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Monmouthshire County Council.**

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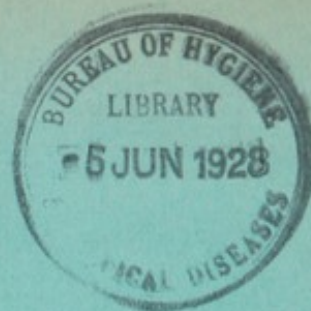
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# MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

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

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## REPORT

UPON

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

For the Year 1927.

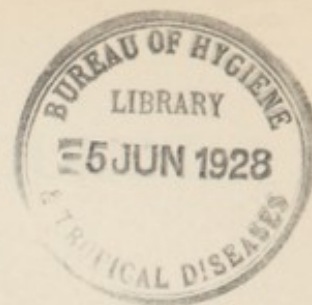
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**D. ROCYN JONES,**  
County Medical Officer.

May 9th, 1928.







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# MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT,

9th May, 1928.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.*

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Thirteenth 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 31st December, 1927, there were notified to this Department, 6,753 births as follows:—

	LIVING.	STILLBIRTHS.	TOTAL.
No. officially notified by persons in attendance	6325	320	6645
No. not directly notified to the County Medical Officer, but information received from other sources, viz.,			
District Registrars     ...     ...	93	—	93
Health Visitors       ...     ...	15	—	15
	6433	320	6753

Of these 6,645 notifications, midwives were responsible for 6,584, registered medical practitioners for 50, and parents for 11 notifications respectively.

The number of registered births during the year was 6,522, of which 96.9 per cent. were notified in compliance with the Notification of Birth Acts. Of the remainder, 108 births were subsequently discovered, 93 through the District Registrars, and 15 through the Health Visitors, leaving only 1.3 per cent. of the registered births unaccounted for.



## 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-one Health Visitors upon the Staff. Twenty-seven 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 has again shown a decrease. This is due to the epidemic of small-pox which has been raging in the County since the end of February, 1927, and which, owing to the impossibility of obtaining Nurses to staff two of the small-pox isolation hospitals, necessitated the utilisation of the services of several of the County Health Visitors. It is gratifying to record the willingness of the Health Visitors to volunteer for this work, which is quite outside the duties for which they were appointed. As a result the visitation of homes upon the Maternity and Child Welfare side as well as the school side had to be curtailed.

It was also necessary to reduce the number of nurses in attendance at some of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, where one Health Visitor had to carry on alone the work usually done by two Health Visitors. The difficulty was unavoidable. As far as possible all visits to the homes of new babies were paid. The work which suffered was the quarterly and yearly re-visits. Taking this drawback into consideration, the results for the year are quite satisfactory.

The work of the Health Visitor is very arduous. She has to walk long distances in all types of weather, and to put up with many disappointments, and at times unkind rebuffs, but she feels that she is amply rewarded when, as most often happens, she is able to brighten the lot of some harassed mother or ailing baby.

The Health Visitor has become part of the everyday life of the working mothers, and she is laying the foundation for a stronger and healthier race.



1.—VISITS PAID.—During the year 42,548 visits were paid to the homes as follows:—

New Cases		Re-visits under	Re-visits	Total Visits.
Babies seen	Fruitless Visits	1 year of age	1 to 5 years.	
6,031	775	14,246	21,496	42,548

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

1926.—First visits, 7467; Fruitless visits, 416; Re-visits under one year, 22,366; Re-visits 1-5 years, 27,751; Total, 58,000.

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 one year, 24,319; Re-visits 1-5 years, 31,261; Total, 64,157.

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

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

1921.—First visits, 10,591; Re-visits under one year, 33,024; Re-visits 1-5 years, 21,845; Total, 65,458.

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

1919.—First visits, 9,735; Re-visits, 39,055; Total, 48,790.

1918.—First visits, 8,106; Re-visits, 29,537; Total, 37,643.

11. METHODS OF FEEDING.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 5,109 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (84.7 per cent.), whilst 619 were being bottle fed (10.26 per cent.), and 235 were both breast and bottle fed (3.9 per cent.) It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 410 instances (6.8 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 cases visited. In 68 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours (1.1 per cent.)

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

	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Breast-fed ...	86.2	86.2	82.3	81.8	79.6	78.7	79.3
Bottle-fed ...	9.8	9.6	10.1	10.0	11.5	11.8	11.4
Both breast and bottle fed	3.03	3.1	2.5	2.6	3.25	3.7	4.2
Changed from breast to bottle feeding within the first nine months	7.3	10.2	9.1	7.6	12.0	13.0	15.8



The rightful food for a baby is the mother's milk, because the composition is perfect. Any other food is only second best. The mother also benefits by feeding her baby, and there is no reason why almost every mother should not do so, if she really desires. Nature intended the milk of the mother for the infant, and there is a cause for any irregularity in this respect. It is the province of the doctor at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre to seek such cause, and it is noted with satisfaction that a high percentage of the mothers attending the County Centres adopt this method of feeding.

The figures quoted above show the methods of feeding at the first visit of the Health Visitor to the home, and there is a drop of 1.5 per cent. in the number of breast-fed babies as compared with the previous year.

The records kept by the Assistant County Medical Officers in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres fix the decrease in breast feeding in the industrial areas at from 5 to 10 per cent., which they attribute in the main as being due to the industrial conditions prevailing in those districts. They are of opinion that the nutrition and general standard of health of the mothers have definitely deteriorated lately, consequent upon the low wages earned by the majority of the workers, and the degree of unemployment in the County.

### 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.

Although in some districts considerable progress has been made with the provision of houses for the working classes, it cannot be said that the supply has in any way met the demand, and there is still much overcrowding throughout the County. As stated in previous reports, many houses which have been condemned as unfit for habitation have to remain in occupation for want of alternative accommodation. Bad housing is an important factor in bad health.

IV. ANTE-NATAL.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 215 to new cases and 267 re-visits, a total of 482 visits, which showed a decrease of 138 upon the previous year's figure. This is due to the limitation of the work of Health Visitors, consequent upon the transfer of several to small-pox nursing.

V. PUERPERAL FEVER.—During the year 1927 notifications were received from the District Medical Officers of 10 cases, whilst in the return of deaths furnished by the Registrar-General, the number due to Puerperal sepsis was 8. The attack rate per 1,000 births in 1927 was 1.5. The attack rate per 1,000 of the population equalled .027, and the death rate per 1,000 of the population was .02. The death rate per 1,000 births was 1.23.



Notifications were received from the following districts:—Ebbw Vale, 3; Pontypool, 1; Rhymney, 3; Risca, 1; Tredegar, 1; and Chepstow Rural District, 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
1927	10	10	8	.02
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

The ten cases of puerperal fever were investigated by the County Midwives Inspector, who found that all cases were attended by registered midwives.

Details of the cases are as follows:—Number of women attended at confinement by midwife alone, 8; by medical practitioner and midwife, 1. In two 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 one on the fifth, in one on the seventh, and in two 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 her clothing.

Death resulted in only one of the cases which were notified under the regulations and followed up by the County staff. As the total deaths registered from this disease numbered 8, it will be seen that unnotified cases occurred. This happens every year and it is difficult to trace the reason.



On 1st October, 1926, puerperal pyrexia became a notifiable disease in addition to puerperal fever. Puerperal pyrexia is defined as any febrile condition (apart from puerperal fever) occurring in a woman within 21 days after child-birth in which a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahr. or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours.

Fourteen cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1927, and all were followed up by the Inspectress of Midwives. Thirteen cases cleared up satisfactorily, and one subsequently proved to be puerperal fever.

A scheme for the provision of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cases of puerperal fever has been drawn up and approved by the Ministry of Health. Under the scheme the services of Mr. G. I. Strachan, F.R.C.S., of Cardiff, have been retained as consultant and operating surgeon. Cases requiring hospital treatment will be sent to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, and any necessary bacteriological examination will be made by Dr. H. W. Catto, County Bacteriologist, at the County Laboratory, Newport.

VI. MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of deaths during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 37; 8 from puerperal fever, and 29 from other causes associated with childbirth. This is equal to a rate of 5.6 per 1,000 registered births. It is considerably higher than last year's rate of 3.8, and is, in fact, the highest figure recorded for many years.

This is a lamentable increase, and it provides a problem which it is the duty of Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities to solve. Maternity is a natural process, and it should be faced without fear of disaster. The loss of a mother in child-birth is usually a far-reaching domestic tragedy of the very saddest kind. Apart, too, from such fatalities the amount of unreported and often untreated injury and ill-health which result from pregnancy and labour is incalculable.

The chief causes of maternal mortality are the very serious lack of proper care and supervision during pregnancy, of trained nursing and skilled medical attendance during confinement and of general after-care.

The measures that can be adopted for alleviation of these causes are:—

- (i) Ante-natal supervision.
- (ii) Institutional treatment of complicated midwifery cases, and for women whose homes are unfit for a confinement to take place therein; and
- (iii) The promotion of a high standard of practice by midwives.

Under headings (i) and (iii) advance can be recorded. The period of training of midwives has been extended from 6 to 12 months, and in a few years' time the ideal in this direction will be approached.

The expectant mothers of the County are taking a greater interest in the ante-natal facilities provided, particularly in those areas where there are ante-natal clinics, but it is of little use advising them to make arrangements for anticipated complicated labour, if the necessary hospital accommodation cannot be offered.



VII. INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—Thirteen cases of this disease were discovered during the investigations, and 25 re-visits paid, as against 26 and 81 re-visits for the year 1926.

Forty-eight deaths were registered from this disease in children under two years of age, giving a death-rate per 1,000 births of 7.36 as compared with 5.94 for the year 1926.

All cases of which the Health Visitor has knowledge are visited, but it is obvious that very many cases do not come to their notice. The disease is not notifiable.

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 includes one very hot summer, when the rate was 17.2, has been a little over 7 per 1,000 births. Printed instructions to mothers in regard to these diseases are distributed by the Health Visitors when cases come to their notice.

Generally speaking, the infant mortality from this disease is higher in a hot summer than in a cool one; in hot weather inefficient scavenging, with breeding of flies and pollution of the air being unduly prominent. It is emphasised by authorities on the subject that the breast-fed baby has an enormously better chance of escaping diarrhœal infection than the one on artificial food. The time of weaning is another point of importance; infants who are weaned during the epidemic season are more liable to attacks than those kept on the breast during that season. The adoption of proper feeding methods is undoubtedly the line upon which eradication of the disease is possible.

VIII. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Thirty-seven cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 36 cases in the year 1926, and 26 in 1925. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the midwives, making a total of 118 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 487 visits to them. In one case there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the midwife, and a warning letter was sent to her by the County Medical Officer.

