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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH
REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1926.

D. ROCYN JONES,

C.B.E., M.B., D.P.H., J.P.,

County Medical Officer.

THE COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, MON.
17th AUGUST, 1927.





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REVIEW

OF THE

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS

OF THE

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

FOR THE YEAR 1926.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT.

Under Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926, and in accordance with Circular 743 (Wales) of the Ministry of Health (Welsh Board of Health) the Annual Reports for 1926 become the first of the second series of " Ordinary " Reports.

Reports of a full and detailed character known as " Survey " Reports are required by the Ministry of Health at intervals of not less than five years. The Annual Report for 1925, being the " Survey " Report which completed the first series of Annual Reports, was a comprehensive and detailed review, and dealt with all the vital matters required under the various headings.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) 345,048.

Population (1921 Census) 358,436.

Do. (Estimated 1926) 372,410.

Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied (1921), 66,925.

Number of private families (1921) 75,898.

Rateable value, £1,655,815.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £6,899 4s. 7d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The County of Monmouth is partly industrial and partly agricultural. The Rhymney, Sirhowy, Western and Eastern Valleys are thickly populated coal mining districts, in which are also iron, steel, and tinplate works. The Eastern and Southern portions of the County are practically agricultural communities.

The industrial conditions in the Western coal areas during recent years have necessitated the granting of a considerable amount of Poor Law Relief, particularly

in the area of the Bedwellty Union. The position was considerably worse during the year under review, owing to the stoppage of work in the Coalfield, which lasted from May to December.

The District Hospitals and the Royal Gwent Hospital at Newport are well patronised by residents of the County, as also are the well organised medical arrangements of the Collieries and Works.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1926, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.		Death Rate per 1,000 living.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births.	
	1926	(1925)	1926	(1925)	1926	(1925)
ENGLAND & WALES ...	17·8	(18·3)	11·6	(12·2)	70	(75·)
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	18·2	(18·8)	11·6	(12·2)	73	(79·)
158 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000 —50,000) ...	17·6	(18·3)	10·6	(11·2)	67	(74·)
London ...	17·1	(18·0)	11·6	(11·7)	64	(67·)
MONMOUTHSHIRE ...	20·3	(21·5)	9·4	(10·6)	66·1	(83·8)

In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by the Registrar-General have been used for the purposes of this table.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered in the Administrative County during 1926 was 7,575, made up as follows:—

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Urban Districts ...	3277	3304	124	97	3401	3401	6,802
Rural Districts ...	372	364	20	17	392	381	773
Total ...	3649	3668	144	114	3793	3782	7,575

In 1925 there were 8,100 births; in 1924, 8,368 births; in 1923, 8,737 births; in 1922, 8,805 births; in 1921, 10,312 births; in 1920, 10,779 births; in 1919, 8,487 births; in 1918, 8,948 births; in 1917, 8,402 births; in 1916, 8,848 births; in 1915, 10,194 births; in 1914, 9,455 births. The birth-rate for 1926 was 20·3 per 1,000 persons living. In 1925 the rate was 21·5; in 1924, 22·3; in 1923, 23·5; in 1922, 23·8; in 1921, 28·3; in 1920, 29·2; in 1919, 22·9; in 1918, 24·8; in 1917, 23·1; in 1916, 25·7; in 1915, 28·59; in 1914, 30·2.

For the Urban Districts of the County the birth-rate was 21·02 per 1,000 for 1926, and for the Rural Districts 15·84, compared with 22·04 and 18·34 respectively for 1925, and 22·9 and 18·5 for 1924.

It will be observed that the birth-rate continues to decline. The rate for 1926 was the lowest ever recorded for the County.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 258, which gives a rate of 34·06 per 1,000 of the total births and ·69 per 1,000 of population. Last year the number was 236, equal to 29·1 per 1,000 births and ·63 per 1,000 population. For the year 1924 the figures were 244, equal to 29·2 per 1,000 births, and ·65 per 1,000 population.

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 17·8.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered in the Administrative County, as shown in the Registrar-General's table, was 3,499, as compared with 3,980 in 1925, 3,962 in 1924, 3,860 in 1923, 4,238 in 1922, 4,107 in 1921, 4,379 in 1920, 4,171 in 1919, 4,943 in 1918, 3,822 in 1917, 4,979 in 1916, 5,063 in 1915, and 4,356 in 1914.

The general death rate, calculated upon the estimated population of 372,410 works out at 9·4 per 1,000 living. In 1925 the rate was 10·6; in 1924, 10·6; in 1923, 10·4; in 1922, 11·4; in 1921, 11·3; in 1920, 11·9; in 1919, 11·7; in 1918, 15·3; in 1917, 11·7; in 1916, 12·9; in 1915, 15·3; and in 1914, 12·8. For the Urban Districts the rate for 1926 was 9·3, and for the Rural Districts 10·3.

The County death-rate of 9·4 is the lowest on record.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 11·6.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.
All Causes	3499	501	96	94	134	198	428	859	1189
Enteric Fever	5	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	9	2	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	27	16	7	4	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	24	...	2	7	15	...	...	...	...
Influenza	96	5	4	4	2	13	14	32	22
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	10	...	...	...	3	2	4	1	...
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..	213	1	1	1	6	66	98	35	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	62	5	2	7	15	12	11	8	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	325	...	...	...	3	4	21	150	147
Rheumatic Fever	22	...	...	...	12	3	2	5	...
Diabetes	35	...	...	...	...	2	5	13	15
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	204	...	...	1	...	1	10	64	128
Heart Disease	466	...	...	1	11	17	51	159	227
Arterio-sclerosis	76	...	...	...	...	...	1	25	50
Bronchitis	297	34	16	8	1	3	6	69	160
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	246	68	28	21	7	5	32	43	42
Other Respiratory Diseases	47	1	2	2	5	4	3	18	12
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	37	...	...	...	1	1	14	17	4
Diarrhœa, etc.	65	37	8	6	3	...	3	4	4
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	22	...	...	3	5	6	6	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	83	...	...	1	2	9	16	33	22
Puerperal Sepsis	7	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	...
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ...	22	...	...	...	...	4	17	1	...
Congenital Debility, etc. ...	238	236	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Violence, apart from Suicide	135	5	6	10	16	17	29	33	19
Suicide	29	...	...	...	...	1	4	21	3
Other Defined Diseases ...	682	89	16	14	24	23	73	122	321
Causes ill-defined or unknown...	4	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth, was, from sepsis, 7; and from other causes, 22.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths under one year of age throughout the Administrative County was 501, 455 in the Urban Districts and 46 in the Rural Districts.

The rate per 1,000 births was 66·1, the lowest yet recorded for the County, the previous lowest figure being 73·0 in the year 1923.

In the Urban Districts the rate was 66·9 per 1,000 births, and in the Rural Districts, 59·5 per 1,000 births.

In 1925, the Infantile mortality rate was 83·8; in 1924, 75·6; in 1923, 73·0; 1922, 83·4; in 1921, 91·5; in 1920, 87·9; in 1919, 88·0; in 1918, 97·6; in 1917, 84·3; in 1916, 88·4; in 1915, 128·5; in 1914, 106; in 1913, 115; in 1912, 105; in 1911, 149; in 1910, 112; in 1909, 104; in 1908, 142 per 1,000 births.

The rate for England and Wales was 75.

The average Infantile Mortality rate for the 25 years, 1891—1915, was 137·4. The average for the eleven years, 1916—1926, was 83·6.

The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 23, or 3·04 per 1,000 of all births and 89·1 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 30, or 3·7 per 1,000 of all births, and 127·1 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

The measures adopted by the County for the reduction of Infantile Mortality are fully dealt with in the Report upon Maternity and Child Welfare for the year 1926, which has already been published and presented to the Council.

Number of deaths occurring during certain age periods in children under one year of age:—

	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Urban Districts	144	28	25	14	211	69	68	63	42	453
Rural Districts	18	4	5	1	28	3	8	5	4	48
	162	32	30	15	239	72	76	68	46	501

N.B.—The figures in the foregoing table were supplied by the District Medical Officers of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	No. of Deaths.			Rate per 1000 Births—Admini- strative County.
	Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Administrative County.	
Infectious Diseases ...	23	1	24	3.17
Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	33	4	37	4.88
Wasting Diseases ...	211	25	236	31.16
Respiratory Diseases ...	96	7	103	13.59
Tubercular Diseases ...	3	3	6	.79
Other Causes ...	89	6	95	12.54
Totals ...	455	46	501	66.1

The number of deaths in the Administrative County from the following diseases were:—

Measles—all ages	...	...	...	9
Whooping Cough—all ages	...	...	...	27
Diarrhoea—under 2 years of age	...	...	...	45

The reports of the District Medical Officers of Health do not show that there was any unusual or excessive mortality during the year, but the number of deaths from **Cancer** again shows a slight increase over the previous year's figure.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS.

The following is a statement of the Hospital accommodation available for the Administrative County:—

A (1) Fever.

The following are the Isolation Hospitals at present in the County:—
Abergavenny Joint Hospital, Llanfoist (owned jointly

by the Abergavenny Town Council and Abergavenny Rural District Council)	...	...	2 wards, 12—13 beds
Abertillery Urban Hospital, Coedcaeddu	...	...	2 „ 12—14 „
Bedwellty Urban Hospital, Coedmoeth	...	...	6 „ 55 „
Chepstow Joint Hospital, St. Arvans (owned jointly	...	...	...
by Chepstow Urban and Rural District Councils)	5	„	20 „
Ebbw Vale Urban Hospital, Beaufort	...	...	5 „ 10—12 „
Monmouth Borough Hospital, Buckholt	...	...	3 „ 10—12 „
Nantyglo and Blaina Urban Hospital, Coalbrookvale	3	„	5—7 „
Tredegar Urban Hospital, Ash Vale, Nantybwh	...	2	„ 20 „

Cases from Abercarn, Bedwas and Machen, Caerleon, Llanfrechfa Upper, Llantarnam, Panteg, Risca, Mynyddislwy 1, and Usk Urban Districts, and Magor, Pontypool and St. Mellons Rural Districts are admitted to the Newport Borough Isolation Hospital, Allt-yr-yn, Newport, when accommodation is available. The charge in such instances to the Local Authority concerned is about £3 3s. 0d. per case per week.

In the Rhymney Urban District an ordinary dwelling house is being utilised for infectious cases.

Overcrowded dwellings render home isolation increasingly difficult and facilities in the Administrative County for the isolation of the infectious sick are still totally inadequate. Several of the Isolation Hospitals now in use are unsuitable for the purpose.

At a Public Enquiry convened by the County Council on the 3rd October, 1921, which was attended by representatives of practically all the Urban and Rural District Councils in the County, the urgent need of a County Scheme for the provision of Isolation Hospital accommodation for the County was established, but the Commissioners reported that, while they were convinced of the necessity of such a scheme, they were unable to recommend that any Order should then be made having regard to the financial position of the County.

A (2) Small Pox.

The County Council have leased a small building at Cefn, near Newport, which has for many years been kept by the St. Mellons Rural District Council, for use as a Small Pox Hospital when required. The accommodation is limited, and arrangements have been made with the Corporation of Newport for the admission of County cases to the Borough Small Pox Hospital, which is upon the same site, as far as the available accommodation will permit. At the time of writing, a severe epidemic of Small Pox is prevalent in the County, and the provision of 191 beds for the isolation of patients has been made. The Isolation Hospitals of the Abergavenny, Chepstow, and Bedwellty Districts are being utilised and huts have been erected at the Beeches Hospital of the Abersychan Urban District Council. In addition, the Cefn Small Pox Hospital of the Newport Corporation is being used and the Cardiff Corporation have granted the use of a number of beds at their Small Pox Hospital.

B (1) Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis cases, both pulmonary and surgical, are treated at the Institutions of the Welsh National Memorial Association, the early cases for sanatoria being dealt with at the Llangwythan Sanatorium, North Wales, and the Talgarth Sanatorium, South Wales, while surgical tuberculosis cases are dealt with at the Glan Ely Hospital, Cardiff, St. Brides Hospital, Pembrokeshire, and at the surgical block of the Llangwythan Sanatorium, North Wales. The hospital cases

are treated in the first instance at the Cefn Mably Hospital and at other hospitals of the Memorial Association as occasion arises.

B (2) Maternity.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the County at the time of writing. The arrangements for the opening of The Coldra, near Newport, which has been presented to the County Council by Sir John W. Beynon, Bart., C.B.E., for use as a Maternity Hospital, have been held up owing to the outbreak of Small Pox in the County.

B (3) Children.

The County has no Children's Hospital, but 12 beds have been reserved at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London, for the crippled children of Monmouthshire, and these beds are fully occupied by County patients.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

There is a Maternity Hostel for unmarried mothers at Nantyderry, provided by voluntary effort, and to which the County Council contributes a donation of £400 per annum. It has accommodation for 16 women, who remain at the Hostel for varying periods not exceeding 6 months, so that they may be trained and reclaimed and placed in desirable situations. In the majority of instances the infants are adopted, every care being exercised that the homes and their circumstances are in every way suitable.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) An Ambulance for the removal of Small Pox patients to the Isolation Hospitals has been purchased by the County Council.
- (b) The Newport Borough Ambulance is available for County cases which are admitted to the Borough Isolation Hospital. Ambulances are in use at the Isolation Hospitals of the Bedwellty, Abertillery, Tredegar, and Ebbw Vale Urban District Councils. The latter two are horse-drawn vehicles.
- (c) The Collieries at Ebbw Vale, Six Bells, Cwmtillery, Tredegar, Cwmbran, Oakdale, and the Rhymney Valley have ambulances which are used for Colliery accident cases and under certain arrangements for the transport to Hospital of the dependants of the workers.

Motor Ambulances are also available at the District General Hospitals, while at Monmouth there is a town ambulance available through the generosity of the local division of the British Red Cross Society.

Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council have purchased a motor ambulance.

The motor ambulance of the Joint Committee of the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society, which is kept at Cross Keys, is available for use anywhere in the County for non-infectious and accident cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The County Council have established 41 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the County. Full details are given in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Report.

The County Education Committee have provided 10 School Clinics, details of which are set out in the School Medical Inspection Report.

There are no day nurseries in the County.

The 15 County Tuberculosis Visiting Stations are detailed later in this Report.

There is one Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases—at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Public Health staff of the County Council consists of the following whole-time officers:—

County Medical Officer.

County Bacteriologist and Pathologist, who is also the Deputy Medical Officer.

Nine Assistant Medical Officers (engaged on School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare work).

County Sanitary Inspector.

Inspectress of Midwives.

Venereal Diseases Inquiry Officer.

Mental Deficiency Inquiry Officer.

30 Health Visitors (engaged on School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare work).

13 clerks and 3 laboratory assistants.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

No arrangements for home nursing are made by the County Council.

There are Nursing Associations in the following districts, which maintain nurses by voluntary subscription:—

Newbridge	Devauden	Llantilio Pertholey	Blackwood
Tredegar	Risca	Cross Keys	Pontypool
Panteg	Ebbw Vale	Cwm	Abercarn
Aberbargoed	Abersychan	Rhymney	Caerleon
Goytre	Abergavenny	Christchurch	Monmouth
Llanfrechfa Lower	Llanover	Usk	Trelleck
Llantilio Crossenny	Llangattock-vibon-avel		Tintern

General and tuberculosis nursing is undertaken, with the addition of midwifery in some districts.

The home nursing of infectious diseases is not carried out in any district of the County as a general practice, but has been resorted to in exceptional circumstances.

MIDWIVES.

The number of midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st December, 1926, was 248. Full particulars are given in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Report.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Samples of foodstuffs, including milk, butter, margarine, etc., are sent to Mr. G. Rudd Thompson, F.I.C., Dock Street, Newport, who is the Public Analyst appointed for the County.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Facilities are offered to all medical practitioners in the County for bacteriological examinations at the County Laboratory, and the services of the Pathologist and Bacteriologist are available for assistance which may be required in the diagnosis of disease.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER SUPPLY.

