

[Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Magor & St Mellons R.D.C.

Contributors

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MAGOR AND ST. MELLONS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

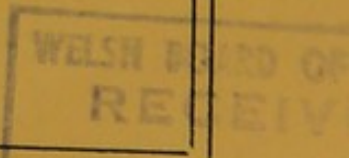
of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

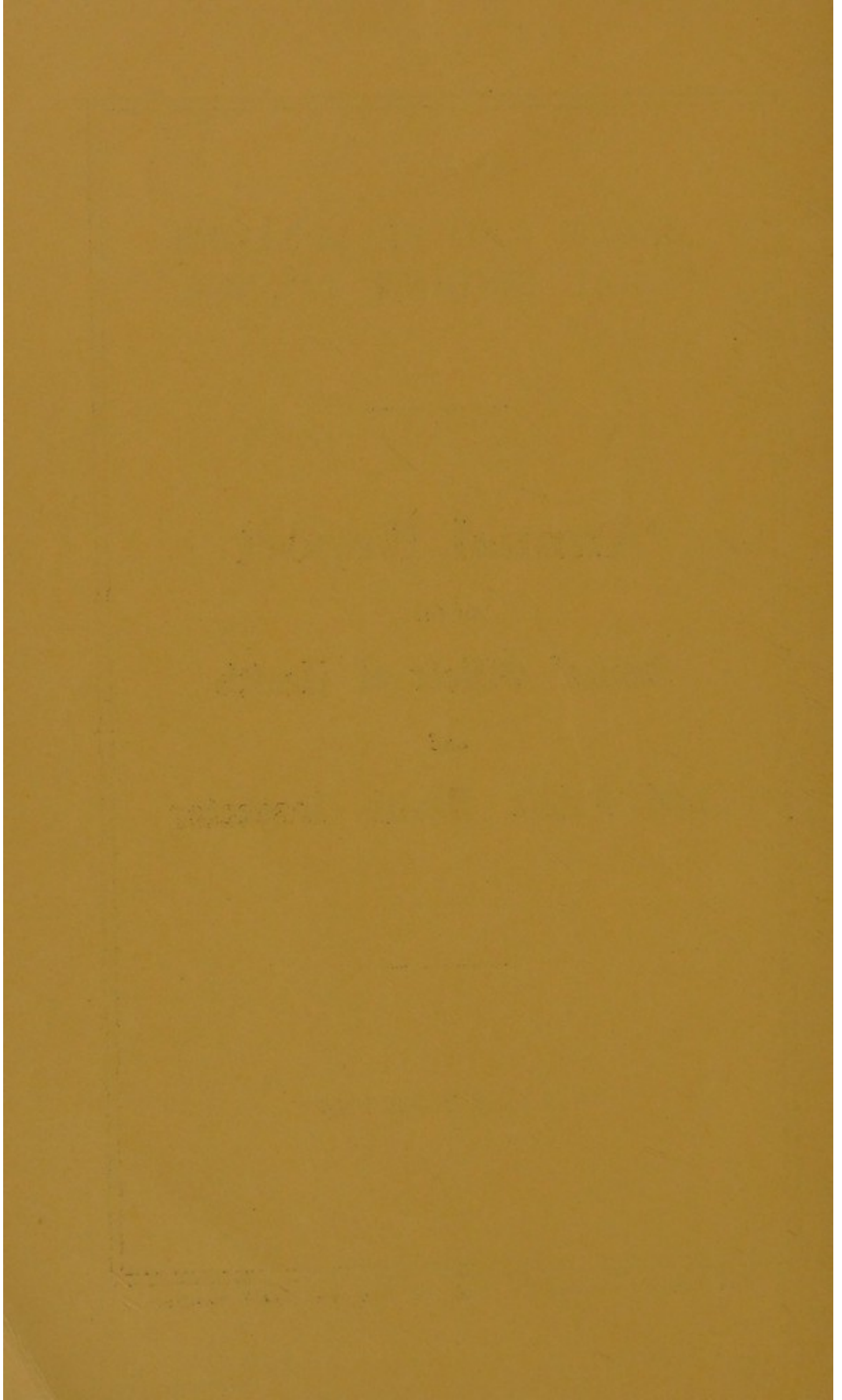
FOR THE YEAR 1964



The Newport Printing Co., Ltd., 12, Baneswell Road, Newport

DEC 1964

A.



Chairman: Councillor W. J. Thomas
Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. M. Thomas

Councillor I. P. Adams
Councillor H. W. Morgan
Councillor E. Baker
Councillor M. G. Phillips

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Presented to the Council at a meeting held on 12th November 1964.
By the Medical Officer of Health, Mr. M. E. Jones.
G. Mathias, Secretary.

FOR THE YEAR 1964.

During the year the Council has been advised by the Medical Officer of Health, Mr. M. E. Jones, on all matters relating to public health and housing. The Council has also received reports from the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. A. H. Tomkins, and the Surveyor & Engineer, Mr. H. Roberts. The Council has also received reports from the Treasurer, Mr. E. W. Bell, and the Clerk to the Council, Mr. D. C. V. Corbett.

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE, 1964-65.

Chairman: Councillor W. H. Thomas.
Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. M. Thomas.