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.

It is estimated that about one-third of the cases of blindness in this country are due to ophthalmia neonatorum, but in this county such cases are rare. There was no case of blindness during the year 1927, and all ophthalmia cases notified made good recoveries. The use of "drops" by the midwives, mentioned above, undoubtedly has effect in reducing the risk of infection of the eyes, and the strict attention paid by the Health Visitors to each case also tends to help the recovery of the children.



The Health Visitors have reported upon 118 cases as follows:—

NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.					Acute	Slight	Total
Brought forward from last year	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
New cases—							
Both eyes	...	...	...	...	21	60	81
One eye only	...	...	...	...	5	25	30
					—	—	—
					30	88	118
					—	—	—
Number of cases which attended hospital							
As out-patients	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
As in-patients	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Number of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife				...	—	1	1
RESULTS:							
Completely cured	...	...	...	...	26	81	107
Blindness	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
Dead	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
				...	—	—	—
				...	30	88	118

Seven of the cases were referred to the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

IX. STILL BIRTHS.—320 cases were notified to your Medical Officer, and this number in addition to the 68 infants who were found by the Health Visitors to have survived birth by a few hours, makes a total of 388 young lives lost.

The still-births work out at 4.9 per 100 live births—a point higher than last year's rate, which was 4.8.

These percentages are calculated from the number of still-births notified under the Notification of Births Acts, but in view of the fact that hitherto all live births have not been notified in accordance with the provisions of the Act, it may be assumed that a number of still-births also escaped notification.

The Births and Deaths Registration Act came into force on the 1st July, 1927, and it requires the registration of still-births by the Registrars of Births and Deaths. In future years, therefore, the still-birth notification figure is likely to be a more accurate one.

A section of the Act deals with the disposal of bodies of still-born infants, which will greatly improve the position in this regard. The principal enactment is to the effect that no still-born child may be buried until a certificate by the Registrar has been supplied.

X. UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—The number of confinements attended by unregistered women without a doctor was 5, as compared with 6 in 1926 and 14 in 1925.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in dealing with a midwife whose name was removed from the Roll some few years ago, and certain medical practitioners in the district had to be warned of the penalties of working with her.

Another woman to whom a warning was sent was one who had taken a course of training in midwifery, but failed to pass the examination.

## C.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

DISTRICT	Estimated Popula- tion	BIRTHS								DEATHS				INFANTILE MORTALITY.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total	Rate per 1000 of popula- tion	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000 of popula- tion	Total Deaths under One Year				Ages at Death of Children under One Year of age																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female							Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	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—	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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.





### 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 Officers' figures of the ages at death of children under one year of age, show that during the year 185 infants died within one week of birth, and 249 died within the first month of birth, whilst 563 died within the first twelve months, which, together with the figure of 320 still-births, makes a total of 883 lives lost to the community.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births is 87.3. Last year it was 66.1; in 1925, 83.8; in 1924, 75.6; in 1923, 73.0; in 1922, 83.4; and in 1921, 91.5.

There were 6,522 births registered during the year, 1,053 less when compared with the number for 1926, and the birth rate is 17.5 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 20.3 in 1926. In the year 1925, it was 21.5; in 1924, 22.3; in 1923, 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 251, which gives a ratio to that of legitimate births as 40 to 960. Last year the number was 258, equal to 35.3 per 1,000 legitimate births, and for the year 1925, the figure was 31.3.

The total number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year was 27, or 4.1 per 1,000 of all births, and 107.6 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 23, or 3.0 per 1,000 of all births, and 89.1 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

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

	Present Year.	(1926)		Present Year.	(1926)
URBAN—			URBAN—		
Blaenavon ...	132.9	(59.6)	Abersychan	73.3	(66.3)
Bedwellty ...	111.1	(84.5)	Abergavenny ...	62.9	(40.0)
Rhymney ...	109.7	(76.3)	Pontypool ...	57.1	(66.3)
Mynyddislwyn ...	107.3	(69.1)	Caerleon ...	55.5	(27.8)
Risca ...	103.5	(45.8)	Llantarnam ...	50.4	(51.7)
Nantyglo and Blaina	102.5	(54.3)	Usk ...	47.6	(74.1)
Bedwas and Machen	95.7	(67.0)	Chepstow ...	40.5	(10.7)
Tredeggar ...	95.4	(83.0)	RURAL—		
Ebbw Vale ...	92.9	(70.7)	Pontypool ...	90.9	(34.5)
Panteg ...	85.7	(84.9)	St. Mellons ...	85.9	(60.9)
Abertillery ...	84.9	(62.7)	Magor ...	67.9	(36.6)
Monmouth ...	81.1	(69.0)	Chepstow ...	64.9	(73.6)
Llanfrechfa Upper ...	78.6	(76.1)	Monmouth ...	26.1	(23.7)
Abercarn ...	73.5	(54.3)	Abergavenny ...	23.1	(25.0)



The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1927, 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.	
	1927	(1926)	1927	(1926)	1927	(1926)
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES</b> ...	<b>16.7</b>	<b>(17.8)</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>(11.6)</b>	<b>69.</b>	<b>(70.)</b>
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	17.1	(18.2)	12.2	(11.6)	71.	(73.)
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000—50,000) ...	16.4	(17.6)	11.3	(10.6)	68.	(67.)
London ...	16.1	(17.1)	11.9	(11.6)	59.	(64.)
<b>MONMOUTHSHIRE</b> ...	<b>17.5</b>	<b>(20.3)</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>(9.4)</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>(66.1)</b>

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

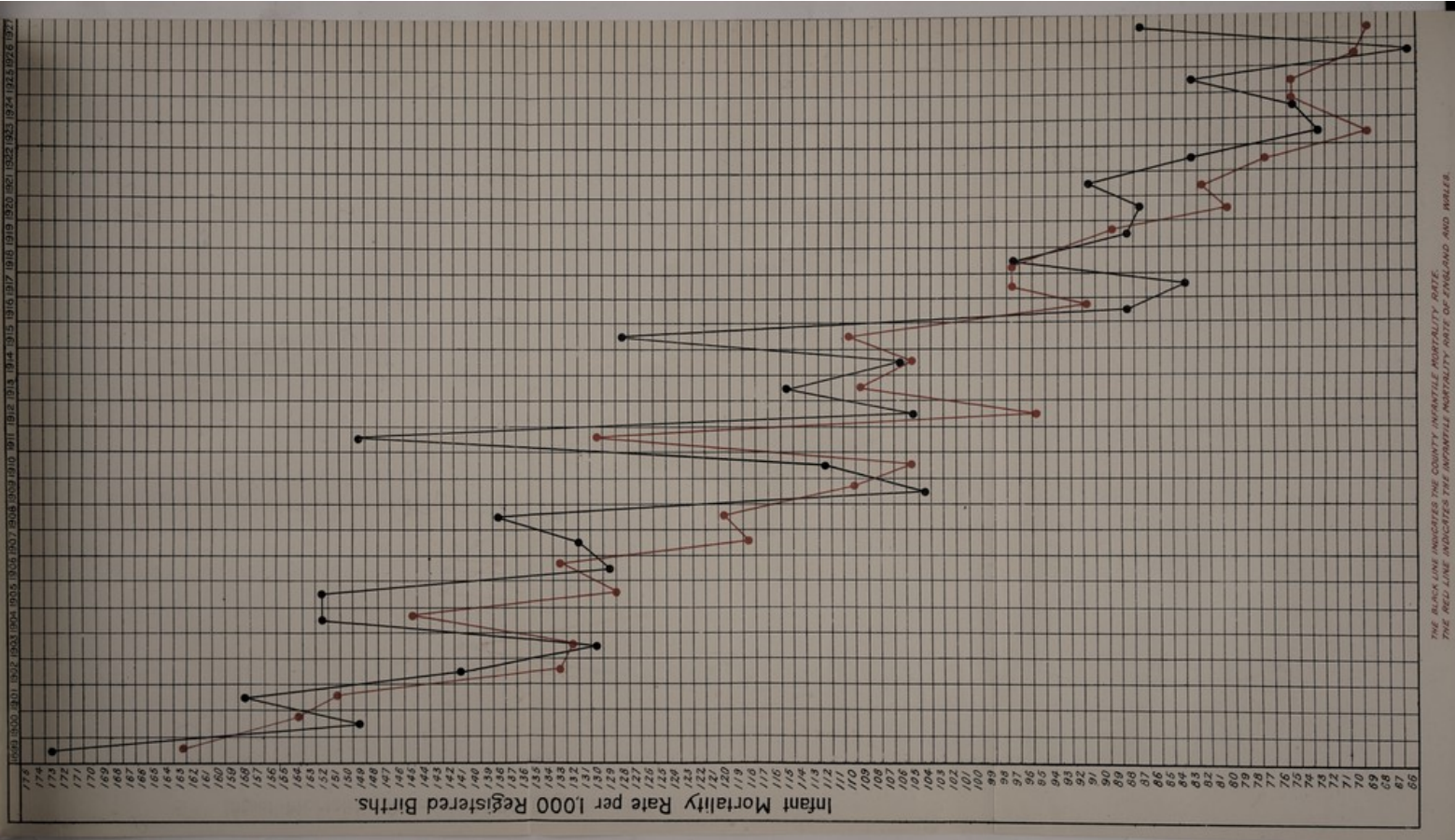
#### D.—DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS.

The County Birth Rate again shows a decline. The rate of 17.5 per 1,000 of population for the year 1927 is 2.8 below that of the previous year, which was the lowest ever recorded.