The rainfall for the year 1926, was lower than that of each of the two previous years. In some districts at certain periods the shortage of water gave cause for concern, this applying more to the higher levels in the thickly populated areas, where difficulty was experienced in maintaining a constant supply of water.

During the past year, considerable progress has again been made with the schemes to ensure a plentiful supply of wholesome water.

The Grwyne Fawr scheme of the Abertillery and District Water Board, which supplies the Urban Districts of Abertillery, Abercarn, Risca, and the major portion of Mynyddislwyn, continues to make excellent progress. During 1926 the work on the dam has proceeded at a rapid pace. Half of the dam has reached its maximum height of 156 feet above stream level. The overflow weir along the top has been completed, together with eight of the sixteen arches, carrying the roadway.

The thickness of the base of the dam is 124 feet, and the extreme length when completed will be 800 feet. The reservoir, when completed, will have a holding capacity of 400 million gallons.

The yield of water will be $2\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons per day, one third of which must be sent down the stream as compensation water, thus leaving a balance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons of water per day which will be available for supply. The storage capacity of the reservoir will be sufficient even allowing for a drought of 166 days.

The height of the reservoir above sea level is from 1,700 to 1,800 feet, and 10 to 15 degrees of frost is frequently registered.

On April 1st, 1926, the Abertillery and District Water Board took over from the constituent authorities (Abertillery, Abercarn, Risca, and Mynyddislwyn Urban Districts) the entire control of the water undertaking, and are now responsible for all the water mains and services in the Board's area, also the making of water charges, and the collection of the water rates.

The Shon Sheffrey spring, in the area of the Tredegar Urban District Council, is reported to be in every way satisfactory. This spring supplies the Tredegar Urban Area, and a considerable portion of the Bedwellty Urban District.

The water undertaking of the Ebbw Vale District, which supplies that district, Nantyglo and Blaina, and part of the Tredegar Urban District, maintains a constant supply. The water is taken from two reservoirs situate on the Llangynider Mountain, and is conveyed to the districts by cast iron gravitating mains.

It is pleasing to note the defective filter beds have now been renewed, and are satisfactory.

The water supply at Blaenavon was found to be extremely unsatisfactory. Investigations were made which resulted in the presentation of a detailed and exhaustive report to the County Public Health Committee, and which was discussed at their quarterly meeting, held on Monday, November 29th, 1926. After the report had been considered by the County Public Health Committee, copies were sent to the Blaenavon Urban District Council for their consideration and necessary action. A special report has been issued upon this subject.

With the exception of the Blaenavon and Panteg Urban Districts, the water supply in the Eastern Valleys is generally satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. With regard to the Panteg Urban District, it is to be hoped that they will be able to obtain the desired supply of water from the mains of the Borough of Newport's Talybont Scheme.

Considerable improvement has been made in the condition of the wells and springs which supply the rural areas of the County. The Rural District Councils are fully alive to the necessity of providing their respective areas with a sufficient, clean and wholesome water supply. Samples of water from local supplies are periodically taken for analysis.

The water undertaking in the Rhymney Valley were transferred to, and became vested in the Rhymney Valley Water Board by the Rhymney Valley Water Act, 1921, by which Act also the Board were authorised to supply and distribute water in the Rhymney Valley.

The Constituent Authorities of the Board are the Councils of the Urban Districts of Gellygaer, Caerphilly, Bedwellty Mynyddislwyn, Rhymney and Bedwas & Machen.

The limits of supply are as follows:—

In the Administrative County of Monmouth:

- (a) The whole of the Urban District of Rhymney.
- (b) So much of the Urban District of Bedwellty as is situate within the watershed of the river Rhymney.
- (c) So much of the Urban District of Mynyddislwyn as lies to the west of the eastern boundary of the road leading from the Bryn to Saint Sannans Church, Bedwellty.
- (d) So much of the Urban District of Bedwas and Machen as is situate within the water-shed of the river Rhymney.

In the Administrative County of Glamorgan:

- (a) The whole of the Urban District of Gellygaer.
- (b) The whole of the Urban District of Caerphilly except the Taffs Well Ward.

The Board purchased the water undertaking of the Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company who were the distributors in the greater part of the Rhymney Valley and also the undertakings of the various Constituent Authorities within the "limits of supply." The date of transfer was 30th September,

1921, but the Board deferred taking over the actual distribution until 1st January, 1922.

The population of the statutory area in 1911 was 96,437, and the estimated population in 1927, 123,500.

The principal local supply is obtained from the Rhymney Bridge Reservoirs Nos. 1 and 2. No. 1 Reservoir has a storage capacity of 5,000,000 gallons, T.W.L. 1,300 O.D., and is fed by the Pitwellt Brook. The reservoir acts simply as a feed to No. 2 reservoir. No. 2 Reservoir has a capacity of 42,000,000 gallons, T.W.L., 1'67 O.D., and is fed by the river Rhymney and by No.1 Reservoir.

The whole of the other sources are on the coal measures and the following table gives particulars.

Source.	Situation.	Nature of Supply.	T.W.L. O.D.	Capacity of Reservoir or Tank. Gallons.	Remarks.
Reservoir No. 1 ...	Rhymney Bridge	Pitwellt & Rhymney Rivers	1300	5,000,000	Particulars on previous page.
Reservoir No. 2 ...	Do. ...	Rivers	1167.33	42,000,000	Do.
Deri Reservoir ...	Deri ...	Springs ...	953.4	2,500,000	The new pit in the locality will affect the springs.
Deri Newydd ...	Deri ...	Springs ...	926	Catchpit	Do.
Fochriw Reservoir ..	Fochriw ..	Springs ...	1300	90,000	Supply practically ceased.
Llanbradach Tank ..	Llanbradach	Spring ...	363.69	9,000	Too low to be of much service.
Bedwas Intake ...	Bedwas ...	Spring & Stream ...	670	Catchpit	
Cwmceffyl Reservoir	Abertridwr	Stream ...	679.3	31,000	Capacity exclusive of Filter Beds.
Senghenydd Resvr.	Senghenydd	Spring ...	734.22	200,000	
Watford Reservoir	Caerphilly	Service ...	583.18	2,500,000	Supplied from Mains
Nantycalh ...	do. ...	Spring ...	374 approx	Catchpit	Trade supply only.
Cwmsiflog Tank ...	Cwmsiflog	Spring ...	750	100,000	Also supplied from mains Pumping Station for Gelliwen Tank.
Phillipstown Tank ..	New Tredegar	Spring ...	1051	100,000	Also supplied from Gelliwen Tank.
Gelliwen Tank ...	Cwmsiflog	Service ...	1145	240,000	
Tre Hir Tank ...	Nelson ...	Spring ...	720 approx.	23,000	
Cwm Fedw ...	Machen ...	Stream ...	400 do.	10,000	On Limestone. These supplies are for Machen only being too low for other areas.
Nantyceisiad ...		Spring ...	300		

FILTERS AND PUMPING PLANT. A filter house is erected about 400 yards below the No. 2 Reservoir at Rhymney Bridge and contains sixteen 8 feet pressure filters each capable of filtering 6,500 gallons an hour, or a total of 2,496,000 gallons a day. The chemical apparatus consists of two alumina ferric tanks and a whiting tank with the necessary gear for conveying the chemicals to the main, the chemicals are used as required. The filters are washed out singly, two oil engines being provided for the purpose. A pair of filters only, similar to the above are fixed on the Deri Reservoir supply, the total capacity being 312,000 gallons a day. A similar filter is also fixed on the Bedwas supply, the capacity being 156,000 gallons a day, but it is not now in use, and also one on the Llanbradach tank supply. At Cwmceffyl there is a sand filter, capacity 90,000 gallons a day, and also one pressure filter as above. The remainder of the sources are unfiltered. At Cwm-sifiog a pumping station is erected and water is pumped from the tank in to the Gelliwen service reservoir, as required, for the purpose of supplying the highest levels and the Phillipstown tank, when the local supply fails. The pumps are in duplicate and each is capable of delivering 15,000 gallons an hour.

DESCRIPTION OF PUMPING PLANT. Open type wound rotor induction motor, totally enclosed slip rings fitted with interlocked short circuiting and brush lifting gear. High lift turbine multiple chamber pump, automatically balanced, of cast iron, fitted with cast iron impellers, guide tips, neck bushes, balance valve and seatings.

3 Phase, 50 cycle induction motor.

Volts, 3,000; Amps, 13; B.H.P. 75; Revolutions per minute, 1500/1470.

Rotor Volts, 380; Rotor Amps, 95.

There is also a small 3 H.P. oil driven pump at Fochriw which pumps into a tank to supply a few houses at Pentwyn.

GENERAL. The Constituent Authorities of the Board promoted the Taf Fechan Supply Bill in 1921, the object of which was to construct the Taf Fechan Reservoir and the purchase of the Merthyr Reservoirs for the purpose of affording an ample supply to the Board's Area. The Bill was passed and the Board are a Constituent Authority of the Taf Fechan Supply Board. The Taf Fechan works are about completed and the formal opening takes place on the 21st July, 1927. Upon the completion of the works, the Rhymney Valley Water Board is under an obligation to take a minimum supply of 1,750,000 gallons a day, with a maximum of 4,200,000 gallons a day. During the past year a 24inch aqueduct from Trelewis to Gelligaer, and a 15inch aqueduct from Celligaer to the existing trunk main at Pengam have been completed in connection with the new Taf Fechan supply. Several extensions have also been made, including a main from Trethomas to Machen to augment the local Machen supply. During the year the Board ceased to take water from the Britannia Colliery, and now supply the District of Cefn

Fforest, in the Bedwellty area, with water purchased in bulk from the Bedwellty Council. The Board supply the Abertillery Water Board with water in bulk at the Bryn, Ponllanfraith, the approximate quantity being 16,000,000 gallons per annum.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Some progress has been made in this section of public health work. This applying chiefly to the Rhymney Valley where the completion of the main trunk sewer has been effected. Considerable improvement is already noticeable in the Rhymney river, due to the fact that crude sewage no longer enters this river.

It is a regrettable feature that the Afon Lwyd still serves as an open sewer for the valley through which it flows, and there is no improvement to be noted in this instance.

It is unfortunate that in some of the industrial parts of the County, many people consider the rivers the natural dumping place of refuse of every description. This applies more where houses are built near the river banks. The danger from this practice is extreme, especially during a period of drought, the refuse then becoming the breeding place of flies, etc. In some districts local authorities themselves have refuse tips near the river banks. Care should be taken that the refuse is not tipped into the river and thereby causing pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Western Valleys Sewer Board's main trunk sewer serves the whole of the Western Valleys, also the Sirhowy Valley. Practically the whole of the subsidiary sewers in the Urban Districts through which the main trunk passes are now connected to the Sewer.

The surface water is dealt with separately, as the main trunk sewer is intended solely for the purpose of dealing with sewage. Special drains for the purpose of dealing with the surface water have been constructed by the various local authorities.

During the year under review the Rhymney Valley main trunk sewer has been completed. In the Urban Districts of Rhymney, Bedwellty, Mynyddislwyn, and Bedwas and Machen, extensive work has been carried out in the construction of subsidiary sewers, which upon completion are connected to the main trunk. Existing subsidiary sewers in the areas mentioned are also being connected where practicable.

With the exception of the Panteg Urban District no arrangements are made in the Eastern Valleys for dealing with sewage disposal, the Afon Lwyd still serving as the main sewer for these Valleys.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in the conversion of privies and earth closets to water closets. The completion by the local authorities of the main trunk and subsidiary sewers has now made it possible to convert from the old earth closet system to the water carried system, whereas previously in many instances this was impracticable.

SCAVENGING.

In some of the industrial areas the collection of house refuse and scavenging generally is directly carried out by the Council, in others the work is done by contractors. In some instances the Councils undertake a daily collection of the house refuse, but in the majority of cases the work is done two or three times in the week.

In only two areas (Abertillery and Pontypool Urban) are there destructors which can deal with the whole of the refuse collected in their districts.

Tipping on land is the means adopted by practically all the other authorities for the disposal of the refuse collected.

The difficulty of acquiring suitable land for the tipping of refuse is becoming increasingly difficult in many areas, and it will shortly become necessary for some of the authorities to seriously consider the provision of suitable refuse destructors.

Several of the local authorities have substituted motor lorries for the horse-drawn vehicles previously used.

The improvement in the refuse collection from industrial portions of some Rural areas is maintained.

Reference is again made in the reports of some of the District Medical Officers of Health, to the nuisances arising from the depositing of house refuse by the inhabitants in back lanes, on vacant land, and the banks of the rivers and streams instead of placing the refuse in suitable receptacles for removal by the Council's scavenging lorries and carts. The dumping of refuse in this manner is not only unsightly, but decidedly dangerous from a Public Health point of view, and steps should be taken by the authorities concerned to stamp out this objectionable practice.

The removal of the contents of pail closets which are still in use in some areas is effected by means of special sanitary tanks. This being done during the night or the early hours of the morning.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICTS.

From the reports received from the District Medical Officers, it is again observed that considerable activity was displayed by the Sanitary Inspectors in their respective districts. Inspections of premises under the various Public Health and Housing Acts have been made, and where nuisances or defects are noted, informal and statutory notices have been served. In the majority of cases the notices were complied with, and in very few instances were legal proceedings necessary.

Smoke Abatement.

Prior to the present year, the powers to deal with nuisances arising from the emission of smoke were very limited. On the 15th December, 1926, the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, was passed and will come into operation on the 1st July, 1927. This Act gives local authorities greater powers to deal with the smoke question. Under the new Act they are empowered, either themselves, or in combination with other local authorities, to make Bye-laws. Section 7 deals specifically with the powers of County Councils, where upon a Local Authority failing to exercise its powers, the Minister of Health may by order, authorise the County Council to carry out those duties for a definite period, or until the Minister otherwise directs. There is nothing provided in the Act which would allow a more effectual means of dealing with the domestic smoke nuisance. This is unfortunate, as often this form of nuisance is the cause of numerous complaints.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is subject to district sanitary inspections, while the School Medical Inspectors and the County Sanitary Inspector also deal with it at their periodical visits to the schools. With regard to the spread of infectious diseases amongst school children, close co-operation exists between the District Medical Officers and the County Medical Officer. The disinfection of schools following outbreaks of infectious disease is carried out by the County Sanitary Inspector, the whole of the interior and the lavatory accommodation being thoroughly sprayed with a suitable solution of " Kerol " disinfectant.

HOUSING.

Good progress has been made during the year with the various schemes in hand for the erection of houses. The following table shows the progress made in the construction of new dwellings by the District Councils, and also by private enterprise under the Housing Acts:—

District.	Number of Houses in course of erection.		Total Number of Houses completed during year ended 31st Dec., 1926	
	By Local Authority.	Private Enterprise.	By Local Authority.	Private Enterprise.
URBAN.				
Abercarn ...	—	528	—	161
Abergavenny ...	—	—	—	10
Abersychan ...	—	—	40	65
Abertillery ...	40	1	—	—
Bedwas and Machen	48	1	92	5
Bedwellty ...	310	—	116	—
Blaenavon ...	—	—	—	1
Caerleon ...	—	—	—	5
Chepstow ...	—	3	—	2
Ebbw Vale ...	—	—	—	—
Llanfrechfa Upper	—	3	—	14
Llantarnam ...	8	1	10	6
Monmouth ...	—	—	—	4
Mynyddislwyn ...	60	87	—	62
Nantyglo and Blaina	20	—	—	—
Panteg ...	20	25	—	69
Pontypool ...	—	—	20	7
Rhymney ...	—	—	—	20
Risca ...	20	170	56	39
Tredeggar ...	50	26	—	16
Usk ...	—	2	—	1
RURAL.				
Abergavenny ...	—	3	—	14
Chepstow ...	—	10	—	14
Magor ...	—	—	—	38*
Monmouth ...	—	—	—	—
Pontypool ...	—	3	—	2
St. Mellons ...	24	95	22	68*

* This number does not include houses in respect of which Subsidies have been granted by the Newport Corporation.

