

**Report upon maternity and child welfare for the year 1926 /
Monmouthshire County Council.**

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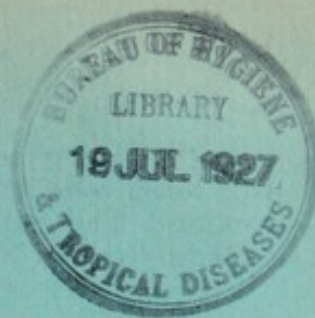
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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915,
and Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.**

REPORT

UPON

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

For the Year 1926.

D. ROCYN JONES,
County Medical Officer.

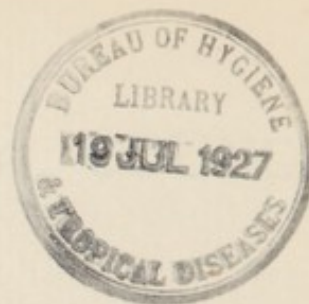
June 9th, 1927.

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.


*With the Compliments of the
County Medical Officer of Health.*

COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT,

9th June, 1927.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Twelfth Annual Report upon the work done in connection with the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

A.—SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED.

During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1926, there were notified to this Department, 7,743 births, as follows:—

	Living	Stillbirths.	Total
No officially notified by persons in attendance	7,236	360	7,596
No. not directly notified to the County Medical Officer, but information received from other sources, viz.,			
District Registrars 	123	—	123
Health Visitors 	24	—	24
	7,383	360	7,743

Of these 7,596 notifications, midwives were responsible for 7,538, registered medical practitioners for 52, and parents for 6, notifications respectively.

The number of registered births during the year was 7,575, of which 95.5 per cent. were notified in compliance with the Notification of Births' Acts. Of the remainder, 147 births were subsequently discovered, 123 through the District Registrars and 24 through the Health Visitors, leaving 2 per cent of the registered births unaccounted for. It is probable that about 1 per cent of these missing births took place in Nursing Homes and Institutions in the Borough of Newport and that the mothers afterwards returned to their homes in the administrative County, where the births were registered.

B.—WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

The co-ordination of the School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare work of the Health Visitors, which took place in January, 1920, continues to work satisfactorily.

There are thirty Health Visitors upon the staff. Twenty-six of them undertake the joint work, while the two Health Visitors at Abertillery and the two at Ebbw Vale are fully employed upon Maternity and Child Welfare work only. In addition the Mental Deficiency Enquiry Officer, and the Lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee devote a part of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

All infants are visited soon after the tenth day, and during the first year of life at intervals of three months, excepting those who at the first visit are found to be in homes where they are well cared for. The visit at nine months is important because of the advice with regard to the weaning of breast-fed babies. The visit when the child attains the age of twelve months is also important so that the general condition and development of the infant may be noted. In cases where there is reason to believe home conditions are not entirely satisfactory, or when the child has some defect, visits are paid more frequently.

After the first year, visits are paid twice yearly in the majority of cases until the child attains the age of five, unless special conditions call for more frequent home visiting.

The number of visits paid by Health Visitors to the homes again shows a decrease as compared with the previous year. Of recent years, increased attention has had to be given to other sections of the work, principally School Medical Inspection and attendance at Tuberculosis Visiting Stations. The seven months' stoppage in the coalfield during the year 1926 necessitated extra work at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, owing to the increased attendances of mothers seeking milk and other foods for their infants.

As a result the Health Visitors had less time to devote to home visitation. All new babies were visited and the revisits during the first year of life were well maintained. The decrease in the number of first visits shown in the table below is due, of course, to the continually declining birth rate.

It must be emphasised that the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors is no criterion of the value of their work, as the more thorough the duty is accomplished, the fewer will be the number of the daily visits.

Health Visitors now-a-days are more welcome in the homes than they were some few years ago. They have gained the confidence and friendship of the mothers and are now accepted as part of the life of the community, and furthermore they have acquired the art of obtaining information by means of general conversation and this has an important bearing upon the absence of friction in their work.

1. VISITS PAID.—During the year 58,000 visits were paid to the homes as follows:—

New Cases		Revisits under	Revisits	Total Visits.
Babies seen	Fruitless Visits	1 year of age	1 to 5 years.	
7,467	416	22,366	27,751	58,000

The figures for the previous years are given for the purpose of comparison:—

1925—First Visits, 7,872; Fruitless Visits, 590; Re-Visits under one year, 22,541; Re-Visits 1-5 years, 30,641. Total, 61,644

1924—First Visits, 8,577; Re-Visits under 1 year, 24,319; Re-Visits 1 to 5 years, 31,261. Total, 64,157

1923—First Visits, 9,896; Re-Visits under 1 year, 24,529; Re-Visits 1 to 5 years, 33,038. Total, 67,463.

1922—First Visits, 9,100; Re-Visits under 1 year, 25,350; Re-Visits, 1 to 5 years, 25,804. Total, 60,254

1921—First Visits, 10,591; Re-Visits under 1 year, 33,024; Re-Visits, 1 to 5 years, 21,843. Total, 65,458.

1920—First Visits, 11,255; Re-Visits, 45,478. Total, 56,733.

1917— do. 8,322; do. 29,109. do. 37,431.

1918— do. 8,106; do. 29,537. do. 37,643.

1919— do. 9,735; do. 39,055. do. 48,790.

11. METHODS OF FEEDING.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 6,447 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (86.2 per cent), whilst 734 were being bottle fed (9.8 per cent.), and 226 were both breast and bottle-fed (3.03 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 543 instances (7.3 per cent.) children breast-fed had been put on the bottle after the first visit of the Health Visitor and before the usual time of weaning. The above percentages are of the total new cases visited. In 60 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours.

The figures for previous years in respect of all cases visited are:—

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Breast-fed ...	86.2	82.3	81.8	79.6	78.7	79.3	78.6
Bottle-fed ...	9.6	10.1	10.0	11.5	11.8	11.4	11.7
Both breast and bottle fed	3.1	2.5	2.6	3.25	3.7	4.2	3.9
Changed from breast to bottle feeding within first nine months ...	10.2	9.1	7.6	12.0	13.0	15.8	12.4

Last year's high percentage of breast-fed babies has been equalled this year, which is a matter for gratification, particularly having regard to the poverty conditions resulting from the industrial crisis and the need of artificial feeding.

The mother's milk is the baby's rightful possession. It is the ideal food for the infant, containing all that is necessary for its healthy nourishment. Many of the troubles connected with breast-feeding occur soon after birth, and when these troubles are confided to the Health Visitor or to the Doctor at the Child Welfare Centre they are generally overcome. Some mothers when they experience difficulty in breast feeding, are inclined to discontinue it, but a little encouragement and sane advice from a person of experience will go a long way to ensure that the baby is provided with its natural food.

III. INTERVIEWS WITH DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.—In accordance with the arrangements made at the initiation of the scheme, visits were paid by the Nurses to the Local Medical Officers for consultation purposes, and reports were made to the District Medical Officers of Health upon sanitary defects at the home.

No improvements can be reported in the housing conditions of the County as a whole. Overcrowding is still rife, and the supply of new houses is not sufficient to meet the demands. Houses which have been condemned as unfit for habitation have to remain in occupation for want of better alternative accommodation.

IV. ANTE-NATAL.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 374 to new cases and 246 re-visits, total 638, a decrease of 382 upon the previous year's figure.

V. PUERPERAL FEVER.—During the year 1926, notifications were received from the District Medical Officers of 19 cases, whilst in the return of deaths furnished by the Registrar General the number due to Puerperal sepsis was 7. The attack rate per 1,000 births in 1926 was 2.5. The attack rate per 1,000 of the population equalled .05, and the death rate per 1,000 of the population .019. The death rate per 1,000 births was .92.

Notifications were received from the following districts:—Abercarn 1, Abertillery 6, Bedwas and Machen 1, Bedwellty 3, Ebbw Vale 2, Llanfrechfa Upper 1, Rhymney 1, Risca 3, and St. Mellons 1.

The following comparative table is submitted:—

Year	No. of Notifications to Local M.O.H.	No. of Notifications received at Central Office.	No. of Deaths Registered	Death rate per 1,000 of popula- tion for County
1926	19	19	7	.019
1925	22	22	8	.021
1924	15	15	10	.027
1923	19	21	9	.02
1922	11	11	14	.03
1921	17	18	13	.03
1920	24	30	20	.05
1919	19	13	11	.029
1918	6	6	3	Nil.
1917	4	4	0	.009
1916	13	14	8	.025
1915	22	22	6	.018
1914	26	15	12	.035
1913	13	14	6	.018
1912	26	23	4	.012
1911	19	16	13	.028
1910	26	16	13	.043

The 19 cases of Puerperal Fever were investigated by the County Midwives' Inspector, who found that all the cases were attended by registered midwives.

Details of the cases are as follows:—Number of women attended at confinement by midwife alone, 13; by medical practitioner and midwife, 4. In three of the cases attended by the midwife, the medical attendant was called in on the day of delivery, whilst in two cases a doctor was called in on the third, in two on the fourth, in two on the fifth, in three on the sixth, and in one on the eighth day.

Everything possible is being done to prevent the spread of infection. A visit of inspection is paid immediately upon receipt of the notification, and the midwife is prohibited from attending other cases until she has left the infected case and has allowed 24 hours to elapse for thorough disinfection of herself, her instruments and clothing.

VI. MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of deaths during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 29; 7 from puerperal fever and 22 from other causes associated with child-birth. This is equal to a rate of 3.8 per 1,000 registered births, and is slightly higher than last year's rate of 3.2.

VII. INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—26 cases of this disease were discovered during the investigations, and 81 re-visits paid, as against 48 and 127 re-visits for the year 1925.

Forty-five deaths were registered from this disease in children under two years of age giving a death rate per 1,000 births of 5.94, as compared with 6.79 for the year 1925.

During the years preceding the introduction of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, the death rate averaged 11 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the past eleven years, which included one very hot summer, when the rate was 17.2, has been 7 per 1,000 births. The lessons taught by the Health Visitors and at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have undoubtedly been fruitful in lessening the terrors of this disease. Mothers have now a better knowledge of the correct methods of infant feeding and they are better instructed in the treatment of infantile disease. Printed instructions to mothers in regard to these diseases are distributed by the Health Visitors when cases come to their notice.

VIII. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Thirty-six cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 26 cases in the year 1925, and 40 in 1926. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the midwives, making a total of 105 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 327 visits to them. The number of cases in which there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the midwife was 8, and in each case a warning letter was sent by the County Medical Officer.

The Health Visitors have reported upon 89 cases as follows:—

NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.

			Acute	Slight	Total
Brought forward from last year	...	...	5	4	9
New Cases	Both eyes	...	14	50	64
	One eye only	...	6	26	32
			—	—	—
			25	80	105
			==	==	==
No. of cases which attended hospital—					
As out-patients	...	...	5	—	5
As in-patients	...	...	2	—	2
No. of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife					
	...	...	3	5	8

RESULTS.

Completely cured	...	...	19	76	95
Blindness	...	...	1	—	1
Referred for examination in a year's time	...	...	1	—	1
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year	...	...	4	3	7
Left district	...	...	—	1	1
			—	—	—
			25	80	105
			==	==	==

Since the beginning of January, 1921, the midwives practising within the Administrative County have been supplied with bottles of Collosol Argentum, with which they are instructed to treat the eyes of all children at birth. The supply is renewed upon application at the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The new Ophthalmia Neonatorum Regulations issued by the Ministry of Health came into operation on October 1st, 1926. The onus of notification of cases is now transferred from the midwife to the medical practitioner, but the midwife is still required to send for medical help in all cases of inflammation of, or discharge from the baby's eyes and to report the fact to the Local Supervising Authority. Certain duties as regards treatment are placed upon the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, which for Monmouthshire is the County Council.