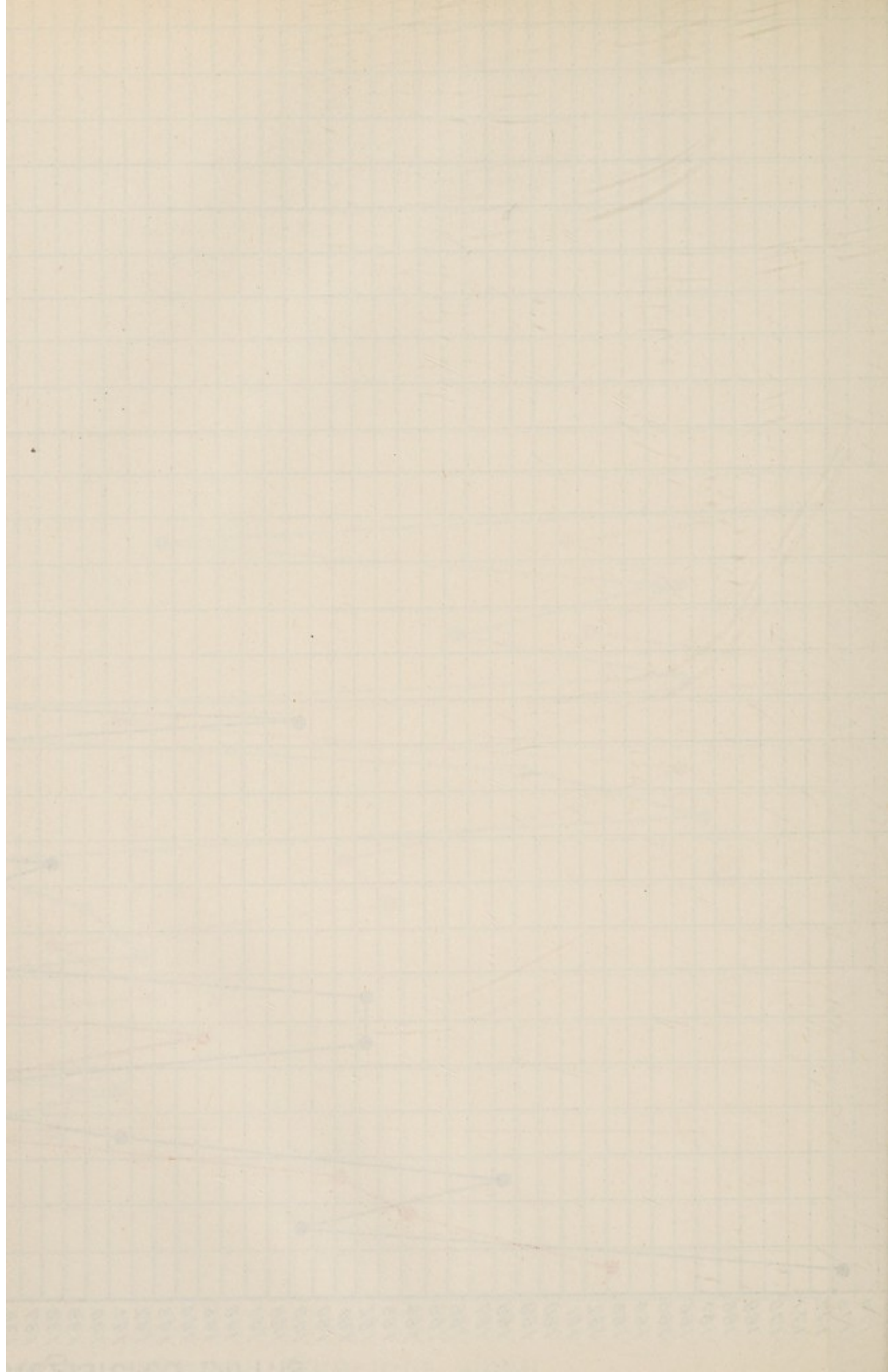
For very many years the County rate has been a great deal higher than the rate for England and Wales, but the difference has now been reduced to .8 in favour of the County.

The County Death Rate of 11.0 per 1,000 of population is greater than the rate for 1926 (9.4) but it is considerably below that for England and Wales (12.3).

The County Infant Mortality Rate for the year (87.3) shows a decided increase on the rate for the previous year, when it was 66.1, the lowest point ever touched. This year's rate is the highest since the year 1921, and it is also above that for England and Wales (69).







It is too much to expect a rate of this type to consistently fall. The diseases which were responsible for the large increase were :—

Bronchitis ... (2.8 per 1,000 births above the previous year's rate).

Pneumonia ... (7.0 per 1,000 births above the previous year's rate).

Debility ... (7.5 per 1,000 births above the previous year's rate).

Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza, and Diarrhœa between them caused an increase of 3.1 in the rate.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1927	(1926)	(1925)	(1924)
All causes ... ..	570	(501)	(679)	(633)
Small Pox ... ..	2	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	(1)	—	—
Measles ... ..	7	(2)	(15)	(3)
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	(1)	(3)
Whooping Cough ... ..	18	(16)	(42)	(9)
Influenza ... ..	8	(5)	(9)	(11)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	2	(1)	—	(1)
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	4	(5)	(5)	(7)
Bronchitis ... ..	47	(34)	(59)	(52)
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	105	(69)	(99)	(97)
Diarrhœa ... ..	39	(37)	(56)	(48)
Congenital Debility ... ..	252	(236)	(275)	(275)
Violence ... ..	5	(5)	(5)	(4)
Other denfined diseases ... ..	81	(89)	(113)	(123)
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.
<b>Aberbargoed</b> ...	Aberbargoed	Domestic Arts Centre, Aberbargoed School	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. A. Roberts
<b>Abercarn</b> ...	Abercarn and Cwmearn	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
<b>Abergavenny</b> ...	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Districts	Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Abergavenny.	April 17th	Tuesday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. W. D. Steel
<b>Abersychan</b> ...	Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan.	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity
<b>Abertillery</b> ...	Abertillery and Cwmillery	Abertillery Workmen's Institute.	1917 June 8th	Friday, 10-45 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
<b>Abertysswg</b> ...	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel, Abertysswg	1920 July 7th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Dr. G. Russell
<b>Beaufort</b> ...	Beaufort	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Beaufort	1919 Sept. 3rd	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—2 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
<b>Blackwood</b> ...	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
<b>Blaenavon</b> ...	Blaenavon	Technical Build'gs, Cwmavon Road, Blaenavon.	June 6th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. J. Reynolds
<b>Blaina</b> ...	Blaina	Salem Chapel, Blaina	April 17th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
<b>Caerleon</b> ...	Caerleon and Christchurch	Ty Craig, High Street, Caerleon.	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
<b>Caldicot</b> ...	Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot.	1920 June 1st	Tuesday, 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
<b>Chepstow</b> ...	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
<b>Crosskeys</b> ...	Crosskeys, Wattsville and Pontywaun	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Crosskeys	Nov 23rd	Friday, 2-4 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
<b>Crumlin</b> ...	Crumlin	4 Hafodyrnys Road, Crumlin.	1924 March 28th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
<b>Cwm</b> ...	Cwm, Victoria and Waunllwyd	Parish Hall, Cwm	1917 Nov 20th	Thursday, 10-30 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. G. Russell
<b>Cwmbran</b> ...	Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Llanfrechfa & Ponthir	Council Offices, Cwmbran	March 21st	Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
<b>Ebbw Vale</b> ...	Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ebbw Vale	March 13th	Tuesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
<b>Garndiffaith</b> ...	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	Mondays, 10 a.m.—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.—2 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Panteg	... Panteg, Griffithstown and Pontrhydyrun	Baptist Chapel, Griffithstown.	1917 March 21st	Thursday, 10—12 noon	Dr. W. Austin
Pengam	... Pengam, Fleur-de-lis and Maescwmmmer	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. G. Russell
Rogerstone	... Rogerstone, Bassaleg, and Rhiwderin	Domestic Arts Centre, Rogerstone School	Nov. 12th	Alternate Fridays, 10—12 noon	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
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, Trevel, 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 Croesyceiliog.	Ashley House, 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	... Cwmlinfach 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., 1927	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		
Aberargoed	Dr. A. Roberts	270	122	1240	1362	27.8	80	234	27	67		
Abercarn	Dr. E. M. Griffith	313	137	2835	2972	60.2	—	—	—	—		
Abergavenny	Dr. W. D. Steel	172	82	741	823	17.1	4	14	3	4		
Abersychan	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	128	94	613	712	14.53	2	2	—	—		
Abertillery	Dr. T. B. Smith	642	272	3463	3735	76.2	73	169	28	59		
Abertysswg	Dr. G. Russell	109	53	898	951	19.4	51	261	13	72		
Beaufort	Dr. M. Scott	108	65	519	584	12.1	5	14	1	1		
Blackwood	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	266	149	822	971	40.46	35	126	11	18		
Blaenavon	Dr. J. Reynolds	326	170	1101	1271	25.9	92	196	30	46		
Blaina	Dr. M. Proudfoot	247	157	1194	1351	28.7	25	55	26	51		
Caerleon	Dr. M. Gordon	90	29	498	527	20.27	9	40	5	19		
Caldicot	Dr. M. Gordon	152	56	1739	1795	37.39	5	40	18	41		
Chepstow	Dr. T. L. Drapes	275	152	1645	1797	37.4	—	—	3	8		
Crosskeys	Dr. M. Scott	126	72	1088	1160	24.17	12	30	2	2		
Crumlin	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	172	124	1111	1235	25.2	10	150	28	79		
Cwm	Dr. G. Russell	205	104	1590	1694	34.57	26	66	7	18		
Cwmbran	Dr. W. Austin	209	92	1040	1132	23.1	46	141	17	25		
Ebbw Vale	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	334	220	1778	1998	42.5	57	131	4	20		
Garndiffaith	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	108	71	524	595	12.66	1	1	—	—		
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	362	160	2194	2354	51.18	37	115	20	49		
Monmouth	Dr. W. H. Williams	177	98	1813	1911	39.8	2	2	11	68		
Nantyglo	Dr. M. Proudfoot	170	99	1180	1279	45.3	31	77	31	64		
Newbridge	Dr. W. Austin	258	150	1854	2004	41.75	23	120	8	11		
Newport	Dr. M. Gordon	56	22	98	120	13.3	2	11	4	4		
New Tredegar	Dr. M. Scott	231	109	995	1104	22.5	30	78	14	25		
Oakdale	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	166	75	592	667	26.68	26	120	13	21		
Panteg	Dr. W. Austin	161	85	947	1032	21.06	49	129	4	8		
Pengam	Dr. M. Scott	351	158	1608	1766	36.79	69	198	24	48		
Pontnewydd	Dr. W. Austin	178	97	849	946	21.02	34	103	8	12		
Pontnewynydd	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	232	128	777	905	18.47	8	34	5	5		
Pontymoile	Dr. W. Austin	155	77	923	1000	21.28	44	132	7	11		
Pontypool	Dr. W. Austin	244	106	745	851	18.1	26	63	5	5		
Rhymney	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood	228	122	1265	1387	28.89	48	113	31	42		
Risca	Dr. G. Russell	353	144	2560	2704	60.09	29	115	17	52		
Rogerstone	Dr. P. R. Whittaker	116	53	686	739	29.56	5	51	6	12		
Runney	Dr. M. Proudfoot	63	28	253	281	14.79	4	4	1	3		
Six Bells	Dr. T. B. Smith	326	185	1834	2019	42.6	30	69	20	38		
Tredeggar	Dr. E. T. H. Davies	468	273	1500	1773	36.9	—	—	1	1		
Trethomas	Dr. M. Scott	327	159	1937	2096	43.67	54	166	22	55		
Usk	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	48	38	217	255	10.2	7	41	2	4		
Ynysddu	Dr. M. Scott	262	166	1442	1608	32.8	62	174	31	60		
Totals		9184	4753	50713	55466	31.1	1153	3585	508	1128		