WORK OF THE COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. W. E. Thorn, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., resigned his position as County Sanitary Inspector on 10th April, 1926, but his services were retained in the capacity of Consultant Sanitary Inspector until December 31st, 1926, when Mr. J. Jenkin-Evans, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., took up the duties of County Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Evans was appointed on November 22nd, 1926, and in addition to being a qualified Sanitary Inspector, holds the special certificate in Meat and Food Inspection.

The County Sanitary Inspector assists the County Medical Officer in his sanitary investigations. Where the local Council is involved, he is accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector for the district concerned.

His duties may be summarised as follows:—

Investigations of—

- Sanitary conditions of Schools.
- Pollution of Rivers and Streams.
- Causation of Outbreaks of Infectious Disease.
- Water Supplies of the County.
- Tuberculosis in Cattle.

Nuisances arising from—

- Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.
- Refuse Collection and Disposal.
- The Keeping and Slaughtering of Animals, etc.
- Offensive Trades.

Inspections of—

- Dairies and Cowsheds.
- Diseased Foodstuffs (at the request of the District Sanitary Inspectors).
- Dwellings where insanitary conditions, overcrowding, etc., were reported.
- Home conditions of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, etc.

Taking of samples of water, milk, and sewage effluent for bacteriological and chemical examination at the County Laboratory; the disinfection of premises; attendance at Enquiries, etc.

During the year all Schools were disinfected after closure due to infectious diseases.

Under the County Medical Officer's scheme for securing a clean and wholesome milk supply, the County Sanitary Inspector had much of his time taken up with milk investigations of various kinds, as well as with the collection of samples under the terms of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, relating to "Grade A" milk licences.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915 came into operation on 1st September, 1925. This Act repeals and re-enacts a number of provisions contained in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, and the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts with regard to milk and dairies. It also reproduces a number of amendments and

new provisions which were contained in the Milk and Dairies Act, 1914, the operation of which was deferred.

The Minister of Health in pursuance of his powers under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, made an Order under Section 1 which is known as the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and which came into operation on the 1st October, 1926. The Order revokes the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, of 1885, 1886, and 1899 so far as they relate to England and Wales. The main provisions of those orders and Regulations revoked, are replaced in the present Order. The most important of the new provisions of the Order are those relating to the health and inspection of cattle and to the handling, conveyance and distribution of milk.

Part IV. of the Order deals with the health and inspection of cattle, and is enforced by the County Council.

Under Article 6 (4) it is stipulated that each sanitary authority shall render to the County Council particulars of registration in force of cowkeepers and their premises. These particulars are now being received from the local authorities.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

The number of persons at present licensed by the County Council under this Order for the production of "Grade A" milk is as follows:—

Producers and retailers, 4; Producers only, 2.

The six farms which are now producing "Grade A" milk are periodically inspected, and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained as a result. Samples of milk were taken by the County Sanitary Inspector at various periods for bacteriological examinations.

Under the scheme inaugurated by the County Medical Officer for the taking of "informal" samples of milk sold in the County, 277 samples were taken during the year 1926.

The working of the scheme has had far reaching effects upon the purity of the milk supply in the districts in which operations have so far been carried out.

One sanitary area is selected at a time and samples taken from every milk producer and milk seller in that district. The samples are collected by the County Sanitary Inspector, accompanied by the District Sanitary Inspector, and are examined at the County Laboratory by the County Bacteriologist. In addition to the bacteriological examination for evidence of tubercle, zymotic diseases and dirt-contamination, animal inoculations are made for the purpose of definitely ensuring against any possible infection by Tuberculosis. Should this be found to be present, the farm producing the milk is visited and the herd submitted to veterinary examination, individual samples being taken from any cow regarded as suspicious. The milk from suspected cows is ordered to be excluded from that of the herd until the bacteriological examination has been made. In the event of an individual sample proving tuberculous, arrangements are made for the slaughtering of the animal under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, in which case the District Sanitary Inspector is asked to be present at the slaughtering so that the carcass, or parts of the carcass, where necessary, can be condemned as unfit for human con-

sumption. In such cases where the Sanitary Inspector is not qualified to deal with meat inspection, a Veterinary Inspector or the County Sanitary Inspector has attended at the slaughtering of the animal. The tuberculin test is employed in cases where bacteriological examination of the sample has proved to be suspicious but has not shown definite evidence of Tuberculosis, also a close watch is kept upon the cow before its milk is again allowed to be mixed with that of the herd.

With regard to the slaughter of infected animals, it has been found that action under the Tuberculosis Order by the Veterinary Inspectors appointed under the Diseases of Animals Acts is better than utilising the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915; much overlapping is thus eliminated.

In cases where bacteriological examination of an "informal" sample yields evidence pointing to want of care in handling the milk after it has left the cow, or to its contamination in other ways, the Clerk to the Local Sanitary Authority is advised to send a warning letter to the milk seller.

The following districts were inspected during the year under review:—

Urban.

Abercarn
Abertillery
Chepstow
Caerleon
Ebbw Vale
Llanfrechfa Upper
Llantarnam
Mynyddislwyn
Risca

Rural.

Abergavenny
Magor
Pontypool

Further details in regard to the samples taken in 1926 will be found in the report of the County Bacteriologist.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops have been periodically inspected by the District Sanitary Inspectors, and in many cases remedying of defects of lighting, ventilation and drainage has resulted. Although much has been accomplished, further improvement is possible, for cowsheds generally are far from good.

MEAT, etc.

The table giving the amount of unsound foodstuffs condemned and destroyed in the various districts is attached, and it will be noticed from the figures that great attention is being given to this very important section of public health work.

Of the 33 Sanitary Inspectors in the Administrative County, only 5 hold a special certificate, and are qualified Inspectors of meat and other foods. The districts whose Sanitary Inspector is in possession of the certificate for meat and food inspection are: Bedwellty, Abertillery, Mynyddislwyn, Risca and Ebbw Vale.

The following table shows the quantities of meat and other foods condemned in the various Urban and Rural District during the year:—

DISTRICT	Fish.	Meat.	Bottled and Tinned Foods, including Corned Beef, Milk, Fish, and Fruit.	Bacon.	Offal, etc.	Cooked Meat.	Fruit.	Miscellaneous (Vegetables chiefly).
URBAN.								
Abercarn ...	—	417 lbs.	121 tins	86 lbs.	—	—	—	—
Abergavenny ..	—	1 sheep's carcass 1 pig's carcass	29 tins	—	1 sheep's pluck 1 Beef liver	147 lbs.	—	—
Abersychan ...	—	3 pigs' carcasses 1 sheep's carcass	129 tins 6 bottles	112 lbs.	7 lbs.	—	10 lbs.	2 packets peas
Abertillery ...	—	310 lbs.	1018 tins	14 lbs.	41 lbs.	—	—	—
Bedwas and Machen...	—	897 lbs.	384 tins	—	—	—	—	—
Bedwellty ...	—	1191 lbs.	2090 tins 25 bottles	105 lbs.	182 lbs.	21 lbs.	—	2968 lbs. potatoes 360 eggs 29 bags potatoes
Blaenavon ...	1 box	—	29 tins	14½ lbs.	—	—	—	—
Caerleon ...	—	33 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chepstow ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4 tons potatoes
Ebbw Vale ...	3 bags	1260 lbs.	124 tins	—	16 lbs.	—	—	12 bags potatoes
Llanfrechfa Upper...	—	—	5 tins	—	—	—	—	—
Llantarnam ...	—	1 sheep's carcass	—	125 lbs.	7 lbs.	—	—	—
Monmouth ...	—	—	14 tins	—	—	—	—	—
Mynyddislwyn	—	2486 lbs.	—	32 lbs.	580 lbs.	—	—	—
Nantyglo and Blaina...	—	—	36 lbs.	—	76 lbs.	—	—	—
Panteg ...	—	175 lbs.	202 tins	17 lbs.	20½ lbs.	—	—	—
Pontypool ...	—	638 lbs.	728 tins	76 lbs.	51 lbs.	—	—	8 dozen eggs
Rhymney ...	—	a small quantity	a large quantity	—	—	—	—	—
Risca ...	—	936 lbs.	303 tins	9½ lbs.	—	—	12 lbs.	120 lbs. of cheese 6 lbs. of sweets
Tredegar ...	—	1012 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uak ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RURAL.								
Abergavenny .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chepstow ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Magor ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Monmouth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pontypool ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Mellons ...	—	2847 lbs.	—	—	532 lbs.	—	—	—

There is not in any district of the County a public abattoir. At Pontypool plans were prepared, and a site selected, but the scheme has not been proceeded with.

Regarding meat shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared, greater attention is now being paid, and the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have, as far as possible, been put in operation in most of the districts.

In addition, the Bedwellty and Mynyddislwyn Urban District Councils have obtained increased powers for dealing with foods. These powers are contained in the Bedwellty Urban District Council Act, 1925, and the Mynyddislwyn Urban District Council Act, 1926.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

At the meeting of the Works and General Purposes Committee, held on the 13th July, 1920, it was decided that the County Medical Officer should exercise general supervision over the action to be taken in pursuance of the Acts and Regulations under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and that he, the County Analyst, and, if necessary, the Clerk, should confer as to the details necessary to secure observance of the Acts and Regulations.

The Administrative County is divided into three districts for the purposes of these Acts, as follows:—

District "A," under the supervision of Inspector T. H. Lewis, with an assistant Inspector, and comprising the Municipal Boroughs of Abergavenny and Monmouth, the Urban Districts of Abersychan, Blaenavon, Llanfrechfa Upper, Llantarnam, Panteg, Pontypool and Usk, and the Rural Districts of Abergavenny, Monmouth and Pontypool.

District "B," under the supervision of Inspector T. R. Davies, with two Assistant Inspectors, and comprising the Urban Districts of Abercarn (part), Abertillery, Bedwellty, Ebbw Vale, Mynyddislwyn (part), Nantyglo and Blaina, Rhymney, and Tredegar.

District "C," under the supervision of Inspector J. R. Gamble, with two Assistant Inspectors, and comprising the Urban Districts of Abercarn (part), Chepstow, Llantarnam, Mynyddislwyn (part), and Risca, and the Rural Districts of Chepstow, Magor, and St. Mellons.

During the year 1,070 samples were examined by the County Analyst, Mr. G. R. Thompson, F.I.C., F.C.S., details of which are given in the report following:

The following schedule gives details of the samples taken for analysis and in which Police Court proceedings were instituted, arranged according to the respective districts:—

District in which sample was taken.	Nature of Sample.	Extent of Adulteration, etc. of Sample.	Result of Police Court Proceedings.
Abercarn	Milk	5.53% added water ...	Ordered to pay £4 4s. costs.
„	„	11.53% added water ...	Ordered to pay £5 5s. costs.
Abergavenny	„	25.33% deficient in fat ...	Fined £2.
„	„	1.56% added water and 8.15% deficient in fat ...	Dismissed.
Abersychan	„	14.33% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £1 costs.
Abertillery	„	45% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £3 3s. costs.
„	„	19.77% added water ...	Ordered to pay £2 10s. costs.
„	„	28.67% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £3 3s. costs.
„	„	5.29% added water ...	Ordered to pay £3 3s. costs.
„	„	12.12% added water ...	Ordered to pay £2 10s. costs.
Bedwas and Machen	„	8.14% deficient in fat and 1.53% added water ...	Ordered to pay £1 1s. costs.
Llantarnam	„	4.71% added water ...	Dismissed.
Monmouth	„	9.67% deficient in fat ...	Fined £3.
„	„	24.67% deficient in fat ...	*Fined £10.
„	„	11.00% deficient in fat ...	*Fined £5.
Nantyglo and Blaina	„	25.33% deficient in fat ...	Fined £5.
Panteg	„	6.71% added water ...	Ordered to pay £5 costs.
„	„	11.65% added water ...	Fined £5.
„	„	11.67% deficient in fat ...	Withdrawn as result of informal samples taken in presence of Inspector at farm and found to be 13.66% deficient in fat.
„	„	12.33% deficient in fat ...	Fined £5.
Pontypool	„	11.33% deficient in fat ...	Dismissed.
Rhymney	„	13.67% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £3 3s. costs.
„	„	18.67% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £3 3s. costs.
Tredegar	„	11.00% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £2 2s. costs and Court Fees.
„	„	4.33% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £1 1s. costs.
„	„	5.33% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £1 1s. costs and Court Fees.
„	„	5.33% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £1 1s. costs and Court Fees.
„	„	9.00% deficient in fat ...	Ordered to pay £2 2s. costs and Court Fees.
St. Mellons	„	13.67% deficient in fat ...	Dismissed.

* On appeal to Quarter Sessions both these convictions were quashed.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN EACH DISTRICT.

URBAN									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210
211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220
221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230
231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250
251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260
261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270
271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290
291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300
301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310
311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320
321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330
331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340
341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350
351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360
361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370
371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380
381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390
391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400
401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410
411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430
431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450
451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460
461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470
471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480
481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490
491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500
501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510
511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520
521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530
531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540
541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550
551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560
561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570
571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580
581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590
591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600
601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610
611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620
621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630
631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640
641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650
651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660
661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670
671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680
681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690
691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700
701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710
711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720
721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730
731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740
741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750
751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760
761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770
771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780
781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790
791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800
801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810
811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820
821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830
831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850
851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860
861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870
871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880
881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890
891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900
901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910
911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920
921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930
931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940
941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950
951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960
961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970
971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980
981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000

Some samples taken in 1954 are not included in the following

Thirteen vendors were cautioned during the year on account of unsatisfactory samples of the following:—

Milk, 8; Vinegar, 1; Apples, 3; Butter, 1.

The wholesalers of the unsatisfactory butter were also reported to the Customs Department.

The report of the County Analyst for the year is as follows:—

“ During this period I have analysed 1,070 samples submitted to me from the following sources:—

From the Inspector in Division “ A ”	...	...	358
„ „ „ „ „ “ B ”	...	...	334
„ „ „ „ „ “ C ”	...	...	370
„ „ County M.O.H.	...	...	1
„ „ Local Authorities in the County	...	...	7

Of the total number of samples analysed, 770 were milk samples, of which two were examined from the point of view of cleanliness and freedom from bacterial contamination, and it is satisfactory to note that both these samples were found to satisfy the requirements of the Ministry of Health Order, 1923 for Grade “ A ” Milk. One sample was examined on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health for the presence of poisonous compounds, the supply being suspected to have been responsible for symptoms of poisoning, but the milk was found to be entirely free from any injurious substance.

Of the samples submitted for chemical analysis, 46 proved to be adulterated (in some cases to a serious extent), 7 contained added water and were further deficient in fat, 10 contained added water, whilst 29 were deficient in fat.

In no case was any preservative or added colouring matter found, so that from this point of view a satisfactory state of affairs exists.

Classified in my usual manner, the composition of the samples analysed during the year is as under:—

According to content of fat:

Under 3%	3 to 3.49%	3.5 to 3.99%	4 to 4.49%	4.5% and over.
39	243	317	125	43

According to content of solids-not-fat:

Under 8.5%	8.5 to 8.69%	8.7 to 8.89%	8.9 to 9.09%	9.1% & over
18	164	285	223	77

The average composition of all samples analysed for the year is:—

Fat, 3.63%; Solids-not-fat, 8.82%; Total solids, 12.45%.