There was one case of total blindness during the year. We are pleased to record that of recent years there has been a decrease in the number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and it is suggested that this is mainly due to the application of "drops" to the child's eyes at birth, a practice which is now universal. There is no doubt that the damage to eyesight is becoming less. A considerable proportion of the cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are due to Gonorrhoea, and the free treatment for this disease which can now be obtained at the Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres has played a big part in the reduction of impairment of vision. Unless gonorrhoea can be properly controlled there appears to be little likelihood of the total eradication of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

C.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

DISTRICT	Estimated Population	BIRTHS							DEATHS			Rate per 1,000 of population	INFANTILE MORTALITY														
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 of population	Male	Female		Total	Total Deaths under One Year			Ages at Death of Children under One Year of age										
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female					Legitimate		Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1000 births	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—																											
ABERGARN	20,800	233	233	8	5	241	238	479	23.03	92	87	179	8.6	25	1	26	54.3	11	1	4	—	16	6	1	3	1	27
ABERGAVENNY	9,281	75	66	5	4	80	70	150	16.2	50	41	91	9.8	5	—	6	40.0	1	—	2	—	3	—	2	1	—	6
ABERSYCHAN	29,300	268	260	9	6	277	266	543	18.5	122	123	245	8.3	34	2	36	66.3	17	1	1	—	19	3	3	6	5	36
ABERTILLERY	37,250	394	329	16	10	410	339	749	20.1	181	136	317	8.5	44	3	47	62.7	17	2	2	2	23	4	8	3	2	40
BEDWAS AND MACHEN	9,818	111	112	1	—	112	112	224	22.8	48	35	83	8.5	15	—	15	67.0	4	2	—	—	6	4	3	2	1	16
BEDWELLY	33,770	414	429	15	18	429	447	876	25.9	173	142	315	9.3	72	2	74	84.5	21	4	4	3	32	12	13	10	9	76
BLAENAVON	12,930	114	99	1	4	115	103	218	16.9	70	68	138	10.7	13	—	13	59.6	5	3	—	—	8	1	3	—	1	13
CAERLEON	2,306	12	24	—	—	12	24	36	15.6	16	10	26	11.3	1	—	1	27.8	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
CHEPSTOW	4,892	38	52	2	1	40	53	93	19.0	22	27	49	10.0	1	—	1	10.7	1	1	1	3	5	30	4	10	10	58
EBBW VALE	36,630	380	397	17	12	397	409	806	22.0	151	171	322	8.8	55	2	57	70.7	21	1	3	5	30	4	10	10	4	58
LLANFACHFA UPPER...	4,762	45	42	3	2	48	44	92	19.3	28	24	52	11.8	7	—	7	76.1	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	2	6	6
LLANTARNAM	8,026	82	85	3	4	85	89	174	21.7	46	29	75	9.3	9	—	9	51.7	1	3	1	1	6	—	3	—	1	9
MONMOUTH	4,938	38	45	3	1	41	46	87	17.6	40	31	71	14.4	6	—	6	69.0	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	6
MYNYDDISLWYN	16,260	190	205	6	4	196	209	405	24.9	69	66	135	7.7	27	1	28	69.1	9	2	4	1	16	3	2	4	3	28
NANTYGLO & BLAINA	16,220	151	146	8	8	159	154	313	19.3	76	77	153	9.4	16	1	17	54.3	4	—	2	—	6	4	3	2	2	17
PANTYGLO	11,740	107	102	—	3	107	105	212	18.1	72	51	123	10.5	18	—	18	84.9	7	1	—	—	9	5	1	2	1	18
PONTYPOOL	7,739	81	80	2	3	83	83	166	21.4	44	34	78	10.1	11	—	11	66.3	3	—	—	—	3	5	1	2	1	11
RHYMNEY	12,000	102	134	10	3	112	137	249	20.7	67	67	134	11.2	19	—	19	76.3	3	1	—	—	4	6	6	3	1	20
RUSCA	17,910	173	169	3	4	176	173	349	19.5	81	66	147	8.2	14	2	16	45.8	1	—	—	—	1	5	1	3	4	14
TREDEGAR	25,980	256	282	11	5	267	287	554	21.7	141	113	254	9.9	46	—	46	83.0	11	4	1	1	17	7	8	10	5	47
USK	1,388	13	13	1	—	14	13	27	19.4	8	9	17	12.2	2	—	2	74.1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
RURAL—																											
ABERGAVENNY	9,403	50	66	3	1	53	67	120	12.8	53	33	86	9.1	2	1	3	25.0	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
CHEPSTOW	8,943	83	68	9	3	92	71	163	18.2	54	48	102	11.4	10	2	12	73.6	3	1	2	1	7	—	3	1	—	11
MAGOR	6,213	57	47	1	4	58	51	109	17.5	38	24	62	10.0	4	—	4	36.6	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	4
MONMOUTH	6,987	44	46	3	4	47	50	97	14.5	43	42	85	12.7	10	2	12	123.7	4	1	2	—	7	2	2	1	2	14
PONTYPOOL	5,374	39	41	3	4	42	45	87	16.2	37	24	61	11.4	3	3	12	60.9	1	1	1	—	3	1	2	—	1	7
ST. MELLONS	12,190	99	96	1	1	100	97	197	16.1	54	51	105	8.6	9	—	9	—	7	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	9
Grand Totals, 1926	372,410	3649	3668	144	114	3793	3782	7575	20.3	1876	1623	3499	9.4	478	23	501	66.1	162	32	30	15	239	72	76	68	46	501
Totals for year 1925	375,400	4000	3864	124	112	4124	3976	8100	21.5	2189	1791	3980	10.0	649	30	679	83.8	184	56	24	24	288	83	99	102	87	689

N.B.—The figures in the columns marked with an asterisk were supplied by the Registrar-General, and the remainder by the District Medical Officers.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS									
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1900									
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IX. STILL-BIRTHS.—367 cases were notified to your Medical Officer, and this number, in addition to the 60 infants who were found by the Health Visitors to have survived birth by a few hours, makes a total of 427 young lives lost.

The still-births work out at 4.8 per 100 live births, and is higher than last year's rate, which was 4.2.

X. UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—The number of confinements attended by unregistered women without a doctor was 6, as compared with 14 in 1925, and 5 in 1924.

C.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Administrative County in acres is 345,048. Other related statistics are given in the accompanying table.

The District Medical Officer's figures of the ages at death of children under one year of age, show that during the year 162 infants died within one week of birth, and 239 died within the first month of birth, whilst 501 died within the first 12 months, which together with the figure of 367 still-births, make a total of 868 lives lost to the community.

The Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 births is 66.1. Last year it was 83.8; in 1924, 75.6; in 1923, 73.0; in 1922, 83.4; in 1921, 91.5 and in 1920, 87.9.

There were 525 births less for the period under review when compared with the number for 1925, and the birth-rate is 20.3 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 21.5 in 1924. In the year 1923, it was 23.5; in 1922, 23.8; in 1921, 28.3; in 1920, 29.2; and in 1919, 22.9.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 258, which gives a ratio to that of legitimate births as 35.4 to 964.8. Last year the number was 236, equal to 31.3 per 1,000 legitimate births, and for the year 1924 the figure was 29.2.

The total number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year was 23, or 3.0 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 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

The rate, which had risen in the year 1925, has now dropped to the low figure which had prevailed in the years immediately preceding that year.

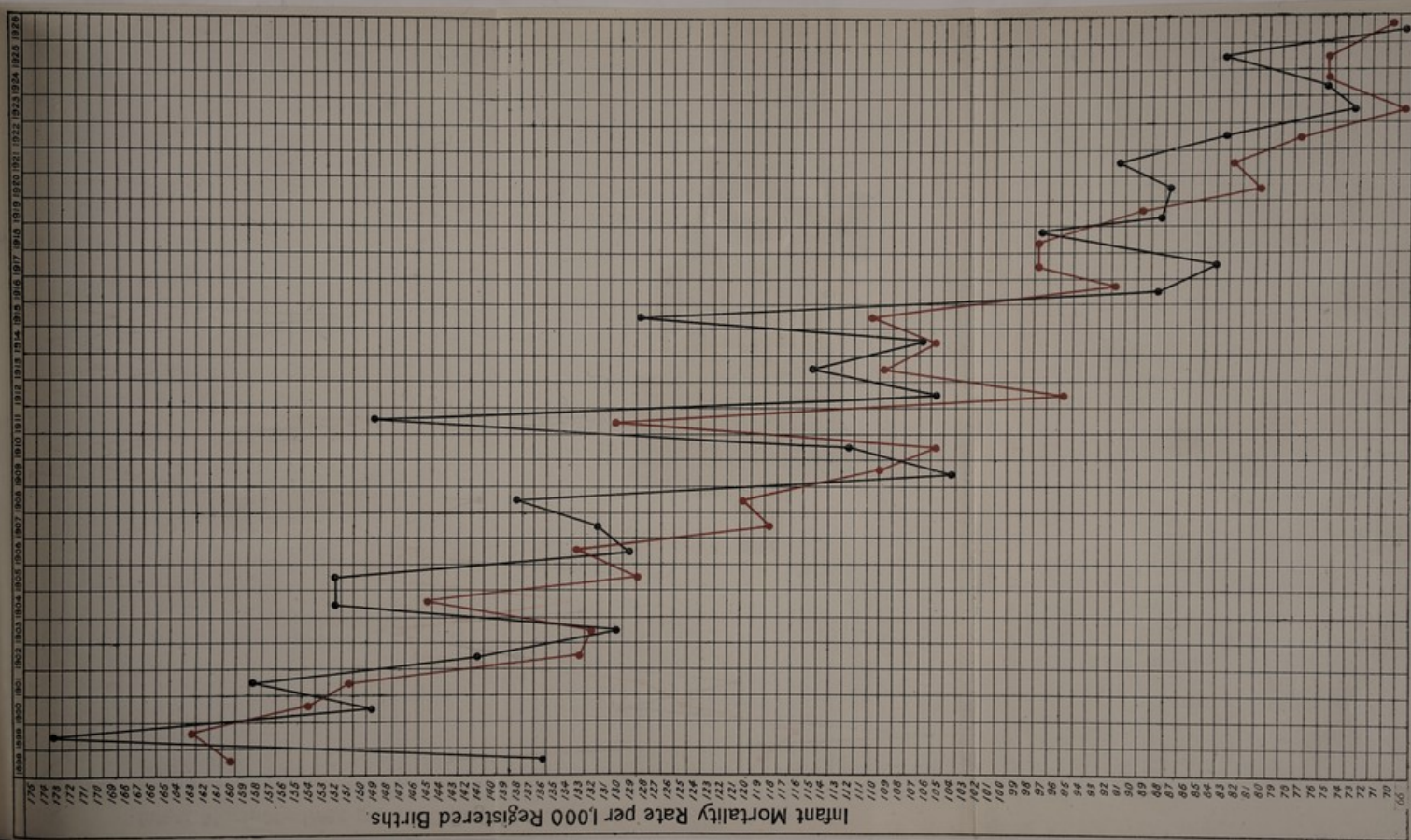
The District Infantile Mortality Rates, arranged in order of highest rate, are as follows:—

	Present Year.	1925.		Present Year.	1925.
URBAN—			URBAN—		
Panteg	84.9	(56.2)	Nantyglo & Blaina	54.3	(94.1)
Bedwellty	84.5	(91.5)	Abercarn	54.3	(85.9)
Tredegar	83.0	(78.4)	Llantarnam	51.7	(63.2)
Rhymney	76.3	(86.9)	Risca	45.8	(67.0)
Llanfrechfa Upper ...	76.1	(153.0)	Abergavenny	40.0	(71.0)
Usk	74.1	Nil.	Caerleon	27.8	Nil.
Ebbw Vale	70.7	(83.9)	Chepstow	10.7	(91.8)
Mynyddislwyn	69.1	(113.3)	RURAL—		
Monmouth	69.0	(94.7)	Monmouth	123.7	(22.7)
Bedwas and Machen	67.0	(86.2)	Chepstow	73.6	(30.3)
Abersychan	66.3	(10.6)	St. Mellons	60.9	(88.7)
Pontypool	66.3	(79.7)	Mager	36.6	(57.5)
Abertillery	62.7	(80.7)	Pontypool	34.5	(63.6)
Blaenavon	59.6	(100.0)	Abergavenny	25.0	(60.8)

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.	(97.)
157 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	(10.0)	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.