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

Constipation	...	412	Subinvolution	...	5
Debility	...	313	Nasal Catarrh	...	5
Anaemia	...	152	Threatened Abortion	...	5
Defective Teeth	...	106	Rheumatism	...	4
Deficient Lactation	...	106	Venereal Disease	...	4
Dyspepsia	...	56	Contracted Pelvis	...	4
Varicose Veins	...	53	Anorexia	...	4
Bronchitis	...	46	Synovitis	...	3
Skin Diseases	...	40	Neuritis	...	3
Menorrhagia	...	36	Headache	...	3
Pyorrhoea	...	35	Diarrhoea	...	2
Hæmorrhoids	...	34	Stomatitis	...	2
Leucorrhœa	...	29	Backache	...	2
Amenorrhœa	...	23	Pleurisy	...	2
Eye Diseases	...	20	Ovaritis	...	2
Uterine Displacements	...	20	Fistula	...	2
Abscess of Breast	...	15	Menopause	...	1
Sore Nipples	...	12	Incontinence of Urine	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	12	Nasal Polypus	...	1
Gastric Catarrh	...	11	Floating Kidney	...	1
Nephritis	...	10	Gallstones	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	9	Diabetes	...	1
Goitre	...	9	Hernia	...	1
Hyperemesis	...	8	Otorrhœa	...	1
Vaginal Discharge	...	7	Vomiting	...	1
Heart Disease	...	7	Puerperal Septicæmia	...	1
Asthma	...	6	Fits	...	1
Dysmenorrhœa	...	6	Worms	...	1
Laryngitis	...	6	Lumbago	...	1
Albuminaria	...	5	Colitis	...	1
Tumours	...	5	Chorea	...	1
Pharyngitis	...	5	Lipoma	...	1
Neuralgia	...	5	Miscellaneous	...	28
Sterility	...	5			
			Total	...	1720



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

Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	1326	Anorexia	...	9
Constipation	590	Snuffles	...	9
Skin Diseases	583	Tonsilitis	..	9
Gastro Enteritis	360	Strabismus	...	9
Hernia	265	Cleft Palate	...	9
Debility	262	Infantile Paralysis	...	9
Diarrhoea	222	Bowed Legs	...	8
Eye Diseases	207	Undescended Testicles	...	8
Phimosis	186	Chicken Pox	...	7
Otorrhoea	171	Tuberculosis	...	6
Nasal Catarrh	171	Ulcers of Mouth	...	6
Tonsils and Adenoids	142	Laryngitis	...	5
Protuberant Umbilicus	115	Spina Bifida	...	5
Intertrigo	114	Hydrocephalus	...	5
Rickets	107	Colitis	...	4
Worms	98	Fractures	...	4
Stomatitis	96	Venereal Disease	...	4
Flatulence	85	Influenza	...	4
Anæmia	67	Hare Lip	...	3
Malnutrition	61	Vaginitis	...	3
Teething	60	Knock Knee	...	3
Minor Digestive Troubles	57	Dislocation of Hip	...	2
Septic Sores	55	Genu Valgum	...	2
Defective Teeth	55	Dyspepsia	...	2
Discharging Umbilicus	55	Club Foot	...	2
Earache	47	Pneumonia	...	2
Nævus	36	Mumps	...	2
Enlarged Glands	35	Asthma	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	32	Pyorrhoea	...	2
Whooping Cough	32	Nephritis	...	1
Injuries	28	Adenitis	...	1
Boils	27	Webbed Fingers	...	1
Sore Buttocks	24	Meningitis	...	1
Heart Disease	20	Diphtheria	...	1
Tongue Tied	19	Nasal Polypus	...	1
Fits	19	Epilepsy	...	1
Thrush	19	Mongolism	...	1
Abscess	18	Lipoma	...	1
Hydrocele	15	Torticollis	...	1
Vomiting	15	Croup	...	1
Orthopaedic Cases	15	Erbs Paralysis	...	1
Talipes	15	Curvature of the Spine	...	1
Ill-nourished	14	Chorea	...	1
Convulsions	13	Deaf and Dumb	...	1
Mentally Defective	12	Miscellaneous	...	46
Enuresis	11			
Jaundice	11			
Losing Weight	10	Total		6212
Marasmus	9			



# I.—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE CENTRES.

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

## FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Beaufort	Crosskeys	New Tredegar	Pengam	Trethomas	Ynysddu
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed ... ..	54.7	50.5	60.3	50.4	52.1	60.
Artificially fed ... ..	22.7	25.9	25.6	30.2	32.4	14.1
Breast and Artificially fed	22.6	23.6	14.1	19.4	15.5	25.9

**BEAUFORT CENTRE.**—This Centre continues to make satisfactory progress, although the numbers attending show a small decrease on those of the previous year. The winter has been a severe one in this part of Monmouthshire, and during the later months of the year the premises used were rather cold and uncomfortable, due apparently to some defect in the heating apparatus employed. We hope that this defect will be remedied before another winter. This Centre is open for one half-day each week.

**CROSS KEYS CENTRE.**—Like Beaufort, this is a half-day Centre, and is open each Friday afternoon. We have been fortunate in securing very comfortable and convenient premises here lately. 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 and regular attendance on Friday afternoons.

**NEW TREDEGAR CENTRE.**—This Centre is open on Thursdays, and in spite of the inclement weather and the long difficult walks many mothers have to reach it, the numbers attending are satisfactory. It is interesting to note that although breast feeding has declined in babies attending this Centre, as it has in all other districts, New Tredegar still has the highest percentage. Why this should be I cannot say, as much the same conditions prevail here as in other parts of the Rhymney Valley. The midwives of this district keep in close touch with the Centre, and I am pleased to say that during the year I have had several visits from each of the three midwives working in the district.

**PENGAM CENTRE.**—This is the Ante-natal Centre for the Rhymney Valley, and, although our numbers of ante-natal visits for the year are not high, the work is making steady progress. There are all facilities at this Centre for ante-natal work, and through educating the women to the real necessity of ante-natal care we hope to extend the work considerably. During the year expectant mothers from New Tredegar, Machen and Bedwas Areas attended at this Centre for special examination.

**TRETHOMAS CENTRE.**—This Centre has had a very satisfactory year. Of the six Centres under my care, this is the only one which shows an increase in the attendance over that of the previous year (a year of abnormal attendance). This Centre serves a wide area, from Machen to Bedwas, and is conveniently situated on the main road in the centre part of the area.



YNYSDDU CENTRE.—We still have a good attendance of mothers and babies on Friday mornings. During the year two ladies of the Local Infant Welfare Committee, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Prosser, have attended very faithfully, and the Health Visitors and myself have been very grateful to them for their help. We are also grateful to the Local Infant Welfare Committee for financial assistance given through these ladies to many needy cases during the year.

GENERAL.—The work at the Centres and of the Health Visitors in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare, continues to be mainly preventative, and very special care is always given to the matter of infant feeding. There can be little doubt that the remarkable decrease in the number of cases of infantile diarrhoea during the past ten years is to a large extent due to the education of the mothers as to the proper methods of feeding.

Fits in infants, a condition with which almost every mother ten years ago was familiar, are practically unknown to the modern mother, with her increased knowledge of infant feeding.

It will be noted in the details of infant feeding given above that the percentage of babies entirely breast-fed till time of weaning shows an unsatisfactory drop, varying from six to ten per cent. This is not due to any lack of enthusiasm on our part in advocating breast feeding, and must be attributed to the marked industrial depression in the County of Monmouth and the consequent lowering of the standard of living.

Many nursing mothers receive milk and dried milk foods to help them, but this does not compensate altogether for lack of good nourishing meals, and the result is that many babies become partly breast and partly artificially fed.

The decrease in the numbers of mothers and babies attending the Centres in 1927 was expected after the abnormally large attendances of 1926.

During the coalfield stoppage of 1926, milk and milk foods given by various charitable agencies were distributed through the Centres, and this brought many children, especially toddlers, to the Centres, who do not usually attend, or who at least attend very irregularly.

The amount of milk food given free at the Centres during 1927 is higher than it has ever been, due to the fact that the Monmouthshire Valleys are passing through a time of poverty which has been unequalled since the inauguration of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Drugs are not prescribed to any great extent at the Centres, since we try to make our treatment mostly preventative. For the babies a simple expectorant mixture, and for the mothers a tonic mixture and a simple aperient, are most commonly prescribed.



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

### FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Newbridge	Pontymoile	Pontnewydd	Pontypool	Panteg	Cwmbran
Breast-fed ...	133	57	60	83	55	72
Breast and Bottle ...	27	13	16	25	10	21
Cows' Milk ...	15	10	16	7	21	10
Dried Milk ...	22	24	29	41	23	38
Other Foods ...	6	5	9	12	4	5
% Breast-fed ...	65.5	52.2	46.1	49.7	48.6	49.3

The figures for 1927 cannot fairly be compared with those for 1926, as the latter were very much above the average owing to the coal strike, and those for 1927 have been lowered by the small-pox epidemic. This has operated in two ways—(1) Some mothers have been afraid to bring children to the Clinic when cases of small-pox have occurred in the area, and (2) the shortage of health visitors has meant that fewer visits have been paid to the homes. It would therefore not be surprising if the figures fell below those for 1925.

As regards percentage of breast feeding in infants, this shows an increase in Newbridge over both preceding years, and in Pontymoile over 1926, but in every other instance there is a decrease compared with 1925 and 1926. It would be surprising if it were otherwise, in view of the prolonged industrial depression, as the milk allowed to expectant and nursing mothers, though a great assistance, is no efficient substitute for abundance of good food.

NEWBRIDGE CENTRE.—During the year 1927 this Clinic was attended by 258 children, of whom 203 were under 1 year of age, and 55 were older children. Of the 203 infants, 133 were breast fed, 27 on breast supplemented by bottle, 15 on cows' milk, 22 on dried milk (Ambrosia or Glaxo), and 6 on other forms of milk food.

The percentage of breast fed infants has increased, being 65.5% compared with 54.9 in 1926, and 56.6 in 1925.

The benefit of breast feeding was lessened in 21 of the cases by weaning being delayed until the child was over one year.

Compared with the abnormal year 1926, the figures for the Clinic show a decrease, but when placed against the normal year 1925, the following increases are noted: Number of cases on register an increase of 24, new cases same number, re-visits an increase of 151, and total attendances of 244, while the average attendance has risen from 37.7 to 41.75.

23 nursing and 8 expectant mothers attended this Clinic. The Ante-natal Clinic at Crumlin is attended by women from the Newbridge area.