The following table illustrates the average quality of milk examined for the past 7 years with that for the year under consideration:

Year.	Fat.	Solids not Fat.	Per cent. Adulterated.
1919	3.73%	8.74%	5.07%
1920	3.58%	8.61%	4.38%
1921	3.52%	8.84%	5.20%
1922	3.67%	8.84%	4.60%
1923	3.66%	8.88%	4.08%
1924	3.59%	8.87%	4.81%
1925	3.57%	8.90%	4.26%
1926	3.63%	8.82%	5.97%

From the above table it will be noted that the milk sold during the past year was of good average composition.

The two samples of condensed milk examined were both in accordance with the Regulations and the sample of cream was correctly labelled and free from any added thickening substance.

The 3 samples of separated milk were quite satisfactory in composition.

The butter samples throughout the year have been very satisfactory, in being entirely free from admixture with foreign fats, and it is gratifying to note that the practice of adding preservatives to this commodity is now becoming far less frequent than in the past. It has, however, been necessary to report against 2 butter samples, in one case on account of excessive water, and in the second case a large excess of boric acid was present in addition, i.e., 0.74%. It was subsequently ascertained that the latter sample was taken from a consignment of imported butter, and arrangements were made with the Customs Authorities to carefully watch further consignments from this source.

LARD.—The 31 samples analysed were found to be highly satisfactory in every way.

MARGARINE.—Only two samples have been submitted, both of which were quite up to the usual standard.

A considerable number of cereal products including flour, rice, tapioca, sago, arrowroot, macaroni, and oatmeal have been tested as to their genuineness and freedom from deleterious ingredients and in no instance have I had occasion to report against any one of these products.

A number of flour samples were found to contain leavening ingredients being sold as self raising flour, chiefly for the purpose of making cakes, but in no instance have I been able to detect any trace of arsenic or other injurious metallic compounds in the self-raising mixture.

I have not been able to satisfy myself that any of the samples gave definite evidence of the use of bleaching agents and if these had been employed, no evidence remained of their use.

Certain of the rice samples were found to be faced and polished in order to improve the appearance of the grain, but the quantity of facing or other ingredients was in no case sufficient to constitute an adulteration.

As in the past, I have most carefully searched for arsenic and other deleterious ingredients in all substances classified as pudding stuffs, but not a single sample has been found to contain any appreciable quantity of arsenic, i.e., in excess of 1/100th grain per pound, and no poisonous metal has been found to be present. Mention must be made of the occurrence of arsenic in three specimens of imported apples submitted to the extent of 1/50th, 1/51st, and 1/46th of a grain per pound respectively.

The arsenic was found to be confined practically entirely to the skin of the apple, having been introduced by the use of an arsenical spray during the growth of the apples grown in a dry foreign climate where the rainfall is insufficient to remove the deposit.

In each case I understand that the vendor of the apples was warned and the consignment withdrawn from sale.

Special attention has been devoted to the samples of vinegar, as to their genuineness or otherwise, and of the 8 samples submitted, 6 have been found to consist of genuine malt vinegar, that is to say, vinegar prepared by the acetous fermentation of malt extract.

The remaining two samples on the other hand, consisted of dilute solutions of acetic acid prepared by distillation and a certificate was issued against one of the latter samples on account of the fact that the percentage of acetic acid amounted to only 2.24%, and I further expressed the opinion that this sample was not vinegar, as commercially understood. The vendor was questioned on the point and admitted having purchased concentrated distilled acetic acid, and having inadvertently used an excessive quantity of water for diluting the concentrated acid.

In the absence of a satisfactory legal definition of what should constitute vinegar, it was not considered advisable to proceed against the vendor, and he was consequently warned that the strength of the vinegar sold should be not less than 4% of acetic acid.

The various articles under the heading "Drugs," 18 in number, were all of satisfactory purity and strength, and were in the main, articles in common demand as household remedies.

Of the remaining samples examined, all have been quite above reproach, both as regards general quality and freedom from preservatives and contamination, and none of these samples call for special comment.

Thus the percentage of adulterated samples amounts to 52, comprising 4.86% of the total, and of these samples 46 consisted of adulterated milks."

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

Report for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

(1) Milk and Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(a) Number of samples examined for the presence of a Preservative.					(b) Number in which a Preservative was reported to be present.
Milk	...	...	...	767	Nil
Separated Milk	...	...	...	3	Nil
Cream	...	...	...	1	Nil
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	2	Nil

(2) Cream sold as preserved Cream. Nil

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the labels as to preservatives were correct.

Nil

(i) Correct statements made	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) Statements incorrect	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on Statutory label.			

(b) Determinations made of Milk Fat in Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(i) Above 35 per cent.	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) Below 35 per cent.	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved Cream in Article V (1) and the proviso in Article V (2) of the Regulations have not been observed.

Nil

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken.

Nil

(3) Thickening substances.—Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream:—

Action taken where found	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Other observations, if any	...	...	...	Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases are Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (including Typhus, Enteric, and Continued Fevers), and Diarrhoea.

These diseases caused 113 deaths and gave a Zymotic death-rate of .30 for the County, as compared with a rate of .73 for the year 1925, .38 for 1924, .85 for 1923, .46 for 1922, .94 for 1921, 1.15 for 1920, .61 for 1919, 1.26 for 1918, .96 for 1917, .72 for 1916, 1.05 for 1915, 1.73 for 1914, 1.29 for 1913, 1.86 for 1912, 2.5 for 1911, 1.22 for 1910, .87 for 1909, 1.5 for 1908 for the County.

Table showing death rate and attack (notification) rate of Zymotic Diseases in the County of Monmouth during the year 1926.

Population for death rate and attack (notification) rate, 372,410.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000 of population.	No. of notifications.	Attack Rate per 1000 of population.	England & Wales death rate per 1,000 of population.
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	.00
Measles (including German Measles) ...	9	.02	Not notifiable	...	.09
Scarlet Fever ...	3	.008	335	.899	.02
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	24	.06	355	.95	.07
Whooping Cough ...	27	.07	Not notifiable	...	.10
Fever (including Typhus, Enteric and Continued Fevers) ...	5	.01	35	.09	.01
Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	45	.12	Not notifiable	...	...
Totals ...	113	.30	*725	1.9	...

* Notifiable Diseases only.

COMPARISON OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DEATH RATES IN MONMOUTHSHIRE.

				Measles and German Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.
Average for years 1907- 1913 inclusive				·43	·07	·92	·13	·09
1914	...	...	...	·47	·13	·12	·17	·03
1915	...	...	...	·71	·09	·33	·19	·03
1916	...	...	...	·04	·06	·21	·12	·04
1917	...	...	...	·30	·02	·11	·06	·079
1918	...	...	...	·53	·03	·30	·08	·02
1919	...	...	...	·003	·06	·28	·07	·03
1920	...	...	...	·51	·06	·16	·18	·01
1921	...	...	...	·02	·03	·17	·12	·01
1922	...	...	...	·03	·02	·17	·11	·01
1923	...	...	...	·41	·01	·22	·09	·01
1924	...	...	...	·03	·03	·07	·1	·02
1925	...	...	...	·20	·02	·21	·1	·02
1926	...	...	...	·02	·008	·07	·06	·01

DISTRICTS	Estimated Population, 1926 for estimating Notification rate	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tubercular Diseases.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Chicken Pox	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Acute Polymyellitis.	Dysentery
URBAN.															
Abercarn	20,800	15	13	2	2	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
Abergavenny (Borough)	9,281	43	8	2	...	10	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Abersychan	29,360	52	19	...	...	12	3	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Abertillery	37,250	16	52	10	2	30	13	6	6	3	...	...	...	...	...
Bedwas and Machen	9,818	3	20	...	35	22	8	...	1	2	3	...	...	...	...
Bedwellty	33,770	7	54	2	18	42	20	9	3	...	1	88	...	...	...
Blaenavon	12,930	2	5	1	7	6	8	1	...	...	1	18	...	...	...
Caerleon	2,306	8	1	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chepstow	4,892	4	1	5	4	10	4	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Ebbw Vale	36,630	45	29	11	29	54	30	15	2	2	7	...	...	...	...
Llanfrechfa Upper	4,762	6	...	...	...	6	5	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Llantarnam	8,026	3	6	...	...	10	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monmouth (Borough)	4,938	5	35	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Mynyddislwyn	16,260	7	12	...	...	13	6	2	...	1	1	2	1	...	...
Nantyglo and Blaina	16,220	13	4	...	34	34	10	5	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Panteg	11,740	11	2	...	...	6	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pontypool	7,739	5	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rhymney	12,000	4	28	...	1	13	6	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Risca	17,910	5	22	...	1	29	11	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tredegear	25,580	30	23	...	36	55	19	8	...	...	6	...	...	1	1
Usk	1,388	1	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	1	16	...	...	...
Totals	323,600	285	335	33	170	369	158	65	18	11	34	126	1	1	1
RURAL.															
Abergavenny	9,403	17	...	...	...	6	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chepstow	8,943	3	4	...	3	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Magor	6,213	5	2	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monmouth	6,687	3	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Pontypool	5,374	4	3	...	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...
St. Mellons	12,190	18	11	1	1	11	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	48,810	50	20	2	11	31	6	1	1	...	2	12	...	...	...
Grand Totals	372,410	335	355	35	181	400	164	66	19	11	36	138	1	1	1

The number of cases of infectious diseases removed to Hospitals during the year, was as follows:—

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL											
DISTRICT	Diphtheria	Small pox	Erysipelas	Scarlat Fever	Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Chicken Pox
Urban—											
Abercarn ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Abergavenny ...	1	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Abersychan ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abertillery ...	7	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	8	...	...
Bedwas and Machen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bedwellty ...	50	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Blaenavon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Caerleon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chepstow ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Ebbw Vale ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...
Llanfrechfa Upper ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Llantarnam ...	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monmouth ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mynyddislwyn ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nantyglo and Blaina	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Panteg ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pontypool ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rhymney ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Risca... ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tredeggar ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Usk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	<i>See Table later in this Report.</i>										
Rural—											
Abergavenny ...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chepstow ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Magor ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monmouth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pontypool ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Mellons ...	9	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals ...	101	...	...	69	...	...	...	31	...	...	1

Analysis of the Total Cases and Deaths according to the Age Groups.

CASES NOTIFIED.														DEATHS.													
Disease	AGE GROUPS.													AGE GROUPS.													
	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total all ages	
Diphtheria	2	10	15	40	42	170	48	15	14	3	2	...	361	...	3	2	2	4	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	13	14	24	8	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Scarlet Fever	13	12	26	38	32	163	51	13	20	1	1	...	370	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	5	
Tuberculosis	4	8	13	10	11	58	93	102	220	92	51	4	666	3	3	1	4	4	10	15	36	82	29	31	3	221	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1	8	5	6	11	4	2	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	4	
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	8	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Pneumonia	20	12	18	6	7	22	14	15	17	18	17	8	174	32	14	3	5	3	3	7	6	19	10	25	32	159	
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	2	1	1	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	2	1	...	8	
Chicken Pox	9	25	25	18	36	25	11	...	...	...	...	...	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals	84	67	97	112	131	446	226	158	311	141	98	22	1893	37	21	6	11	12	25	27	44	105	43	60	35	426	

The above table has been compiled from the returns submitted by the District Medical Officers of Health.

Measles.

The number of deaths from Measles in the year 1926, was 9, compared with 74 for the previous year. This disease was made notifiable in the Abertillery Urban District during the period December 8th, 1925, to May 8th, 1926. At one time the Medical Officer was of the opinion the disease was likely to assume a most virulent form, but fortunately the slight epidemic subsided.

Scarlet Fever.

335 cases of this disease were notified during the year. This figure is a substantial decrease upon the previous year's figure, which was 519. The number of deaths in 1926 was 3, which gives a death-rate of 8·9 per 1,000 cases notified. This is again a decrease upon that of the previous year, when the number of deaths was 8, which gave a death-rate of 15·4 per 1,000 cases notified. The County death-rate for this disease per 1,000 of population is ·008, as compared with ·02 for England and Wales.

The general procedure in the districts of the County is that immediately upon receipt of the notification of a case of scarlet fever, the house is visited and the person in charge of the patient is instructed as regards isolation and disinfection. Where efficient isolation in the house is found to be impracticable, the patient is removed to an Isolation Hospital.

The Dick test does not appear to have been carried out in any of the districts, nor do the recent methods of immunisation seem to be practised.

Diphtheria.

A marked decrease in the number of notifications of diphtheria is shown for the year 1926. There being 355 cases as compared with 470 for 1925. 24 deaths were recorded from this disease during the year, which gave a death-rate of ·06 per 1,000 persons living.

The number of deaths recorded in 1925 was 39, which gave a death-rate of ·1 per 1,000 of the population, and a decrease can also be recorded in this instance.

Supplies of Anti-toxin are available for practitioners from the local authorities.

Enteric Fever.

The figures for the County show a decrease in the number of cases notified. The number of deaths recorded during the year was 5, being 4 less than that of the previous year. Of the 10 cases notified at Abertillery, 9 were traced to an infected water supply on the Roseheyworth Road, four cases occurred in one household, two proving fatal. Two cases occurred in another family and were also fatal. In the

Ebbw Vale Urban District 11 cases were notified, all of which were removed to the District Isolation Hospital. It is a pleasant feature, that of these cases, none proved fatal. Five cases also occurred in the Chepstow Urban District but there were no deaths recorded.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis

Forty-five deaths were registered from this disease, in children under two years of age, giving a death-rate of 5.94 per 1,000 births, which, when compared with the rate of 6.79 for the year 1925, is satisfactory. In many of the districts handbills dealing with the method of prevention of Diarrhoea and Enteritis are circulated by the local authorities. Printed instructions to mothers in regard to these diseases are distributed by the County Health Visitors when cases come to their notice.

Cerebro Spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Fever and one case of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, as compared with 3 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever and 1 case of Acute Poliomyelitis for the year 1925. There were, however, no deaths recorded.

Small Pox and Vaccination

Small Pox was prevalent in parts of England during the year 1926, and chiefly affected Derbyshire, Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lancaster. During the year under review, there were no cases notified in this County, but as already stated earlier in this report, a severe epidemic of this dread and loathsome disease is raging in the County at the time of writing. This epidemic will be fully dealt with in the Annual Report for 1927.

For years past, the apathetic attitude towards vaccination has been commented upon in these reports. The importance of vaccination, backed by the memory of its efficacy in recent outbreaks, cannot be too forcibly expressed.

Chicken Pox

138 cases of Chicken Pox were notified during the year, but as this disease is not compulsorily notifiable except in special circumstances, the above figure is no indication as to the real extent of the disease. However, owing to the outbreak of Small Pox, Chicken Pox is now a notifiable disease in the majority of districts in the County.

Whooping Cough.

The number of deaths from this disease during the year was 27, and shows a considerable decrease upon the number of deaths in the year 1925, which was 88. In 1924 there were 27 deaths, in 1923, 81 deaths, and 63 deaths in 1922.

Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Polio-encephalitis

Of the 11 cases notified by the District Medical Officers of Health, there were 10 deaths recorded. The cases were notified from the following districts: Abercarn, 1; Abertillery, 3; Bedwas and Machen, 2; Chepstow, 1; Ebbw Vale, 2; Mynyddislwyn, 1; and Panteg, 1.

Public Health (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, etc.) Regulations, 1919.

246 deaths from Pneumonia occurred during the year 1926, which is 76 less than the number recorded in the previous year. When the number of deaths is compared with the number of notifications received (181) it will be observed that the notification of this disease is far from satisfactory, consequently the figures available are no indication of the number of persons attacked. In Abertillery the Medical Officer has again reminded the practitioners in his area of their duties under the Regulations.