Councillor J. P. Adams.	Councillor H. W. Morgan.
„ R. H. Addis.	„ A. L. Pearce.
„ E. Baker.	„ Mrs. D. R. Phelps.
„ Mrs. R. M. Cooper.	„ R. C. Phillips.
„ H. David.	„ H. Price.
„ Mrs. C. M. Davies.	„ C. T. Pugh.
„ R. Davies.	„ Mrs. H. B. Rees.
„ W. D. Duthie.	„ F. W. Richards.
„ C. D. Evans.	„ A. E. Roberts.
„ R. Gilkes.	„ R. J. Shepherd.
„ C. T. Hackworthy.	„ Mrs. B. M. Stephens.
„ H. Harris.	„ W. T. Stephens.
„ A. E. Hollingdale.	„ A. Thompson.
„ Mrs. L. E. Hollings.	„ J. A. Troake.
„ F. S. Jones.	„ C. J. Williams.
„ Mrs. M. E. Jones.	„ H. L. Williams.
„ G. Mathias.	

Officers:

Clerk to the Council	...	D. C. V. Gwynn.
Deputy Clerk	... ..	R. Carpenter.
Medical Officer of Health	...	K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector		I. James, Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Other Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector	... ..	A. H. Tomkins, Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Other Foods Inspector.
Surveyor & Engineer	...	H. Roberts, A.M.I.C.E.
Treasurer	... ..	B. Whelan.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon general conditions of the Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The report is drawn upon the lines indicated in Circular 1/65 (Wales).

During the year the Council completed 96 houses out of a total of 206 in Stage IV at Underwood and 60 two bed-roomed flats at Blackbirds Nest, Rogerstone, thus easing the re-housing problem considerably in the West area.

During 1964, the Housing Act came into force which gives the Council power to compel owners to improve tenanted dwellings situated in improvement areas and elsewhere where such improvements are agreed to by the tenant.

There are two standards—viz. the reduced and full standard.

Work begun by the department in visiting all premises within the area which lack such amenities and acquainted all persons concerned with the financial assistance that can be given to assist in providing the necessary amenities.

At this stage the voluntary aspect is undertaken.

It is hoped that there will be a good response to personal contact made by the department.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, has also come into operation which will involve the Department in a great deal of work. All offices and shops within the provisions of the Act will be inspected and the necessary records kept.

I am pleased to note that steps have now been taken to make the Caravan site at Pye Corner, Nash, into a permanent site providing such site with the necessary amenities and bringing it up to the standard as laid down by the "Model Code" of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

I am also pleased to note that Messrs. Wick & Company (Egg Products) Limited, have added to its up-to-date factory and extended premises to include blast freezing of liquid eggs.

This now means that liquid egg can be stored for long periods prior to distribution throughout the country. In the past the product was sent out to different storage depots and when required had to be re-called prior to re-distribution.

Work has commenced in connection with the Marshfield sewer which will entail the connection of over 230 private dwellings and other buildings. It is hoped that the work will be completed the following year.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population estimated for 1964	...	...	...	21,030
Area (Consisting of 26 parishes)	...	...	...	43,217
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	6,542
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£1,274,384
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	£5,601

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number (Male 255) (Female 244)	...	...	...	499
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	24.19
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	...	...	...	5.21

Stillbirths.

Number (Male 2) (Female 4)	...	...	...	6
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	...	...	...	11.9
Total live and Still-births	...	...	...	505

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	9
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births ...	18.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	38.4
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	4.00
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	2.00
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	13.8
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births ...	1.9
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire	19.14
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	18.4
Still-birth Rate for Monmouthshire	21.24
Still-birth Rate for England and Wales	16.3
Infant Mortality Rate for Monmouthshire ...	28.58
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...	20.0
Neo-Natal Death Rate for Monmouthshire ...	18.34
Maternal Mortality Rate for Monmouthshire ...	0.59

DEATH RATE.

The Number of Deaths registered during the year (Male 90) (Female 64) giving a Death Rate of	154 9.7
The Death Rate for England and Wales was ...	11.3
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire	12.95

CAUSES OF DEATH.

In the following table deaths are classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis, other	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	1	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Measles	Nil	Nil
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Nil	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Brochus	Nil	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	Nil	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	Nil	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms... ..	9	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	Nil	Nil
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	22	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	Nil	Nil
Other Heart Disease	6	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	3
Influenza	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	2	6
Bronchitis	6	1
Other Disease of Respiratory System	Nil	Nil
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	Nil	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	Nil
Nephritis and Nephrosis	Nil	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	Nil	Nil
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	1
Congenital Malformations	3	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	8	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	Nil
All other Accidents	Nil	3
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War	Nil	Nil
	<u>90</u>	<u>64</u>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health, two Public Health Inspectors (whole time Officers).

HOSPITAL HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.

Since 5th July, 1947, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ETC.

The Monmouthshire County Council as Local Health Authority are responsible for the arrangements and Administration of the Services under Part III of the Act.

The following is a summary of these Services:—

- (1) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- (2) Midwifery Services.
- (3) Health Visiting.
- (4) Home Nursing.
- (5) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (6) Ambulance Services.
- (7) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.
- (8) Domestic Help.
- (9) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act and Mental Deficiency Act.

PARTICULARS OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES IN EACH PARISH.