THE BLACK LINE INDICATES THE COUNTY INFANT MORTALITY RATE
THE RED LINE INDICATES THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

D.—DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS.

The County Birth rate again shows a decline. The rate of 20.37 per 1,000 of population for the year 1926 is 1.2 below that of the previous year, which was the lowest ever recorded. The County rate is still higher than the general rate for England and Wales (17.8).

The County Death rate of 9.4 per 1,000 of population is low, particularly when compared with the rate for England and Wales (11.6).

The County Infant Mortality Rate for the year, shows a considerable decrease, being 66.1 per 1,000 births, the rate for England and Wales being 70 per 1,000 births. In the previous year (1925) the rate was 83.8. The rate is the lowest ever recorded for the County, the previous lowest figure being 73.0 in the year 1923. From the table below it will be seen that the decrease is perceptible in practically all the headings of causation of death.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1926	(1925)	(1924)	(1923)
All causes	501	(679)	(633)	(638)
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—
Measles	2	(15)	(3)	(35)
Diphtheria	—	(1)	(3)	—
Whooping Cough	16	(42)	(9)	(42)
Influenza	5	(9)	(11)	(6)
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	(1)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	(1)	(4)
Other Tubercular Diseases	5	(5)	(7)	(7)
Bronchitis	34	(59)	(52)	(36)
Pneumonia (all forms)	69	(99)	(97)	(71)
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	37	(56)	(48)	(39)
Congenital Debility	236	(275)	(275)	(278)
Violence	5	(5)	(4)	(6)
Other defined diseases	89	(123)	(136)	(113)
Causes ill-defined or unknown...	1	—	—	—

E.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The following are the details of the Centres now open under the Scheme approved by the County Council and the Local Government Board in 1916, the number being 41 :—

Location of Centre.	District Served.	Premises Utilised.	Date of Opening	Day and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer.
Aberbargoed ...	Aberbargoed	Domestic Arts Centre, Aberbargoed School	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. A. Roberts
Abercarn ...	Abercarn and Cwmcarn	English Baptist Church Schoolroom, Abercarn	Oct. 18th	Thursday, 10 a.m.—12-30 p.m., 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Griffith
Abergavenny ...	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Districts	Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Abergavenny.	April 17th	Tuesday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. W. D. Steel
Abersychan ...	Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan.	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity
Abertillery ...	Abertillery and Cwmillery	Abertillery Workmen's Institute.	1917 June 8th	Friday, 10-45 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Abertysswg ...	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel, Abertysswg	1920 July 7th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Dr. R. Lockhart
Beaufort ...	Beaufort	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Beaufort	1919 Sept. 3rd	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—2 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Blackwood ...	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Alternate Thursdays, 10-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Blaenavon ...	Blaenavon	Technical Build'gs, Cwmavon Road, Blaenavon.	June 6th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. J. Reynolds
Blaina ...	Blaina	Salem Chapel, Blaina	April 17th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
Caerleon ...	Caerleon and Christchurch	Ty Craig, High Street, Caerleon.	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Caldicot ...	Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot.	1920 June 1st	Tuesday, 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Chepstow ...	Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge Street School, Chepstow	1917 March 27th	Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. L. Drapes
Crosskeys ...	Crosskeys, Wattsville and Pontywaun	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Crosskeys	Nov 23rd	Friday, 2-4 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Crumlin ...	Crumlin	4 Hafodyrnys Road, Crumlin.	1924 March 28th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
Cwm ...	Cwm, Victoria and Waunllwyd	Parish Hall, Cwm	1917 Nov 20th	Thursday, 10-30 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. E. W. Griffith
Cwmbran ...	Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Llanfrechfa & Ponthir	Council Offices, Cwmbran	March 21st	Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
Ebbw Vale ...	Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ebbw Vale	March 13th	Tuesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
Garndiffaith ...	Varteg, Victoria, Cwmavon & Garndiffaith	Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, Garndiffaith	Oct. 23rd	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity

Location of Centre.	District Served	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Day and Hour of Consultations	Medical Officer.
Llanhilleth	... Llanhilleth and Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute, Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Monmouth	... Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Workingmen's Inst., Monk St., Monmouth	June 15th	Friday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. W. H. Williams
Nantyglo	... Nantyglo	English Wesleyan Church, Nantyglo	1924 July 14th	Alternate Mondays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
Newbridge	... Newbridge and Pentwynmawr	Tabernacle Baptist Schoolroom, Newbridge	1917 March 20th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
Newport	... Malpas, St. Brides, Magor, &c.	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport	March 21st	Wednesday, once a month, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
New Tredegar	... New Tredegar and Cwmsyfiog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	March 29th	Thursday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Oakdale	... Oakdale, Rhiw-syr-dafydd and Markham Village.	Women's Institute, Oakdale	1918 Oct. 25th	Alternate Thursdays, 10-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Panteg	... Panteg, Griffithstown and Pontrhydyrun	Sailor & Soldiers Wives' Club Room, Sebastopol	1917 March 21st	Thursday, 10—12 noon	Dr. W. Austin
Pengam	... Pengam, Fleur-de-lis and Maesycwimmer	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	March 12th	Monday, 10—12 noon, and 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Pontnewynydd	... Pontnewynydd	Wesleyan Chapel, Pontnewynydd	April 19th	Thursday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Pontymoile	... Pontymoile, New Inn, and Pontypool Road	Mission Hall, Pontymoile	Oct. 17th	Tuesday, 10—12 noon	Dr. W. Austin
Pontypool	... Pontypool, Mamhilad, Glascoed, Goytre, Coedypaen, Llangibby	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, Pontypool	May 9th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
Rhymney	... Rhymney and Rhymney Bridge.	Domestic Arts Centre, Middle Rhymney School	March 12th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood
Risca	... Risca	Domestic Arts Centre, Danygraig School, Risca	March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. Roberts
Rogerstone	... Rogerstone, Bassaleg, and Rhiwderin	Domestic Arts Centre, Rogerstone School	Nov. 12th	Alternate Fridays, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Proudfoot
Rumney	... St. Mellons, Peterstone and Rumney	Wesleyan Chapel, Rumney	Dec. 5th	Alternate Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
Six Bells	... Six Bells & Aberbeeg	Methodist Chapel, High St., Six Bells	1920 Sept. 29th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Tredegar	... Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Troedrhiwg-wair, Bedwellty, Pits, Hollybush	Wesleyan Chapel, Harcourt St., Tredegar	1917 Feb. 26th	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. E. T. H. Davies
Trethomas	... Trethomas, Bedwas, and Machen	Baptist Chapel, Trethomas	April 19th	Tuesday, 10—12 noon, and 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Upper Pontnewydd	... Pontnewydd and Croesyceilog	New Hall, Pontnewydd	1919 June 16th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
Usk	... Usk and Rural Area	Town Hall, Usk.	Nov. 11th	Alternate Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Ynysddu	... Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu	Domestic Arts Centre, Ynysddu School.	1917 March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Scott

F.—DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES.

CENTRE	MEDICAL OFFICER	No. of Infants on Register at 31st Dec., 1926	INFANTS			NURSING MOTHERS			EXPECTANT MOTHERS	
			No. of new cases which attended during year	No. of Re-visits	Total No. of Visits	Average Attendance at each Session	No. on Register	No. of Attendances during year	No. on Register	No. of Attendances during year
Aberbargoed	Dr. A. Roberts	349	166	1633	1799	37.5	58	235	35	69
Abercarn	Dr. E. M. Griffith	357	192	2871	3063	62.51	7	7	—	—
Abergavenny	Dr. W. D. Steel	191	122	1064	1186	24.2	15	32	7	9
Abersychan	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	214	149	974	1123	22.9	7	13	16	22
Abertillery	Dr. T. B. Smith	692	415	4213	4628	94.4	121	262	49	113
Abertysswg	Dr. R. Lockhart	119	59	1030	1089	22.2	47	283	11	82
Beaufort	Dr. M. Scott	144	83	868	951	19.4	13	29	1	1
Blackwood	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	389	343	1183	1526	61.0	69	167	18	40
Blaenavon	Dr. J. Reynolds	470	236	1142	1378	27.6	131	239	34	34
Blaina	Dr. T. W. Bevan	271	203	1155	1358	27.7	11	38	24	32
Caerleon	Dr. M. Gordon	111	65	522	587	24.5	5	45	6	25
Caldicot	Dr. M. Gordon	136	58	1706	1764	36.0	24	132	9	20
Chepstow	Dr. T. L. Drapes	286	124	2251	2375	48.5	—	—	—	—
Crosskeys	Dr. M. Scott	145	88	1295	1383	28.2	17	41	3	3
Crumlin	Dr. M. Froudfoot	123	139	1130	1269	25.9	24	94	16	41
Cwm	Dr. E. W. Griffith	232	186	1974	2160	44.1	65	204	29	68
Cwmbran	Dr. W. Austin	239	117	1228	1345	27.42	51	150	17	25
Ebbw Vale	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	490	338	2380	2718	55.5	119	271	42	95
Garndiffaith	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	209	155	1043	1198	25.0	27	44	4	9
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	432	256	2432	2688	56.0	62	165	80	188
Monmouth	Dr. W. H. Williams	153	103	1662	1765	36.0	—	—	18	65
Nantyglo	Dr. M. Proudfoot	207	189	795	984	37.9	15	47	22	33
Newbridge	Dr. W. Austin	260	167	2078	2245	44.9	21	114	2	2
Newport	Dr. M. Gordon	46	28	144	172	16.6	6	30	4	8
New Tredegar	Dr. M. Scott	331	238	1703	1941	39.6	53	121	27	51
Oakdale	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	203	98	931	1029	42.9	42	146	22	37
Panteg	Dr. W. Austin	171	79	1047	1126	23.0	40	75	4	10
Pengam	Dr. M. Scott	455	281	2326	2607	53.2	91	225	32	80
Pontnewydd	Dr. W. Austin	228	114	1227	1341	27.9	46	132	17	24
Pontnewynydd	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	367	284	1347	1631	33.3	44	87	56	72
Pontymoile	Dr. W. Austin	191	95	1225	1320	26.9	50	127	13	16
Pontypool	Dr. W. Austin	353	231	1448	1679	34.3	58	108	24	38
Rhymney	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood	272	166	1653	1819	37.1	64	121	22	67
Risca	Dr. A. Roberts	389	210	3262	3472	70.9	53	219	27	72
Rogerstone	Dr. M. Proudfoot	129	72	791	863	34.5	12	64	2	3
Runney	Dr. M. Proudfoot	69	43	390	433	16.7	3	17	1	2
Six Bells	Dr. T. B. Smith	394	228	2130	2358	48.1	40	79	20	48
Tredegar	Dr. E. T. H. Davies	725	455	2503	2958	60.4	—	—	1	1
Trethomas	Dr. M. Scott	334	120	1388	1508	30.8	55	151	33	64
Usk	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	83	68	260	328	13.7	27	74	7	8
Ynysyddu	Dr. M. Scott	268	173	1944	2117	43.2	59	174	43	92
Totals		11227	6936	62348	69284	38.49	1652	4562	798	1669
Last year (1925)		9558	5689	44878	50584	25.8	1498	4135	268	598

**G.—DETAILS OF MOTHERS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH
ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE CENTRES.**