Influenza.

This disease did not assume epidemic form during the year. In this instance also, as with other diseases already mentioned, there is satisfaction in noting the decrease in the number of deaths, 96 being recorded in 1926, whilst in 1925 the number was 116.

Erysipelas

The Medical Officers of Health for the Districts have made no comment of importance regarding this disease.

Cancer

Cancer again shows a slight increase in the number of deaths over those of the previous year. The high death-rate from this cause during recent years is a matter of grave concern to local authorities and the general public. The Ministry of Health in 1923 and 1924 issued Memoranda for the guidance of local authorities. A further Memorandum was issued on September 16th, 1926, dealing with the results of surgical operations in connection with certain conditions of this disease.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Thirty-six cases of this disease were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1914. The disease is fully commented upon in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Report for the year 1926.

Cases			Vision Un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths while under treatment from causes other than Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Notified	Treated					
	at Home	in Hospital				
36	29	7	35	...	1	...

Puerperal Fever.

During the year 1926, notifications were received from the District Medical Officers of 19 cases, while in the return of deaths furnished by the Registrar-General the number due to Puerperal Sepsis was 7. In the year 1925, 22 cases were notified, with 8 deaths; in 1924, 15 cases, with 10 deaths; in 1923, 19 cases, with 9 deaths; in 1922, 11 cases, with 14 deaths; in 1921, 17 cases, with 12 deaths; in 1920, 24 cases, with 20 deaths; in 1919, 19 cases, with 11 deaths; in 1918, 6 cases, with 3 deaths; in 1917, 4 cases, with no death; while in 1916, 13 cases were notified, 8 being fatal. The notification rate per 1,000 births in 1926 was 2.5. The notification rate per 1,000 of population equalled .05, and the death-rate per 1,000 of population .019.

Anthrax and Rabies.

No cases of these diseases were notified during the year.

DISINFECTION.

Schools.

The disinfection of schools following outbreaks of infectious disease is carried out by the County Sanitary Inspector, a MacKenzie spray, with a suitable solution of "Kerol" disinfectant being used.

Rooms, etc.

The methods adopted generally in the districts of the County are, by gaseous or liquid disinfectants. Both methods have their distinct advantages, as in instances where it is found to be not advisable to use one of the methods, the other system serves.

Bedding, Clothes, etc.

Very few of the districts in the County have made suitable provision for the disinfection of these articles. For their proper disinfection, a steam disinfecting apparatus is necessary. The articles being usually of such a bulky nature, close contact with the disinfecting agent for a sufficient time is necessary, and this can only be effected by the provision of the necessary facilities. The efficiency of disinfection by properly constructed steam apparatus is very great; if the steam penetrates, sterilisation is absolute; the most resistant spores are certainly destroyed and it has been proved by suitable tests that the steam does penetrate when the apparatus is properly worked.

In most districts disinfectants, both liquid and powder are distributed free of cost to persons responsible for the care of patients suffering from an infectious disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 400 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, and 213 deaths were registered. Of other forms of Tuberculosis, 164 cases were notified and 62 deaths registered.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—Notification rate per 1,000 of population:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis:—

1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
2.45	2.3	2.47	2.26	1.9	1.27	.78	.86	1.05	1.18	.93	.90	1.07

Other forms of Tuberculosis:—

.65	.68	.65	.51	.48	.37	.27	.21	.34	.51	.29	.35	.44
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—Death Rate per 1,000 of population:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis:—

1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
.6	.80	.94	.82	.96	.77	.68	.7	.69	.65	.68	.69	.57

Other forms of Tuberculosis:—

.23	.28	.26	.27	.27	.21	.19	.2	.18	.21	.2	.18	.17
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	----	-----	-----

It will be observed that the pulmonary notification rate for 1926 is above the rate for the previous year. The non-pulmonary rate for 1926 is also slightly above the rate for 1925, but it is pleasing to note that the death-rates from pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis are the lowest recorded for the County.

Tuberculosis is a disease which generally extends over a period of years, so that in 1914, and the years immediately following, notifications were received of chronic and long-standing cases as well as the new cases coming to the knowledge of the practitioners of the County. It can now be surmised that the old cases have been detected, and that the great majority of the cases notified in recent years are new cases only.

The notification of the disease is still anything but satisfactory, and much difficulty arises in the compilation of any comparative statistics. Some District Medical Officers of Health do not render their weekly notification forms to the County Office as regularly as they should do.

Summary of notifications by District Medical Officers of Health to the County Medical Officer, under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1912, during the period January 3rd, 1926, to the 1st January, 1927, with the number of Deaths notified by the Registrar General.

Age Periods.	* NEW CASES.					Age Periods.	DEATHS.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total
0	...	1	...	3	4	0	...	1	3	2	6
1	3	3	10	6	22	1	...	1	2	...	3
5	11	15	19	16	61	2	1	...	4	3	8
10	17	21	16	12	66	5	...	6	10	5	21
15	27	35	14	10	86	15	17	49	5	7	78
20	26	53	12	12	103	25	42	56	8	3	109
25	33	49	11	12	105	45	23	12	4	4	43
35	33	29	...	3	65	65	3	...	1	1	5
45	20	10	1	2	33	75	1	1	...	...	2
55	8	2	2	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	1	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	179	219	87	77	562		87	126	37	25	275

* Including Primary notifications on Form "A" and any other new case coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Notifications on Form "B" (School Medical Inspectors)				
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 5	...	...	1	...
5-10	2	3	9	5
10-15	6	7	5	6
Totals	8	10	15	11

No. of Notifications on Form "C" Admissions to:—							
HOSPITAL.				SANATORIA.			
Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
138	156	31	18	58	18	11	7

Cases of Tuberculosis notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, during the year ended December 31st, 1926
with reports upon Examinations of Sputa, etc., at the
County Laboratory.

DISTRICTS AND SUB-DISTRICTS.	PULMONARY.				OTHER T.B. DISEASES.				Total.
	Cases Notified	Result of Lab. examination		Specimen not submitted	Cases Notified	Result of Lab. examination		Specimen not submitted	
		Pos.	Neg.			Pos.	Neg.		
URBAN.									
Abercarn									
Cwmcarn	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
Pentwynmawr	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Crumlin	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Newbridge	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Aberbeeg	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Abergavenny									
Abergavenny	15	4	2	9	4	...	...	4	19
Abersychan									
Pontnewynydd	4	...	...	4	3	...	...	3	7
Garndiffaith	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Tranch	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Abersychan	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pontypool	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	2	4
Talywain	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Abertillery									
Llanhilleth	6	3	...	3	2	...	...	2	8
Abertillery	18	4	4	10	7	...	1	6	25
Cwmtilley	2	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	3
Crumlin (part)	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Six Bells	4	1	3	...	3	...	...	3	7
Aberbeeg	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Blaenau Gwent	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Bedwas & Machen									
Trethomas	7	...	4	3	4	...	...	4	11
Bedwas	8	1	2	5	2	...	...	2	10
Maesycwmmwr	4	...	...	4	2	...	...	2	6
Machen	5	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	5
Bedwellty									
Markham	4	...	1	3	2	...	1	1	6
Argoed	5	1	1	3	2	...	...	2	7
New Tredegar	13	2	2	9	3	...	1	2	16
Blackwood	7	2	2	3	1	...	...	1	8
Aberbargoed	7	3	2	2	5	...	...	5	12
Cefn Forest	10	1	4	5	...	...	...	...	10
Phillipstown	7	4	1	2	1	...	...	1	8
Fleur-de-lis	3	...	2	1	3	...	...	3	6
Pengam	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	3	4
Elliottown	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

DISTRICTS AND SUB-DISTRICTS.				PULMONARY.			OTHER T.B. DISEASES.				Total.	
				Cases Notified	Result of Lab examination		Specimen not submitted	Cases Notified	Result of Lab. examination			Specimen not submitted
					Pos.	Neg.			Pos.	Neg.		
Blaenavon												
Blaenavon	...	...	8	2	3	3	8	...	...	8	16	
Caerleon.												
Caerleon	...	...	5	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	5	
Chepstow												
Chepstow	...	...	10	2	...	8	4	...	...	4	14	
Ebbw Vale												
Cwm	...	...	19	6	4	9	5	...	2	3	24	
Ebbw Vale	...	...	27	10	4	13	17	...	3	14	44	
Beaufort	...	...	4	2	1	1	4	...	...	4	8	
Victoria	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	
Waunllwyd	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Llanfrechfa Upper.												
Pontnewydd	...	...	4	...	1	3	1	...	...	1	5	
Llantarnam.												
Cwmbran	...	...	8	1	...	7	4	...	2	2	12	
Llantarnam	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Monmouth												
Monmouth	...	...	8	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	8	
Mynyddislwyn.												
Wylie	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Maesyewmmer	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Cwmfelinfach	...	...	5	2	1	2	5	...	2	3	10	
Ynysddu	...	...	7	2	2	3	2	...	1	1	9	
Oakdale	...	...	5	1	2	2	3	...	...	3	8	
Pontllanfraith	...	...	6	3	2	1	2	...	...	2	8	
Nantyglo & Blaina												
Nantyglo	...	...	9	2	4	3	6	...	2	4	15	
Blaina	...	...	18	...	7	11	3	...	1	2	21	
Panteg.												
Griffithstown	...	...	2	2	...	...	5	...	1	4	7	
Pontymoile	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	
Pontrhydyrun	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Panteg	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Sebastopol	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	
Pontypool												
Pontypool	...	...	10	3	1	6	1	...	...	1	11	
Rhymney												
Rhymney	...	...	5	1	2	2	4	...	1	3	9	
Abertysswg	...	...	9	2	2	5	2	...	...	2	11	
Risca												
Risca	...	...	7	4	...	3	4	...	1	3	11	
Crosskeys	...	...	6	...	1	5	5	...	...	5	11	
Pontywain	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	
Pontymister	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Wattsville	...	...	2	...	...	2	3	...	...	3	5	

DISTRICTS AND SUB-DISTRICTS.				PULMONARY.			OTHER T.B. DISEASES.			Total.		
				Cases Notified	Result of Lab examination		Specimen not submitted	Cases Notified	Result of Lab. examination		Specimen not submitted	
					Pos.	Neg.			Pos.			Neg.
Tredegar.												
Tredegar	...	...	40	11	16	13	22	1	2	19	62	
Dukestown	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	
Nantybwh	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	2	
Troedrhiwgwair	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	
Scwrfa	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	3	
Sirhowy	...	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	
Tavarnaubach	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Usk.												
Usk	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	
RURAL.												
Abergavenny												
Coldbrook	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Govilon	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	
Llanellen	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Clytha	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Chepstow												
Caldicot	...	...	4	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	4	
Itton	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Magor.												
Llanhennock	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	
Christchurch	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Monmouth												
Rockfield	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
St. Maughans	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Llantilio Crossenny	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Monmouth	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Pontypool.												
Trostrey	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Ponthir	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Llangibby	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Llancayo	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
St. Mellons.												
Rogerstone	...	...	3	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	4	
Bassaleg	...	...	4	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	4	
Henllys	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Rumney	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
St. Mellons	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Total				422	100	93	229	173	1	24	148	595

It will be observed that the figures in the foregoing table do not agree with the figures given in the preceding tables. This is due to the fact that in the above table the duplicate notifications made by the District Medical Officers of Health have not been deleted.

The reports of the Tuberculosis Physicians of the Welsh National Memorial Association for the year ended March 31st, 1927, are as follows:—

West Monmouthshire Area. (Dr. J. L. Thomas)

INSTITUTE OR VISITING STATION.

Abertillery	...	Waverley Hotel	...	Every Wednesday at 11 a.m.
Blaina	...	Council Buildings	...	1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month, at 11 a.m.
Ebbw Vale	...	Central Surgery	...	Every Tuesday at 11 a.m.
Newbridge	...	30 Alexandra Place	...	Every Friday at 10.30 a.m.
New Tredegar	...	Workmen's Hall	...	1st and 3rd Monday in the month at 11 a.m.
Pengam	...	Post Office	...	Every Monday at 11.30 a.m.
Rhymney	...	Central Surgery	...	2nd Monday in the month at 12.30 p.m.
Risca	...	Public Hall	...	2nd and 4th Friday in the month at 10 a.m.
Tredegar	...	Central Surgery	...	Every Thursday at 12 noon.
Trethomas	...	Dr. Barnard's Surgery	...	4th Monday in the month at 12.30 p.m.

The statistics of the work done in the above area are as follows:—

Number of new cases examined in the year	...	...	1,248
Number diagnosed as tuberculous	...	...	295
Number diagnosed as pulmonary	...	...	197
Number diagnosed as non-pulmonary	...	...	98
Number of cases admitted to Hospital	...	...	285
Number of pulmonary cases admitted to Hospital	...	...	221

Men	...	...	...	...	...	95
Women	...	...	...	...	...	95
Boys	...	...	...	...	...	11
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	20

Number of non-pulmonary cases sent to Hospital	...	64
--	-----	----

Men	...	...	...	...	...	25
Women	...	...	...	...	...	10
Boys	...	...	...	...	...	15
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	14

Number of cases admitted to Sanatorium	...	63
--	-----	----

Men	...	...	...	...	...	35
Women	...	...	...	...	...	12
Children	...	...	...	...	...	16

Number of patients examined at the various visiting stations 7,116

Number of patients visited at their homes ... 126

" The percentage of definite cases of tuberculosis amongst the new cases examined was somewhat higher than last year, namely, 23·6, as compared with 19·6. This rather significant rise might have been accounted for by the disturbed economic condition of the population on account of the prolonged industrial disturbance in the coal industry, in which the vast majority of the workmen are employed. There was a similar rise after the last bad years of the war and also after the coal strike of 1921.

Certified Deaths.—The monthly lists of certified deaths supplied by the Registrar-General contains the names of 163 persons who died from various forms of tuberculosis. Of these, 101 have been seen by us but 62 have not, and of this number 35 were cases of persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis over 20 years of age. These last would have provided opportunities of infecting a number of households over whom we would have no control.

Once again one must call attention to this very unsatisfactory interpretation of the compulsory notification of the Tuberculosis Regulations.

If we believe that the disease has its origin in and propagation by infection it is imperative that our control of infection should be as complete as possible.

Given the opportunities and facilities for the removal and segregation of the cases of acute infection, our chief task then would be the safeguarding of the infected children. Once more we would suggest the Cutaneous Tuberculin testing of all children at the beginning of school attendance and again at frequent intervals in the case of these who give positive results.

Much can then be done to sustain and increase their powers of resistance to tuberculosis. Environment, which has many aspects, must be considered and made as favourable as possible. Good homes and sensible living in them and out of them are essential.

Tuberculosis is mainly an economic disease and thus our efforts to control it have been curtailed by the disruptions resulting from the Great War and the industrial crises of 1921 and 1926.

The various welfare schemes, with their provision of recreation grounds, open-air baths, etc., are moves in the right direction. One would be glad, however, to know that ample play-grounds for children of all ages were provided in all the schemes. There is a danger that money may be wasted in facilities for witnessing rather than taking part in recreation.

Once more we would like to stress the compulsory provision and use of pit-head baths, not only for hygienic reasons but also to remove the excuse for the miner's home being dirty and neglected.

AGE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.
Pulmonary.

Age				Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5	...	..	...	1	1	2
5—10	...	...	...	8	7	15
10—15	...	...	...	10	8	18
15—20	...	...	...	15	23	38
20—25	...	...	...	12	22	34
25—30	...	...	...	10	16	26
30—35	...	...	...	4	9	13
35—40	...	...	...	11	7	18
40—45	...	...	...	6	6	12
45—50	...	...	...	7	5	12
50—55	...	...	...	3	—	3
55—60	...	...	...	2	1	3
60—65	...	...	...	1	—	1
Over 65	...	...	...	2	—	2
Totals				92	105	197

Non-pulmonary.