A.—By Local Authority or Statutory Water Undertakers.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling Houses	Number Supplied	Estimated Population	Approximate Population Served
Rogerstone ...	1,967	1,956	6,171	5,966
Graig ...	575	551	1,942	1,680
Marshfield ...	304	296	993	903
St. Mellons ...	322	316	1,047	964
St. Brides Wentloog	56	54	375	369
Peterstone Wentloog	56	55	198	195
Henllys ...	105	87	352	281
Bettws ...	1,205	1,198	3,180	3,163
Michaelstone-y-Fedw	70	54	180	139
Langstone ...	595	585	1,945	1,913
Llanwern ...	105	104	333	330
Bishton ...	175	174	535	532
Kemeys Inferior ...	46	29	153	96
Llanmartin ...	104	102	339	333
Wilcrick ...	5	5	19	19
Nash ...	104	102	891	885
Goldcliff ...	64	62	201	195

PARISH	Number of Dwelling Houses	Number Supplied	Estimated Population	Approximate Population Served
Whitson	20	19	55	52
Redwick	61	61	175	175
Penhow	115	101	384	336
Llandavenny	10	10	31	31
Magor	196	195	592	589
Llanvaches	75	32	235	99
Duffryn	110	104	201	191
Lower Machen	43	25	138	85
Coedkernew	54	45	190	158

B.—Private Supplies.

Rogerstone	As above	6	As above	18
Graig	"	18	"	55
Marshfield	"	6	"	18
Michaelstone-y-Fedw	"	11	"	28
Llanvaches	"	25	"	78
St. Mellons	"	5	"	15
Lower Machen	"	16	"	54
Coedkernew	"	8	"	28
Henllys	"	12	"	40
Kemeys Inferior	"	7	"	23
Llanmartin	"	1	"	3
Bettws	"	3	"	9
St. Brides	"	1	"	3
Penhow	"	4	"	13
Duffryn	"	1	"	2
		<hr/>		
		6,542	6,392	21,032
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				20,016

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(i) By the Local Authority ...	156
(ii) By other Local Authorities	413
(iii) By other Bodies or persons	120

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Public Health Inspector after the receipt of a notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is carried out at the Laboratory. From the 24th June, 1957, the address of the Medical Research Council was altered from the County Hall, Newport, and became the Public Health Laboratory, Clytha Square, Newport, Mon.

The following are the particulars relating to Whooping Cough Immunisation, Diphtheria Immunisation and Poliomyelitis and small-pox vaccination also tetanus injections performed during the year 1964 in respect of the Council's area:

POLIOMYELITIS.

	First	Second	1961	1962	1963	1964	43-60	33-42	Others	3rd Oral After 2 salk	4th Oral After 3 salk
Newport	3	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	31
Langstone ...	20	20	1	2	16	2	...	...	...	...	16
Bassaleg	26	26	...	4	18	1	2	1	...	...	18
M. & C.W. Van	53	50	...	10	29	6	4	...	1	...	18
High Cross ...	43	43	...	10	22	4	6	...	...	...	4
Rogerstone ...	54	54	2	3	36	4	11	1	1	...	25

The above table is set out as required by the Ministry of Health.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Date of Birth Year	Course	Booster	Total
1964	140	127
1963	42	1
1962	72	27
1961	15	68
1960	3	15
1959	2	7
1954-58	...	4	55
1946-53	...	Nil	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		278	301
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			579

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

Year of Birth				Number of children
1964	...	...	...	171
1963	...	...	...	40
1962	...	...	...	72
1961	...	...	...	13
1960	...	...	...	1
1959	...	...	...	—
1954-58	...	...	...	1
1949-53	...	...	...	—
TOTAL				298

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

Age at date of vaccination			Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
1 year	...	...	27	—
2 -4 years	...	...	6	—
5-14 years	...	...	—	1
15 or over	...	...	—	4
Total			33	5

It is now considered unwise to vaccinate against smallpox before the age of 1 to 2 years by the Ministry of Health. This accounts for the fact that the age group of up to 1 year are missing from the above table.

TETANUS IMMUNISATION

	Full Course	Booster	Total
Before 1947	...	—	—
1948	...	2	2
1949	...	—	—
1950	...	—	—
1951	...	1	1
1952	...	1	1
1953	...	1	1
1954	...	1	1
1955	...	2	2
1956	...	3	3
1957	...	7	10

Tetanus Immunisation—continued.

		Full Course	Booster	Total
1958	...	11	12	23
1959	...	5	7	12
1960	...	6	11	17
1961	...	15	69	84
1962	...	73	27	100
1963	...	42	1	43
1964	...	74	81	155

Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1964.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.										Deaths.										Total all ages	Admitted to Hospital							
	Under 1 yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total all ages	Under 1 yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15			15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total all ages	
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mild Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enceph. Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles...	1	10	12	13	7	45	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	3	4	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning or Susp. Food P.	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	4	10	15	18	8	58	2	...	4	2	5	1	127	Nil

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1964.

Age groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 years
1-5 "
5-15 "
15-25 "	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25-35 "
35-45 "	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45-65 "
65 and over	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas. Generally speaking there is a marked decline in the number of cases throughout the country and it is hoped that this decline will continue.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no Food Poisoning cases during the year. However some local practitioners notified 12 suspected cases during the year, none of which were confirmed upon examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH P. GILES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Baneswell,
Newport, Mon.
Telephone: Newport 64181.

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Magor & St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1964.