Constipation	...	377	Enlarged Thyroid	...	5
Debility	...	358	Goitre	...	5
Anæmia	...	261	Cystitis	...	5
Defective Teeth	...	155	Influenza	...	5
Hæmorrhoids	...	60	Naso-pharyngeal Catarrh	...	3
Dyspepsia	...	50	Tuberculosis (various forms)	...	3
Deficient Lactation	...	45	Subinvolution	...	3
Varicose Veins	...	43	Laryngitis	...	3
Menorrhagia	...	39	Threatened Abortion	...	3
Bronchitis	...	38	Vaginal Discharge	...	3
Skin Diseases	...	31	Dysmenorrhœa	...	3
Eye Diseases	...	26	Albuminaria	...	2
Gastritis	...	26	Asthma	...	2
Amenorrhœa	...	20	Neuritis	...	2
Prolonged Suckling	...	20	Flatulence	...	2
Mastitis	...	20	Heart Disease	...	1
Leucorrhœa	...	16	Enlarged Glands	...	1
Vomiting	...	14	Endometritis	...	1
Sore Nipples	...	14	Epilepsy	...	1
Pyorrhœa	...	12	Lumbago	...	1
Abdominal Pain	...	10	Otorrhœa	...	1
Breast Abscess	...	10	Stomatitis	...	1
Nephritis	...	10	Boils	...	1
Venereal Disease	...	9	Deafness	...	1
Pruritis	...	8	Anorexia	...	1
Prolapse of Uterus	...	8	Incontinence of Urine	...	1
Hernia	...	7	Ovaritis	...	1
Headache	...	7	Whitlow	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	7	Miscellaneous	...	18
Backache	...	5			
Rheumatism	...	5			1,792
Retroversion of Uterus	...	5			

**H.—DETAILS OF INFANTS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH
ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE CENTRES.**

Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	1344	Nasal Catarrh	...	105
Gastro Enteritis, etc.	816	Rickets	...	98
Constipation	627	Stomatitis	...	92
Skin Diseases	617	Tonsils and Adenoids	...	90
Otorrhœa	243	Septic Umbilicus	...	87
Phimosis	240	Worms	...	86
Debility	225	Anæmia	...	66
Eye Diseases	188	Enlarged Glands	.....	59
Protuberant Umbilicus	171	Whooping Cough	...	59
Diarrhœa	170	Hernia	...	57
Intertrigo	153	Malnutrition	...	47

Marasmus	...	47	Otitis	...	8
Flatulence	...	3	Boils	...	8
Dental Caries	...	32	Mentally Deficient	...	8
Nævus	...	32	Burns	...	6
Abscesses	...	31	Hæmorrhage in Sterno Mastoid	...	6
Vomiting	...	30	Premature Birth	...	5
Tongue-tied	...	22	Pneumonia	...	4
Chicken Pox	...	20	Flatfoot	...	5
Undescended Testicles	...	8	Enuresis	...	4
Jaundice	...	18	Knock Knees	...	4
Snuffles	...	15	Fractures	...	4
Talipes Equino Varus	...	15	Hydrocephalus	...	4
Venereal Disease	...	14	Empyema	...	4
Laryngitis	...	14	Spina Bifida	...	3
Hydrocele	...	14	Cleft Palate	...	2
Dentition	...	13	Mastoid Abscess	...	2
Anorexia	...	13	Pemphigus	...	2
Bowlegs	...	12	Enlarged Spleen	...	2
Squint	...	12	Mumps	...	2
Convulsions	...	11	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	1
Heart Disease	...	11	Chorea	...	1
Accidents	...	10	Dactylitis	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	9	Dislocation of Hip	...	1
Cleft Palate and Hare Lip	...	9	Facial Paralysis	...	1
Fits	...	8	Miscellaneous	...	21
Infantile Paralysis	...	8			
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	8			
					<hr/> 6,237 <hr/>

I.—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF CENTRES.

1.—Dr. MARY SCOTT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS under 1 year of age.

	Beaufort	Crosskeys	New Tredegar	Pengam	Trethomas	Ynysddu
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Breast fed	60.1	58.4	63.3	60.4	59.6	60.1
Artificially fed	30.5	26.2	26.9	28.0	18.2	17.0
Breast and Artificially fed	9.4	15.4	9.8	11.6	22.2	22.9

BEAUFORT CENTRE.—Progress at this Centre was again satisfactory and the total attendances during 1926 shewed an increase over those of 1925. There was a slight decrease in the numbers of breast fed children attending the Centre.

CROSSKEYS CENTRE.—The numbers of mothers and babies attending this Centre shewed a further increase for the year 1926. Although the amount of breast feeding was slightly less than that of the year 1925, it is equal to that of previous years.

The lady members of the Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee take a warm interest in the work of the Centre and we are much indebted to them for their help on Friday afternoons and for the financial assistance they have given to several deserving and needy mothers during the year 1926.

PENGAM CENTRE.—This is still one of our very busy Centres and there has been a large increase in the number of attendances for 1926 over that of previous years.

This is also an ante-natal Centre and during the year there were 80 attendances of expectant mothers as compared with 24 in the year 1925.

NEW TREDEGAR.—This Centre continues to make satisfactory progress and the number of infants brought to the Centre shewed another marked increase over that of previous years. The percentage of breast fed babies attending was greater than that of any other Centre under my care, but as in the case of the other Centres shewed a slight decrease for the year 1926.

TRETHOMAS.—This Centre progresses satisfactorily and we have mothers and infants attending here from widely separated areas. When the weather is fine mothers walk from district so far apart as Church Road and Bedwas. The number of infants attending shewed a marked increase over that of previous years.

YNYSDDU.—This is still a very busy Centre and numbers continue to increase. Practically all the infants of the District are brought to this Centre. During the year we have been helped on Friday mornings by lady members of the Local Infant Welfare Committee. They also came to our aid in helping needy cases during the recent industrial troubles from their own voluntary funds.

GENERAL.—It is rather difficult to report on the work done during the year 1926, as the Centres, Health Visiting and other work in connection with Infant Welfare were influenced by the Industrial Dispute. As milk and food could be obtained at cost price at Centres and as we also distributed free food paid for by various voluntary agencies during this period, the number attending shewed a very large increase over that of previous years. That many attended for the cheap and free food can not be disputed, for at the end of the dispute, when work was resumed our members shewed a sudden drop. This large increase in the attendance at Centres no doubt was the chief cause in the slight drop in the number of breast fed babies. This is explained by the fact that many bottle fed babies were brought to Centres so that the benefits of cheap or free food might be obtained, babies who in normal times we never would have seen. The work of the Centres and of Health Visitors in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare continued to be largely preventative and very special care was given to the question of infant feeding.

There were again during the year far too many infants who in their first attendance suffered from an unsatisfactory condition of the umbilicus. It is very difficult to discover the cause of this, but there can be little doubt that the midwife is in many cases responsible, as septic umbilicus seems much more prevalent in the practices of some midwives than in those of others. These umbilical troubles are many times a source of worry and anxiety to the mother and are often the forerunners of definite umbilical hernia. Many midwives evidently fail to appreciate the necessity of keeping everything which comes in contact with the umbilicus aseptic and dry.

Drugs are not prescribed to any great extent at the Centres. Infants do not as a rule require much in the way of drugs. For mothers a simple tonic or aperient is prescribed where required.

2.—Dr. WINIFRED AUSTIN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Newbridge	Pontypool	Pontymoile	Pontnewydd	Panteg	Cwmbran
Breast Fed ...	144	137	64	80	59	89
Breast and Bottle	30	44	31	21	19	24
Cows' Milk ...	21	16	10	10	13	18
Dried Milk ...	16	27	21	34	22	30
Other Foods ...	11	22	2	5	4	4

CWMBRAN CENTRE.—This clinic shews an increase in numbers attending and in total attendances. The number on the register was 239 compared with 210 in the previous year and the total attendances 1,345 compared with 1,054. The average attendance rose from 22.4 to 27.44.

The number of infants under twelve months was 165. Of these 89 were breast fed, 24 on breast supplemented by bottle, 13 on cows milk, 30 on dried milk and 4 on other infant foods. The percentage of breast fed decreased, being 53.9, compared with 57.1 per cent. for the previous year; but the percentage of partly breast fed increased from

12.1 per cent. to 14.5 per cent. The number of children not weaned at 1 year old was 17, an increase of 3 on the previous year.

The number of expectant mothers shews a satisfactory increase from 5 to 17.

39 children between 2 and 5 years of age were treated for minor ailments.

NEWBRIDGE CENTRE.—Comparing the attendances in 1926 with those of the previous year the number of children on the register increased by 26, the total number of attendances by 485, and the average attendance by 7.2 per session.

262 infants under 12 months of age attended during the year. Of these 144 were entirely breast fed for eight months or longer, 30 breast fed with supplementary bottle feeding, and 48 weaned from the breast at 3 months or earlier and fed as follows:—cows' milk 21, dried milk 16, other milk foods 11.

The percentage of breast fed babies decreased slightly from 56.6 in 1925 to 54.9 in 1926.

In 22 cases of breast feeding the babies were not weaned until more than a year old.

38 children over 2 years of age attended during the year and were treated for minor ailments.

PANTEG CENTRE.—Attendance at this clinic during 1926, compared with the previous year is as follows:—The total number on the register shews a decrease of 17, the number of new cases a decrease of 13, but the attendance per session increased from 18 to 22.98, and the total number of attendances from 848 to 1,126.

The percentage of breast fed babies decreased from 57.9 to 50.4 per cent. and the percentage of partly breast and partly bottle fed increased from 10.3 per cent. to 16 per cent. Of the 117 infants under a year old 59 were breast fed, 19 on breast and bottle, 13 on cows' milk, 22 on dried milk and 4 on other infant foods. 10 breast fed babies were not weaned until over a year old, this is an improvement on the 19 cases noted last year.

37 children over 2 years of age were treated at clinic.

PONTNEWYDD CENTRE.—This Clinic shews an increase in numbers for the year 1926. The number on the register rose from 193 to 228, the number of new cases from 85 to 114, the total attendances from 942 to 1,341, and the average attendances per session from 20 to 27.93.

The percentage of breast fed children decreased from 56.7 to 53.3, the percentage of breast and bottle fed remained the same, i.e., 14 per cent. Of the children fed artificially 10 were fed on cows' milk, 34 on dried milk and 5 on other milk foods; 17 breast fed infants were not weaned until over a year old.

The number of mothers, nursing and expectant, shows an increase of 8 and their total number of attendances an increase of 47.

44 children over 2 years of age attended for minor ailments.

PONTYMOILE CENTRE.—Compared with the previous year this Clinic shews a slight increase in numbers on the register, 191 compared with 185, but fewer new cases, 95 compared with 108; but the number of re-visits increased from 929 to 1,225, which raised the average attendance per session from 19.8 in 1925, to 26.94 in 1926.

Of the 128 babies under one year, 64 were breast fed, i.e., only 50 per cent. and a serious decrease from the 62.2 per cent. of the previous year. This was somewhat compensated for by the fact that the percentage of babies partly breast fed rose from 16.5 per cent. to 24.2 per cent. Of the babies weaned from the breast before 3 months of age, 10 were fed on cows' milk, 21 on dried milk and 2 on other milk foods. Of the breast fed 12 were not weaned until over a year old. This figure shews an improvement on the previous year when 20 cases of late weaning were noted. 3 sets of twins were brought to this clinic as new cases and 35 children over 2 years of age were treated for minor ailments.

50 nursing mothers and 13 expectant mothers were advised and provided with milk in necessitous cases.

A successful Baby Show for the children in the Pontymoile and Panteg areas was held at St. Hildas Hall, Griffithstown, in July. This is organised by the local Infant Welfare Committee, who also gave at the Clinics 8 tins of dried milk and some fresh milk and 150 garments suitable for babies and mothers.

PONTYPOOL CENTRE.—This clinic shews a very marked increase in numbers for the year 1926. The attendance compared with the previous year is as follows:—number on register increased by 112, new cases by 114, total attendances by 747, and average attendance rose from 19.8 per session to 34.27.

The number of mothers advised in 1925 was 51 with total attendance of 138, and in 1926 it was 92 with total attendance of 156.

240 infants under 12 months of age attended during the year. Of these 137 were breast fed, i.e., 57 per cent., the percentage for the previous year being 55.27 per cent. This is the only clinic which shows an increase in the percentage of infants breast fed. The percentage of breast and bottle fed is also slightly increased from 17.3 per cent. to 18.3 per cent. In 20 cases of breast feeding the children were not weaned at 1 year old.