Age.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5	...	...	...	7	4	11
5—10	...	...	...	9	7	16
10—15	...	...	...	13	11	24
15—20	...	...	...	8	7	15
20—25	...	...	...	6	3	9
25—30	...	...	...	10	5	15
30—35	...	...	...	2	—	2
35—40	...	...	...	—	3	3
40—45	...	...	...	—	1	1
45—50	...	...	...	—	1	1
50—55	...	...	...	—	1	1
55—60	...	...	...	—	—	—
60—65	...	...	...	—	—	—
Over 65	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals				55	43	98

The figures of the age incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis show the usual sharp rise between the ages of 15 and 25, and in this year's figures the female incidence preponderates 61 to 37.

The strain of the physiological happenings of adolescence is carried on into the stress of early manhood and womanhood, and if resistance to the disease is weakened by unfavourable surroundings or an unfortunate economic status, liability becomes actuality.

In the non-pulmonary cases, joints, glands, and the peritoneum have been affected numerically in the order named. The spine and the hip joint claim an equal number of cases (13).

Our Hospital at Cefn Mably has provided accommodation for the pulmonary cases with little delay, but occasionally the waiting list grows and makes one wish for a larger number of available beds.

But with regard to the surgical treatment of the non-pulmonary cases, we have once more to lament the delay in getting beds for cases urgently needing removal to an institution, especially those from homes where there is no possibility of careful nursing.

Most of our cases sent to Sanatoria have had a previous stay at Cefn Mably in order to test their fitness and capability of undergoing the longer and more active form of treatment.

It is seldom that the so-called typical Sanatorium case appears at our visiting stations, and one would like to see them more frequently, instead of those with physical signs of disease so advanced as to render imperative a preliminary stay in Hospital.

The examination of contacts, if it were possible to do it more frequently and more thoroughly in this area, would doubtless provide us with more of the early cases suitable for Sanatorium treatment.

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.—The monthly visits of Dr. Brownlee to Newport have provided us with good opportunities of consultation in doubtful cases and as to the need and provision of early admission to Hospital where necessary.

Sister Gray, the Orthopaedic Sister by her visits to the houses of patients, has again rendered very efficient and necessary service.

The usually smooth working of the area was much put out of gear by the illness and tragic death of Dr. Hyde. By his passing the Memorial Association lost the services of a very valuable officer and the area an enthusiastic and painstaking colleague, and he has been much missed by doctors and their patients in the valleys.

Towards the end of February of this year his place was taken by Dr. Frank Wells, who, in addition to work in another area, has had valuable experience of several years as Medical Superintendent of our Craig-y-nos Hospital.

As in past years, Sister Elizabeth Williams has most efficiently and conscientiously carried out her duties; and, as required, we have had the services of the

County Health Visitors at various visiting stations when the help of the Tuberculosis Sister was not available.

The office work has again been very efficiently done by our Clerk, Miss Clarice Richards.

As usual, the close and pleasant relationship with the Staff of the County Health Authority has been maintained, and this collaboration has been most valuable.

In conclusion, we should like again to thank all the members of the Head Office Staff for their always kind advice and courteous assistance in the working of the area."

East Monmouthshire Area. (Dr. A. Carveth Johnson.)

For patients resident in East Monmouthshire.

Pontypool	...	...	Park Buildings	...	Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. 2.0 p.m.
Abergavenny	...	...	Y.M.C.A. Buildings	...	Thursdays 10.30 a.m.
Chepstow	...	...	Tycastroggy, Moor	...	Thursdays 2.30 p.m.
			Street	...	Fridays 2.30 p.m.
Monmouth	...	...	St. John's Parish Room	...	1st and 3rd Friday in the month at 12 noon
Newport	...	...	4 Palmyra Place	...	Saturdays: 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at Newport Institute on the 2nd Friday in each month, for patients resident in Newport and East Monmouthshire.

New cases examined	...	...	...	...	1,231
Found to be suffering from tuberculosis:—					
Pulmonary	...	...	...	222	18%
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	96	7.8%
			Totals	318	25.8%
Admitted to Hospital:—Pulmonary cases	...	...	...	175	
Non-pulmonary cases	...	...	...	40	
			Total	215	
Admitted to Sanatorium	...	...	...	43	
Attendances at Institute and Visiting Stations	...	...	...	4,617	
Visits to homes of patients	...	...	...	435	

The total number of new cases examined has again slightly increased, and there was a very slight increase in the number of pulmonary cases diagnosed.

The general attendance has been good at the Newport Institute, both of Newport and County cases, but the attendance at visiting stations has not been so good recently. There are facilities for dealing with much larger numbers.

CONTACTS.—The examination of contacts has proceeded slowly but it is still very difficult to secure their attendance. It is, however, pleasing to note that several new patients have, of their accord, asked that their families should be examined.

THE SURGICAL CARE SCHEME is working very well. Dr. Brownlee attends the Newport Institute once a month and holds a Surgical Clinic, which is always very well attended. One of the Orthopaedic Nurses working from Glan Ely Hospital also attends, and also visits cases in the area at frequent intervals.

The results, in very many cases, have been extremely good, and it is satisfactory to think that in this part of the work definite cures are often obtained and the patients restored to full working capacity.

The requirements of the Ministry of Health, Memo. 37 T, have added enormously to the clerical work. All the old patients' index cards—some 12,000—have had to be gone through, and much of the work has had to be done by the Tuberculosis Officer or Assistant instead of their being employed in clinical work.

Cases Examined.

	Under observation 1st April 1926.	New cases.	Diagnosed T.B.		No active disease.	Under observation 1st April 1927.	Institutional Treatment.		
			Pulm.	Non-Pulm.			Admitt'd San.	Admitted Hosp.	
								Surg.	Pulm.
Men ...	17	155	49	8	93	21	6	7	34
Women ...	17	161	49	9	106	13	4	2	39
Boys ...	11	104	7	13	87	7	3	13	7
Girls ...	10	133	6	16	110	10			
Total ...	55	553	111	46	396	51	13	22	80

A few more cases were examined than last year, but there were 21 more cases found to have pulmonary tuberculosis. This, of course, does not mean that there was an increase of the disease but only that a high proportion of the cases known to exist were referred. The other figures are much the same as for last year.

CONTACT TABLE.

	Number Examined.	Diagnosed as T.B.	
		Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Men	11	1	2
Women	37	1	1
Boys	18	0	0
Girls	26	1	1
Total	92	3	4

DEATHS.—There were 103 deaths from tuberculosis during the year in East Monmouthshire, 1 less than the previous year. 66 had been referred to the Tuberculosis Officer. Of those not seen, 13 died in Asylums, Poor Law or other institutions. In 7 cases there was a good reason for not referring them to the Tuberculosis Officer, but there remain 17 who might have been referred but were not, and thus were deprived of the opportunity of receiving treatment in the Association's Institutions.

TABLE OF AGE INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY CASES

Age Groups.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Age Groups.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5	—	1	1	40—45 ...	6	—	6
5—10 ...	5	4	9	45—50 ...	4	3	7
10—15 ...	3	3	6	50—55 ...	2	1	3
15—20 ...	8	12	20	55—60 ...	1	1	2
20—25 ...	10	15	25	60—65 ...	—	—	—
25—30 ...	6	12	18	Over 65 ...	—	—	—
30—35 ...	4	4	8				
35—40 ...	9	3	12	Total ...	58	59	117

Notification of tuberculosis is being better done but there is often considerable delay.

Active co-operation is maintained with the County Medical Officer and both the School and Public Health Departments, also with District Medical Officers and the General Practitioners. To all these my thanks are cordially given.

To conclude, I must express my appreciation of the excellent work done by Dr. Matthews, Assistant Medical Officer, Sister Davies, and Miss Steer, the Clerk at the Institute.

The following Tables give Details of the Work undertaken by the Welsh National Memorial Association in the Administrative County during the Year ended 31st December, 1926.

Table 1.—DIAGNOSIS.

Table showing the number of Persons Examined for Diagnostic Purposes.

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	Under observation pending diagnosis on the list of Jan., 1926	Number of new cases, including contacts, examined during the Year ended 31st Dec., 1926	TOTAL.	Number found to be suffering from Tuberculosis.		Number with no evidence of active Tuberculosis.	Number still under observation pending diagnosis last day of Year ended 31st Dec., 1926.
				Pulmonary.	Other than Pulmonary.		
Boys ...	175	400	575	26	42	398	88
Men ...	122	495	617	122	34	378	59
Girls ...	167	392	559	22	38	407	71
Women ...	135	514	649	138	30	361	84
Total ...	599	1801	2400	308	144	1544	302

Table II.—ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Table showing the number of Children attending Public Elementary Schools, who were referred by the School Medical Officers for examination by the Tuberculosis Physicians, with the result of the Examination.

	Number under observation pending diagnosis 1st Jan., 1926	Number of children referred for examination during the Year ended 31st Dec., 1926	TOTAL.	Number found to be suffering from Tuberculosis.		Number with no evidence of active Tuberculosis.	Number still under observation pending diagnosis last day of Year ended 31st Dec., 1926
				Pulmonary.	Other than Pulmonary.		
Boys ...	25	60	85	...	7	62	16
Girls ...	36	53	89	1	3	76	9
TOTAL	61	113	174	1	10	138	25

Table IIa.

Analysis of the cases shown above as suffering from Tuberculosis.

		Total Number	Age Groups {	Under 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	Over 13
Pulmonary ...	Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Girls	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Pulmonary ...	Boys	7	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Girls	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
TOTAL	...	11	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	2	...	2	...

Table showing results of Sanatorium Treatment

of Pulmonary Cases.Table IV.—HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

Table showing results of Hospital Treatment

of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Cases.

Number Stationary		Number Worse		Number left off treatment against advice		Number discharged for disobedience		Admitted for observation and treatment on non-tuberculous		Number of Deaths				Number still under treatment last day of Year ended 31st Dec. 1926	
										Certified as primarily due to tuberculosis		Certified as primarily due to causes other than tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	4	18
8	2	...	...	16	4	...	...	21	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	5	...	...	22	...	...	...	2	3	...	1	...	...	32	23
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	1	...	...	34	7
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	11	...	...	7	...	...	...	40	6	...	1	1	1	77	59

Table showing Results of Institute Treatment of

Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Cases.

Table VI.—HOME TREATMENT.

Table showing the results of treatment of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases, treated at

home by the medical practitioner in consultation with Tuberculosis Physician.

Number Stationary		Number Worse		Number left of treatment against advice		Lost sight of or left area.		Number of Deaths.				Number still under treatment last day of Year ended 31st Dec., 1926	
								Certified as primarily due to Tuberculosis		Certified as primarily due to causes other than Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
6	18	...	...	...	3	10	3	23	8	1	...	7	5
24	32	17	5	2	2	15	5	8	7	5	...	20	4
5	13	9	10	...	5	21	3	26	11	...	...	5	4
48	85	26	16	3	19	33	25	60	26	6	...	136	26

Patients treated (Sanatorium and Hospital) during the Year ended 31st
December, 1926, at:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Glan Ely ...	39	35	74	North Wales			
Talgarth ...	90	—	90	Sanatorium ...	22	30	52
West Wales				Kensington			
Sanatorium ...	2	6	8	Hospital ...	11	13	24
Adelina Patti				Cefn Mably ...	186	205	391
Hospital ...	—	2	2				
Cwmla Hospital	1	—	1	Totals ...	351	291	642

Places of residence of above patients.

	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
URBAN.				Rhymney ...	8	5	13
Abercarn ...	13	9	22	Risca ...	13	13	26
Abergavenny	12	10	22	Tredeggar ...	39	27	66
Abersychan	5	9	14	Usk ...	—	4	4
Abertillery	54	34	88				
Bedwas & Machen	11	10	21	Total Urban	335	276	611
Bedwellty ...	48	38	86				
Blaenavon ...	6	9	15				
Caerleon ...	2	1	3	RURAL.			
Chepstow ...	7	5	12	Abergavenny	5	2	7
Ebbw Vale	47	38	85	Chepstow ...	1	5	6
Llanfrechfa				Magor ...	1	—	1
Upper ...	4	5	9	Monmouth ...	1	1	2
Llantarnam	3	10	13	Pontypool ...	—	—	—
Monmouth ...	8	3	11	St. Mellons ...	8	7	15
Mynyddislwyn	20	12	32				
Nantyglo &				Total Rural	16	15	31
Blaina ...	15	21	36				
Panteg ...	3	5	8	Grand Total	351	291	642
Pontypool ...	17	8	25				

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following is a summary of the scheme of the County Council for the prevention and treatment of these diseases:—

The Treatment Centre for the Administrative County is at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. The days and hours of the sessions are:—

Males.—Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m.

Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Thursdays (old cases only) at 4 p.m.

Fridays at 6 p.m.

Females.—Mondays at 2 p.m.

Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Facilities for the irrigation of cases of gonorrhœa are also available.

Dr. P. C. P. Ingram is the Medical Officer in charge of the Centre for men, and Dr. Mary Gordon, Assistant Medical Officer under the County Council, attends the women's sessions, and this arrangement came into force on the 28th September, 1925.

The bacteriological examinations in connection with the Centre are conducted at the County Laboratory by the County Pathologist and Bacteriologist. Laboratory facilities for private practitioners are also provided, and outfits from the Laboratory are sent to them when required.

The medical profession in the County has been circularised with the details of the scheme, and a propaganda campaign is periodically conducted by advertisements in the local newspapers, posters on public hoardings, in public and railway station urinals, and every winter by separate public lectures for men and for women.

In necessitous cases the County Council provides rail fares for patients attending the Treatment Centre, which average about £150 a year.

There is every indication that the scheme is sufficient to meet the needs of the County.

The reports of the Medical Officers in charge of the Treatment Centres are as follows:—

A.—Dr. P. C. P. Ingram.

“ A small decline in the amount of work done at the Male clinics is noticed for the year 1926. 30 less in the number of new patients and 73 in the attendances. The decrease is largely due to a fall in the number of new cases of syphilis, those for gonorrhœa being only one less than last year and one can, taking with this fact the stage of the disease in the patients as they appear for the first time, consider that

the number of new infections in the County is diminishing. One cannot, however, disregard the industrial conditions which prevailed from May to November. In the year 1921 there was a similar state of affairs and a considerable drop in the figures was noted. Considering that for a part of the period there was a great reduction in transport facilities, the small reduction in the total number of attendances—73 in 4183—is very satisfactory.

A very gratifying increase is that in the figures discharged after completion of treatment. This is the number of patients who, after a course of treatment, have passed all the tests suggested by the Ministry of Health on the advice of the Medical Research Council, and they can be looked upon as being completely cured of their disease. These total 73, as compared with 46 in the previous year, and is the highest since the opening of the clinic.

The combined treatment by injections of Novarsenobillon or Stabilarisan and of Bicrool is being continued in all the cases of early syphilis with the satisfactory results as noted in last year's report. A decline in the number of doses given is due to an increasing number of patients coming in the later stages of the disease. In many of these it is not advisable to give these drugs in such quantity.

As regards the Pathological work done, the falling off in the number of examinations for the detection of spirochaetes is greater in proportion to the small decline in the other examinations which follows the lessened attendances. This is due to a less number of new infections in proportion to the total number of new cases, and during the year under review, the incidence of syphilis appears to be appreciably lessened. It is interesting to note that this reduction was not evident in 1921. The figures for examination for gonococci actually show a small increase, probably irregular attendances due to the conditions in the area mentioned before, necessitating a review of the patients condition before resuming treatment."

B.—Dr. Mary H. M. Gordon.

"The attendance at the clinic during the year under review has been well maintained, in spite of the fact that during the general strike and for a few weeks afterwards, very few patients were able to attend owing to the decreased travelling facilities.