During the year the following changes occurred with the staff of the department. Miss M. Watkins was transferred to the Clerk's Department and Mr. D. White was appointed Administrative Assistant and commenced duties on 7th December, 1964.

In view of the increase of population, new premises being built, and the introduction of new legislation, it became obvious that the department would be involved in extra work and as a result it was felt that a further appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector was justified. Mr. G. Ashford was duly appointed and was to commence work on the 1st January, 1965.

Since the last ten years or so it has become increasingly apparent that environmental health work has developed considerably and has had a significant effect on the duties of a Public Health Inspector. Not only has more work been placed on his shoulders but his duties have widened and become more complex. Seldom a day passes without some reference in the national press to the improvement needed to our environment.

Although the government has responsibility for the national housing policy and its general execution, the Local Authorities are responsible for housing within their area to the extent that they must from time to time survey their district, must ensure, as far as possible, that housing conditions are satisfactory, that adequate standards are maintained both in relation to newly built houses and existing houses and that slums are cleared.

During the year, the Housing Act, 1964, came into force whereby the Local Authority is empowered to require the improvement of areas and of tenanted dwellings in certain circumstances although the emphasis will remain on voluntary improvement.

Changes are made in the scheme of standard and discretionary grants for improvements designed to make the grants more attractive. The purpose behind the provisions is to ensure that within the next ten years most of the two million or so houses, or so improveable older houses, which lack amenities and which still have a reasonable life are provided with hot water, a fixed bath or shower, a wash hand basin, an inside lavatory and a proper food store. This involves increasing the present rate of improvement from 130,000 a year to 2,000,000 a year as soon as possible.

During the latter end of 1963 and early part of 1964, the department was already actively engaged in the voluntary aspect of obtaining as many houses as possible improved by consent as recommended by Circular 42/62.

A systematic approach and personal contact was made with the owners of properties in the built up areas of Rogestone.

Unfortunately the effort did not receive the anticipated response owing to varied reasons amongst which was chiefly that of aged owners with lack of financial standing, unable to carry out the work of bringing the premises up to the required standard and not wanting any alterations which would entail any upheaval in their normal way of life.

However, in essence, very little response was received from the owners but it still remains the duty of the Council to bring these houses up to the required standard together with the identification of areas suitable for comprehensive improvement. It should be pointed out that area improvement is something more than a means of providing amenities in individual houses that it is also part of a process of urban renewal.

The process must consider all the measures which are open to fit areas for the requirements of modern living and improving the quality of the environment.

During the year 34 Discretionary and 12 Standard grants were approved.

With regard to the 1829 Council Houses in occupation at the end of the year and which constitutes approximately 28% of the total houses within the area of the Council, I am of the opinion that the standard of care and maintenance of a Council House by the average tenant has increased considerably over the last 16 years or so since my appointment. The tenants enjoy a higher standard of living which to a great extent has resulted in a greater pride in their property. I feel that the good tenant should be left alone except for visits of repair or at the request of the tenant. Good relationship be-

tween the tenant and Council must be the main aim.

However, there are some families, who, unhappily simply do not respond to the best that a good social worker can do. We still have with us a small number of problem families who require constant supervision and regular visits and who cannot or will not maintain a satisfactory state of cleanliness. These families must be properly supervised and expert advice given in order to raise them to a reasonable way of life.

Continual contact was made with the Welfare Officers of the Monmouthshire County Council who readily came forward giving valuable and necessary assistance and giving the best possible service to the individual needing their help.

I would mention that I am concerned at the serious lack of public conveniences in our area especially on the main Cardiff-London road at lay-bys situate at Coedkernew, Llangstone and Penhow. On many occasions my attention has been drawn to their misuse by the travelling public.

This I feel is a thorny problem of hygiene on highways and wish to emphasize the need to provide adequate facilities if a high standard of hygiene at lay-bys is to be achieved and maintained.

The provision of these facilities has become necessary as the result of recent changes in our society such as the increase in private motoring and the growth of road-haulage undertaking.

As sewerage facilities are seldom available for lay-bys, the sewage could be dealt with by small domestic type automatic disposal works requiring only periodic maintenance.

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS.

The following is a summary of work carried out as a result of 20 Informal Notices served upon the owners concerned:—

Number of walls made damp proof	...	...	15
„ „ sash cords provided to windows	...	...	21
„ „ windows and window frames repaired	...	...	19
„ „ roofs repaired	...	...	20
„ „ gutterings and downpipes repaired	...	...	6
„ „ doors repaired and renewed	...	...	4
„ „ floors repaired or relaid	...	...	12
„ „ ceilings repaired	...	...	10
„ „ skirting boards repaired	...	...	12
„ „ blocked drains cleared	...	...	21
„ „ chimneys repaired	...	...	4

Number of sinks provided	...	...	...	3
" " W.C. cisterns ,flush pipes and service water pipes <i>repaired</i>	...	...	...	8
" " W.C. pans and W.C. structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	10
" " grates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	12
" " cesspools made good	...	...	...	28
" " new cesspools provided	...	...	...	4
" " drains relaid	...	...	...	7
" " new drains provided	...	...	...	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Throughout the year work of disinfestation of land and premises has been continuous with complete success. This is an essential part of the work of the department and pest control may be said to be a Public Health matter and that in recent years has become one of the quieter interests of the Public Health Inspector.

