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Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District  
Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1961



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,  
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,  
T.N. Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....Mr. J.C. Bowen, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Inspector of Meat and Other Food. C.R.S.I.,  
M.R.I.P.H.H.

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Medical Officer of Health

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1911



W. R. I. F. R. H.  
O. R. S. I. A.  
M. A. F. H. I.  
D. P. H.  
D. N. O. P.  
L. C. S. V.

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Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1961

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 during the year 1961.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/62(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....1673 acres.

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.

Population.

Census 1931.....742.  
Census 1951.....560.  
Census 1961.....536.  
Estimated at Midsummer 1961.....510.

Population estimated during the last 10 years.

1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961.  
552. 546. 530. 520. 520. 510. 500. 490. 490. 510.

These results indicate that the population is slowly but surely dropping.

Number of inhabited houses.....198. This gives an average number of 2.06 persons per house.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	3.	2.	5.	
Illegitimate	1.	0.	1.	
	4.	2.	6.	11.7

Corrected birthrate.....13.6

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 17.4. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but as will be seen, was higher than the deathrate.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	3.	6.	9.	17.6

The corrected deathrate was 11.7

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 12.0. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and satisfactorily lower than the birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Live &amp; still births.</u>
	0.	0.	0.	0.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.7. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Illegitimacy. There was one illegitimate birth registered during the year

Total Live and still births. For the year, this number was six.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. No such death occurred in the district during the year.

National infantile mortality rate.....21.4

Maternal Deaths. No deaths occurred which could be attributed to childbirth. This is a very satisfactory feature.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.

Respiratory Tuberculosis.....Nil.

Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.

Cancer.....Two.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....3. Females.....6.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0	2
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	1	0
Other heart disease.....	1	2
Pneumonia.....	0	1
Bronchitis.....	1	0
Other defined causes.....	0	1

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

### Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

There were no changes in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. J. C. Bowen, the Public Health Inspector for the adjoining Rural District of Builth, continued to act as your Inspector on a part time basis.

There are no Committees as such, dealing with health matters. The full Council deal with all Council affairs.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, and Aberystwyth. The laboratory of the Public Analyst for the County of Carmarthen was available for water samples whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen.

Nursing Facilities etc. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

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 are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of small pox cases arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Hereford Fever Hospital is also able to take cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. The methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. During the year this was carried out at one house, at the request of the occupant; following a death by cancer. A caravan was also fumigated following a case of suspected poliomyelitis.

### Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. During the year the supervision of water supplies was taken over by the Builth and District Water Board. Good progress was made on Stage 2 of the new major scheme which involves the re-laying of mains throughout the Urban Area together with new treatment works and reservoir.

Work continued on the transfer of domestic connections from the existing to the new mains. Before each new section of main was used it was sterilised and samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

River water was used for the pressure testing of new mains. The mains were chlorinated to 50 p.p.m. and flushed out on completion.

During the year difficulty was experienced in maintaining an adequate supply to the high level properties. There is no treatment of existing supply and the new supply from the district scheme will be of great advantage.

Number of inspections made.....17.  
 Number of samples taken from town supply.....6.  
 All these were reported as unsatisfactory.  
 Number of samples taken following sterilisation of new main.....18.

### Properties served from public water mains.

Number of properties served direct to house.....171.  
 Population thus served.....458.  
 Number of properties served by standpipes.....3.  
 Number of population thus served.....6.  
 Number of houses on private supply.....24.  
 Number of persons so served.....48.

Drainage and Sewerage. The drainage of the district and the excellent sewage disposal works continued to function satisfactorily during the year.

Three properties which could not be connected to the sewer used septic tanks.

Number of inspections made.....14.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection and disposal of house refuse. This is collected twice weekly by a Contractor in the district and disposed of by tipping. Consideration was given to a scheme, prepared by your Public Health Inspector, for the collection of refuse by direct labour. At the end of the year, no final decision had been made.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health

Inspector. All details relating to inspections, notices served, visits and samples taken in the whole of the report give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

### Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....18.  
 Number of complaints investigated.....18.  
 Number of premises inspected.....18.  
 Number of premises revisited.....18.  
 Number of preliminary notices served.....4.  
 Number of abatement notices served.....0.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

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

Shops.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....12.  
Number of notices served.....1.

Licensed Premises.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....4.  
Number of notices served(informal).....1.