**PONTYMOILE CENTRE.**—155 children attended this Clinic in 1927. Of these 109 were under 1 year of age, and were fed as follows: 57 breast fed, 13 breast supplemented by bottle, 10 on cows' milk, 24 on dried milk, and 5 on other foods. The percentage of breast feeding in infants was 52.2, an increase on the previous year, when it was 50%. Eight of these breast fed children were not weaned until over one year of age. In the number on register and number of new cases this Clinic shows a decrease compared with both the previous years; but the number of re-visits and total attendances are both more than in 1925, though much less than in 1926. The increase over 1925 is 102 in re-visits and 71 in total attendances, and the average attendance 21.28 compared with 19.8 in 1925.

46 children over 1 year of age attended during the year, 44 nursing mothers, and seven expectant mothers.

**PONTNEWYDD CENTRE.**—Of the 178 children attending this Clinic during 1927, 130 were under 12 months, and of these, 60 were breast fed (46.1%), 16 fed on breast and bottle, 16 on cows' milk, 29 on dried milk, and 9 on other milk foods. The total attendance is 400 less than in the year of the strike, and practically the same as in 1925, the number on register 50 less than in 1926, 15 less than in 1925, but an increase in the number of re-visits makes the average attendance (21.03%) higher than in 1925, when it was 20.

The percentage of breast fed infants was 46.1, compared with 53.3% in 1926, and 56.7% in 1925. There has been a considerable amount of distress in this area, and the colliery at which a large proportion of the men work has now been closed down permanently.

48 children over 1 year of age were seen during the year, and 34 nursing and 8 expectant mothers.

**PONTYPOOL CENTRE.**—244 children attended this Clinic during the year, an unusually large proportion of them—31%—being children over 1 year of age.

Of the 168 infants, 83 were breast fed (49.7%), 25 fed on breast supplemented by bottle, 7 on cows' milk, 41 on dried milk, and 12 on other foods.

15 of the breast fed were not weaned until over 1 year old. The percentage of breast feeding shows a decrease from the preceding two years, 1925, 55.27%; 1926, 57%; 1927, 49.7%.

The number of attendances at the Clinic was about half that in 1926, and also shows a decrease compared with 1925.

26 nursing mothers were seen and 5 expectant mothers.

**PANTEG CENTRE.**—During 1927 this Clinic was attended by 161 children, 113 of whom were under 1 year, and were fed as follows:—55 breast fed, 10 on breast and bottle, 21 on cows' milk, 23 on dried milk, and 4 on other foods. The percentage of breast feeding was 48.6, a decrease from the 50.4% of 1926, and 57.9% of 1925.

Compared with 1925, the number on register has decreased by 27, but the attendances have increased, raising the average attendance per session from 18 to 21.06.



The decrease, compared with 1926, is not so marked in this as in the other Clinics, as a smaller proportion of the men are colliery workers.

48 older children were seen and treated for various ailments, 49 nursing mothers paid 80 visits, and 4 expectant mothers were treated.

CWMBRAN CENTRE.—The number of children attending this Centre was 209, and the total number of attendances 1,132. The number of children is the same as in 1925, but the attendances then were fewer—1,054. The decrease from the abnormal year 1926 is 30 in number on register, and 213 in total attendances.

The average attendance per session shows a decrease of 4.3 from 1926, but a slight increase of .7 on 1925.

146 of the children were under 1 year, and were fed as follows: 72 breast fed, 21 breast and bottle, 10 on cows' milk, 38 on dried milk, and 5 on other foods.

The percentage of breast fed has decreased to 49.3, compared with 53.9 in 1926, and 57.1 in 1925. The percentage of breast and bottle fed is the same as in 1926, and higher by 2.2% than in 1925.

63 children over 1 year were seen, and 46 nursing and 17 expectant mothers.

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

#### DETAILS OF INFANT FEEDING.

	Rumney	Nantyglo	Blaina
Breast-fed ... ..	60%	40.5%	42.5%
*Breast and Artificially fed	—	27.4%	35.1%
Artificially fed ... ..	40%	32.1%	22.4%

\*In this group the mothers were able to breast feed their babies in the majority of cases for 3, 4 or 5 months, after which time their milk failed, and the bottle had to be substituted.

RUMNEY CENTRE.—This centre is held fortnightly. The mothers bring their babies very regularly, and not only when there is something wrong. They are very conscientious in following the instructions given.

The average attendance at each session was 14.79, and the number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 63. This shows a very slight decrease since last year. Several of the days on which the Centre was held happened to be very stormy this winter, and those mothers who live some distance away could not bring their babies.

There is a slight decrease in the percentage of breast-fed babies.



The majority of the children were healthy and showed no defects. Several children over two years of age were treated for minor ailments. Four nursing and three expectant mothers attended for advice and treatment. There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

Drugs prescribed at this Centre are simple tonics and aperients.

**NANTYGLO CENTRE.**—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 170, and the average attendance at each session was 45.32. This shows an increase compared with 1926, when the average attendance was 37.9. The percentage of breast fed babies was 40.5%. This is a big decrease compared with 63.6% in 1926, and 69.7% in 1925. The percentage of babies partly breast-fed has risen from 18.2% in the previous year to 27.4%. The serious decrease in the number of breast-fed babies is largely due to the mothers being unable to get proper nourishment. The majority of the nursing mothers had to be assisted with fresh or dried milk. In spite of the supply of milk, several mothers were unable to continue breast feeding beyond three or four months.

Of the breast-fed babies, 8 were not weaned until over a year old.

The amount of rickets is on the increase.

The nutrition of the babies up to 12 months was good on the whole, but a great many between the ages of one and three years showed definite signs of malnutrition, and had to be supplied with fresh milk, cod liver oil, Roboleine or Virol.

Although there is a marked improvement, there are still too many cases where the mother ceases to attend at the weaning stage and brings the child back to the Centre several months later in a reduced state of health.

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

During the year 31 nursing and 31 expectant mothers attended for advice and treatment.

Free food was given in a large number of cases.

This has recently been made a weekly Clinic, owing to the great increase in the numbers attending. The attendance is still much too large for a satisfactory half-day Clinic, but so far it has been impossible to make it a whole day Centre. There are no facilities for ante-natal work at this Centre.

**BLAINA CENTRE.**—The number on the Register at the end of the year was 247, and the average attendance at each session was 28.74.

The percentage of breast fed babies has fallen from 60.8% in 1926 to 42.5%, while the percentage of breast and artificially fed has risen from 16.7% in 1926 to 35.1%. This decrease in breast feeding is largely due to the indifferent health of the mothers, many of whom are unable to get proper nourishment owing to the bad economic conditions prevailing in the district.



At this Centre also, the majority of the mothers had to be assisted with fresh or dried milk.

The chief ailments requiring treatment were those connected with the digestive and respiratory systems. Bronchial catarrh was again very prevalent. There were several cases of rickets. Here, as at the Nantyglo Centre, many children between the ages of 1 and 3 years had to be supplied with fresh or dried milk, cod liver oil, Virol or Robeiline on account of malnutrition or rickets.

The prolonged period of unemployment in this district is resulting in more mothers coming forward for free food. By the end of the year there was a big increase in the numbers attending the Centre. The attendance here, also, has become too large for this to be a satisfactory half-day Centre, and the accommodation is insufficient.

During the year 25 nursing mothers and 26 expectant mothers attended for advice and treatment.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

4.—DR. M. GORDON Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

#### DETAILS OF FEEDING.

	Caldicot	Caerleon	Newport
Breast-fed ... ..	40%	50%	46%
Breast and Artificially fed	18%	13%	3.8%
Artificially fed ...	42%	37%	50.2%

CALDICOT CENTRE.—This Centre shows an increase in the numbers attending and in the total attendances. The number on the register at the end of the year was 152, as compared with 136 last year; the total attendance last year was 1,764, this year it is 1,795; the average attendance per session this year is 37.39, last year's figure being 36.0. This increase is very satisfactory taking into consideration the fact that part of last year's increased attendance was due to the supply of free food given at the Clinic during the industrial crisis.

Breast fed babies show a decrease compared with last year, but breast and artificially fed babies show an increase, though not as large an increase as one would wish for considering that the proportion of breast fed babies has fallen so low. The breast and artificially fed babies were mostly babies whose mothers were unable to breast feed them entirely but had to give one feed, and sometimes two feeds, per day of cows' milk or dried milk, cows' milk being given wherever possible.



Probably some of the mothers who had to supplement breast feeding were poorly nourished during pregnancy, owing to lack of money due to industrial depression.

There were 81 attendances of mothers at the Clinic—among these were 18 new expectant mothers. There are no facilities for ante-natal treatment.

**CAERLEON CENTRE.**—This Clinic is held fortnightly. The total attendances for the year and the average attendance per session show a slight decrease compared with the previous year. Some of the mothers who attend the Clinic come from the rural areas round about.

The number of breast fed babies shows a slight decrease, chiefly because of the inability of some of the mothers to carry on with nursing up to weaning time, owing to poor nutrition caused by impoverished financial circumstances following the industrial depression. Breast and artificially fed babies show an increase—this group consists of babies fed on the breast only up till 6 months, and then given one or two feeds of cows' or dried milk when the supply of mothers' milk begins to fail.

14 mothers received advice and treatment at the Clinic; 5 of these were expectant mothers. There are no facilities for ante-natal treatment.

**NEWPORT CENTRE.**—This Clinic is held once a month. Most of the mothers and children who attend come from the rural areas round Newport.

There is a slight decrease in the average attendance per session, and in the number of new cases attending, but the number on the register at the end of the year shows a substantial increase.

The percentage of breast fed babies is low compared with the figure for last year. This is largely owing to the fact that most of the babies who came to the Clinic this year were already on artificial foods. The nursing mothers who attended seemed to be of a poorer physique than those of last year, but I do not think this was due entirely to the effects of the recent industrial trouble.

Eleven mothers received advice from the Centre; of these 4 were expectant mothers.

**GENERAL.**—The work of the Clinics was conducted on much the same lines as in previous years. As few drugs as possible were prescribed for mothers and babies. Those that were ordered were chiefly of the nature of simple tonics and aperients for the mothers, ointments of eczema for the babies, and simple cough mixtures for bronchial catarrh in the toddlers.

Of the ailments among the babies and toddlers, bronchial catarrh, eczema, and impetigo formed the largest group—bronchial catarrh being most prevalent. A few cases of late rickets were met with, which might be due partly to the want of sunshine experienced last summer as well as to late weaning and the giving of too much soft food. Owing to trade depression and consequent straightened financial circumstances, many mothers have found it cheaper to give their children soft sloppy foods rather than the more solid, but more bone-forming, articles of diet.

Free food was given away to necessitous cases.