80 children over 2 years of age attended the clinic during the year.

The figures submitted in the above report represent an abnormal year. It will be noted that the attendance at the clinics has much increased and most notably in Pontypool, the most crowded industrial area of those included in this report. At the same time the percentage of breast feeding has decreased in spite of assistance given in the form of extra milk for expectant and nursing mothers.

The figures for Pontypool show a small increase in percentage of breast feeding. It was in this area that mothers were given daily dinners for the 12 weeks from July 14th to September 4th, 3,983 meals being provided. Whether this can be regarded as cause and effect it is difficult to say, especially in view of the abnormal attendance as compared with other years.

A very large amount of dried and fresh milk was given free at the centres during the year, including very generous supplies from the Save the Children Fund.

3.—Dr. P. R. WHITAKER, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Blackwood	Oakdale	Crumlin	Usk	Rogerstone
Breast fed	155	88	72	67	42
Breast and bottle fed	12	7	10	5	5
Cows' milk	21	14	10	5	6
Dried milk	22	7	10	2	3
Other foods	23	9	5	4	4

GENERAL.—Unfortunately the true value of the figures given below is difficult to estimate correctly, for the attendances at every clinic went up tremendously during the General Strike. But on the whole the progress of the Centres has been highly satisfactory, thanks to the excellent tact and untiring energy of the nursing staff.

Free food was given in necessitous cases and from the "Save the Children Fund."

BLACKWOOD CENTRE.—The attendances at this Clinic is still very good, being 61 per session during the past year. The total number of infants on the register being 389, an increase of 100 on last year.

It is gratifying to note the increase in the number of ante-natal cases.

Details of infant feeding shew some 66 per cent are being breast fed, a percentage which might well be higher.

Drugs prescribed at this Clinic, are either some simple tonic or aperient, etc.

OAKDALE CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register was 203 and the average attendance per session 42.9. The attendance throughout has been very good and is most encouraging.

Since our removal to the present quarters the number of ante-natal cases has not quite come up to expectations, but is increasing gradually.

The percentage of breast fed babies is still good, being just over 70 per cent.

CRUMLIN.—The progress of this centre is very satisfactory, and is improving steadily. The number on the register at the end of the year was 123 and the average attendance 25.9.

It is gratifying to note that the percentage of breast fed babies is now 68 as against 56 last year. The nursing mothers are less ready to resort to artificial feeding and will endeavour to follow advice given with regard to suitable diet for themselves.

The ante-natal work is progressing favourably. The total number of attendances was 41, of which 16 were new cases, an increase on last year's figure.

Free food was given in several cases, but only after careful investigation.

Drugs prescribed consisted of simple tonics or aperients.

USK CENTRE.—The number on the register at the end of the year was 83, an increase less influenced by the coal strike than in the Industrial Areas. The average attendance was 13.7.

The proportion of breast fed babies is higher here than in any of my other centres, due probably to the average good health and to the surroundings.

The voluntary helpers at this Centre take a great interest in its welfare. My thanks are due to them for their propaganda and for their regular attendance.

ROGERSTONE.—This Clinic still continues to be one of the most flourishing in my area. The pleasing factor is, that the mothers realise that it is an Infant *Welfare* Centre. They bring their children regularly and not only when they have some complaint.

The attendances has increased from 26 to 34 per session.

The proportion of breast fed babies is 70 per cent. which is too low considering the district, but is an improvement on last year's figure.

Due to the strike, many families have had a very hard time and free food had to be given in some necessitous cases, notably to the expectant mothers.

4.—Dr. M. M. PROUDFOOT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council

DETAILS OF INFANT FEEDING.

	Nantyglo.	Blaina	Rumney
	%	%	%
Breast fed	63.6	60.8	67.86
Breast and Artificially fed	18.2	16.7	3.57
Artificially fed	18.2	22.3	28.57

NANTYGLO CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 207, and the average attendance at each session was 37.9. This is a large increase as compared with 1925, when the average attendance was 17.2. Part of this increase was due to the coal crisis. In the early part of the year the number attending the Clinic was gradually increasing..

The percentage of breast fed babies was 63.6. It is very satisfactory to note that the percentage of breast fed babies has remained so high. There is a slight decrease as compared with 69.7 per cent. in 1925, but this is doubtless due to the fact that many mothers suffered from lack of proper nourishment.

The free food supplied by the "Save the Children Fund," etc., during the crisis proved a great help.

During the year, 15 nursing mothers were treated.

There are no facilities at this Clinic for ante-natal work. 22 expectant mothers came for advice. The mothers are taking a greater interest in the Clinic and it is encouraging to note that they are becoming more careful about weaning their children at the proper time. There are still too many cases of late weaning. Several cases of Rickets were met with during the year and two of these cases were severe. This disease seems to be increasing in this district and it is no doubt due to the poor conditions in the homes resulting from the prolonged period of unemployment.

Several minor ailments were treated. The medicines prescribed at the Centre are mainly simple tonics, aperients, medicines for teething upsets, and ointments for skin diseases.

Free food was given in many necessitous cases.

BLAINA CENTRE.—The average attendance of babies at each session was 27.71, and the number on the register at the end of the year was 271.

The percentage of breast fed babies is very satisfactory. It is a little higher than in 1925. The free milk given in necessitous cases was a great boon to the mothers and enabled most of them to continue breast feeding their babies throughout the required period.

The chief ailments requiring treatment were those connected with the digestive and respiratory systems. Bronchial Catarrh was again very prevalent. In many cases the babies are kept indoors too much, in over-heated and badly ventilated rooms.

During the year, 11 nursing mothers were treated and 24 expectant mothers came for advice. There are no facilities for ante-natal work at this Clinic.

Free food was given to necessitous expectant mothers, to necessitous nursing mothers and to infants. The food given was dried milk and in several cases cows' milk was given.

RUMNEY CENTRE.—The average attendance at each session was 16.66 and the number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 69, showing an increase since last year.

The mothers attend very regularly and are very grateful for the advice given. The majority of the infants were healthy and shewed no defects. The percentage of breast fed babies is lower than last year.

Several children over two years of age were seen during the year and treated for minor ailments.

Three nursing mothers and one expectant mother attended for advice and treatment.

5.—Dr. M. GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF FEEDING.

	Caldicot	Caerleon	Newport
	%	%	%
Breast fed	62	63	68
Breast and artificially fed...	5	5	6
Artificially fed	33	32	26

CALDICOT CENTRE.—The average attendance of infants for the year was 36 per session, compared with 25.1 the previous year, showing a gratifying increase, only a small proportion of which was due to the increased numbers who came to the Clinic during the industrial crisis. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 136 as compared with 120 the previous year.

The number of breast fed babies shews an increase partly accounted for by the fact that extra nourishment supplied by the "Save the Children Fund" to the nursing mothers during the industrial crisis, encouraged them to persevere with breast feeding, the best, as well as the cheapest method of infant feeding. Artificial feeding shewed a corresponding decrease.

33 mothers received treatment and advice at the Centre, 9 of these were ante-natal cases. There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

CAERLEON CENTRE.—This Centre is held fortnightly. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 111, an increase of 35 on the previous year. The average attendance at each session was 24.4 compared with 18.5 in 1925. This shews an increase which was not due to large attendances during the industrial crisis as the Clinic is situated in an agricultural area, which was not greatly affected by the coal crisis.

The number of breast fed babies shews a slight increase, but one would expect a greater increase in view of the fact that most of the mothers are in fairly comfortable circumstances, and can obtain adequate nourishment for themselves during the nursing period.

11 mothers received advice and treatment at the Clinic, 6 of these were expectant mothers.

NEWPORT CENTRE.—This Centre was held once a month during the year and the attendance was highly satisfactory in consideration of the fact that many of the mothers have to come long distances.

The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 46 as compared with 17 the previous year. The average attendance shewed an increase of 7 per session over the year 1925.

Some of the mothers live a considerable distance from any doctor and are extremely grateful for the advice got from the Centre.

The percentage of breast fed babies is high.

10 mothers received advice from the Clinic, 4 of these were expectant mothers. There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

GENERAL.—The work of the Centres was conducted on much the same lines as in previous years. Mothers are gradually realising the value of preventive medicine, though it is still difficult to get some mothers to bring baby to the Centre unless the infant is really ill. Advice on the clothing of the infant is appreciated by most of the mothers.

It is still difficult to convince some of the mothers that the baby should be weaned completely about the ninth month. One finds that many mothers only partially wean the child then and persist in giving one breast feed a day till the child is 15 or 18 months old. This practice is partly responsible for some cases of late rickets one meets with.

Cases of eczema in breast fed, as well as in bottle fed babies still continue. These are chiefly due to unsuitable feeding and indigestion at the teething period. Most of them respond only very slowly to treatment.

Only simple drugs are prescribed, e.g., ointments for eczema, etc., for the babies, and tonics and laxatives for the mothers.

The facilities for ante-natal work at the Centres are poor, but in spite of this a few expectant mothers still continue to come for advice. During the industrial crisis the extra nourishment in the form of dried milk supplied by the "Save the Children Fund," was of great benefit to the expectant mother.

6.—Dr. A. C. ROBERTS, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

RISCA CENTRE.—Number of children (under five years) on register for year 1926—389.

Feeding of infants under one year:—Breast fed, 110, 50 per cent.; Breast and bottle 46, 21 per cent.; bottle fed, 64, 29 per cent.

Bronchitis and bronchial catarrh are by far the commonest complaints at this Clinic, as nearly every baby at some time during the year had bronchial catarrh, often following nasal catarrh or obstruction. Umbilical protrusions are much too frequent and become very troublesome if the baby develops either chest or abdominal symptoms.

Breast feeding has fallen rather low this year chiefly due to lack of nourishing food for mothers during the strike, and also to the fact that many mothers stopped breast feeding before coming to the clinic to seek advice.

The average attendance at this clinic is high, as the mothers on the whole come very regularly and are very particular about the weight cards of their babies.

A large quantity of free food was given away during the strike.

The drugs used here are chiefly remedies for constipation, diarrhoea, flatulence and bronchial catarrh.

A large amount of ante-natal cases have attended this year, but that was probably due to general debility and lack of nourishment during the strike.

The Voluntary Workers at this centre attended very regularly and were of great assistance, especially during the strike when they helped by keeping the register of those getting free food.

ABERBARGOED.—Feeding of infants under one year : Breast fed, 104, 54 per cent. : breast and bottle, 47, 24 per cent. ; bottle fed 42, 22 per cent.

As at other Clinics, nasal and bronchial catarrh are the most common complaints. Otorrhœa is also a frequent source of trouble, but it is very amenable to treatment, provided the children are brought in the early stages.

Breast feeding has fallen to 54 per cent. again, chiefly to lack of nourishment of the mothers and also to the fact that mothers when given free dried milk for themselves, were too apt to start bottle feeding their babies quite contrary to any advice given at the Clinic.

The average attendance here is not very high as many mothers in this district merely attended during the strike in order to get free food and ceased to come as soon as supplies were stopped.

A large quantity of dried milk was given free during the strike.

Citrate of soda, laxatives, simple ointments and remedies for bronchial and nasal catarrh are the most common drugs in use here.

A large number of nursing mothers attended chiefly during the first three months after the birth of the child, as a great many of them suffered from general debility and anæmia during that period.

The outstanding point about the babies attending this Clinic is that hardly any of them are vaccinated, a very disquieting feature in view of the present small-pox epidemic.

NOTE.—In the details of feeding, breast and bottle fed means generally that the infants were fed for some months on the breast and then changed to the bottle. In only a few cases were breast and bottle given together up to the time of weaning. This applies to both Clinics.

7.—Dr. W. D. STEEL, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVENNY CENTRE.—There was again an increase in the number of infants on the register during the year and also in the number of attendances at the Clinic. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 191. 122 new babies were brought to the Centre during the year and 1,064 re-visits paid, making a total of 1,186 attendances. The average attendance per session for 1926 was 24.3 as against 20.6 in 1925. It is satisfactory to note that the infants attending the Centre are drawn from many sections of the community, manifesting an increased appreciation of the advantages of the Clinic.

