarding the progress made in the immunisation of children since this was begun in December, 1940.

**Nursery Classes.**—A Nursery Class was opened at Market Street School in May, 1942, staffed by a certified teacher trained at the Rachel Macmillan College, and one assistant. The class is open from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and the children are brought and taken away by the parents. The children are given milk in the forenoon and afternoon, and they receive a suitable mid-day meal. Following this they rest for an hour. The number of children on the register is 23, the average attendance being 18.

In July, 1943, a class run on similar lines was established at the Morfa Infants' School, the number on the register and the average attendance being respectively 32 and 28.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

I am indebted to the Clerk to the Education Committee for the following information:—

Physical Training in the Borough continues to be served by the County Man and Woman Organisers, who devote one-fifth of their respective times to the work. Unfortunately, two of the Senior School departments and several of the Junior sections are not equipped with Central Halls or Gymnasium apparatus; in consequence, facilities for physical education for the boys and girls are inferior to accepted standards. Plans for re-modelling many of the schools had to be abandoned owing to the war emergency, but full regard will be had to the needs of the subject when this work will be reserved.

The surface condition of many of the playgrounds is poor owing to the restriction upon "asphalte" and militates against good effective work, but it can now be said that this defect is receiving attention and sanction is now being sought to carry out extensive re-surfacing with an approved "asphalte" substitute at an estimated cost of £1,600.

In addition to the limitations described, the subject in Boys' Schools has suffered owing to the absence of young men teachers in the Forces, and in order to safeguard against these adverse effects, and other war conditions, the Authority applied to the Board for permission to appoint a whole-time war Organiser exclusively for the Borough. The Board did not regard the present time opportune for such an appointment owing to the scarcity of men suitable for engagement as organisers and consideration of the suggestion stands deferred.

In spite of these many difficulties, the two Organisers work assiduously and progress in the subject can be seen as the result of holding a series of local refresher courses for men and women teachers.

In one of the Girls Senior School a visiting pianist is engaged to accompany modern dancing. This experiment is being watched with interest.

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