5.—DR. G. RUSSELL, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

### METHODS OF FEEDING.

	Abertysswg	Cwm	Risca
Breast-fed ... ..	70%	65%	66%
Breast + Cows' Milk ... ..	5%	4%	7%
Breast + Dried Milk ... ..	6%	9%	5%
Cows' Milk ... ..	4%	7%	4%
Dried Milk ... ..	15%	15%	8%

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.

There is a slight decrease in the numbers attending the Centres, as compared with 1926. This is probably explained by the numbers increasing enormously during the strike of last year, when a great many only attended then for the gifts of food that could be had.

ABERTYSSWG CENTRE.—Comparing the figures with that of last year, there is a decrease of 10 in the number of infants on the register, and six fewer new babies. There is, however, an increase of 11 in the number of nursing mothers, and of 6 in the ante-natal cases, the total number of mothers on the register being 73, and of these 17 were ante-natal cases.

One of the pleasing features about this Centre is the very regular attendance of some of the mothers, who never fail to come every week.

The most prevalent ailments among the children were bronchitis and gastro-intestinal derangements.

Among the mothers, constipation, debility and anæmia were the most common complaints. Four mothers were referred to the Tuberculosis Clinic, and one is at present in Cefn Mably.

CWM CENTRE.—The figures for this Centre unfortunately show a decrease on the previous year—the average attendance at each session at present being 34.57.

The number of mothers on the register is 32, 7 of these being ante-natal cases.

With regard the ailments found among the children, 27 infants attended during the year, suffering from bronchitis. Gastro-intestinal derangements were the next most prevalent complaint. There were 6 cases of rickets, one of these was referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, and is still having treatment there.

Debility and anæmia were the most common complaints among the mothers.



**RISCA CENTRE.**—The attendance at this Centre is still very good. There is an average of 60.09 infants per session. This is not as large as last year, when there was the great temporary increase during the industrial crisis.

There is an increase in both the nursing and expectant mothers seeking advice, the total number of the register being 100, 35 of these being ante-natal cases.

It is very gratifying to note at this Centre the increase in number, and much more regular attendance of the expectant mothers. By giving timely help in necessitous cases of free milk, during the last three months of pregnancy, it is often possible for breast feeding to be carried out, where otherwise it would probably not have been possible.

The most common complaints among the children were bronchitis, gastro-intestinal symptoms, otorrhœa, and umbilical protusion or actual hernia. These unsatisfactory conditions of the umbilicus on first visits to the Centre are still much too frequent.

There are six cases of marked rickets, two of these are at present attending the Orthopædic Clinic. One case of congenital talipes is awaiting admission to the London Orthopædic Hospital. Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum came to the Centre, but were referred to hospital for treatment.

The most common complaints among the mothers were dental caries, with or without pyorrhœa; debility, anæmia, and constipation. A few were referred to the Tuberculosis Clinic, and two of these were recommended Sanatorium treatment.

**GENERAL.**—The work at the Centres was carried on during the year on the same lines as previous years—the preventative aspect being more stressed than the curative.

Breast feeding was advised in all cases where possible, but owing to the mothers getting insufficient nourishment, it had frequently been stopped before coming to the Clinic. In other cases it was possible to carry on part breast and part bottle feeding. Unless they were seen very early, or during pregnancy, and the mothers given extra nourishment in the shape of fresh or dried milk, it was not always sufficient to keep up wholly breast feeding, even with the extra milk.

A fairly large amount of free food was given out at the Centres, as owing to so many being out of work, more came under the County's scale, and were, therefore, entitled to it. This, in ordinary circumstances, was stopped when the child was one year old, but there were some cases where, owing to disease or marked malnutrition on the part of the child, or exceptionally poor circumstances on the part of the parents, they were allowed to have it longer. It was rather marked at all three Clinics, that as a rule, the babies up to one year were in better condition than the toddlers of one to two years.

Simple tonics, aperients, digestive remedies, and simple ointments were prescribed at the Clinics.



Many of the mothers and several of the children benefited greatly from dental treatment received. There is still an appalling amount of dental caries among the expectant and nursing mothers, and it is not always easy to persuade them to have their own teeth removed, when they know it is impossible for them to procure others.

In spite of the great prevalence of smallpox at the present time, there is an alarming apathy with regard to vaccination.

It is gratifying to note that the ante-natal work—one of the most important branches of the work—is certainly on the increase.

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

ABERBARGOED CENTRE.—Details of infant feeding. (Infants under 10 months) : Breast fed, 53 per cent. ; breast and bottle fed, 25 per cent. ; bottle fed, 22 per cent.

These figures are almost exactly the same as in 1926, breast feeding having fallen 1 per cent., and breast and bottle feeding having risen 1 per cent.

The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 270.

The average attendance (27-8) has fallen, but this is due to the fact that in 1926 large numbers attended only during the time that the free food (from the " Save the Children Fund ") was being distributed.

There is still a fairly large amount of dried milk being given free, especially to nursing mothers, as there is a high percentage of families living on unemployment pay.

Drugs are prescribed to a fairly large extent, as the mothers cannot afford to get them for themselves. Those used are chiefly laxatives and tonics for the mothers, and for the children laxatives, sodium citrate, ointments for the simple skin troubles, and for bronchial catarrh.

A large number of mothers received treatment, of whom 80 were nursing mothers, 30 expectant, and 10 were neither. The expectant mothers attend mainly for attention to their general health.

Malnutrition is noticed mainly in infants between the ages of one and two years, and quite a large number of children, who have not previously attended the Clinic, are brought on this account. The reason for the condition seems to be either unsuitable diet (usually too little milk being given and the feeding being entirely irregular) or too prolonged breast feeding.

A large number of school children attend, especially those still under the age of five, who have previously attended the Clinic. Many children are also brought to have appointments made for dental treatment, examination of eyes, and removal of tonsils and adenoids.

A high percentage of mothers attending the Clinic suffer from dental caries, pyorrhœa, or both, and many of these are now availing themselves of the treatment given at the Dental Clinic.



7.—DR. P. R. WHITAKER, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

#### DETAILS OF FEEDING INFANTS.

	Blackwood	Oakdale	Crumlin	Rogerstone	Usk
	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed ... ..	50	55	64	52	74
Breast and Artificially fed	13	10	5	8	16
Artificially fed ...	37	35	31	40	10

USK CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register was 48, and the average attendance 10 per session. This Clinic is influenced greatly by the weather. The mothers have long distances to walk, and cannot bring their children in very wet weather, but on the whole the progress of the Centre is quite good.

The percentage of breast fed babies is still very good, being the highest of all my clinics.

The Voluntary Helpers continue to take a great interest in this Centre, and my thanks are due to them for their help.

ROGERSTONE CENTRE.—This Centre continues to be a very satisfactory one. The average attendance was 29 per session. The mothers take a great interest in the progress of their children, and attend very regularly.

As elsewhere, the percentage of breast fed babies is below that of last year, being only 52%.

The ante-natal work at this Clinic is necessarily very limited, but expectant mothers attend for advice regarding suitable diet and the care of their general health.

BLACKWOOD CENTRE.—The average attendance at this Centre is satisfactory, being 41 per session. The number of infants on the register was 266, a decrease on last year's figure.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work at this Clinic, but expectant mothers come for advice regarding their general health, and are referred to ante-natal Clinics if necessary.

The percentage of breast fed babies is only 50%, but the figure for assisted breast feeding indicates that mothers are doing all they can to maintain the baby on the breast.

OAKDALE CENTRE.—The number on the register was 166, and the average attendance 26 per session. It is encouraging to note the regularity with which the mothers attend this Clinic.

The ante-natal work is improving gradually, 21 cases attending during the year.

The percentage of breast fed babies has dropped considerably, showing a 15% decrease on last year's figure. This is all the more noticeable here, where the percentage is usually very good.



CRUMLIN CENTRE.—This Centre is progressing very favourably. The number on the register at the end of the year was 172, an increase of 50 on last year's figure. The attendance at this Centre is the only one which does not show a decrease since the general strike, when such abnormally high numbers were recorded.

The total number of ante-natal cases was 79, as compared with 41 last year. Patients are very regular in attending, and are anxious to carry out instructions.

The number of breast fed babies shows a slight decrease, but compares very favourably with other areas.

GENERAL.—The attendances at the various Centres have readjusted themselves since the general strike, and therefore show a decrease in almost every area.

Again, as a result of this strike, many men were unemployed, and unable to provide adequate nourishment for their children. Consequently free food was given in greater proportion than formerly; but only after full enquiry into the conditions in each case.

Drugs supplied at the Clinics are very simple in nature, consisting usually of aperients or tonics. Due to the prevailing wet weather, the number of cases of bronchial catarrh and bronchitis among the infants and children necessitated an increase in the dispensing of cough mixtures.

Details of infant feeding show a considerable decrease in the percentage of breast fed babies. The average for 1926 was 72%, whereas the figure for 1927 was 59%—a decrease of 13%.

#### 8.—DR. W. D. STEEL, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVENNY CENTRE.—There was a distinct diminution all round of the attendances at the Clinic in 1927, as compared with that of 1926.

In 1927 the number on register was 173; in 1926 it was 191. In 1927, the number of attendances and new cases was 83, as compared with 122 in 1926. The number of re-visits in 1927, 741; 1926, 1,064. Total attendances in 1927, 824; 1926, 1,186. Average attendance each session 1927, 17.1; 1926, 24.23.

This all-round decrease in attendance I am quite convinced was entirely due to the inclemency of the weather during the year. The Abergavenny Clinic serves a very wide rural area, and oftentimes it was quite impossible to bring the children, perhaps five or six miles through drenching rain, or possibly sleet and snow to attend the Centre.

Nursing mothers were always given full instructions as to diet and general hygiene. Four new cases were registered during the year. There were 10 revisits, making total attendances 14.

Expectant Mothers.—Three new cases presented themselves during the year, making with 1 re-visit a total of 4. One was suffering from anæmia.

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 feeding of the infants was as follows : Breast, 70 ; artificial, 58 ; breast and artificial, 13 ; general diet, 28.

There was still a considerable number of mothers attending the Clinic who were supplied with free food. This is due to slackness of trade, the result of the great strike, and consequent want of employment.

The supply of drugs during the year was quite small, and chiefly due to the poverty of the parents as a result of unemployment.

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.

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

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

9.—DR. R. J. S. VERITY, Medical Officer of Health, Abersychan Urban District.

ABERSYCHAN, GARNDIFFAITH AND PONTNEWYNYDD CENTRES.

#### DETAILS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS.

	Abersychan	Garndiffaith	Pontnewynydd
Breast-fed ... ..	63	68	106
Artificially fed ... ..	65	61	53

The average attendances at the Centres have been well maintained. The mothers continue to take an interest and carry out instructions given.