There have been many other topics of news appeal than the routine extermination of vermin and insects, yet this steady control has continued in all parts of the country. Certain of the old rat catchers were said to have some mystic powers for rat destruction and it was certainly often difficult to establish just how these results were obtained.

Those methods would seem crude compared with the scientific approach of today, but it is essential that the materials and methods now available should be applied in a systematic and proper manner. The control of rats in sewers is an operation in which considerable advances have occurred in recent years coupled with the use of Sodium Fluorocitrate and Fluoroacetamide that can be used most effectively as direct poisons. It is said that used to its best advantage that these poisons can be expected, in many sewer systems, to give a 90% control in a single treatment and that two or three treatments in quick succession could give a complete clearance of rats.

Of course, with the complete disinfestation of sewer systems brings the question of how soon the sewer systems become re-occupied.

The use of Fluoroacetamide as a poison was continued to be used in the sewer treatment and the usual employment of a casual labourer to assist the Rodent Operative was undertaken.

705 manholes were inspected and baited whenever neces-

sary. I am satisfied that compared with last year's results it was evident that infestation has been greatly reduced.

Once again, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr. R. Braithwaite, Divisional Pest Control Officer, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for his prompt and valuable assistance in rodent control work generally and especially in connection with the use of Fluoroacetamide used in the treatment of sewer systems.

Number of complaints received during year	420
.. .. private and other premises treated	388
.. .. routine visits of refuse tips ...	37
.. .. business premises treated ...	32

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notified diseases were visited and investigated and terminal disinfection carried out when necessary.

Visits made	16
Houses disinfected	Nil
Patients removed to hospital ...	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of houses supplied from public water mains:—

(i) Direct to all houses ...	6,260
(ii) By means of stand-pipes ...	8

PIPED SUPPLIES.

16 samples of treated supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination all of which were satisfactory. These samples were taken from the Cardiff City and Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board.

A further 12 samples of untreated supplies were also submitted for bacteriological examination ^{all} both of which were satisfactory. 689 connections from the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board mains were carried out during the year: all of which were to new houses occupied during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to sanitary and other arrangements in shops.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 7 butchers shops within the area. There are no licensed private slaughterhouses, the meat for sale in these shops being collected from neighbouring public and private slaughterhouses.

One application was received for a licence to slaughter pigs only which was granted by the Council.

THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

The trend of the caravan holiday and fixed mode of living is certainly gaining momentum and could always present the difficult problem of unauthorised siting. But it seems to appear that the majority of caravanners travel nowadays in this country to predetermined authorised sites which provide all the necessary amenities to make life all the more pleasant and worthwhile. Of course we have the occasional holiday traveller who requires a night or two before resuming his journey to or from home.

Fortunately the nuisance from unauthorised caravan parking on vacant sites has greatly diminished. However, it is necessary to maintain constant observations over all sites. Prompt action, as soon as illegal parking is reported is essential, as it is difficult to dislodge the caravans once the occupants have established themselves.

I feel during my visits that more thought should be given in any future legislation to the actual condition and type of residential caravans that should be allowed to be occupied. Because of the increase in this type of accommodation, it has become clear that Local Authority Officers are going to have to decide when any caravan should be discontinued being used as such and not being used for further occupation.

The event of the construction of the proposed Motorway through certain portions of our area brought with it the usual peripatetic way of life resulting in the siting of caravans along the predetermined route. The caravans are exempt from the licencing provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of

Development Act, 1960, because the occupants are engaged in the construction and are sited on land near or adjoining such construction.

Periodic inspections were made and I found on no occasion did any unfavourable conditions warrant any action being taken under the Public Health Act.

The three established licenced sites at St. Brides were periodically inspected and no action taken with regard to any contraventions as the persons concerned with the management were very co-operative.

The unlicensed St. Donat's Caravan Site, Nash, was also visited and all matters requiring attention were satisfactorily undertaken. Negotiations are now nearing completion with a view to establishing this site as a permanent site which will eventually conform with the "Model Standards" as laid down by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The granting of 20 individual licences was recommended during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

ICECREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952. -1959

There are only a few occasions whilst on the district do I not pass the familiar icecream mobile vehicle serving either child or adult. Today it forms a part of the daily diet of family life and has thus become an important item which requires careful watching. Since the time vehicles were seen only during the summer months very much progress has been made in this recognised accepted field.

Different methods of production are available but the development of soft icecream is not a new subject in this country since the serving of the product directly from the freezer into cones has been practised, particularly in large chain stores, some considerable time.

However, modern technical developments have enabled the production of small icecream refrigeration units, which may be installed in specially equipped mobile vehicles. This enables small operators to enter the field without having either

the premises or equipment necessary for the complete manufacture of icecream.

The legal provisions regarding the registration and/or licensing of icecream manufacturing vehicles are inadequate for Local Authorities to effect the proper control and conduct of these vehicles. New developments are an advantage to the industry but unfortunately nearly all these new developments seem to bring their problems and a watchful eye must be kept at all times.

All registered premises were inspected during the year, the usual samples taken and on no occasion was it necessary to take action arising from any contraventions.

All icecream sold from registered premises was pre-packed and delivered as such from reputable national firms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

I believe that one of the main functions of the health department is preventive action and although much useful work is done in the field of enforcement of statutes and regulations, it is never practicable to supervise adequately all the premises all the time or to ensure that every food handler obeys every food hygiene regulation all the time.