As in past years, nearly all the mothers who visited the Centre sought advice only in regard to their children, very few asking assistance for themselves.

The teeding of the infants was by breast or bottle or by both. Breast fed 73, bottle fed 37, breast and bottle fed 12.

There was a considerable increase in the numbers of mothers attending the Clinic, who were supplied with free food. This was due to the poverty consequent on the strike.

The funds collected by the ladies of the local Committee were more than ever of value in assisting the increased number of necessitous cases resulting from the strike.

It was found necessary to prescribe a slightly increased amount of drugs, this was again due to the abnormal conditions existing during the year.

As stated in previous reports the rooms at the Y.M.C.A. are not specially fitted for ante-natal work and the number of women seeking advice in this connection was small.

I beg again to express my profound appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Voluntary Helpers in the working of the Centre.

8.—Dr. R. J. S. VERITY, Medical Officer of Health, Abersychan Urban District Council

ABERSYCHAN CENTRE.—The attendances at the Centre increased during the year and a good average was maintained.

The children under one year of age were fed as follows:—

Breast fed	...	...	136	Breast and artificially fed	...	10
Cows' milk	...	...	10	Dried milk	...	54
Patent foods	...	...	8			

No mothers received free food during the past year, but many infants were given dried milk, etc., from different sources during the industrial disturbance.

Only a few simple drugs are supplied at this Centre.

Verv little ante-natal work can be done as there are no facilities.

GARNDIFFAITH CENTRE.—Feeding of infants under one year of age:—

Breast fed	...	...	118	Breast and artificially fed	...	20
Dried milk	...	...	67	Patent foods	...	4

The remarks under the heading of Abersychan Centre also apply to this Centre and the Pontnewynydd Centre.

PONTNEWYNYDD CENTRE.—Feeding of infants:

Breast fed	...	...	147	Breast and artificially fed	...	23
Cows' milk	...	...	10	Dried milk	...	42
Patent foods	...	...	7			

GENERAL.—All Centres are progressing. Mothers attend regularly on the day fixed and the majority are conscientious in following the directions given, with the result that the babies have made satisfactory progress.

The district is very fortunate in its Health Visitors; the work is done well and I am sure everywhere highly appreciated.

9.—Dr. T. BAILLIE SMITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abertillery Urban District Council.

	No. on register at end of year	INFANTS		Total attendances	Average attendance per session.
		No. of attendances New cases.	Re-visits.		
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	692	415	4213	4628	94.4
SIX BELLS CENTRE ...	394	228	2130	2358	48.1
LLANHILLETH CENTRE	432	256	2432	2688	56.

	EXPECTANT MOTHERS.			NURSING MOTHERS.		
	New cases.	Re-visits.	Total.	New cases	Re-visits.	Total.
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	49	64	113	121	141	262
SIX BELLS CENTRE	20	28	48	40	39	79
LLANHILLETH CENTRE	80	108	188	62	103	165

From a study of the tables it will be noted that the attendance at the various Centres keeps well up to attendances of previous years, and this is most satisfactory, proving that the advice given at the Clinic Centres is much appreciated by the mothers.

Owing to lack of time and other duties, I have not this year extracted the various details of the different methods of feeding infants attending the Clinics nor of the various diseases affecting the mothers and infants. The effects of the industrial crisis was plainly seen in the nursing mothers, owing to the prolonged period which it lasted. The health and stamina of a great many mothers depreciated considerably. Breast milk failed entirely or turned very poor in quality and it was only the free milk supplied at the Clinic which enabled the mothers in many cases to overcome a crisis which otherwise would have proved disastrous, not only to their own health but to that of their off-spring.

Rickets shews a decided tendency to increase.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis were not so prevalent as usual. Three deaths only occurred from this malady which in some previous years has proved so fatal to young children under one year of age. I think the advice tendered at the Clinics and also by the Health Visitors in their daily rounds, has helped appreciably in controlling this disease.

No deaths resulted from Measles in children under one year of age.

Whooping Cough was prevalent and six deaths in all resulted therefrom, but no death was recorded under one year.

Orthopædic Cases.—All cases of deformities (no matter what the cause) met with at the various Centres are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Rocyn Jones. These cases are then referred to Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, the consulting orthopædic surgeon, who examines them at the County Clinic situate in Newport and if operative treatment is deemed necessary the various operations are performed at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London.

The following tables shows the number of cases examined and operated on during the year under review.

	Abertillery	Six Bells	Llanhilleth	Total
Total number of new cases referred to Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon	3	2	2	7
Number examined by him	2	1	1	4
Number of appointments not kept	1	—	—	1
Number of cases awaiting examination by Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon... ..	—	1	1	2
Number of cases awaiting admission to Royal National Orthopædic Hospital	2	1	—	3
Number of cases in which treatment was not necessary	—	—	1	1
Number of cases which received treatment at R.N.O.H. during year (i.e., cases previously on register, including two cases admitted for the third time)	3	1	2	6

10.—Dr. T. L. DRAPES, Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow.

CHEPSTOW.—The work of the above Centre has continued to increase during the past year. There were 286 cases on the register at the end of the year. Total attendances during the year were 2,375, with an average of 48.47 at each session, though on some occasions over 100 infants attended. The ailments treated were mainly digestive disorders and bronchitis, but few really serious cases occurred. In such cases they were referred to the family practitioners.

Breast feeding is encouraged always in preference to artificial foods, and in these times of industrial distress I have found mothers only too anxious to avail themselves of nature's method whenever it is possible. When breast feeding has failed I usually employ one of the dried milk preparations, and occasionally citrated cows' milk. I have found four hourly feeds to be the most satisfactory when mothers can be induced to carry it out conscientiously, and babies fed on these lines have much less indigestion than those fed at more frequent intervals.

In a certain number of cases free food has been allowed in necessitous cases, up to the age of one year, and in several cases through the medium of the Board of Guardians.

The drugs chiefly prescribed are those required for bronchitis and indigestion. In addition Cod Liver Oil and Malt, Roboleine and Virol have been used when indicated.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work, and expectant mothers, especially primiparae, are advised to consult their private medical attendant, in order to have their pelvic measurements taken.

It is most gratifying to find the increased numbers who attend the Centre weekly testifying to the good work performed by the Sister-in-Charge, and the Voluntary Helpers.

In the Urban District of Chepstow there were only two deaths recorded under the age of 1 year, both of which occurred during the first two weeks of life.

11.—Dr. F. M. FONSECA, Medical Officer of Health, Ebbw Vale Urban District Council

EBBW VALE CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the 31st December, 1926, was 490, the number of new cases which attended during the year, 338 and the number of re-visits 2,380. The average attendance per session equalled 55.5.

The number of nursing mothers who attended was 119, with 152 re-visits.

Forty-two expectant mothers attended with 53 re-visits.

The infants under one year of age attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast fed	...	...	279	Dried milk	...	...	32
Cows' milk	...	...	20	Breast and bottle fed	...	...	28
Patent foods	...	...	7	Other foods	...	...	34

12.—Dr. R. V. de A. REDWOOD, Medical Officer of Health, Rhymney Urban District Council.

RHYMNEY CENTRE.—Feeding of infants under one year of age:—

Breast fed	...	...	34	Breast and artificially fed	...	...	41
Dried milk	...	...	46	Cows' milk	...	...	12
Other foods	...	...	7				

Attendance at the Centre during 1926:—

Infants.—Number on register end of 1926, 272; number of attendances during 1926, new cases, 166; re-visits, 1,653; total attendances, 1,819; average attendance each session 37.1.

Nursing Mothers.—Number of attendances new cases, 64; re-visits, 57; total attendances, 121.

Expectant Mothers.—Number of attendances, new cases, 22; re-visits, 45; total attendances, 67.

The number of cases given under each of the above headings is an increase on previous years, which is satisfactory.

As mentioned in last year's report, owing to the comparatively heavy amount of unemployment in the district, a considerable amount of free food was given in 1925. This was very much increased by the coal stoppage in 1926.

The food given by the County Council was supplemented by that given for a time by the "Save the Children" organisation and the specified scale somewhat relaxed.

A certain number attended the Clinic in order to get free food and desisted as soon as the food was not available.

A certain amount of simple drugs and ointments are prescribed and dispensed at the Clinic. Medicines with few exceptions are obtained by the mothers at their surgeries. If any but the simplest dispensing was done at the Clinic it would be impossible to get through the work in reasonable time.

Ante-Natal Work.—This is increasing; but many more expectant mothers could attend with advantage.

The infantile death rate at Rhymney having been high compared with the County rate for some years, the following are the statistics for 1926:

1926	Births	Death under 1 year.	Deaths at all ages.	Infantile rate.
1st Quarter	... 60	4	37	62.5
2nd Quarter	... 64	11	35	183.3
3rd Quarter	... 61	2	19	32.7
4th Quarter	... 49	2	33	40.8
1926—Average rate under 1 year—				
Rhymney	... 79.8	Monmouthshire	... 66.1	
1926—Average Birth Rate—Rhymney				
	... 18.6	Monmouthshire	... 20.3	
1926—Average General Death Rate—Rhymney				
	... 9.9	—Monmouthshire	... 9.3	

The infantile rate for 1926 is completely spoiled by the huge rate of 183.3 in the first quarter year—11 deaths under 1 year out of a total of 35 at all ages; the rates for the other three quarter years are exceptionally good.

The general birth rate is lower than usual for the Rhymney District, 26.0 in 1925.

The Lady Secretary, the Lady Helpers, and the Infant Welfare Committee take an enthusiastic interest in the Clinic, as also do the two nurses.

13.—Dr. E. T. H. DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Tredegar Urban District Council.

TREDEGAR CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 725. The new cases attending the centre totalled 455 and 2503 re-visits were paid. The average attendance at each session was 60. This is a large increase on last year's figure, and is due to the stoppage in the coalfield.

An average of 50 cases per week were supplied with free dried milk during the course of the stoppage.

The infants under one year attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast fed	...	...	188	Breast and artificially fed	...	22
Dried milk	...	...	176	Cows' Milk	...	5
Patent foods	...	...	7	Other foods	...	46

14.—Dr. G. RUSSELL, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERTYSSWG CENTRE.—The following table indicates the methods by which the children under nine months of age were fed:—

Breast fed	...	...	% 60	Breast and artificially fed	...	% 11
Dried Milk	...	...	23	Cows' Milk	...	2
Other foods	...	...	4			

The diet for older children, i.e., 9 months to 5 years, was that suited to the age, and adapted to the individual requirements of each child.

The attendance at the Centre was fairly satisfactory on the whole, and the mothers seemed to appreciate what was done for them.

Of the ailments found among the infants, the most prevalent were gastro-intestinal complaints, bronchitis, debility, otorrhœa, and a few diseases of the eye and skin.

It is gratifying to note the number of mothers who attend regularly, and not merely when the infant is causing anxiety. In this way the important preventative work can be more satisfactorily carried out. However, there are too many cases still, in which the infant is only brought when there is something wrong.

The mothers have been helped in many instances by free milk given at the Centre in cases where the family wages come below the scale fixed by the County Authorities. This can be granted to expectant mothers during the three months before delivery, to nursing mothers, and to bottle-fed children.

Eighty mothers, including nine ante-natal cases, sought advice at the Centre during the year.

CWM CENTRE.—The following table indicates the methods by which the infants were fed:—

Breast fed	...	...	% 50	Breast and bottle fed	...	% 25
Other foods	...	...	1	Dried Milk	...	18
Cows' Milk	...	...	6			

The bad economic conditions prevailing in the district during the year probably explains the many cases where breast feeding had to be supplemented by suitable bottle feeds.

The most prevalent ailments found among the children were bronchitis, gastro-intestinal complaints, eczema, debility, otorrhœa and thrush.

Simple medicines and ointments are given for the minor ailments which the children and mothers are found to be suffering from.