Very little food has been given free, the majority of mothers paying in full or in part.

The drugs chiefly prescribed have been for bronchitis and indigestion, but only for a few cases.

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

The work at these Centres is increasing. The interest shown by the mothers is well maintained, many having expressed appreciation of, and gratitude for, the help they and their babies have received.

I am satisfied that the general health and consequent vitality of the infants attending the Centres has been much improved by the care and attention given at the Centres.

Breast feeding is as far as possible encouraged. In those cases in which the supply is deficient in amount or quality, before resorting to artificial feeding, Lactagol is prescribed, and in most cases the results have been satisfactory. When breast feeding fails I usually order Glaxo or Ambrosia, having found these to be the most satisfactory substitutes.

I again thank the Voluntary Helpers and Nurses for their services.

10.—DR. T. BAILLIE SMITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abertillery Urban District Council.

	INFANTS			Average Attendance per session
	No. on register at end of year.	No. of attendances New Cases. Re-visits.	Total attendances	
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	642	272 3463	3735	76.22
SIX BELLS CENTRE ...	326	185 1834	2019	42.6
LLANHILLETH CENTRE...	362	160 2194	2354	51.18

	EXPECTANT MOTHERS.			NURSING MOTHERS.		
	New Cases.	Re-visits.	Total.	New Cases.	Re-visits.	Total
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	28	31	59	73	96	169
SIX BELLS CENTRE ...	20	18	38	30	39	69
LLANHILLETH CENTRE...	20	29	49	37	78	115

The attendance of infants apparently shows a slight falling off at the Clinics as compared with previous years, but allowing for the great reduction in the number of births, as seen from the following table, the proportion of infants compared with births in attendance at Clinics is greater than ever.

POPULATION, BIRTH RATE, INFANTILE MORTALITY, ETC., FOR VARIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Deaths under one year of age	Infant Mortality	No. of Deaths of Mothers from Puerperal Fever	No. of Deaths of Mothers from Diseases and accidents of Parturition
1913	38,700	1482	38.2	160	107.9	0	2
1914	39,325	1333	33.8	160	120.03	2	3
1916	39,166	1073	27.3	100	93.1	2	4
1919	44,554	1037	23.2	104	100.2	3	5
1921	39,660	1242	31.3	127	102.2	2	4
1923	39,960	941	23.5	70	74.3	1	5
1925	39,260	777	19.7	63	82.0	1	1
1926	37,250	742	19.9	47	62.7	2	1
1927	36,290	577	15.9	49	84.9	2	1



A study of the above table reveals the interesting fact that while the population has fallen from 38,700 in 1913, to 36,290 in 1927, a reduction of 2,410, the total number of births per annum has fallen from 1,482 to 577, an actual reduction of 905. This shows a fall of 61% in the total number of births per annum.

The total number of deaths per annum in infants under one year of age has fallen from 160 in 1913, to 49 in 1927, an actual reduction of 111, or 68%.

**Whooping Cough.**—Three deaths occurred in the district from whooping cough. These deaths were all in children under one year of age. Whooping Cough was not prevalent in epidemic form.

**Enteritis and Diarrhoea.**—This disease was not nearly so prevalent, and only three deaths occurred from the disease.

The number of cases of enteritis in infants has fallen considerably in recent years.

**Umbilical Hernia.**—In previous reports I have commented on the large number of cases in which this condition was present. In the year under review the number of cases showed a considerable reduction.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—This disease has also shown a considerable decline. In 1920 43 cases were reported; in 1927 16 cases only were notified.

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

**Rickets.**—For some years past there has been a tendency for this disease to increase.

I have not extracted the various details of the different methods of feeding infants attending the Clinics, nor of the various diseases affecting the mothers and infants.

Owing to the industrial crisis through which this district is passing, much free milk, both Grade A and dried, was supplied on application on special forms, to nursing and expectant mothers, and also for the babies.

The general condition of the babies under one year as a whole was excellent, but some falling off in condition could be seen in some of the children between 2 and 3 years of age. Special cases of debility were met by the supply of free milk, and this invariably brought about some improvement.

The health and stamina of the younger nursing mothers showed considerable depreciation.

Much more could be written on the condition of the younger children and nursing mothers, but this remark I must make, that had it not been for the generosity of the Monmouthshire County Council in granting free supplies of milk according to income scales, there would be a totally different story to tell.

I am fully convinced, from careful observation and enquiry, that many child lives have been saved by the Monmouthshire County Council's scheme, and that the money spent in free supplies of milk is money well spent.

No person in receipt of Poor Law Relief is eligible to benefit by these supplies. Under the present system of Poor Law Relief in Abertillery, this is rather a hardship on some families.



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

EBBW VALE CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at 31st December, 1927, was 334. The number of new infant cases which attended during the year was 220, number of re-visits, 1,778, making the total attendances, 1,998. The average attendance at each session was 42.51.

The number of attendances of nursing mothers was; New cases, 57; re-visits, 74, making the total attendances 131.

The number of attendances of expectant mothers was: New cases, 4; re-visits, 16; with total attendances, 20.

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

Breast fed ... ..	186	Dried milk ... ..	28
Cows' milk ... ..	14	Patent foods ... ..	11
Breast and bottle fed... ..	18	Other foods ... ..	37
Grade " A " milk ... ..	3		

There was a slight decline in the attendance in the last quarter, owing to the outbreak of smallpox in the district.

The distribution of free food is only supplied at the public expense, after strict enquiry of the actual necessities of the cases.

The drugs at the disposal of the Centre are used as far as practicable. In cases which require closer observation and further treatment than the weekly meetings permit, parents are advised to consult their own medical attendant.

There is practically no ante-natal work, and there is no suitable provision made for the examination of obstetric or gynaecological cases here.

The room occupied by Nurse Redwood is very cold and uncomfortable in the winter months, and I would like to draw attention to the necessity of heating arrangements here.

12.—DR. W. H. WILLIAMS, Medical Officer of Health, Monmouth Urban District.

MONMOUTH CENTRE.—This Centre continues to be much used by mothers from the Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts.

The total attendances of infants were 1,911, showing an average attendance of 39.81 per session.

These figures show a steady increase of work at the Centre each year.

The new cases numbered 98. Eleven expectant mothers came for advice, and three nursing mothers received treatment.



The Local Committee have met regularly and carefully considered the applications for free food.

Considering the number of fathers who have been without work during the year, the number of free food grants is low.

The drugs required for treatment of ordinary ailments are provided at the Clinic, but cases requiring special drugs or treatment are sent to the local Hospital.

The ante-natal work is increasing. Nearly all the babies are breast fed, and the mothers' milk is supplemented by "bottles" as required later. The usual supplements are cows' milk and Glaxo. Occasionally an infant has had to be specially fed. Nestles' milk, Cow and Gate, Ambrosia, Allenbury's, and other patent foods have been used during the year.

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13.—DR. R. V. de A. REDWOOD, Medical Officer of Health, Rhymney Urban District.

RHYMNEY CENTRE.—Method of feeding of infants:—

Breast fed	...	...	36	Glaxo	.....	...	20
Breast and Ambrosia	...	...	10	Ambrosia	...	...	36
Breast and Glaxo	...	...	14	Cows' milk	...	...	6

Several children from 1 to 5 years were given appropriate diet instructions.

Infants.—Number on register at end of year, 228; number of attendances during year, new cases, 122; re-visits, 1,265; total attendances, 1,387; average attendance at each session, 28.89.

Nursing Mothers.—Number of attendances, new cases, 48; re-visits, 65; total attendances, 113.

Expectant Mothers.—Number of attendances, new cases, 31; re-visits, 21; total attendances, 52.

Free Food.—Mothers, expectant and nursing, fresh milk, 60; children, dried milk, 80.

The attendance during the year has been good. The number of expectant mothers has increased from 22 to 31 new cases.

Dispensing of Drugs.—A minimum: grey tablets, some Blaud's pills, and simple ointments. Most mothers are referred to their surgeries for drugs ordered.

Ante-Natal Work.—The attendances are increasing. Expectant mothers are often sent on to the Rhymney Hospital for further investigation and treatment.

Free Food.—Infants and mothers. This has increased during the year owing to the depressed industrial position, increased unemployment, tightening of out-door relief, and closure during the year of a colliery.

The infantile death rate for 1927 is a bad rate—118.1. 1927, England and Wales, 91.7; 1927, Monmouthshire, 87.3.

Infantile rate for Rhymney district, 1926, 79.8. During 1927, the number of deaths amongst infants increased 28, as against 19 in 1926.

The number of births in 1927 decreased 237 in 1927, against 249 in 1926.

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

The Lady Secretary (Mrs. Hopkins) is indefatigable—she attends during the whole of every session throughout the year, and is always ready to see mothers at her house between Clinics to fill or explain forms, etc.

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14.—DR. E. T. H. DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Tredegar Urban District.

TREDEGAR CENTRE.—Details of feeding of infants.

Breast fed ... ..	90	Breast and bottle fed ... ..	20
Dried milk ... ..	96	Patent foods ... ..	16
Cows' milk ... ..	9	Other foods ... ..	41

1927 has been another very successful year, and the attendance is highly satisfactory. I cannot speak too highly of the work done by Nurse Walters at this Clinic.

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

The facilities for the purchase at the Infant Welfare Centres of infant foods, etc., 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 still very low, and unemployment is prevalent throughout the county. The service for the provision of infant foods at a little over cost price, therefore, meets a real necessity.

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

Glaxo ... ..	27,424 lbs.
Savory and Moores ... ..	60 tins
Lactagol ... ..	312 tins
Virol ... ..	4,564 lbs.
Virolax ... ..	264 jars
Ambrosia ... ..	50,678 lbs.
Robinson's Groats ... ..	1,230 lbs.
Malt Extracts ... ..	2,402 jars
Roboleine ... ..	4,771 lbs.
Allenbury's Food ... ..	72 tins



The total cost of the articles was £6,238 14s. 5d.

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 continued depression in the coal-producing districts during the year caused a big demand for this assistance, and goods to the value of £2,817 18s. 4d. were given for necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers and for infants. This amount included £875 8s. 4d. paid for fresh milk.

The fresh milk supplied in every case to which it can be conveniently delivered is Grade "A" (Tuberculin Tested). Until the eradication of tuberculosis in all cattle is achieved, it is essential that everything shall be done to protect the young child from infection by tubercle, and the supply of milk from tuberculin tested cows is a step in the right direction.