There is a substantial increase in the total attendances of all the patients due chiefly to a more regular attendance on the part of persons suffering from gonorrhoea. This increase in the total attendance is commendable as it enables the patients to be cured more quickly and should show later as an increase in the number of persons discharged after completion of treatment.

The number of cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea attending for the first time shows an appreciable increase compared with last year—the new cases of syphilis

slightly outnumbering those of gonorrhoea. Many of the cases suspected to be suffering from gonorrhoea were referred to the clinic from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres of the County, showing the value of the ante-natal and post-natal work done at those centres.

The total number of persons who ceased to attend the clinic without completing treatment shows a slight decrease compared with last year, this largely owing to the untiring efforts of the Lady Inquiry Officer who follows up cases to their homes and impresses upon them the value of regular attendance at the clinic.

The number of persons treated with Salvarsan substitutes was slightly greater than last year. The drugs used were much the same as those of the previous year, Salvarsan compounds with Bismuth, or Mercury, being employed in the treatment of syphilis."

Comparison with the reports of other Counties proves that the proportion of attendances of women to men at the County Treatment Centre is greater in Monmouthshire than in most other counties.

This can be attributed to the work of the Inquiry Officer, Nurse E. M. Walters, who follows female patients (old and new) to their homes, and she invites them to undergo and persevere with treatment at the Centre. She also attends at the Treatment Centre on the days fixed for female patients, and this procedure has proved to be a great encouragement to the women to visit the Centre regularly. The work accomplished by her during the year was as follows:—

Number of visits paid in the Administrative County:

	1926	1925
To new cases which came to her knowledge and which had not undergone treatment	386	412
To old cases in which visits to the Treatment Centre had been discontinued before completion of treatment, also to old cases still under treatment ...	1872	1720
To members of Voluntary Agencies, District Nurses, etc.	291	332
To suspicious cases (under observation)	—	18
Total	2549	2482

Since her appointment in July, 1918, Nurse Walters has visited 3,132 new cases.

The medical practitioners of the County approve most cordially the scheme, and the majority of them send patients to the Centre for treatment. Advantage is also taken of the facilities for tests at the County Laboratory, and 487 specimens were examined for private practitioners during the year 1926.

Details of the work carried out at the Laboratory and Treatment Centre during the year 1926, are as follows:—

1.—COUNTY LABORATORY, COUNTY HALL.

RETURN OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

	1926.										GRAND TOTAL.	Previous Year (1925).	
	For detection of Spirochaetes.		For detection of Gonococci.		For Wassermann reaction (Syphilis).		Other Examinations.		TOTAL.				
	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males			
From County of Monmouth—													
Treatment Centre ...	27	2	516	588	430	407	30	5	1003	1002	2005	1898	
Practitioners ...	4	—	71	68	251	91	1	1	327	160	487	505	
From County Borough of Newport—													
Treatment Centre ...	85	7	440	106	449	200	19	4	993	317	1310	1337	
Practitioners ...	3	2	100	39	243	118	1	1	347	160	507	532	
From Other Districts— (All from Treatment Centre) ...													
Glamorganshire ...	4	—	2	2	12	5	—	—	18	7	25	18	
Breconshire ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	2	6	
Other Counties ...	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	3	1	4	2	
Totals ...	123	11	1130	830	1388	823	51	11	2692	1648	4340	4298	

No. of doses of substitutes for Salvarsan supplied to Medical Practitioners:—

		1926	1925
Novarsenobillon	.6 grm. =	243	302
"	.45 " =	39	39
"	.3 " =	69	62
Totals		<u>351</u>	<u>403</u>

The number of practitioners upon the register for the supply of salvarsan substitutes is seven.

2.—TREATMENT CENTRE.

(ROYAL GWENT HOSPITAL, NEWPORT).

Returns of Dr. P. C. P. INGRAM, Medical Officer of Centre, to the Medical Officer of Health, relating to persons residing in the Administrative County of Monmouth.

	1926.			1925.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1.—Number of persons deast with at or in connection with the Out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be:—						
Suffering from syphilis ...	43	56	99	79	39	118
" " soft chancre ...	5	—	5	8	1	9
" " gonorrhœa ...	129	54	183	130	34	164
Not suffering from venereal disease ...	74	83	157	64	86	150
Total ...	251	193	444	281	160	441
2.—Number of persons discharged from the Out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment for:—						
Syphilis ...	11	4	15	4	2	6
Soft chancre ...	3	1	4	6	—	6
Gonorrhœa ...	59	14	73	36	9	45
Not suffering from venereal disease ...	91	94	185	67	72	139
Total ...	164	113	277	113	83	196
3.—Number of persons who ceased to attend the Out-patient Clinic without completing treatment, and who were suffering from:—						
Syphilis ...	63	74	137	87	78	165
Soft chancre ...	—	—	—	4	—	4
Gonorrhœa ...	84	37	121	107	40	147
Not suffering from venereal disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	147	111	258	198	118	316
4.—Total attendances of all persons at the Out-patient Clinic who were:—						
Suffering from syphilis ...	1735	1826	3561	1958	2021	3979
" " soft chancre ...	33	—	33	51	2	53
" " gonorrhœa ...	2183	890	3073	2043	476	2518
Not found to be suffering from venereal disease ...	232	268	500	205	287	492
Total ...	4183	2984	7167	4256	2786	7042

	1926.			1925.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
5.—Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of treatment given to persons suffering from:—						
Syphilis	167	26	193	212	133	345
Gonorrhœa	296	409	705	198	291	489
Soft Chancre	6	—	6	21	—	21
Total	469	435	904	431	424	855
6.—Number of persons treated with Salvarsan substitutes	209	242	451	239	209	448
7.—Number of doses of Salvarsan substitutes given:—						
Name of Drugs—Novarsenobillon						
Silversalvarsan						
Stabilarsan						
Sulfarsenal						
dose .01		—			—	
dose .05		61			55	
dose .1		90			92	
dose .15		47			19	
dose .18		4			46	
dose .2		202			115	
dose .3		236			214	
dose .36		16			61	
dose .4		—			—	
dose .45		388			453	
dose .5		—			—	
dose .6		343			601	
dose .75		—			—	
Name of Drug—Bicreol						
dose 1cc		442			292	
dose 5cc		42			130	
Total		1871			2078	
8.—Examinations of Pathological material:—	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to an independent Laboratory—						
For detection of spirochaetes	27	2	29	53	4	57
For " " gonococci	516	588	1104	490	291	781
For Wassermann reaction	430	407	837	555	486	1041
Others	30	5	35	19	—	19
Total	1003	1002	2005	1117	781	1894

No action has been taken under the Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, in the County, as no evidence has been available of breach of its provisions.

Lectures upon the Prevention and Treatment of Venereal Diseases were delivered in various parts of the County during the winter by Dr. W. J. Roche, Newport, to men, and Dr. Laura G. Rees, Newport, to women.

Their reports are as follows:—

A.—Dr. W. J. Roche.

“ The lecture campaign commenced on November 19th, 1926, and concluded on 17th March, 1927. Lectures were given at the following places:— 19th November, 1926, Pengam; 25th November, Pontllanfraith; 26th November, Argoed; 2nd December, Cwmfelinfach; 9th December, Blackwood; 16th December, Blaenavon; 10th March, 1927, Cwmcarn; 17th March, Tredegar;

Other lectures have been arranged but were cancelled owing to the small pox epidemic. The average attendance at lectures was 125 people: the largest attendance was at Pengam, 170, and the smallest at Blackwood, 50. However, it was consoling to lecture to this number at Blackwood, as on the previous occasion the lecture was cancelled owing to bad attendance.

The appreciation and enthusiasm shown was more marked than in previous years, and on three occasions I was asked to convey the appreciation of the audience to Dr. Rocyn Jones for having instituted these lectures. At every lecture there was a great demand for the pamphlets which are supplied, and on two occasions the request was made that more should be forwarded for distribution. It was noticeable that this year there was a bigger percentage of young boys present which is probably due to the fact that I have exhorted the audience on previous occasions to send the boys who have recently left school.

Judging by the comments at lectures this year, I have concluded that the general public, particularly in places where lectures have been given before, are much more enlightened than they have been in the past.

The average attendances this year were much greater than on previous occasions, and there is no doubt about the fact that the general public are becoming more interested.”

B.—Dr. Laura G. Rees.

“ I beg to submit the following report upon the lectures on Venereal Diseases given by me during the winter session, 1926-27.

Lectures were given at Aberbargoed, Rhymney, New Tredegar, and Tre-Thomas in the Rhymney Valley; Abertillery, Blaina, Six Bells, and Llanhilleth

in the Western Valley; Tredegar in the Sirhowy Valley; and Blaenavon in the Eastern Valley.

The total attendances approximated 1,000 women and older girls, giving an average of about 100 per lecture. As in previous years, the weather was bad on several occasions. This, and the fear of small pox in some districts, accounted for smaller attendances at some of the lectures. More younger women attended than in previous years.

There was considerable enthusiasm at all the meetings; and, although the response to the invitation to ask questions publicly was somewhat meagre, advantage was often taken of the opportunity afforded after the meetings to make private enquiries; and in at least one case I was able definitely to advise attendance at the clinic.

At the Blaina meeting I was requested to submit for your consideration the following suggestion: 'That leaflets should be given at Labour Exchanges and similar places, to young people leaving home in search of employment.'

The lectures had been well advertised and in several cases there had been, in addition to the distribution of handbills, a house-to-house and personal canvas of the district. The devotion and energy of the local organisers in making these special efforts, which contributed so largely to the success of the meetings, are deserving of the highest praise and the thanks of your committee.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work is fully dealt with in the special report published on 9th June, 1927.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The scheme formulated by the County Council for the Welfare of the Blind remains in operation. Under its provisions a grant of £350 per annum is paid to the Newport and Monmouthshire Blind Aid Society towards the cost of maintaining Home Workers and Home Teachers in the County.

A register is kept of the blind persons in the Administrative County, and at the 31st March, 1927, there were 395 blind persons on the register. All of them have been visited by one of the Assistant Medical Officers for the purpose of obtaining a complete record and classification as required by the Ministry of Health.

The return shows that there were 227 males and 168 females who are blind within the meaning of the Act. In age periods they are as follows:—

0—5	5—16	16—21	21—30	30—40	40—50	50—60	60—70	70 & Upwards.
5	30	17	9	25	34	54	103	118

The following table shows the age periods in which blindness commenced:

0-1	1-5	5-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 & upwards	Unknown
66	12	15	20	20	38	45	61	74	37	7

Of the total of 395, and excluding those 16 years of age and under, 21 persons were employed; 12 trained, but unemployed; 13 under training; 27 had received no training but were trainable; and 287 were unemployable.

Cases of necessity amongst blind persons of the County are considered by the County Committee, and grants were made during the financial year 1926-27 to 84 persons, the total amount of the grant being £1280 10s. 0d.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

Facilities are offered to all Medical Practitioners in the Administrative County for bacteriological examinations, and the services of the Pathologist and Bacteriologist are available for any other assistance which may be required in the diagnosis of cases of disease. The following table shows the number of specimens examined during the year and also in the previous year. The majority of the sputum tests were conducted for the Welsh National Memorial Association, whilst venereal diseases specimens for the most part came through the treatment centre at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

Table showing nature of specimens submitted for examination and the results thereof:—

Nature of Specimen.	No. Examined.		No. Positive.		No. Negative.	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
Wasserman Test for Syphilis ...	2376	2211	1091	914	1285	1297
Smears and Urines for Gonococcus ...	1679	1933	309	323	1370	1610
Serum for Spirochaeta Pallidum ...	197	134	75	47	122	87
Sputa for Tuberculosis, etc.—						
For Tuberculosis Physicians ...	1895	1861	337	339	1558	1522
County Cases ...	479	426	66	71	433	355
Concentration Methods ...	52	24	—	—	—	—
Mixed Infections ...	81	40	—	—	—	—
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria ...	6463	3902	377	222	6086	3680
Widals ...	101	118	29	23	72	95
Hairs for Ringworm ...	95	156	46	98	49	58
Blood Films and Counts ...	77	117	—	—	—	—
Autopsies ...	2	2	—	—	—	—
Tissues for Section ...	182	188	—	—	—	—
Urines for Chemical Examination ...	350	453	—	—	—	—
Pus ...	133	101	—	—	—	—
Effusions ...	22	16	—	—	—	—
Vaccines ...	118	67	—	—	—	—
Waters ...	35	33	—	—	—	—
Milks ...	354	380	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fluids ...	54	45	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	440	364	—	—	—	—
Total ...	15205	12571	—	—	—	—

The County Pathologist reports that:—

“ The total number of specimens examined in the County Laboratory during the year 1926 shows a decrease of 2,643 as compared with the year 1925, and as the number of swabs for Diphtheria is 2,561 less than in the previous year, this practically accounts for the smaller number obtained.

Under the Venereal group there is a welcome diminution in the number of exudates from sores yielding a positive result for the Spirochaeta Pallidum, showing nearly 40% reduction in lesions of the skin and mucous membranes as compared with last year. A study of these cases shows the following features:—Of the 40 positive cases amongst males, 21 resided in the County Borough of Newport, 13 in the Administrative County of Monmouth, 4 were sailors coming under the heading of “ Port,” and 2 lived in an adjoining County. Of the 7 positive cases amongst females, 6 resided in the County Borough of Newport, while 1 belonged to the County. Leaving the 7 cases amongst females out of count—as it is always difficult to obtain a history of exposure to infection in such patients—it is found that

of the 40 cases occurring amongst males, 11 contracted their infection within the Borough of Newport, 3 were infected in the County of Monmouth, 9 gave a definite history of exposure to infection either abroad or in other parts of Great Britain, while 4 cases were instances of delayed secondary lesions in patients who had not undergone satisfactory treatment. In the remaining 13 cases, no history of exposure to infection could be elicited, but their places of residence were as follows:— 8 belonged to the Borough of Newport, 4 to the Administrative County, and one was a sailor coming under the heading of "Port."

The figures for Gonorrhoeal specimens indicate an increase in the number of attendances of that class of patient at the clinic, and, it is to be feared, an increased incidence of the disease (vide Dr. Mary Gordon's report).

Pulmonary Tuberculosis would appear to be on the increase, if the figures indicate a true state of affairs, seeing that fewer specimens altogether were examined in 1926 than in 1925, but a higher proportion of these yielded a positive result.

The incidence of Diphtheria during 1926 was less than in 1925 and 1924, the total notifications for 1924, 1925, and 1926 being respectively, 514, 470, and 355. The number of positive swabs was 222, or roughly 63% of the notifications, which is not an unsatisfactory figure as indicating the use made by the General Practitioners of Bacteriological methods as an aid to their diagnoses.

MILK.—The milk examinations were continued during 1926, the object of the investigations being not so much to determine the quality of the milk in regard to its chemical composition—a line of work which properly belongs to the County Analyst's department, and which is dealt with under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts—but to ascertain by bacteriological methods the degree of cleanliness and wholesomeness of the milk at the time of its being sold to the consumer.

The examinations undertaken in the case of each sample have been:—

1. The enumeration of the total number of bacteria.
2. The estimation of the B.Coli content.
3. The microscopical examination of the centrifugalized deposit for the detection of starch granules, gross particles of dirt, pus, blood, etc.
4. The microscopical examination of the cream and centrifugalized deposit for Tubercle bacilli.
5. Cultural examination for Diphtheria, Typhoid, Paratyphoid, and Dysentery bacilli.
6. Guinea pig inoculations for the detection of B. Tuberculosis.

7. In addition, the common antiseptics were always tested for qualitatively, as naturally the presence of any of these bodies would have had an influence on the bacterioscopic picture. These were never found.