71 mothers including 16 expectant mothers, were advised during the year.

15.—Dr. W. H. WILLIAMS, Medical Officer of Health, Monmouth.

MONMOUTH CENTRE.—The centre is open weekly—on market days—and is attended by mothers and infants from Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts.

I am pleased to report a further increase in the number of attendances during the year.

1763 visits of infants were registered, an average of 36 per session; compared with 1,461 visits in 1925, an average of 30 per session.

The number of children on the register for 1926 was 154.

About a dozen expectant mothers attended from time to time for advice.

The scrutiny of the notes on the individual cases shows that during the year 30 infants required no treatment and made satisfactory progress.

The feeding of the infants during the year has been similar to other years—70 per cent. have been breast fed only, 20 per cent. have been partly breast and partly bottle fed, and the remainder, on account of inability of the mother to feed, have been bottle fed only.

The Local Committee have met monthly and have carefully considered the claims for free food. The number of cases granted free food has been kept to a low figure.

The Voluntary Helpers continue to give most valuable services and show a real interest in the Centre, which is capably supervised by Nurse Dennis.

16.—Dr. E. M. GRIFFITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abercarn Urban District Council

ABERCARN CENTRE.—The attendance at this Centre during the year has kept up well. Number of infants on the register was 357, number of attendances during the year, new cases, 192, re-visits, 2,871, total 3,063. Average of attendances at each session 62.51.

Nursing Mothers.—Number of attendances: new cases 7, re-visits 0, total 7. Of the seven cases examined all were suffering from anæmia—due no doubt to a great extent to the industrial conditions which prevailed with consequent under-feeding.

Feeding of Infants.—I am glad to say that the great majority seen were breast fed.

Breast fed	...	...	244	Dried Milk	...	...	56
Cows' Milk	...	...	32	Patent Foods	...	...	3
Other foods	...	...	22				

Free Foods.—Dried milks were supplied to necessitous cases to a much larger extent than usual owing to the disastrous strike, and there is no doubt this saved the lives of many infants.

Drugs.—I am glad to say that it has not been found necessary to prescribe many drugs during the year.

Ante-Natal Work is rarely done at this Centre for reasons given in my last report.

There is no question that this Centre has again more than justified its existence, and I have again to record the great help rendered by Nurse Lord and Nurse James, and the Voluntary Lady Helpers, who have throughout the year never flagged in their efforts.

J.—SALE OF INFANT FOODS, &c., AT THE CENTRES.

The facilities for the purchase at the Infant Welfare Centres of infant foods, &c., continue to be of great advantage to the mothers attending the Centres.

The wages earned by many of the men employed in the works and collieries of the County are very low, and the service for the provision of infant foods at a little over cost price meets a real necessity.

The following foods, &c., were purchased for sale during the year:—

Glaxo	...	...	...	...	...	45,040 lbs.
Savory and Moores	...	...	...	...	...	145 tins.
Lactagol	...	...	...	...	...	246 tins.
Virol	...	...	...	...	...	4,480 lbs.
Virolax	...	...	...	...	...	618 jars.
Ambrosia	...	...	...	...	...	39,824 lbs.
Robinson's Groats	...	...	...	...	...	1,320 lbs.
Malt Extracts	...	...	...	...	...	1,800 jars.
Umbilical Pads	...	...	...	...	...	156
Roboleine	...	...	...	...	...	5,689 lbs.
Allenbury's Food	...	...	...	...	...	42 tins.
Humanised Ambrosia	...	...	...	...	...	92 lbs.

The total cost of the articles was £6,277 5s. 6d.

A small sum is added to the cost price of the artificial foods, sold at the Centres, and this in some measure sets off the loss incurred on the articles given gratis. At a few of the Centres there are voluntary funds, out of which foods are given free to mothers who do not come within the regulations governing the County scheme.

The Health Visitors are instructed to take care that only those mothers who regularly attend with their babies at the Centres, and who cannot pay the prevailing high prices, are served with the foods.

In cases where the income to the home is below the scale fixed by the County Council, infant foods can be obtained either free of cost or at half cost. The seven months stoppage of work in the coalfield during the year caused a big demand for this assistance, and goods to the value of £2,469 7s. 6d. were given for necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers and for infants. This amount included £957 4s. 4d. paid for fresh milk.

The County would have had to face a larger financial burden, had it not been for the help afforded by the "Save the Children Fund," as will be seen by the following special report which has been prepared thereon.

"Early in June, 1926, the County Medical Officer was approached by Dr. A. W. Kennedy and Miss Darnley-Naylor, with a view to assisting in the administration of certain gifts for the purpose of relieving distress amongst the children of Monmouthshire which the Fund were prepared to donate, and the medium of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres was offered for the distribution of any grants that the Fund might be disposed to make.

During the period 9th June, 1926, to 30th September, 1926, the following grants were received from the "Save the Children Fund" :—

Blackwood and District Distress Committee, per Mr. E. J. Finch	750 lbs. Glaxo		
Pontypool and District Distress Committee, per Alderman A. Jenkins	350 lbs. Glaxo		
	360 lbs Runner Beans		
Do. do. (for fresh milk)	£ 30	0	0
Do. do. (relief of individual cases of expectant and nursing mothers)	£ 4	6	0
Nantyglo and Blaena Association N.U.T., Distress Committee, per Mr. T. J. Havard (for boots)	£ 70	0	0
Tredegar Association N.U.T., per Mr. T. Bryant (for boots)	£ 70	0	0
Blackwood and District Association N.U.T., per Mr. W. Griffith (mainly boots)	£ 40	0	0
Ebbw Vale, per Mrs. Cooper (fresh milk)	£ 20	0	0

Abercarn and District Teachers' Association, N.U.T., per D. J. Thomas (for boots)	£50	0	0
Rhymney Valley Association, N.U.T., per G. O. Davies, New Tredegar (boots, &c.)	£150	0	0
Pontypool and District Association N.U.T. per R. P. Griffiths Boots, &c.)	£75	0	0
Trenowydd Council School, Rhymney, Glam., per J. P. Williams (boots)	£5	0	0
6 bottles Horlicks Malted Milk and 6 bottles Roboleine.			
Beaufort, per Cr. Lloyd Jones (for fresh milk)	£10	0	0
Pontypool, per Mrs. N. Gower, J.P. (meals for mothers and fresh milk)	£35	0	0
Wattsville, per Cr. W. J. Lewis (Grade A milk)	£20	0	0
Nantyglo, per Cr. W. Dunn (fresh milk)	£15	0	0
Victoria Village, Garndiffaith, per Mrs. F. Watkins (dinners for mothers)	£25	0	0
Llanhilleth Council School, per P. Jones (boots)	£5	0	0
Ty'r Craig Council School, per H. J. Lewis (boots)	£10	0	0

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

16,100 lbs Ambrosia			
13,200 lbs. Glaxo			
Fresh milk	£5	11	4
Semi-medicinal foods for school children—approximately	£100	0	0
Special grant through Lady Astor for fresh milk	£100	0	0

Summarising the above, it will be noted that the assistance given to this County by the "Save the Children Fund" amounted to:—

Boots	...	...	...	...	...	£475	0	0
Fresh milk and dinners for expectant and nursing mothers, &c						260	11	4
Semi-medicinal foods	...	...	...	.		100	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	0
Total						£839	17	4
Glaxo	...	14,300 lbs.	Ambrosia	...	16,100 lbs.	1,900	0	0
Representing a cash value of approximately								
making a grand total of approximately...						£2,740	0	0

The 29,300 packets of dried milk (Glaxo and Ambrosia) distributed through the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres were allotted as follows:—

Pontnewynydd	...	1852 packets	Pengam	...	1768 packets
Blaenavon	...	1536 "	Trethomas	...	1448 "
Risca	...	1376 "	New Tredegar	...	1308 "
Ynysddu	...	1252 "	Rhymney	...	1148 "
Abersychan	...	1184 "	Abertillery	...	1044 "
Pontypool	...	1110 "	Ebbw Vale	...	960 "
Cwm	...	956 "	Tredegar	...	992 "
Llanhilleth	...	920 "	Six Bells	...	856 "
Beaufort	...	784 "	Blaina	...	756 "
Garndiffaith	...	812 "	Crumlin	...	692 "
Aberbargoed	...	688 "	Abercarn	...	684 "
Abertysswg	...	596 "	Markham Village	...	584 "
Nantyglo	...	568 "	Newbridge	...	536 "
Cross Keys	...	520 "	Pontnewydd	...	508 "
Blackwood	...	472 "	Oakdale	...	424 "
Pontymoile	...	394 "	Cwmbran	...	306 "
Panteg	...	132 "	Caldicot	...	96 "
Caerleon	...	36 "	Rogerstone	...	12 "
Total					<u>29,300 packets</u>

In addition, 1,100 lbs. Glaxo were distributed direct to parents by the Blackwood and Pontypool Distress Committees.

It affords me great pleasure to present this statement as illustrating the bounteous manner in which the "Save the Children Fund" came forward to help in a practical way the pressing needs of the County during the industrial crisis and which undoubtedly alleviated acute distress amongst our child population.

Their help, combined with the assistance given for nursing and expectant mothers and for infants under the scheme of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, enables it to be recorded that during the cessation of work in almost all the leading industries of the County, lasting over seven months, extreme privation amongst infants was avoided with the result that the vital statistics for that period of the year were satisfactory.

The very cordial thanks of the Council are due to the "Save the Children Fund" for the handsome and generous way in which they assisted us to preserve child life wherever it is menaced by conditions of economic hardship and distress."

I should like to add my keen appreciation of the courtesy I received during by interviews with Dr. Kennedy, Miss Darnley-Naylor, and Miss Cummings, and of their readiness to help us as far as they were able when appealed to.

K.—INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table gives particulars of the training, &c., of the midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st December, in each year, from 1911 to 1926:—

Year	Number Literate	Number Illiterate	Total No. on Roll	No. holding C.M.B. Certificate	No. holding other Certificates	No. untrained but registered	No. over 60 years of age
1926	243	5	248	211	—	37	32
1925	241	7	248	208	—	40	35
1924	242	11	253	203	—	50	38
1923	231	14	245	190	—	55	42
1922	224	16	242	178	—	64	49
1921	214	18	232	168	—	68	38
1920	211	22	233	160	—	73	48
1919	212	25	237	159	—	78	53
1918	184	31	215	123	—	92	49
1917	203	37	240	131	1	108	58
1916	214	37	251	135	4	112	58
1915	208	42	250	117	4	129	73
1914	207	53	260	100	6	154	111
1913	194	59	253	89	6	158	87
1912	191	62	253	87	5	161	71
1911	176	66	242	68	5	168	67

Again a decrease in the number of untrained midwives practising in the County is to be recorded. The number of trained women has increased by three.

The proportion of trained women to untrained is 211 to 37, whereas fifteen years ago the balance was on the other side, when there were 168 untrained and 68 trained women on the Roll. There are still five illiterate women practising, a reduction of two since last year.

The total number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1926 was 13, two through old age or ill-health, eight through removal from County, two on account of death, and one by reason of marriage.

The Inspectress of Midwives paid 1,438 visits to midwives, and made 1,074 examinations. In the other cases the midwives were not inspected for the following reasons:

Not at home	...	...	...	312
Ill	...	...	...	13
Not commenced practising	...	...	...	4
Not working at the time	...	...	...	21
Away nursing private cases	...	...	...	7
Left County	...	...	...	2
Removed to another District	...	...	...	1
About to resign	...	...	...	4

In 31 instances unsatisfactory conditions were found, viz :—

Cannot take pulse and temperature	14
Cannot chart pulse and temperature	14
Bag of appliances not satisfactory	2
Scissors dirty	1

Two letters of warning were sent to the midwives concerned.

Six midwives were interviewed by the County Medical Officer in respect of alleged contravention of the Rules of the Central Midwives Board, and final warnings were given where necessary.

There are upon the County Roll two midwives who cannot take pulse and temperature, three who can take, but cannot chart pulse and temperature, and one who cannot take pulse.