The issue of free milk is growing each year, as will be observed from the following totals:—

1919	...	£140 15 0	1923	...	£1,548 6 7
1920	...	£537 18 11	1924	...	£1,170 3 8
1921	...	£5,984 0 0	1925	...	£1,766 14 0
(Coal Stoppage: Dinners also given).			1926	...	£2,469 7 6
1922	...	£2,232 14 3	1927	...	£2,817 18 4

Although there was not during the year the same dire need for assistance as there was in the previous year, there was considerable distress in some areas, and the "Save the Children" Fund made a welcome donation for the provision of fresh milk in necessitous cases, and grants were made to several of the most needy districts.



## K.—INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table gives particulars of the training, etc., of the midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st December, in each year, from 1911 to 1927:—

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
1927	248	5	253	219	—	34	36
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 eight.

The proportion of trained women to untrained is 219 to 34, whereas 16 years ago the balance was considerably on the other side, when there were 168 untrained and 68 trained women on the roll. There are still five illiterate women practising.

The importance of a thorough training for midwives cannot be over-estimated. A vast number of women are made invalids for life while fulfilling the function of motherhood. This function ought to be natural and physiological, and should not entail physical impairment of the mother. Yet a large amount of illness and incapacity follows the exercise of this function, which can be traced to the unskilful practice of midwifery. The need for a skilled midwifery service is clear, and the extension of the period of training of midwives from 6 to 12 months will meet with the approval of those who have the welfare of the mother at heart.

The total number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1927 was 18; 14 through removal from county, 3 on account of death, and 1 by reason of retiring from practice.



The Inspectress of Midwives paid 1,411 visits to midwives, and made 973 examinations. In the other cases the midwives were not inspected for the following reasons:

Not at home	...	...	375
Ill	...	...	25
Not commenced practising	...	...	7
Not working at the time	...	...	24
Away nursing private cases	...	...	7

In 21 instances unsatisfactory conditions were found, viz.:—

Cannot take pulse and temperature	9
Cannot chart pulse and temperature	7
Bag of appliances not satisfactory	4
Bag left at case	1

Four 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).

1,649 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 120 cases of still-birth, were received from midwives during the year.

Also 5 notifications of deaths of mothers, 20 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 47 notifications of artificial feeding, 3 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	...	...	38
Prolonged and difficult labour	...	...	484
Obstructed labour	...	...	20
Premature birth	...	...	34
Premature labour	...	...	13
Retained placenta	...	...	79
Prolapse of Cord	...	...	8

Prolapse of uterus	...	...	1
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum	...	...	40
Ditto. post-partum	...	...	25
Hæmorrhage (not defined)	...	...	16
Ruptured perineum	...	...	169
Contracted pelvis	...	...	5
Abnormal presentation—			
Breech	...	...	30
Face	...	...	7
Hand	...	...	2
Transverse	...	...	13
Vertex	...	...	3
Foot	...	...	7
Miscellaneous			20
Abortion	...	...	68
Threatened abortion	...	...	16
Stillbirth	...	...	48
Unsatisfactory condition of mother			133
Ditto. child			97
Deformity of child	...	...	22
Eye affections	...	...	145
Uterine Inertia	...	...	46
Doctor engaged	...	...	41
Born before arrival	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	16

## 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' Homes at Tredegar, which is recognised by the Central Midwives' Board as a training centre for midwifery pupils, passed out 6 pupils during the year, all of whom were successful in obtaining the Central Midwives Board Certificate.

Since the establishment of the Training Centre, 15 years ago, 74 pupils have received midwifery training, 71 have passed the C.M.B. examinations, 2 have failed, and 1 refused to sit the examination after being trained.

Sixteen 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 12 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. During the year 1927 38 maternity cases were dealt with in the Home.

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 1927 midwives were subsidised in the following areas:—

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

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



### 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, and the scheme seems productive of excellent and far-reaching results. These young girls are often mothers' helpers, and they have full opportunity to demonstrate the information they acquire.

## 0.—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 12 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 Consultant 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	...	...	6	Cleft Palate	...	...	2
Talipes Varus	...	...	5	Bowed Legs	...	...	3
Harelip and cleft palate	...	...	3	Deformity of Lower Limbs	...	...	2
Hare Lip	...	...	1	Birth Palsy	...	...	2
Deformity of Feet	...	...	1	Pes Planus	...	...	4
Paresis	...	...	2	Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	1
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	...	...	4	Hemiplegia	...	...	1
Genu Valgum	...	...	1	Coxa Vara	...	...	1
Impaired use of Upper Limb	...	...	1				—
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	4		TOTAL	...	45
Talipes Valgus	...	...	1				—



His recommendations were as follows :

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street	...	...	...	...	...	10
For admission to the Country Branch of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Brockley Hill	...	...	...	...	...	1
To wear splints, or other apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	12
To attend for massage or other treatment at Newport Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	9
To have alterations to boots	...	...	...	...	...	3
To have anti-rachitic treatment	...	...	...	...	...	3
No treatment required	...	...	...	...	...	6
To see X-ray specialist	...	...	...	...	...	1

He also made at the Newport Clinic 12 re-examinations of children who had received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital.

During the year eight infants were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital or its country branch at Stanmore, Middlesex. The number would have been larger but for the epidemic of smallpox in the county, which necessitated the suspension of admission of cases for some months.

The defects from which they suffered were as follows:—

Congenital dislocation of hip	2	Hare lip and cleft palate	...	1
Severe rickets	...	Cleft palate	...	1
Talipes varus	...	Multiple deformities	...	1
Paresis	...			

Since the inception of the scheme, 21 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 1927, he examined 79 crippled children—including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations.

Fifteen infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 318 attendances.

One pair of surgical boots, and 7 splints and other surgical appliances for these crippled children were supplied by the County Council. Alterations to boots were made for 5 children. The total cost to the Council in this connection was £7 5s. 10d.

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



2. **HOSTEL FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.**—The Maternity Home and Hostel continued its good work. There were 5 girls and 2 babies in residence on the 1st April, 1927. During the year which ended on the 31st March, 1928, 14 girls were admitted, and there were 10 births in the Hostel. Thirteen girls and 10 babies were discharged in that period, and 1 baby died. Six girls remained in residence on the 31st March, 1928, and 2 babies. Of the 14 girls admitted to the Home during the year, 10 were from the county of Monmouth. Two of the girls discharged went to situations, 9 were taken charge of by relatives, and two were admitted to Pontypool Hospital. Seven of the babies who left the Home were taken to relatives, and 3 went to foster parents. Total number of inmates during the year: Girls, 19; babies, 12.

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.

There is a definite place in every county for a hostel of this nature. During their stay at the Hostel the mothers are trained to undertake some useful work when they leave, and arrangements are made, when necessary, for the boarding out of the baby. It is noticeable that the greatest cruelty to the unmarried mother is inflicted by her own people. The provision of a home to which these girls can be admitted is an inestimable boon.

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 201 cases during the year, involving a payment of £342 13s. od. The Council have power to recover the whole or part of such fees from the husbands, and the total amount collected in this way by the Finance Department was £23 10s. od. The figures for the year 1926 were—166 cases, costing £265 13s. od. Amount collected from husbands, £13 13s. 3d.

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

Two cases were examined by Dr. Strachan. Three cases recommended by the County Council were admitted to the Tredegar Maternity Home during the year, as the conditions for the confinement of the women in their own homes were most unsuitable. One baby suffering from severe kidney trouble was sent for examination by a specialist at Cardiff.



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	...	464
No. of do. kept	...	290
No. given gas	...	290
No. of temporary teeth extracted		110
No. of permanent teeth do.		1577
No. of mothers treated	...	465
No. of children treated	...	25

6. REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY HOMES.—The Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, came into force on the 1st January, 1927, and under Part II. all Maternity Homes must be registered with the County Council. Five Homes have been registered, one at Tredegar, one at Nantyderry, one at Abergavenny, one at Rumney, and one at Treap-Gwilym, Cardiff Road, Newport. Powers of inspection of the homes are given to the County Medical Officer.

## P.—CONCLUSIONS.

It is regretted that the temporary reduction of the number of health visitors, due to the transfer of several of them to the County Small Pox Isolation Hospitals, retarded the work of home visitation. This is one of the most potent factors in the welfare of the mother and child, and it is hoped that the epidemic will soon have run its course, and the health visitors be able to return to their normal duties.

As was anticipated, the attendances at the Centres did not reach the abnormal figure attained in the year 1926, when the coal stoppage caused such a large increase in the number of mothers applying for milk for themselves and their infants (chiefly the supply given by the "Save the Children" Fund), but the total of 55,466 attendances is a satisfactory one, particularly when regard is had to the fact that some mothers in the areas affected by the small pox epidemic were afraid to take their babies to the Centres.

The amount of milk given to necessitous mothers was greater in the year 1927 than in any previous year, and at the time of writing there seems to be no sign of any reduction. There is much unemployment through the closing of collieries, and the miners in many districts are working only part time. These factors have brought a larger number of mothers within the County scale of income, which guides the issue of free milk.



Attention is again drawn to the lamentably high rate of maternal mortality during the year, i.e., 5.6 per thousand registered births. The subject has been dealt with earlier in this report, but it is not out of place here to express regret that the economic conditions of the county prevent the opening of the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital, a building which belongs to the county, and can easily and quickly be adapted to meet the urgent need for an institution of this type.

Nothing counts so much in the race of life as good health, and even in these days of financial restrictions it is our duty to do our best to reduce the suffering which so many of the mothers of the county have to endure in their confinements. To give the mothers every chance during pregnancy and to ensure the arrival of strong babies, it is necessary that the development of pregnancy shall be carefully watched, so as to allow sufficient preventive treatment against certain terrible and avoidable complications.

Home is never the place for a difficult confinement, many homes are not yet the place for a normal one, but in the absence of a public institution in this county the old conditions must prevail.

Credit must be claimed for the efforts which are so successfully being made to cure those infants who bear the burden of crippledom. Full use is now being made of the facilities available at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, and the results already obtained are an incentive to the redoubling of our efforts to remove from our county the reproach of unnecessary child suffering.

Notwithstanding the financial gloom which at present encircles us, we are optimistic that the good work being done under the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme will not be restricted.

Fewer difficult labours, fewer deaths, fewer premature births, fewer children defective and sickly from birth. These are the results at which we aim, and it can be claimed that the baby centres and ante-natal centres where doctors and health visitors carry on the popular teaching of child welfare are nobly playing their part; and with the School Medical Service taking charge of the child at the age of five years, we have the complete scheme which enables us to do the best for the child from the dawn of its existence to the end of school life.

We again thank the voluntary helpers and the members of the District Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the help rendered at the Centres. We also gratefully record our appreciation of the continued support afforded by the Chairman and Members of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

D. ROCYN JONES,

*County Medical Officer.*



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D. ROOYN JONES  
County Medical Officer