Public Health Officers have often tried, not always with success, to awaken in food handlers an awareness of their responsibilities in the hygienic handling of food. Educating the food handler is difficult because staff is far from static. Food produced in elaborate kitchens, equipped with the latest gadgets, might be unsafe if these kitchens were staffed by dirty food handlers.

One of the greatest difficulties the Public Health Inspector encounters is that of informing an untrained person of the dangers of bacterial contamination. Many of the people recruited into the food industry have almost no knowledge of the processes concerned with the spoilage, decomposition or putrefaction of food.

They do however recognize that food if sour or decomposing is unfit to eat but cannot understand why it becomes like that.

However, hygienic food handling is coming much more into the limelight due to the demands of good standards of hygiene by the public, Local Authority and the Government. All this will only be successful if the attitude of the management is such that they are interested in the development and improvement of standards. The question of scrupulous per-

sonal hygiene with particular reference to the preparation of food is always important and has been brought into sharp focus by the large number of food poisoning cases that occur from year to year. The customer in every transaction is paying for a service and has a right to a good service. The work of a Public Health Inspector is directed to ensure that the customer gets a service that is safe and healthy in relation to food.

A recent trend by a large number of shopkeepers and publicans within the area is to keep meat pies and similar products in warming cabinets prior to sale. The product in question is re-heated a number of times before the actual sale takes place whereby the obvious danger in this practice is that the food is retained at this temperature range which promotes rapid growth of poisoning organisms.

It is generally recognised that certain cooked meats and similar foods should be kept cool or refrigerated. As a result of complaints of pies not of the quality demanded by the customer all premises within the area were visited and information circulated and a personal contact made pointing out the dangers in the practice of re-heating.

There are 85 shops within the area.

22 Canteens.

3 Wholesale premises where food is prepared; and

36 Public houses.

All premises were inspected during the year.

Periodical visits were made to the modern factory of Messrs. Wick & Company (Egg Products) Limited, Rogerstone, and 29 samples of liquid egg taken for analysis as required by the Liquid Egg (Pasteurised) Regulations, 1963.

All samples satisfied the Alpha-amylase test.

Inasmuch as the importation of the whites of shell eggs is now undertaken and stored in the deep freeze process at the factory 43 samples of the product were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928-1960.

There are fifty installations of petrol within the area, and apart from a few local farmers and small private traders, the majority are installations at local garages.

In addition there are two large storage installations of petrol mixtures at the steelworks at Llanwern.

Petroleum substances give rise to hazards which are not always appreciated by people handling or storing them. The role of the department is to correlate the various aspects of fire precaution and prevention. No less than quarterly inspections are made to ensure that licencing conditions are not contravened and that all concerned are fully acquainted with the highly dangerous commodity that they handle.

All applications for renewal of licences to existing installations were dealt with and visited by the staff of the Fire Department and myself before the necessary licences for 1964 were issued. Except for a very small number the conditions satisfied the requirements of the Act.

Once again, I would express my appreciation for the valued and prompt assistance given by the Chief Fire Officer and his staff during 1964.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Milk, because of its composition, provides an admirable culture medium for bacteria and has always been earmarked for special treatment. At every stage of the journey from producer to consumer, milk must be subject to the most stringent and vigilant control in order to prevent contamination by pathogenic organisms, to destroy those present and to extend its keeping life.

However, from the Public Health aspect we are fortunate that such a high proportion of the milk supply to the public is heat treated. A careful watch is kept at the source when steps are taken to eliminate Tuberculosis from our dairy herds which incidentally have also the effect of reducing pathogenic organisms.

The frequency of bacteriological sampling of pasteurised and sterilized milk adds to the safety of the milk which today forms such an essential and important item in our daily diet. Much advantage has also taken place in the improvement in the design of methods of the operation of heat treatment plant and the ease with which it is possible to assess the efficiency of the heat treatment plant and in particular to the development of the phosphatase and turbidity tests as a means of insuring the adequacy of heat treatment of pasteurised and sterilized milk.

However, the bottle in which the milk is placed always attracts special attention.

Too often whilst on the area I have seen empty bottles

being used for other particular purposes, e.g., storing paint or oil or left lying around uncleansed with no one giving them any particular attention whatsoever as if they had served their purpose and left without any further or future use. This is certainly evident also on building sites where large numbers are thrown aside resulting in large accumulations left as play-toys for the neighbouring children.

So many consumers take the milk bottle for granted, they abuse it, break it and lose it and will not accept that they have purchased the milk and that the bottle is not their property.

The problem of a dirty milk bottle causes a great deal of anxiety to the dairy managers throughout the industry. The basic worry is the inevitability of an unsatisfactory milk bottle reaching a consumer and of possible prosecution with subsequent adverse local press, resulting in considerable loss of goodwill built up over a number of years.

The answer I believe, is the carton but unfortunately are not widely used partly because of cost and partly because of consumer resistance.

Frequent visits were made to the dairy at Marshfield and on no occasion was it necessary to draw their attention to any matters not in accordance with the requirements of good dairying.

23 samples were submitted for bacteriological purposes all of which proved satisfactory.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956—AIR POLLUTION.