Midwifery Scholarships are provided by the Education Committee as in previous years. (See Section L.)

1,760 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 144 cases of stillbirths, were received from midwives during the year.

Also six notifications of deaths of mothers, 247 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 69 notifications of artificial feeding, 4 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and 17 notifications of having laid out a dead body.

The reasons given in sending for medical aid were as follows :—

High temperature	37
Prolonged and difficult labour ...	49½
Obstructed labour	20
Premature birth	39
Premature labour	13
Retained placenta	75
Prolapse of cord	12
Prolapse of uterus	4
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum ...	33
Ditto. post-partum ...	25
Hæmorrhage (not defined) ...	27
Ruptured perineum	178
Contracted pelvis	15
Abnormal presentation—Breech ...	38
Face	7
Hand	5
Transverse	2
Vertex	7
Foot	9
Miscellaneous	19

Abortion	...	...	65
Threatened abortion	...	...	2
Stillbirth	...	...	24
Unsatisfactory condition of mother			140
Ditto.		child	90
Deformity of child	...	...	27
Eye affections	...	...	165
Uterine Inertia	...	...	30
Doctor engaged	...	...	39
Puerperal fever	...	...	3
Born before arrival	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	97

L.—PROVISION OF MIDWIVES FOR THE COUNTY.

The Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918, are administered by the County Public Health Committee, acting as the Local Supervising Authority, for which the County Medical Officer acts as Executive Officer. The district nursing is provided under the scheme of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, of which Lady Mather Jackson is the Honorary Secretary.

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association undertakes the training of pupil midwives for the Monmouthshire Education Committee. They were requested to make this provision at the instance of the County Council after the passing of the Midwives Act in 1902.

Good work continues to be accomplished by the Association, both in the training of pupil midwives and in the provision of nurses for district nursing. At the present time there are 26 constituent associations affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, and 38 nurses are employed by them. The aims of the Association have been fully stated in previous reports.

The Nurses' Home at Tredegar, which is recognised by the Central Midwives Board as a training centre for midwifery pupils, passed out three pupils during the year, three of whom were successful in obtaining the Central Midwives Board Certificate.

Since the establishment of the Training Centre, fourteen years ago, 68 pupils have received midwifery training, 65 have passed the C.M.B. examinations, three have failed, and one refused to sit the examination after being trained.

Fifteen pupils have also received six months' general training at the Home in addition to the midwifery training.

Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, is the approved lecturer to the pupil midwives. The Home is now sufficiently large to accommodate the scholarship pupils as well as the staff. The period of training of midwives has recently been extended by the Central Midwives Board from six months to twelve months.

A grant of £350 is made each year by the County Education Committee to provide six midwifery scholarships, value £38 11s. 4d. each, and in addition six months' district training in general nursing for two pupils. If it should happen that the six scholarships are not taken up in the year, the amount of the grant is proportionately reduced.

The Nurses' Home of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association at Tredegar has been enlarged and a Maternity Ward has been added. The Home is now approved by the Central Midwives' Board for the full training of midwives under the new regulations. There are eight maternity beds provided at the Home, six of which are effective beds in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

The new premises were formally opened on October 9th, 1926, by Lord Tredegar.

A grant of £475 per annum for a maximum period of ten years is given by the County Council to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association in connection with the provision of the Maternity Home at Tredegar.

Provision of Midwives in Rural Areas.—A grant to the maximum of £750 per annum is made to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to subsidise the provision of trained midwives in the rural areas of the County, in accordance with the scheme of the County Medical Officer, which was approved by the Public Health Committee and the Local Government Board in October, 1917.

During the year 1926 midwives were subsidised in the following areas.

Llantilio Crossenny.	Raglan	Chepstow
Llantilio Pertholey	Itton	Penhow
Goytre and Llanover	Llanfoist	Rogerstone
Tintern and St. Arvans.	Llandogo and Trelleck	Caldicot
Usk	Pontypool Road	Monmouth
Llangattock-vibon-avel.	Abersychan	Trelleck

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association have not hitherto called for the maximum grant. The amount disbursed averages about £600 per annum.

The registration of Maternity Homes under the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, came into force on the 1st January, 1927. Applications for registration have been received from the Tredegar and District Nursing Home, the Nantyderry Maternity Home and Hostel, and the Monmouthshire and South Wales Nursing Home, Abergavenny.

It is the duty of the County Medical Officer to make a periodical inspection of these Homes.

M.—COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme under which the County organisation works has been set out in detail in previous reports. It is regretted that in some districts of the County it has not been found possible to form Maternity and Child Welfare Committees through the inability to find Honorary Secretaries who will undertake the organisation.

N.—TRAINING OF THE ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The mothers of the future are not neglected, for the elder scholars of girls' departments are taught the rudiments of infant care and hygiene at the Domestic Arts Centres of the Elementary Schools of the County.

O.—PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES AT HOSPITALS, &c.

1. *Physically Defective Children*.—The Joint scheme of the County Council and Education Committee, whereby twelve beds are reserved at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, was in full operation during the year.

Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), the Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon, visits the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, once a month for the purpose of examining new cases and re-examining children who have received treatment at the

Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. The following children under five years of age were seen by him during the year :—

Rickets	10	Infantile Paralysis	9
Talipes Varus	9	Talipes Valgus	3
Harelip and cleft palate ...	2	Cleft Palate	3
Hare Lip	2	Bowed Legs	3
Deformity of Feet	3	Deformity of Upper Limbs	2
Paresis	2	Spastic Paraplegia	2
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	2	Pes Cavus	2
Genu Valgum	2	Drop Foot	1
Impaired use of Upper Limb	1	Flat Foot	1
Tubercular Spine	1	Torticollis	1
Dislocated Shoulder	1	Flexion of Thumb	1
Weakness of Legs and Back	1		
		TOTAL	64

His recommendations were as follows :

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street	14
For admission to the Country Branch of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Brockley Hill	18
To wear splints, or other apparatus	14
To attend for massage or other treatment at Newport Clinic ...	5
To have alterations to boots	4
To have anti-rachitic treatment	4
No treatment required	3
To continue with present instruments	1
To see X-ray specialist	1

He also made at the Newport Clinic 21 re-examinations of children who had received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital.

During the year 13 children were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital or its country branch at Stanmore, Middlesex.

The defects from which they suffered were as follows :—

Poliomyelitis	1	Hare lip and cleft palate ...	5
Torticollis	1	Genu valgum	1
Congenital dislocation of hip	1	Birth palsy of upper limb ...	2
Severe rickets	2		

Since the inception of the scheme, 19 children have received treatment at the hospital.

Upon discharge of the children from the Orthopædic Hospital, the County Medical Officer takes charge of their after-care. He sees them periodically at the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, and supervises their massage and electrical treatment and appropriate after-care when necessary. A close watch is kept upon the surgical boots and instruments which have been supplied to the children, to see that they are properly and constantly worn and continue to be suitable. During the year 1926, he examined 108 crippled children—including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations.

Eleven infants attended the clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 67 attendances.

Three pairs of surgical boots, four splints and seven night shoes for these crippled children were supplied by the County Council.

Infants suffering from surgical tuberculosis are treated at the hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

The County Medical Officer had intended writing up a special report upon the orthopædic work of the County Council, and which would have been most informing and interesting owing to the remarkable work that has already been achieved, but this report has had to be deferred in consequence of the Small Pox epidemic now prevailing in the County.

2. *Hostel for Unmarried Mothers.*—The Maternity Home and Hostel at Nantyderry continued its good work. There were nine girls and five babies in the residence on the 1st April, 1926. During the year which ended on the 31st March, 1927, 16 girls were admitted and there were 18 births in the Hostel. 20 girls and 16 babies were discharged in that period and four babies died, one stillbirth. Five girls remained in residence on the 31st March, 1927, and two babies. Of the 25 girls in the Home during the year, 21 were from the County of Monmouth. Eleven of the girls discharged went to situations, eight were taken charge of by relatives, and one was admitted to a Religious Home. Twelve of the babies who left the Home were taken to relatives, and 3 went to Foster parents one to a Home with mother. Total number of inmates during the year: girls, 25; babies, 23.

The girls are admitted one month before their confinement and remain for six months after the birth of the child. The ideal that the mother and child must not be separated for at least the first six months of the infant's life is followed as far as possible.

Apart from its influence upon the mother during the period of confinement and the training she receives to fit her for work when she leaves, the Hostel ensures that the baby born out of wedlock is given an equal chance in life with infants more fortunately placed.

3. *Medical Attendance at Confinements.*—Under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, the County Council are responsible for the payment of fees of medical practitioners called by midwives to assist in cases of emergency, under certain specified conditions.

Fees were paid in 166 cases during the year, involving a payment of £265 13s. The Council have power to recover the whole or part of such fees from the parents, and the total amount collected in this way by the Finance Department was £13 13s. 3d.

4. *Difficult Labour Cases.*—Facilities for consultation with Dr. G. I. Strachan, Senior Assistant Gynæcologist of the National Medical School and the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, are provided for these cases and hospital treatment given when necessary.

Eight cases were examined, and five of them subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of Cardiff Royal Infirmary during the year 1926. Another case was admitted to the Tredegar Nursing Home. Two mothers were sent to specialists for examination.

5. *Dental Treatment.*—Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches, L.D.S., R.C.S., Senior School Dentist under the Education Committee, devotes one half day per week to dental treatment of mothers and also children under five years of age. Each Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the County is visited by Mr. Riches and advice given to expectant and nursing mothers who have carious teeth. Treatment of those who desire it is afterwards given at the nearest County School Clinic. The treatment figures for the year are as follows

No. of appointments made	...	366
No. of do. kept	...	215
No. given gas	... ..	215
No. of temporary teeth extracted	...	137
No. of permanent teeth do.	...	1051
No. of children treated	...	30
No. of mothers do.	...	185

P.—CONCLUSIONS.

In reviewing the results of the year's work the most striking feature is the reduction that has occurred in the infantile mortality rate, which is 6.9 per thousand births less than the previous lowest figure. This reduction is particularly notable when the industrial conditions of the year are taken into consideration.

The usefulness of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres was clearly demonstrated during this industrial crisis, if only from the standpoint of providing fresh and artificial milk for the mothers and infants who, through no fault of their own, were in need of extra nourishment. The efforts of the County Council were very generously supported by the Save the Children Fund, who, as will be seen from the detailed report presented earlier in these pages, supplied infant foods to the approximate total value of £2,739. The administration of these foods was effected through the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, a procedure which ensured that generally the right cases were assisted.

Ante-natal care is still a big problem. During the year 1926, there was a diminution in the number of ante-natal cases seen by the Health Visitors at the homes, but a considerable increase occurred in the visits of expectant mothers to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

There was also a large increase in the attendance of infants at the Centres, and judging by the experience of the 1921 stoppage in the coalfield, it is not anticipated that these high attendance figures of last year will be maintained during the current year.

The economic conditions of the year caused a postponement of the preparations for opening the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital and at the time of writing, the matter is further delayed owing to the epidemic of Small-pox in the County.

From the foregoing it will be noted that the ordinary duties of the medical and nursing staff were restricted in a great measure through the extra work entailed at the Centres by reason of the poverty arising out of the industrial crisis. It is hoped to recover the lost ground during the present year.

Maternity and Child Welfare is the basis of public health. A great deal of suffering among infants has been due to the want of knowledge. Much has been done to impart instruction to the mothers of the County, but there is room for expansion of the services in this direction. Financial restrictions will perhaps put off the day of realisation, but the time is coming when there will be Maternity and Infants' Hospitals, Country Convalescent Homes, with open-air and artificial sunlight treatment available for all who need them.

The future of the nation depends upon the care of its children and their proper upbringing, without which decay and decline will inevitably follow.

We again thank the voluntary helpers and the members of the district Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the help rendered at the Centres, and also for their valuable aid to the mothers and infants in other directions during the black months of the industrial dispute.

We also gratefully record our appreciation of the support which has always been afforded by the Chairman and Members of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.