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

Eradication of bed bugs 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.....60.  
Number of inspections and re-visits.....118.  
Number found infested.....43.  
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....29.  
Number of premises treated by occupier.....14.

The sewers were also treated during the year.Ten per cent of manholes were baited and there were no bait takes at any of the manholes.

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken during the year.

Tents,Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....3.  
Number of notices.....0.

Section 4. Housing. Two private houses were under construction during the year.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925,Article 31. At the request of the Welsh Board of Health,details of action under these regulations are reintroduced. No demolition or closing orders were issued during the year.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

In connection with clean food no educational activity occurred during the year.The number of food premises,by type,in the district were: 6 Licensed Premises, 2 Bakehouses, 3 Butchers, 1 Cafe and 7 others carrying on a "mixed" business.

Food & Drugs Act,1955. Section 16. The premises registered under this section were 6 ice cream premises and 3 butchers.

Milk. Since the coming into operation of the Milk & Dairies Act,1944, The Council is left with the registration and supervision of milk distributors.The results of samples taken during the year are shown below.

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies.....5.  
Number of samples taken during the year.....3.  
Number of samples reported as satisfactory.....3.  
Number of samples reported as unsatisfactory.....0.

These samples were also examined for presence of tuberculosis and abortus and found negative.

Meat. A new private Slaughterhouse came into operation during the year. This slaughterhouse was licensed with effect from 1st.July 1961.

Details of animals killed,etc., are given over:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole and part

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs	Horses
Carcases Slaughtered	1	-	-	440	-
Number inspected	1	-	-	440	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	43	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cystercerci	-	-	-	9.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cystercerci</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Other Foods.Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....6.  
Number of notices served.....1.

Ice Cream.

Number of producer retailers.....0.  
Number of retailers only.....5.  
The samples taken were four and the results were:-  
Category 1.....3.  
Category 2.....1.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections.....10.

Fried Fish Shops. There was no fried fish shop in the district during the year.

Food Condemned. Nine pounds of cooked ham were condemned during the year.



Public Swimming Pool. Consideration was given by the Council to the suggestion of joining with other authorities in the construction of a public swimming bath at Builth Wells. No definite decision had been taken at the end of the year.

Cemetery. A new cemetery to provide for the needs of the urban district and also for the adjoining parish of Llanwrtyd Without was proceeded with during the year.

A proposed plan was sent to the Secretary of State for the purpose of consecration of a portion in pursuance of the Burial Act, 1960. This portion was approved by the Secretary of State during the year.

#### Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified during the year:-

Measles.....1 case.

This case was nursed at home. No death was caused by infectious disease during the year.

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.....	9.
Number of cases entered during the year.....	3.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	0.
Number of cases removed as left district.....	1.
Number removed as non-tuberculous.....	1.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....	10.

Contacts of cases are now offered prophylactic treatment by B.C.C.  
Of the fresh cases entered during the year, two were transfers from other districts and the other was removed as non-tuberculous.  
The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:  
1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961.

1. 0. 4. 2. 3. 0. 2. 2. 0. 3.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, at the schools during the school medical inspections, and also by the general practitioner.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No Cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

#### APPENDIX

##### Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

## PART 1 OF THE ACT

## 1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect-ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	7	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	4	7	-	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found  
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remed-ied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of clean-ness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain-age of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

of cases in which DELICATS were found on two, three or more occasions.

1. - Inspectors for purposes of provisions as to health inspection (inspectors made by Health Department).

Premises	Number of			Number on Register
	Inspected	Notified	Occupants	
	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. - Premises in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
2. - Premises not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority				
3. - Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority				
(excluding out-workers' premises)				
Total				

2. - Cases in which DELICATS were found on two, three or more occasions (if delicates are discovered at the premises on two, three or more occasions, they should be recorded as two, three or more cases).

Particulars	Number of cases in which delicates were found			Number of cases in which delicates were inspected
	On 2 occasions	On 3 occasions	On 4 or more occasions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Water of clean				
Inspection (S.1)				
Overcrowding (S.2)				
Unsanitary				
Temperature (S.3)				
Insulation				
Ventilation (S.5)				
Infective drain				
Use of floor				
Sanitary				
Convenience (S.7)				
Sanitary				
(a) Unsanitary or delictive				
(b) Other delictive				
Total				

There was no outbreak during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. G. R. George,

Health Officer of Health

and may be referred to in the report of the Health Officer of Health.