The importance of clean air from a Public Health point of view has been recognised for many years although the history of smoke control in this country does not make good reading. Various attempts were made in the 19th and 20th centuries to legislate for industrial pollution but these were with limited control.

It has been accepted for some time that over half of the smoke is discharged from the domestic chimney.

The Clean Air Act, 1956 was introduced "to abate the pollution of the air" and "Smoke Control Areas" was the first statutory measure for reducing smoke from domestic stoves and fireplaces.

The principal legislation in Great Britain is the Clean Air Act, 1956. This supercedes the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926.

Fumes and gases from industrial processes are controlled by the Alkali Works Act, 1906, administered by the Alkali Inspectorate. Under the Clean Air Act, 1956, the provisions of the Alkali Act are extended to apply to smoke, dust and grit from premises controlled under the Act as they already do to noxious or offensive gasses.

Thus from 31st December, 1956, nearly all forms of air pollution from premises registered under the Alkali Act is subject to control under that Act by the Alkali Inspectorate and the control of the registered industrial processes of the Llanwern Steelworks come within the jurisdiction of the Alkali Inspector.

Any other parts of the work are the responsibility of the Local Authority.

In the light of results and experience, it was decided upon the advice of the Public Analyst's Department to remove the Air Pollution apparatus at Magor to a more suitable site near the village of Bishton and set up an additional new station near Arch Farm, Nash. It is hoped that early next year the five stations will be in full operation.

The following are the quarterly returns received from the Public Analyst during 1964, together with his remarks.

Atmospheric Pollution Summary.

Langstone.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	54	38	34
SO ₂ do.	86	53	57
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	68.4	45.7	115

Llanmartin.

Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	69	64	50
SO ₂ do.	97	71	61
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	68.4	57.3	53.6

Magor.

Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	74	59	37
SO ₂ do.	43	41	33
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	31.3	144	35.1

Llanwern.

Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	61	52	39
SO ₂ do.	80	62	51
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	250	227	229

Remarks.

As would be expected during the Winter, these results are high, but they are dropping off, and it would seem that they are approaching the 1963 average now. These results are, of course, higher than before the Steelworks was built.

The same comments apply to undissolved solids, although there is a more permanent pollution at Llanwern which compares unfavourably with results for 1961 before the Works was built.

Langstone.

			April	May	June
Smoke	...	...	12.5	14.7	12.1
SO ₂	...	...	40	48	33
Undissolved Solids	...	...	117	140	108

Llanmartin.

Smoke	...	...	25	16.3	12.2
SO ₂	...	...	44	40	37
Undissolved Solids	...	...	130	135	124

Magor.

Smoke	...	...	15	13.3	12.6
SO ₂	...	...	31	32	29
Undissolved Solids	...	...	Sand in gauge	83	183

Llanwern.

Smoke	...	...	27	14.1	18.5
SO ₂	...	...	41	29	29
Undissolved Solids	...	...	438	481	377

Remarks.

During this quarter the smoke concentration and the sulphur dioxide have both shown a drop at all stations when compared with the first quarter of the year. This is a seasonal effect.

The undissolved solids have shown an increase in the second quarter at all stations when compared with the first quarter, and this may be in part due to heavier rainfall. The increase is most marked at Llanwern, and is without doubt due to industrial production.

Langstone.

			July	Aug.	Sept.
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)			9.2	9.6	13.7
SO ₂	do.	...	37.0	38.0	54.0
Undissolved Solids					
(milligrammes/sq.metres/day)			57.0	163.0	78.0

Llanmartin.

Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)			—	12.4	16.2
SO ₂	do.	...	—	33.0	46.0
Undissolved Solids					
(milligrammes/sq.metres/day)			198.0	150.0	126.0

	July	Aug.	Sept.
Magor.			
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	11.4	10.9	22.0
SO ₂ do. ...	28.0	30.0	53.0
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metres/day)	435.0	180.0	173.0

Llanwern.			
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	12.5	12.5	16.2
SO ₂ do. ...	29.0	32.0	42.0
Undissolved Solids milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	330.0	306.0	271.0

Remarks.

During this quarter the smoke concentration and the sulphur dioxide have shown a further slight drop as compared with the results of the second quarter. The last month (September) tends to show an upward trend as would be expected with the advent of Autumn and increased use of heating.

The dissolved solids have shown a drop compared with the second quarter—even at Llanwern which is the heaviest deposit area, and this is accounted for by the low rainfall. Magor is high in July, probably due to a long period of sustained Westerly winds.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Langstone.			
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	30	33	42
SO ₂ do. ...	60	71	72
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	103	72	110

Llanmartin.			
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	44	60	74
SO ₂ do. ...	54	77	84
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	88	153	190

Magor.			
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	47	50	50
SO ₂ do. ...	39	36	12
Undissolved Solids (Milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	80	93	73

Llanwern.			
Smoke (microgrammes/cu.metre)	20	44	56
SO ₂ do. ...	52	57	68
Undissolved Solids (milligrammes/sq.metre/day)	318	209	325

Remarks.

During this quarter the smoke concentration and the sulphur dioxide have shown the expected increase.

The undissolved solids, on the average, show a slight decrease at all stations, which is accounted for by the continued low rain fall in this quarter. It is expected that these will increase especially at Llanwern during the first quarter of 1965.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

As from 1st January, 1964, the Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, came into operation, and it will be an offence to keep a boarding establishment for animals except under the authority of a licence granted for that purpose.

