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LIANWRTYD WELLS URBAN COUNCIL.

REPORT

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1948.

Officials

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

Sanitary Inspector.....Mr.J.D.Miles, A.R.S.I.,  
M.S.I.A.,



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LLANWRTYD WELLS URBAN DISTRICT

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1948.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District for the year 1948.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters with my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 3/49 (Wales).

The year under review witnessed the coming into operation of various extremely important Acts, such as the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

These Acts have produced great changes in the work of public health administration and have revolutionised the Medical and hospital services throughout the country. The Local Health Authority under these Acts, is, in Breconshire, the County Council.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical Summary for the year 1948.

Area.....1673 acres  
Population (Census 1931).....2742  
Population (Estimated at Midsummer, 1948).....640  
Number of inhabited houses.....212

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	5.	2.	7.	
Illegitimate	0.	1.	1.	
	5.	3.	8.	12.5

Still Births.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Deaths from all causes.	4.	6.	10.	15.6

Maternal deaths.....Nil

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

Deaths from special causes;  
Infectious disease.....Nil.  
Tuberculosis respiratory system....One.  
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.  
Cancer.....Two.

Area.

The Urban District of Llanwrtyd Wells forms part of the County of Brecon and is situated in the northern part of the County. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. The Urban District is a well known holiday resort where advantage is taken of the medicinal springs in the locality.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District.POPULATION. Census 1931.....742.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
640.	1024.	1143.	1000.	870.	912.	830.	632.	618.	640.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population has dropped considerably since the last census was taken.

The number of inhabited houses was 212, giving an average number of 2.9 persons per house.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			3.....	4.5.
1939.....			4.....	6.2.
1940.....	4.....	3.....	7.....	6.8.
1941.....	4.....	1.....	5.....	4.4.
1942.....	2.....	2.....	4.....	4.0.
1943.....	3.....	1.....	4.....	4.5.
1944.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	4.5.
1945.....	5.....	4.....	9.....	10.8.
1946.....	3.....	2.....	5.....	7.9.
1947.....	3.....	5.....	8.....	12.9.
1948.....	5.....	3.....	8.....	12.5.
England and Wales, 1948.....				17.9.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was considerably lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS.

After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst the residents of the district is shown in the following table;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			5.....	7.5.
1939.....			13.....	18.4.
1940.....	10.....	5.....	15.....	14.6.
1941.....	6.....	6.....	12.....	10.5.
1942.....	6.....	5.....	11.....	11.0.
1943.....	6.....	9.....	15.....	17.2.
1944.....	7.....	4.....	11.....	12.0.
1945.....	7.....	5.....	12.....	14.4.
1946.....	2.....	6.....	8.....	12.6.
1947.....	7.....	4.....	11.....	17.7.
1948.....	4.....	6.....	10.....	15.6.
England and Wales, 1948.....				10.8.

The deathrate for 1948 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS. There was no still birth registered during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births. There was no death registered in children of under one year of age during the year.

England and Wales, 1948.....34.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....4. Females.....6.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
① Tuberculosis respiratory system	0.	1.
Cancer Stomach	2.	0.
Intracranial Vascular lesions	0.	1.
Heart Disease	0.	4.
Bronchitis	1.	0.
Pneumonia	1.	0.

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

ILLEGITIMACY. There was one illegitimate birth registered in the district during the year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There was no death during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There were no changes in the public health officers during the year, Mr Duncan Miles remaining as your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the whole year.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Builth and Brecon. The laboratory of the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen was available for water samples whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. The milk sampling laboratories under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme were situated at Builth Wells and Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes became operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council became responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations became whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at the War Memorial Institute. Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the local hospital at Builth Wells.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of smallpox cases arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

During the year these hospitals became state owned and controlled.

Disinfection. The methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

### SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic treatment. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

### SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. The water supply to the district is surface water taken from a mountain stream. This is piped into a reservoir and then treated by sand filtration. No complaints were received during the year as regards the quality of the water but some difficulty was experienced in supplying the houses at the higher levels in the district. No samples of water were examined bacteriologically during the year. No chemical examination was made during the year. The Council supply served all the houses in the area with the exception of approximately 30 houses.

A scheme for an improved supply to the district was considered during the year and it is hoped that there will be as little delay as possible in bringing this scheme to completion as, in my opinion, the district is not adequately served as regards quantity under the present system whilst the methods used to ensure purity could definitely be improved.

Number of visits of inspection made.....31.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage disposal works, constructed in 1932, consists of two screening chambers and detritus tanks, storm water overflow and storm water tank, two vertical flow sedimentation tanks, automatic dosing chamber, two rotary filter beds, two horizontal flow humus tanks and six sludge drying beds. On the whole this system worked satisfactory during the year.

Number of visits of inspection made.....22.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection and disposal of house refuse. This is collected by a contractor in the district and disposed of by tipping. There is a definite need for improvement in the methods used for disposal.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

#### Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....35.  
 Number of complaints investigated.....35.  
 Number of premises inspected.....40.  
 Number of preliminary notices served.....19.  
 Number of abatement notices served.....3.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There was no offensive trade in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. No common lodging houses exist in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....21.  
Number of notices served.....0.

Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....84.  
Number of notices served.....1.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....13.  
Number of visits of inspection made.....29.  
Number of notices served.....1.  
Number of defects found.....1.  
Number of defects remedied.....1.

Camping Sites. There are no recognised camping sites in the district.

Eradication of bedbugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be verminous during the year.

Rodent Control. This work is performed by a Council workman.

Number of premises inspected.....27.  
Number found infested.....5.  
Number of rats killed.....27.

The sewers were also treated during April of the year, when no baits were taken.

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

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. The Council had under consideration the building of council houses during the year but at the end of the year, this had progressed no further than the planning stage.

It appears that the building of houses is closely linked with the need for improvement in the water supply.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt is normally made by the sanitary inspector to test each retailers milk every two weeks. Samples were taken in the district by the laboratory staff at Builth Wells.

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies.....37.  
Number of sample results received during the year.....14.  
Number of samples in category A.....12.  
Number of samples in category C.....2.



Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district and meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering point at Builth Wells. No meat was condemned in the district by the sanitary inspector during the year. Eight tins of foodstuffs were however condemned.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms. Including Bakehouses.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....14.

Ice Cream Premises. In view of the occurrence of infectious disease caused by ice cream twenty two visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....9.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year. No cases of

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	6.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	1.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....	5.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>
1.	1.	2.	4.	1.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

In December of the year, the County Council took over all these duties from me. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and also at the school during the school medical inspections.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.