Of the 380 samples of milk examined in the County Laboratory, 277 belong to this research, and from the results obtained they can be classified as follows:—

1. Those which conform to the standard laid down by the Ministry of Health for " Certified Milks "	18
2. Those which conform to the standard laid down for " Grade A " milks	68
3. Those which conform to the standard laid down for " Grade A " milk as regards the total number of bacteria, but contain B.Coli in 1/100cc though not in less (This group would constitute borderline cases).	8
4. Those which are unsatisfactory in that they possess a high bacterial content (this in several cases numbering many millions), but are satisfactory in respect of their B.Coli content	75
5. Those which are unsatisfactory because of a high B.Coli content, though not containing more than 200,000 bacteria per cc.	7
6. Those which are unsatisfactory on account of the high bacterial content as well as a high B.Coli. content	101

Therefore, of the 277 samples of mixed milk as retailed to the consumer, 86, or 31% were of a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity; 183, or 66% were frankly unsatisfactory, while 8, or 3% approximately, formed a borderline group.

These figures, compared with those of last year and the year before, show an even higher percentage of unsatisfactory milks. It is to be hoped that the competition engendered by the provision of " Certified " and " Grade A " milks by certain vendors, and the bringing into force of the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926 may do something towards bringing about an improvement in this state of affairs; but it is a matter for regret that the number of farmers producing certificated milks under the Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1923, is as yet so small in the County, viz. 6.

In no instance were the bacilli of Diphtheria, Typhoid, Paratyphoid or Dysentery isolated, whilst with respect to the Bacillus Tuberculosis, this was discovered on five occasions by means of the animal inoculation test. The farms implicated were visited by the County Sanitary Inspector, County Veterinary Inspector and officials of the Local Authority, and the animals in each instance

identified, removed from the herd, and dealt with satisfactorily. There were, in addition, 3 positive results amongst milks submitted by Veterinary Surgeons under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, and from other miscellaneous sources. The same method of procedure was adopted as mentioned above.

Of the 188 tissues for section, 59 are grouped as malignant growths; 17 were cancers of the breast; 12 were carcinomata in other regions of the body such as uterus, ovary, intestine, etc.; 15 were epitheliomata from regions such as lips, oesophagus, skin, tonsil, etc.; 10 were sarcomata (round-celled, spindle-celled, and polymorphic-celled); 1 a myeloid sarcoma and 1 melanoma. In this group are also included 1 rodent ulcer, 1 endothelioma, 1 malignant teratoma and 1 psammona. Two hydatid cysts fall under this heading as well.

This class of specimen does not call for any particular comment.

Under the heading of "Miscellaneous" are included specimens of:—

Blood-Urea Estimations

Fæces,

Secretions from eye,

Blood Cultures,

Blood for Sugar content,

Vomits and Gastric contents,

Fluid from Knee.

Hydrocele Fluid.

Cystic and other Fluids, etc.

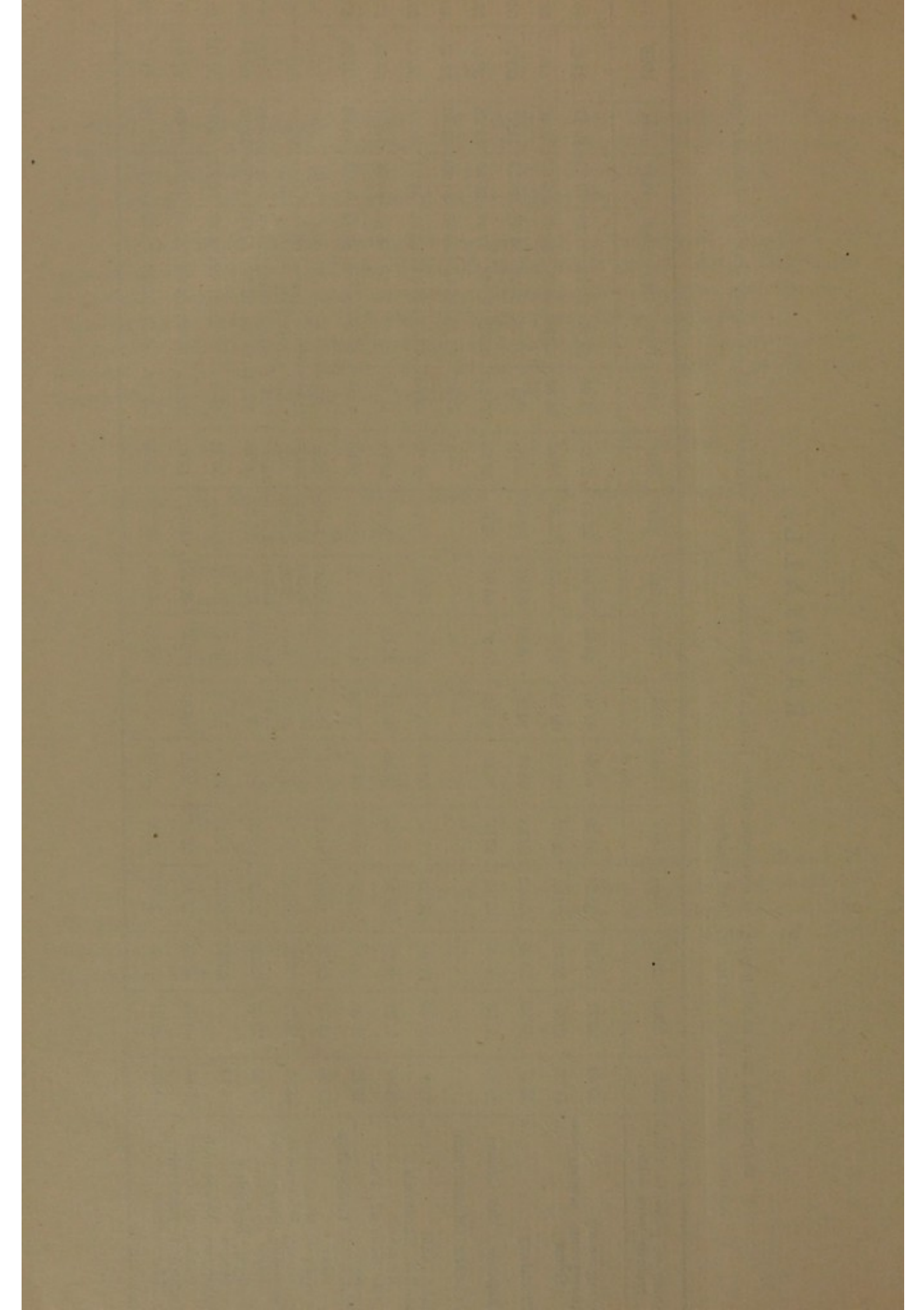
Diastatic tests.

This group also includes experiments carried out on animals under 39 and 40 Vic. Cap. 77, Certificates A3 and B1, licence for which has been granted to me by the Home Secretary. The experiments consisted mostly of inoculations for the detection of B. Tuberculosis, and were reported to the Home Office on 31st December, 1926.

RAINFALL.

Appended is a table giving the comparative rainfalls between various localities in the County during the year under review, and also for a series of past years.

Name of place at which records were taken.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Abergavenny	29.42	29.71	50.23	35.94	51.39	45.56	47.03	43.42	37.92	33.35	37.28	31.04	47.87	23.79	33.19	40.37	49.17	41.50	35.22
Abersychan, Glansychan House	44.90	49.98	66.41	49.92	69.00	63.82	69.95	57.6	63.85	52.38	56.93	51.84	69.10	38.98	56.47	63.37	70.40	—	53.93
Abertillery	53.21	60.89	79.65	66.92	84.64	66.71	72.26	56.73	63.24	52.91	58.79	49.1	71.24	40.99	52.47	55.75	71.19	60.79	54.67
Chepstow, The Cedars	28.82	35.29	36.46	31.82	49.98	34.80	40.92	35.81	46.07	32.81	36.9	37.54	42.12	23.55	37.85	35.85	49.28	38.00	35.31
Cwmearn (Maesderwen)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47.4	64.15	33.91	49.16	51.83	67.58	52.39	45.30
Ebbw Vale	52.20	61.68	76.21	63.26	73.94	66.74	71.65	59.54	63.10	50.02	61.69	48.84	75.21	43.11	54.51	53.17	68.36	56.49	52.71
Henllys, Pantyreos Reservoir	45.94	54.84	59.04	52.92	70.68	60.05	62.41	52.62	59.85	46.59	59.74	50.02	63.93	37.57	55.64	58.26	74.91	55.56	51.20
Little Mill, nr. Ponty-pool	36.42	38.35	55.81	42.20	57.66	44.25	46.29	42.88	54.79	39.23	40.06	44.9	46.26	25.94	27.42	50.21	50.24	50.25	36.0
Newbridge, Troedy-rhiw Fawr	40.53	45.39	64.06	45.65	64.42	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken
Pontypool, Maesderwen House, Pontymoile	41.53	49.77	64.97	48.25	71.75	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken	Not taken
Pontypool, Snatchwood Park	44.62	50.56	65.99	52.29	69.20	64.01	62.07	57.59	61.64	51.33	56.68	51.84	69.10	37.57	57.83	63.42	72.62	60.21	56.53
Tredegar, Redesdale House	50.14	—	69.64	60.12	74.47	61.09	61.51	51.4	—	41.95	50.44	40.8	51.70	27.49	45.82	60.73	65.67	57.02	52.45
Wentwood, Newchurch Gathering Ground	35.80	40.94	48.35	39.55	56.17	45.43	48.64	42.37	47.38	40.07	47.6	43.26	49.85	29.33	47.22	45.04	62.26	47.34	44.29
Wentwood Reservoir	31.57	37.31	41.59	34.73	48.96	39.17	42.32	37.55	44.50	37.22	43.67	41.14	46.13	25.71	42.52	41.88	57.16	41.47	39.32



VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.																							
DISTRICT	ESTIMATED POPULATION.	BIRTHS						DEATHS				INFANTILE MORTALITY.				Zymotic Death rate per 1000 of estimated population.	Tubercular Death rate per 1000 of estimated population including Phthisis and other Pulmonary Diseases.	Respiratory diseases Death rate per 1000 of estimated population.	Medical Officer of Health				
		LEGITIMATE		ILLEGITIMATE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL	Rate per 1000 of population.	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000 of population.	TOTAL DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR									
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female							Legitimate	Illegitimate					Total.	Rate per 1000 births.		
URBAN.																							
Abercarn	20800	233	233	8	5	241	238	479	23.0	92	87	179	8.6	25	1	26	54.3	24	72	216	E. M. Griffith, M.D., Abercarn		
Abergavenny	9281	75	66	5	4	80	70	150	16.2	50	41	91	9.8	5	1	6	40.0	22	108	97	H. L. S. Griffiths, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Abergavenny		
Abersychan	29360	268	260	9	6	277	266	543	18.5	122	123	245	8.3	34	2	36	66.3	20	68	136	R. J. S. Verity, L.S.A., L.M.S.S.A., Garndiffaith		
Abertillery	37250	394	329	16	10	410	339	749	20.1	181	136	317	8.5	44	3	47	62.7	48	75	140	T. Baillie Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Abertillery		
Bedwas and Machen	9818	111	112	1	—	112	112	224	22.8	48	35	83	8.5	15	—	15	67.0	41	92	153	B. O. Barnard, M.B., Machen		
Bedwellty	33770	414	429	15	18	429	447	876	25.9	173	142	315	9.3	72	2	74	84.5	41	83	184	D. Rees Roberts, M.B., New Tredegar		
Blaenavon	12930	114	90	1	4	115	103	218	16.9	70	68	138	10.7	13	—	13	59.6	15	63	247	J. Reynolds, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., Blaenavon		
Caerleon	2306	12	24	—	—	12	24	36	15.6	16	10	26	11.3	1	—	1	27.8	—	43	86	A. M. M. Roberts, M.B., Ch.B., B.S., Caerleon		
Chepstow	4892	38	52	2	1	40	53	93	19.0	22	27	49	10.0	1	—	1	10.7	—	143	123	T. L. Drapes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A., Chepstow		
Ebbw Vale	36630	380	397	17	12	397	409	806	22.0	151	171	322	8.8	55	2	57	70.7	27	57	150	F. M. Fonseca, F.R.C.S., D.P.H., Ebbw Vale		
Llanfrechfa Upper	4762	45	42	3	2	48	44	92	19.3	46	29	75	9.3	9	—	9	51.7	37	75	231	A. W. Hayles, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Upper Pontnewydd		
Llantarnam	8026	82	85	3	4	85	89	174	21.7	28	28	56	11.8	7	—	7	76.1	—	126	231	F. Carlton Jones, M.B., Ch.B., Cwmbran		
Monmouth	4938	38	45	3	1	41	46	87	17.6	40	31	71	14.4	6	—	6	69.0	61	81	203	W. H. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A., Monmouth		
Mynyddislwyn	16260	190	205	6	4	196	209	405	24.9	69	56	125	7.7	27	1	28	69.1	31	74	92	R. E. Roberts, M.B., B.Sc., L.S.A., Cwmfelinfach		
Nantyglo and Blaina	16220	151	146	8	8	159	154	313	19.3	76	77	153	9.4	16	1	17	84.9	09	17	145	J. O. Fitzsimons, L.R.C.P. & L.M., L.R.C.S. & L.M., T. J. McAllen, M.B., Ch.B., Pontypool [Blaina]		
Panteg	11740	107	102	—	3	107	105	212	18.1	72	51	123	10.5	18	—	18	54.3	25	105	136	Do.		
Pontypool	7739	81	80	2	3	83	83	166	21.4	44	34	78	10.1	11	—	11	66.3	26	116	142	R. V. de A. Redwood, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Rhymney		
Rhymney	12000	102	134	10	3	112	137	249	20.7	67	67	134	11.2	19	—	19	76.3	100	25	275	N. N. Wade, M.D., Ch.B., Risca		
Risca	17910	173	169	3	4	176	173	349	19.5	81	66	147	8.2	14	2	16	45.8	22	61	139	E. T. H. Davies, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., Tredegar		
Tredegar	25580	256	282	11	5	267	287	554	21.7	141	113	254	9.9	46	—	46	83.0	47	70	238	E. L. M. Hackett, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Usk		
Usk	1388	13	13	1	—	14	13	27	19.4	8	9	17	12.2	2	—	2	74.1	—	216	—	—		
RURAL.																							
Abergavenny	9403	50	66	3	1	53	67	120	12.8	53	33	86	9.1	2	1	3	25.0	—	85	64	E. Y. Steele, L.R.C.P., Abergavenny		
Chepstow	8943	83	68	9	3	92	71	163	18.2	64	48	112	11.4	10	2	12	73.6	34	112	157	T. L. Drapes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A., Chepstow		
Magor	6213	57	47	1	4	58	51	109	17.5	38	24	62	10.0	4	—	4	36.6	—	48	113	S. Hamilton, M.D., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H., Newport		
Monmouth	6687	44	46	3	4	47	50	97	14.5	43	42	85	12.7	10	2	12	123.7	—	90	135	W. H. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A., Monmouth		
Pontypool	5374	39	41	3	4	42	45	87	16.2	37	24	61	11.4	3	—	3	34.5	—	19	19	E. L. M. Hackett, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Usk		
St. Mellons	12190	99	96	1	1	100	97	197	16.1	54	51	105	8.6	9	3	12	60.9	25	32	74	N. N. Wade, M.D., Ch.B., Risca		
Grand Totals, 1926	372410	3649	3668	144	114	3793	3782	7575	20.3	1876	1623	3499	9.4	478	23	501	66.1	30	74	158			
Totals for Year 1925	375409	4009	3864	184	112	4124	3976	8100	21.5	2189	1791	3980	10.0	649	30	679	55.8	73	81	191			