The "keeping of a boarding establishment for animals" is defined as the carrying on at premises of a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals.

This legislation is primarily concerned with animal health and welfare.

The Local Authority is the responsible licencing Authority and is obliged to take into account the following as to whether a licence should be granted or not:—

- (1) The suitability of the accommodation as respects construction, size of quarters, number of occupants, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.
- (2) Arrangements for suitable food and drink, bedding material, adequately exercised, and visited at suitable intervals.
- (3) All reasonable precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection among the animals.
- (4) Adequate precautions against fire and other emergency.

During the year the following licences were granted:—

Name of Applicant	Premises	Number of dogs, etc. to be accommodated
Mrs. A. Dodds ...	Penlodge Kennels, Llanvaches	... 25 Dogs & 4 Cats
Mr. D. J. Jones & Mrs. J. H. Jones	Hunters Lodge Kennels Penho w ...	... 20
Mrs. E. Jackson	Aldonnels Kennels, Llanvaches ...	... 15
Mrs. A. E. Pocock	Pantyreos Farm, Henllys ...	... 18
Mr. P. M. Jones & Mrs. J. J. Jones	Lower Mount Pleasant Farm, Rogerstone ...	... 25

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The above Act is essentially a welfare Act to improve the working conditions generally; an Act to make fresh provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed and to amend certain provisions of the Factory Act, 1961.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, is a measure which brings the working conditions of offices and shops under a far more comprehensive and more stringent schemes of control than has hitherto been the case. The regulations that existed under the Public Health Acts and Shops Act fell short of proper standards, and it was evident that the machinery for enforcing the working conditions required even by these Acts, were inadequate.

The provisions of the Act are designed to control the physical environment in which people have to work in offices, shops and railway premises. The Act is comprehensive and augmented with some regulations and if these provisions are properly applied they should bring about improved working conditions for the non-industrial workers concerned. This no doubt will be shown in a better standard of health among such workers, generally sedentary workers in particular.

The inspection of the premises involved will require the full, technical knowledge and experience of the inspector concerned in the enforcement of the Act.

In outline the Act deals with health, welfare, safety, protection from fire, notification of accidents, and premises in multiple occupation or ownership.

However, the following classes are exempt from the operation of the Act:—

- (i) Those premises where the only persons employed are the employer's near relations, viz., husband, wife, parent, grand-parent, son, daughter, grand-child, brother or sister.
- (ii) Out workers premises.
- (iii) Premises where not more than 21 man-hours weekly are normally worked.
- (iv) Premises in temporary accommodation viz., 6 weeks or 6 months in the case of moveable structures.

The need for this legislation has been stressed on many occasions and although there may still be some minor criticisms of the Act, our responsibilities are quite clear.

In implementing the Act, there are likely to be many occasions needing close co-operation with the Factory Inspectorate.

By the 31st July, 1964, all premises covered by the Act, should have registered with the appropriate enforcing authority.

The following are the number of registrations received, and the number of general inspections made during the year:

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Table A.—Registrations and General Inspections.

From 1st May, 1964, to 31st December, 1964.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	16	16	18
Retail Shops	32	32	10
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	1	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens ...	18	18	23
Fuel Storage Depots ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	67	67	52

Table B.—Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises.

110

Table C.—Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	212
Retail Shops	93
Wholesale departments, warehouses ...	35
Catering establishments open to the public	117
Canteens	7
Fuel Storage depots	1
Total	465
Total Males	263
Total Females	202

REFUSE.

The evergreen problem of refuse dumping has again occurred in certain parts of the area during the year. Briefly the illegal action of refuse tipped on unauthorised sites has been with us for a long time and will remain with us as long as people delight to come into the countryside and leave all sorts of litter such as mattresses, bottles and prams, etc., not caring what becomes of the litter or what sort of effect this sort of untidiness can cause.

Dumps are effects not causes, they are born of ignorance and thoughtlessness.

Unfortunately we are compelled to accept this type of refuse and arrange for its disposal, otherwise we must expect these deposits of rubbish all over our district. Much is due to persons outside our area who dump at night with little chance of identifying culprits.

I would add that all complaints regarding the unauthorised tipping ^{was} attended to as promptly as work and time would permit.

A weekly collection in all parishes is being undertaken by the Council.

Disposal is by means of tipping at Bettws and Magor and the question of providing machinery for control tipping is now under consideration by the Council.

In addition to the regular routine treatment in connection with rodent control, both tips were given dressings with D.D.T. base during the summer months in order to control insect pests.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. JAMES,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964.
for the Rural District of Magor & St. Mellons in the County of
Monmouth.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

**1.—INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS
AS TO HEALTH.**

(including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises 1	M/c line No. 2	Number on Register 3	Number of		
			Inspec- tions 4	Written Notices 5	Occupier Prosecuted 6
1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	2	Nil	Nil
2.—Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	2	64	67	Nil	Nil
3.—Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	17	23	Nil	Nil
Total		83	92	Nil	Nil

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars 1	M/c line No. 2	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted 7
		Found 3	Remedied 4	Referred to H.M. Inspector 5	by H.M. Inspector 6	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	8	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	10	2	2	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	..	...	...	...	...
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework)	12	...	...	...	...	...
Total		3	3	...	...	...



